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To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

Subject: "EaSI in Focus: Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023" for the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Delegations will find attached the European Commission report "EaSI in Focus: Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023" for the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).



European
Commission

EaSI in focus: Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023

Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

[September – 2025]

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

Unit A3: Budget and Planning Cycle

Contact: Jaume TARDY MARTORELL

E-mail: EMPL-EaSI@ec.europa.eu

European Commission
B-1000 Brussels

**EaSI in focus:
Activities and Funding Report
2021-2023**

**Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)
strand of the European Social Fund Plus
(ESF+)**

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List of acronyms

ACIG	Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth
ACSH	Advisory Committee for Health and Safety at Work
ACTS	Advancing Caritas Through Solidarity
AGRI	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
AHD	Affordable Housing Database
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ALMA	Aim-Learn-Master-Achieve
BUDG	Directorate-General for Budget
CBP	Cross-Border Partnerships+A10
COMM	Directorate-General for Communication
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWG	Communication Working Group
DG	Directorate-General
DIGIT	Directorate-General for Digital Services
DMS	Document Management System
EaSI	Employment and Social Innovation
EC	European Commission
ECC	Eurochild Children's Council
ECFIN	Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs
ECG	EURES Coordination Group
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
ECSPR	European Crowdfunding Service Providers Regulation
EEA	European Economic Area
EESRF	European Employment and Social Rights Forum
EESS	Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
EIB	European Investment Bank
ELA	European Labour Authority
EMN	European Microfinance Network
EMPL	Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
EN	Euclid Network
ENSIE	European Network of Social Integration Enterprises
EOJD	European Online Job Day
EP	European Parliament
EPOCH	European Platform on Combatting Homelessness
EPR	European Platform for Rehabilitation
EPSR	European Pillar of Social Rights
ESCO	European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations
ESDE	Employment and Social Developments in Europe
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus

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ESFA	European Social Fund Agency
ESN	European Social Network
ESPN	European Social Policy Network
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
EURES	European Employment Services
FEANTSA	European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless
FEBEA	European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers
FISMA	Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union
FMW	Free Movement of Workers
FPA	Framework Partnership Agreement
GDI	Gender Diversity and Inclusion
GROW	Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
HOME	Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
HR	Human Resources
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection
IESS	Integrated European Social Statistics
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMI	Internal Market Information System
IOC	Information and Communication Officers
IPCS	World Health Organization's International Programme on Chemical Safety
IT	Information Technology
JRC	Joint Research Centre
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LABREF	Labour Market Reform Database
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LMP	Labour Market Policy
LTC	Long-Term Care
LTU	Long-Term Unemployed
LWI	Living and Working Information
MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
MLS	Mutual Learning Sessions
MO	Member Organisation
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MS	Member State
NCC	National Competence Centres
NCP	National Contact Point
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NEF	National Eurochild Forums
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIR	Non-Ionizing Radiation

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NSI	National Statistical Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIC	Online Information Centres
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
PES	Public Employment Services
PMO	Paymaster Office
PMS	Performance Measurement System
PPI	Primary Performance Indicator
PRES	Private Employment Services
REGIO	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
RF	Radio Frequency
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
SAFE	Safe Food Advocacy Europe
SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
SE	Social Enterprise
SEAP	Social Economy Action Plan
SEDIA	Single Electronic Data Interchange Area
SESO	Social Enterprise Support Organisation
SGA	Specific Grant Agreement
SILC	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
SKILLS	Skills for Vulnerable Youth
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SLIC	Senior Labour Inspectors Committee
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
SO	Support Organisation
SPC	Social Protection Committee
RAW	Social Rights Ambassadors Workshop
SRM	Social Rights Monitor
SURE	European Instrument for Temporary Support to Mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency
TA	Technical Assistance
TCN	Third-Country National
TMS	Targeted Mobility Schemes
TRR	Theoretical Replacement Rate
UBR	Unemployment Benefits Recipients
UN	United Nations
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VR	Virtual Reality
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organisation
YG	Youth Guarantee

Abstract

This report provides a comprehensive overview of activities funded by the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and their alignment with EaSI's operational objectives for the period 2021-2023. This report marks the **first instance of including procurement and other actions in addition to projects and organisations**, encompassing all types of expenditure under the EaSI strand. With the current 2021-2027 EaSI strand, it provides a complete overview of expenditures, **aiming to enhance learning among national authorities, civil society organisations, and private actors, and to support policy development by guiding funding applicants and offering insights for policymakers**. Building upon the 2014-2020 EaSI Programme, the EaSI strand integrates into ESF+ to foster employment and social innovation with objectives closely aligned with the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). It operates under both direct and indirect management to achieve ten operational objectives across policy areas of employment and labour mobility, education, and social inclusion, monitored through **six Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) / Primary Performance Indicator (PPI)** covering analytical activities, information sharing, social experimentation, capacity building, job placements, and support for microenterprises and social enterprises. The **EaSI funding for 2021-2023** supported a diverse range of activities through:

- **Grants (direct management):**
 - **Action grants:** 22 completed projects funded, primarily focusing on worker mobility (18 projects), the development of social enterprises and social investment markets (3 projects), and social experimentation (1 project).
 - **Operating grants:** 25 organisations funded to support institutional capacity building, EU-level networking and dialogue.
 - **Direct grants:** 18 direct grants awarded, related to analytical knowledge (6 grants), information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews (3 grants) and institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue (9 grants).
- **Procurement activities:** 128 procurement activities funded across seven operational objectives: analytical knowledge (37); development of social enterprises and social investment markets (2); development of the microfinance ecosystem (1); information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews (38); institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue (21); international social and labour standards (7); and mobility of workers (22).
- **Indirect management:** 14 projects implemented through contribution agreements with international organisations, focusing on analytical knowledge (6 projects), information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews (5 projects) and international social and labour standards (3 projects).¹
- **Other actions:** 34 projects were funded as 'other actions'. These covered analytical knowledge (13 projects), information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews (17 projects) and institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue (4 projects).

The **methodology** for this report involved collecting information on completed grants and contracts from 2021-2023 calls using sources like the EU Funding & Tenders Portal, documents from DG EMPL, EaSI megareports, and publicly available information. The findings are presented as fiches (for action grants and organisations) and summaries (for direct grants, indirect management, other actions, and procurement) structured according to

¹ The ESF Social Innovation+ Initiative, managed by the European Social Fund Agency (ESFA), also launched three calls for proposals under indirect management related to the acceleration of the transfer and scaling up of social innovative solutions, with 45 projects. However, these projects are not included in the figures of this report, as they are still ongoing.

the relevant KPI/PPI and operational objective. Potential good practices were also identified based on criteria such as effectiveness, transferability, innovativeness, and EU added value.

1. Introduction

This is the 1st report on projects and organisations for the **EaSI strand of the ESF+** covering the 2021-2023 period. For the first time, the report includes detailed information on **all types of expenditures**, including procurement or other actions.² This report aims to provide a cohesive overview of the activities funded by EaSI, aligning them with the fund's **operational objectives**.

The analysis provided in the report aims at identifying evidence on effectiveness of practices used under different **grants**, their transferability through other instruments or policies (strands, programmes, etc.), innovativeness, impact, EU added value, and its sustainability, as well as identification of good practices, and the main results of the **contracts** funded under the EaSI strand.

The purpose of this report is to improve learning among the national authorities, civil society organisations and private actors working in the field of employment and social affairs, and to support future policy developments. First, it can serve as guidance for public, private and civil society actors wishing to apply for EU funding in the future. Second, it will provide policymakers with ideas and suggestions that can inform the design and implementation of new policy interventions.

1.1. About the EaSI strand

Current **EaSI strand** is now part of a broader framework with more aligned objectives and activities which should enable the creation of a more cohesive approach to employment and social innovation across the European Union (EU). The integration of EaSI into ESF+ has also resulted in a better alignment with the European Pillar of Social Rights, which should further strengthen the implementation of the Pillar. The consolidation of various EU funding instruments, including EaSI into ESF+, resulted in **several programmatic changes** especially relating to the objectives and activities of the strand and its performance monitoring approach.

Article 25 of the ESF+ Regulation establishes **10 operational objectives for the EaSI strand** that align with the 13 specific objectives (Article 4) of the whole fund and the ESF+ three policy areas (employment and labour mobility, education, and social inclusion). The EaSI strand's operational objectives should be achieved under the direct and indirect management modes. The 10 operational objectives also largely align with the specific objectives of the 2014-2020 EaSI programme.

The Performance Framework of the EaSI strand of the **ESF+ 2021-2027**³ includes **6 KPI/PPI** to report on the progress of the EaSI strand towards the achievement of the specific objectives set out in Article 4(1) and the operational objectives set out in Article 25. These are the following:

- KPI 1 - Number of analytical activities

² Previous reports available at https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/ui/group/bab664d7-1188-47b2-9fa6-869902320ba2/library/c73b4a47-719a-485c-9ad6-7781634a982e?p=1&n=10&sort=name_DESC

³ Performance Framework – Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the ESF+ (ARES(2023)2779650), Targets for the primary indicators and intervention logic (ARES(2023)8215741).

- KPI 2 - Number of information sharing and mutual learning activities
- KPI 3 - Number of social experimentation activities
- KPI 4 - Number of capacity building and networking activities
- KPI 5 - Number of job placements under targeted mobility schemes
- PPI 6 - Number of activities supporting microenterprises, social enterprises, and social investment

Under direct management, action grants, operating grants and direct grants are funded. **Grants are a financial contribution by way of donation** to activities that serve Union policy objectives. They represent **a major part of the Union's expenditure** and fall into two broad categories:

- **Action grants** that finance actions intended to help to achieve an objective that forms part of a Union policy,
- **Operating grants** that finance the work programme of a body pursuing an aim of general European interest or an objective that forms part of a Union policy.

The Financial Regulation foresees that grants should be awarded following an open and competitive **call for proposals**. Exceptionally, in the cases listed in Article 195 of the Financial Regulation⁴, grants may also be awarded without a call for proposals (so-called '**direct award**').

The EaSI strand also funds implementation through **contracts following public procurement** (call for tenders and framework contracts) or other actions or expenditures (e.g., service level agreements) in the areas of employment and skills, social protection and inclusion, labour markets and labour mobility, safe and fair working conditions and cross-cutting issues.

Direct grants under the EaSI strand are typically awarded to specific entities possessing unique technical competence, a high degree of specialisation, or administrative power, without a competitive call for proposals. Recipients include national governments (or their designated bodies) and specialised international research organisations. The activities funded by these direct grants generally support EU policy priorities in employment, social protection, and working conditions, often involving data gathering, specialised research, or the organisation of significant policy-related conferences that do not fit the scope of a general call.

The **indirect management** mode funds activities implemented by an entrusted entity, such as ESFA⁵ or international organisations (e.g., Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD, International Labour Office – ILO, World Health Organisation – WHO). ESFA has been selected as the entrusted entity as a result of a competitive procedure through a call for expression of interest to work under indirect management with DG EMPL (for Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027) to facilitate the ESF Social Innovation+ Initiative to contribute to operational objective i) accelerating the scaling up / transfer of social innovation which aims to help transfer and upscale innovative solutions to societal challenges in the fields of employment, education, skills and social inclusion. Please note that the projects which were selected through calls launched by ESFA are still ongoing for the 2021-2023

⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

⁵ Following a call for expression of interest open uniquely to Managing Authorities and implementing bodies, the Lithuanian Managing Authority was selected to implement transnational cooperation to accelerate the transfer and facilitate the scaling-up of innovative solutions, branded as the ESF+ Social Innovation Plus Initiative. To this end, it established a 'Social Innovations and Transnational Initiatives Division', which is known as the European Social Fund Agency <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/selection-entrusted-entity-indirect-management-initiative-esf-social-innovation>.

period, therefore a more in-depth summary of the activities under indirect management is not available (see section 6.2.1).

The EaSI funding offered under the direct and indirect management modes of the ESF+ also covers **other actions** in the form of co-delegations to other Commission services or expenditure such as meetings, ad-hoc committees, publications etc.

1.2. How to read this report

The report is comprised of nine parts in total. In addition to the introduction, Chapter 2 describes the key fact of the activities, which are aggregated in accordance with the type of grant or contract. Chapter 3 features a description of the methodology that was applied to collect information about the actions and to analyse their results. Hereafter, Chapters 4 to 9 are structured in accordance with KPI/PPI and operational objectives that correspond to them. These chapters are comprised of sections on grants (which includes action grants, operating grants, direct grants, indirect management and other actions) and contracts. The report then concludes with an overview of the presented activities in the report. As a final note, the reader should be aware that **only completed activities were eligible to be included in the report**.

This report consists mainly of standalone fiches⁶ that describe in concise and uniform format the results of a successful project or organisation, as well as potential good practices derived from the implemented actions. In addition, the project/organisation fiches were developed with the aim of making them easily accessible as standalone documents, and useful to all informed stakeholders (decision makers, social partners, non-governmental organisations – NGOs, academia, media and civil society at large). In addition, concise summaries have been prepared for direct grants, other actions, indirect management and procurement to provide the key results achieved.

2. Key facts about the presented activities

2.1. Grants

2.1.1. Projects funded (action grants)

This report presents fiches for **22 finished projects** funded by the EaSI action grants in the operational objectives of **social experimentation** (1 project), **mobility of workers** (18 projects), and **development of social enterprises and social investment markets** (3 projects), covering 6 calls in total (Table 1). Most of these projects are related to the policy area of **employment and labour mobility** (Figure 1), with a total EU funding of **over EUR 20 million** (Figure 2) across 12 coordinating countries (Figure 3), according to the EU Funding and Tenders Portal.

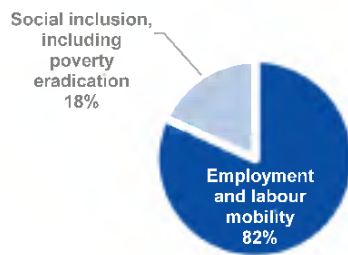
⁶ With the exception of acronyms, that are presented only once in this report

Table 1. Action grants mapped

Operational objective	Call	Title	N. of projects
Mobility of workers	ESF-2021-POW-01	Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information	8
Mobility of workers	ESF-2021-CBC-ECP	EURES Cross Border Partnerships	7
Mobility of workers	ESF-2021-CBC-EEA	EURES EEA non-EU countries cooperation	1
Mobility of workers	ESF-2021-EURES-TMS-01	EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme	2
Development of social enterprises and social investment markets	ESF-2022-SOC-FIN	Transaction costs to support social finance intermediaries	3
Social experimentation	ESF-2022-SOC-INNOV	Social innovations for a fair green and digital transition	1

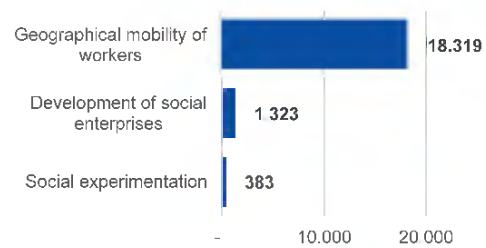
Source: prepared by the study team.

Figure 1. Policy areas covered by action grants



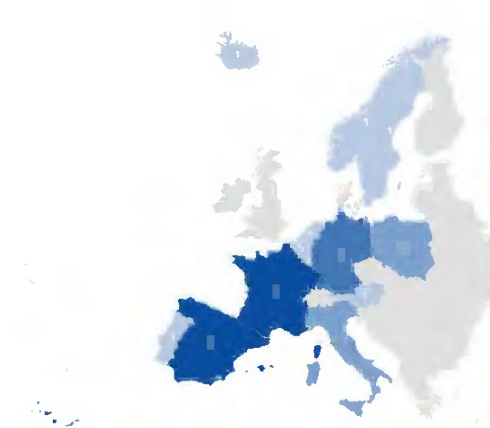
Source: prepared by the study team.

Figure 2. Total EU funding of action grants (thousands)



Source: prepared by the study team.

Figure 3. Action grants coordinators per country



Source: prepared by the study team.

2.1.2. Organisations funded (operating grants)

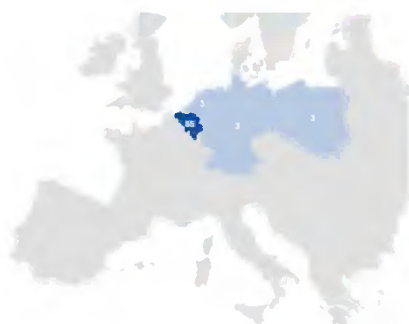
The report also presents fiches for **25 organisations** funded under EaSI operating grants, in the operational objective of **institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue**, covering six calls. Table 2 lists all organisations covered, along with the correspondent number of grants. These grants, distributed to four coordinating countries (Figure 4), correspond to a total EU funding of **EUR 45.788.402,16** dedicated to the policy area of **social inclusion, including poverty eradication**, according to the EU Funding and Tenders Portal.

Table 2. Operating grants mapped

Organisation	N. of annual grants	Organisation	N. of annual grants
COFACE Families Europe	3	SOLIDAR	3
European Venture Philanthropy Association	3	European Platform for Rehabilitation	3
Caritas Europa	3	Euclid Network	3
European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities	3	Re-Use and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises VZW	3
Fédération européenne d'associations nationales travaillant avec les sans-abri AISBL	3	EUROCITIES ASBL	3
Fundacja Microfinance Centre	3	Réseau européen des associations de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale AISBL	3
Safe Food Advocacy Europe	3	European Food Banks Federation (FEBA)	3
EUROHEALTHNET ASBL	3	EURODIACONIA AISBL	3
European Social Network	3	European Network of Social Integration Enterprises	3
Eurochild	3	Confédération Européenne des Coopératives de Travail, des Coopératives sociales et des Entreprises Sociales et Participatives AISBL (CECOP)	3
Réseau Européen de la Microfinance	3	Fédération européenne de finances et banques éthiques et alternatives	2
Yes Forum Ewiv - Youth and European Social Work Forum	3	Eurocarers - Association Européenne Travaillant Avec et Pour les Aidants	3
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants ASBL	3		

Source: prepared by the study team.

Figure 4. Operating grants coordinators per country



Source: prepared by the study team.

2.1.3. Direct grants

In addition to the fiches for action grants and organisations, this report also presents summaries for **18 direct grants** funded under the EaSI strand, in the operational objectives of **analytical knowledge, information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews** and **institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue**. These grants correspond to a **total EU funding of EUR 6,284,531.98**.⁷ Table 3 lists all direct grants mapped. In this report, similar projects are combined in the same summary.

Table 3. Direct grants mapped

Operational objective	Title	N. of projects
Analytical knowledge	Co-delegation to ESTAT: Direct grants to Member States: Labour Force Survey	1
	Direct grant to OECD: Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis	1
	Direct grant to OECD: Monitoring the adequacy of social protection in long term care	1
	Co-delegation to ESTAT: European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics	1
	Co-delegation to ESTAT: Integrated European Social Statistics Regulation & Labour Force Survey	2
Information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews	Direct Grant to the Government of the Republic of Portugal or its designated bodies to support a high-level conference: the "Porto Social Forum"	1
	Co-delegation to ECFIN: Euronews Real Economy Magazine	2
Institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue	Direct grant to the International Agency for Research on Cancer Monographs Programme	3
	Direct Grant to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection	3
	Events organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU	3

⁷ Total EU funding figures for direct grants, indirect management grants, other actions and procurement are derived from FINAP, a planning tool used by the Commission, and the Megareport, which integrates data from FINAP and ABAC to ensure accuracy through automation. However, due to system restrictions for given co-delegations (so called type II co-delegations), co-delegated activities other than those with the PMO (type III co-delegations for which EMPL remains AOSD for commitments) may show no commitment in FINAP, even if implemented. For these instances, information has been manually compiled by EMPL A3 to complete this report. In the case of procurement, information was also shared with the study team by the Operational Units.

Source: prepared by the study team.

2.1.4. Indirect management

This report also presents summaries for **14 indirect management projects**, covering the operational objective of **analytical knowledge, information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews** and **international social and labour standards**. These grants correspond to a **total EU funding of EUR 4,728,061.00**. Table 4 lists all the grants mapped per each operational objective. Grants awarded to the same organisation (e.g., WHO, ILO) within the same operational objective have been consolidated in the same summary.

Table 4. Indirect management grants mapped

Operational objective	Title	N. of projects
Analytical knowledge	Contribution agreement with OECD	4
	Contribution agreement with WHO	2
Information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews	Contribution agreement with ILO	4
	Contribution agreement with OECD	1
International social and labour standards	Contribution agreement with ILO	3

Source: prepared by the study team.

In addition to these indirect management activities implemented via international organisations, the report also lists the three calls launched under the ESF Social Innovation+ Initiative, managed by the ESFA as an entrusted entity (Table 5). Since implementation is still ongoing, results from these calls are still limited.

Table 5. ESFA calls for proposal

Cal	Title	N. of projects
ESF-SI-2022-ALMA-01	Aim-Learn-Master-Achieve	20
ESF-SI-2023-NCC-01	National Competence Centres	5
ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01	Skills for Vulnerable Youth	20

Source: prepared by the study team.

2.1.5. Other actions

This report also presents **34 EaSI projects** under other actions, covering the operational objectives of **analytical knowledge, information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews** and **institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue**. These grants correspond to a **total EU funding of EUR 12,721,756.13**. Table 6 lists all the actions mapped per each operational objective. Grants awarded to the same body (e.g., JRC, PMO) within the same operational objective are presented in the same summary.

Table 6. Other actions mapped

Operational objective	Title	N. of projects
Analytical knowledge	SLA with JRC	9
	Co-delegation to PMO	2
	SLA with ECHA	2

Operational objective	Title	N. of projects
Information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews	Co-delegation to PMO	11
	Co-delegation to OP	6
Institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue	Co-delegation to PMO	4

Source: prepared by the study team.

2.2. Procurement

In addition to all grants, a total of **128 procurement activities** are also included in this report, covering the following operational objectives: **analytical knowledge; development of social enterprises and social investment markets; development of the microfinance ecosystem; information sharing, mutual learning and peer reviews; institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue; international social and labour standards; and mobility of workers.** They constitute **EUR 69,764,147.94** total EU funding.

Table 7 shows a summary of the procurement contracts presented in the report, per operational objective.

Table 7. Summary of contracts

Operational objective	N. of activities	Indicative n. of contracts	EU funding (EUR)
Analytical knowledge (a)	37	208	14,236,954.19
Development of social enterprises and social investment markets (g)	2	5	592,764.89
Development of the microfinance ecosystem (e)	1	6	1,381,071.00
Information sharing, mutual learning, peer reviews (b)	38	137	8,824,310.96
Institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue (f)	21	50	11,936,601.75
International social and labour standards (j)	7	56	1,398,426.22
Mobility of workers (d)	22	317	31,394,018.93
Total	128	779	69,764,147.94

Source: prepared by the study team based on the commitments of the activity based on FINAP (Megareport), complemented by information shared by the Operational Units.

In this report, contracts are presented by **type of foreseen outputs**, with each output type presented in a dedicated box within each operational objective section. Thus, each operational objective is organised according to the following nine output types: **Audit, Capacity building activities; Communication; Conference, events, meetings; Data and statistics; IT Projects; Network of experts; Reports and Translations.**





The classification of outputs is derived from the data provided in the EaSI Megareports provided to the study team by DG EMPL, complemented with information gathered directly from the Operational Units and additional desk research (as explained in the Methodology section). While overlaps exist between categories – such as between networks of experts and

events or meetings – the classification used in the Megareports was kept preserving the original classification from DG EMPL. Contracts reported by the Operational Units as **cancelled, ongoing, or transferred to another Directorate-General** are not included in the report. **Contracts without information on the status were also removed from the summaries**, to ensure that only complete contracts are included in this report.

2.3. EaSI factsheet



The EaSI strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) for 2021-2027 builds on the previous EaSI programme 2014-2020. The new EaSI strand has maintained its focus on social experimentation, evidence-based policymaking, job mobility, and microfinance and social entrepreneurship. As part of ESF+ it follows the same policy objectives as ESF+ with the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) as main framework.

Budget		Actions	
Two financial envelopes:			
EUR 762 million	EUR 197 million	 Analytical activities	 Policy implementation
for the EaSI strand under direct and indirect management mode	for the acceleration of the scaling up and transfer of social innovations under indirect management mode	 Network and capacity building	 Communication and dissemination

Objectives

- develop high-quality comparative analytical knowledge
- facilitate effective and inclusive information sharing, mutual learning, peer reviews and dialogue
- support social experimentation and build up the stakeholders' capacity
- facilitate the voluntary geographical mobility of workers and increase employment opportunities
- support networking
- support the development of the market ecosystem around microfinance to microenterprises
- support the development of social enterprises and the emergence of a social investment market
- provide guidance for the development of social infrastructure
- support transnational cooperation to accelerate the transfer and scaling up of innovative solutions
- support the implementation of relevant international social and labour standards

Key facts (2021-2023):

Projects funded:

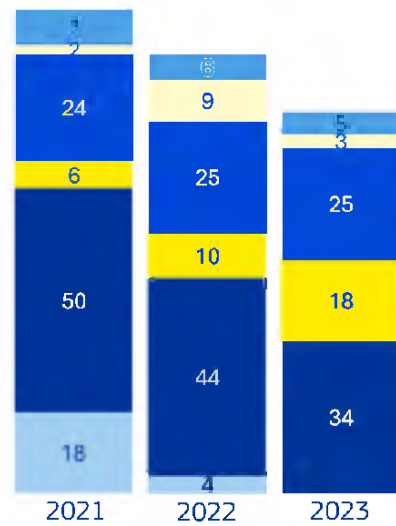
22 projects	20+ million EUR
6 calls	12 coordinating countries

Operating grants:




74 grants	40+ million EUR
25 organisations	5 coordinating countries

Other figures:

18 Direct grants	14 Indirect management projects
128 Procurement activities	34 Other actions



Examples of projects contributing to ESF+ specific objectives:

 Employment and labour mobility	 Education	 Social inclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A call to facilitate workers' intra-EU labour mobility, to boost employment opportunities as well as to support the implementation of the EURES Regulation Contribution agreement with the International Labour Office (ILO) on combating violence and harassment in the workplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EUROPASS projects (IT projects and evaluation) Grants to support the implementation of the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Regulation EURES Cross-Border Partnerships and Targeted Mobility Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for proposals to develop and test integrated and inclusive social innovation approaches Call for proposals to support EU level Social NGO Networks Call for proposals in the field of posting of workers

3. Methodology

The key components of this report are fiches presenting the results of projects and work delivered by organisations funded by the EaSI strand, alongside with summaries of the key results of direct grants, indirect management grants, other actions and contracts. These fiches and summaries are structured according to the KPI/PPI they relate to, as well as to their correspondent operational objectives. The report presents complete projects from 2021-2023 calls.

To ensure that the information collected was as comprehensive as possible, we relied on **four main data sources**:

- The executive summaries from the EU Funding & Tenders Portal;
- The documents shared directly by the DG EMPL Operational Units;
- The EaSI Megareports shared by DG EMPL;
- Openly accessible sources, such as the websites of the projects/organisations.

This report focuses on **completed grants/contracts** from 2021-2023 completed by Q1 2025. Where information on completion is unavailable – such as in certain cases of indirect management, other actions, and contracts – only activities that have delivered tangible outputs are included. The status of each grant/contract is based on information from the EU Funding & Tenders Portal and data provided directly by the relevant Operational Units and DG EMPL. Grants/contracts lacking explicit classification regarding completion status were manually categorised by the study team, drawing on available information (e.g., the implementation period specified in activity descriptions).

The content of the collected material was analysed according to a pre-developed toolkit, in order to produce fiches for each project/organisation and summaries. The **toolkit** included a fiche/summary template and a list of criteria for classifying the projects and organisations.

The resulting **fiches** consist of two parts. The first (a table) presents general administrative data about a given action grant or organisation, including policy areas, target group(s), activities implemented, countries, EU contribution, duration, as well as links to websites and outputs produced. In the second part of each fiche, the projects and organisations are analysed based on a pre-defined set of criteria, as shown in Box 1.

Box 1. List of possible criteria for analysing projects

Main aim of activities: This heading summarises what the action aimed to achieve. It also includes information from the socioeconomic context, when relevant.

Main outputs and results: This part discusses the results, medium-to-long-term impacts of the action (both current and expected) and lessons learnt (where available).

Transferability element(s) of the activities: This section discusses the potential for the action or its individual parts to be applied in other contexts/at other levels (these do not necessarily have to be good practices).

Innovativeness of the project/activities: This section presents activities that could be considered novel, in terms of standing out in the context of similar actions and settings and elaborates how exactly they are innovative.

Policy evidence generated: This heading provides an overview of the studies, reports, databases, or other evidence produced to inform policy developments in a respective area/field.

Transnational dimension: This section focuses on activities that were implemented in more than one country, at the EU or international level. In the fiches featuring transnational networks or projects that by design are

transnational, this section will not be singled out and, instead, the transnational element will be emphasised as a horizontal theme throughout the project/organisation/contract description under other criteria.

New partnerships created: This heading elaborates on actions that led to participating organisations finding new partners because of their involvement in each project/network.

Dissemination strategy: This section provides an overview of how the project/organisation communicated the results of their action to their internal networks, stakeholders, and the general public, including relevant intermediary and ultimate target groups.

European added value: In this section, the report comments on whether the action: could have been implemented or reached similar results without EU funding; contributed to the implementation/application of EU legislation; led to economies of scale; promoted best practice examples learnt from the previous EU/national actions; promoted benchmarking for decision-making; allowed cross-border risks to be reduced and their consequences mitigated; contributed to the free movement of persons and/or networking activities.

Sustainability measures: This part explains what measures were taken in order to ensure that the results and impacts of the action are sustainable.

Horizontal principles: This section focuses on how horizontal principles of the ESF+ were taken into account in the technical implementation and the content of the activities.

While fiches provide comprehensive information on action grants and organisations, the **summaries are designed to present a more concise overview of direct grants, indirect management grants, other actions, and contracts, with a focus on outputs and results.**

Although the grants and contracts included in this report were funded under the same programme – and many pursued similar objectives – **each implemented a distinct set of actions.** Accordingly, the fiches and summaries highlight the most relevant information for each, rather than applying a standardised set of criteria. As a result, **each fiche/summary contains a tailored combination of headings,** with emphasis placed on aspects most pertinent to the specific intervention. Fields for which data are unavailable have been excluded from both fiches and summaries. Furthermore, while all categories of actions (projects, organisations, procurement contracts, direct grants, etc.) generally include comparable types of information, the structure and headings may differ depending on the data available. For example, only procurement actions include a heading for the indicative number of contracts.

In addition to providing an overview of activities, some of the resulting fiches/summaries also include a field at the end where **potential good practices** are identified. A structured reference grid was used to assess each candidate against a combination of criteria. The initial assessment focused on **effectiveness**, defined as delivery on time, within budget, and in line with stated objectives. Further evaluation considered the **potential for transferability/upscaling**, as indicated by built-in measures for dissemination, partnership development, and communication. **Sustainability** was examined through the existence of concrete post-funding plans and likelihood of integration into mainstream policies or practices. **Innovativeness** was recognised where activities demonstrated originality and moved beyond established approaches. **EU added value** included alignment with EU priorities, anticipated long-term socio-economic benefits, opportunities for economies of scale, and cross-border synergies. Additional **cross-cutting dimensions** – such as transnational cooperation, gender equality, non-discrimination, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups – were also reviewed to ensure alignment with horizontal principles. Only those demonstrating clear evidence across multiple criteria were classified as “good practices”.

The **good practice status is indicated at the beginning of each fiche or summary**, with a brief justification included at the end of the corresponding box. A project/organisation's exclusion from the good practice category **does not necessarily reflect poor performance**, as it may result from incomplete data, such as missing information in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal or the absence of a final report.

4. KPI 1 – Analytical activities

THE EASI STRAND OF THE ESF+

KPI 1.

Analytical activities

KPI 1 is designed to support evidence-based policymaking within the EU. It encompasses a wide range of analytical activities, including the collection of data and statistics, the development of common methodologies, monitoring and assessment of relevant legislation, policies, and practices, as well as conducting research, mapping projects, and evaluations.

ANALYTICAL
KNOWLEDGE

ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THAT POLICIES ARE BASED ON SOUND EVIDENCE AND ARE RELEVANT TO NEEDS, CHALLENGES AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

INTERNATIONAL
SOCIAL AND LABOUR
STANDARDS

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS

THE EASI STRAND FUNDED (2021-2023)

Direct Grants	Indirect Management	Procurement Activities	Other Actions
6	9	44	13

EXAMPLES OF OUTPUTS PRODUCED

<p> Modernisation of EU social data (e.g., Labour Force Survey, Eurobarometer, Tax Benefit Microsimulation Model).</p> <p> Analyses and models on topics such as inequality, pensions, employment, long-term care, housing, and Covid-19.</p> <p> Expansion of expert capacity (e.g., WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network, webinars, Social Policy Network for Analytical Support in Social Policies).</p> <p> Development of safety guidelines (e.g., hazardous medicinal products, chemical risk).</p>	<p> Production of research outputs on topics such as violence and harassment in occupational safety and health, and issued policy recommendations.</p> <p> Conducted capacity building and training workshops in areas such as labour inspection conformity.</p> <p> Organisation of dialogues and high-level meetings on employment and social policy and other thematic conferences.</p>
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4.1. Comparative analytical knowledge (a)

4.1.1. Direct grants

European System of integrated Social Protection Statistics

Activity: Co-delegation to ESTAT: European System of integrated Social Protection Statistics (2021)

Target groups: Policymakers (EC and associated scientific committees); Scientists and researchers; General public

EU funding (EUR): 72,585.00



Description: This project formed part of a broader methodological activities aimed at improving the integrated system of social statistics and the European Commission's strategy to strengthen the role of social indicators in macroeconomic governance and budgetary policy planning. It followed previous activities concerning ESSPROS data quality, timeliness, and links with National Accounts, addressing the identified need to extend ESSPROS data collection to beneficiaries beyond pensioners.



Main aim of activities: This specific project aimed to increase the efficiency of social protection data production processes within Statistics Poland to collect and improve statistics on Unemployment Benefits Recipients (UBR). To achieve this, the project transmitted UBR data for Poland for the reference years 2019 and 2020 to Eurostat according to the agreed methodology, developed a comprehensive quality report describing the metadata for the transmitted values, and provided Eurostat with a report detailing the data production and compilation process, including challenges and solutions.



Main outputs and results: The project compiled and transmitted UBR data for Poland for the reference years 2019-2020 to Eurostat via eDamis by June 29, 2022, and developed and submitted the required quality report and a detailed report explaining the data production process. The main impact was that the project extended the reporting scope of ESSPROS data for Poland, introducing the new UBR module. The project paved the way for potential regular annual transmission of UBR data from 2023 onwards.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: By generating detailed statistics on recipients of unemployment benefits, the project enhanced the evidence base for monitoring how social protection systems support individuals facing unemployment. Where data allowed disaggregation, such as by age or gender as typically collected in the UBR module, it helped monitoring non-discrimination and equal opportunities in access to unemployment support.



European added value/Innovativeness: The EU funding enabled Statistics Poland to undertake the specific work required to implement the new UBR module, contributing with valuable, comparable data for Poland to the harmonized ESSPROS system. The project also fostered the implementation of common European statistical standards and methodologies. The innovation of this project lies in its practical implementation of a new statistical module (ESSPROS UBR) within the Polish national statistical system. The project adapted national data sources and processes to meet the requirements of the new harmonized European methodology, including developing estimation techniques to overcome data limitations, specifically the lack of microdata for precise double counting adjustments.

Direct grant to OECD: Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis

Activity: Direct grant to OECD: Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis (2021)⁸

Target groups: Policymakers (EC and associated scientific committees); Scientists and researchers; General public

EU funding (EUR): 300,000.00



Description: Direct grant supporting the OECD in monitoring inequalities (geographic, economic insecurity, income instability) to inform inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis through enhanced analysis.



Main aim of activities: To deepen and enhance the analysis of trends, drivers, and impacts of inequalities (specifically geographic income disparities and economic insecurity/income instability) to support the design and implementation of inclusive and sustainable policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis.



Main outputs and results: Main outputs and results include a publication (research paper/report) analysing geographic income inequalities; a publication (research paper/report) analysing economic insecurity and income instability, including discussion of new data sources and methods; two policy briefs summarising findings; two EU/OECD technical workshops with stakeholders to discuss findings and conceptual challenges; and a series of Open Webinars presenting research on economic security and income instability.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The grant provided analytical knowledge and evidence to support the design and implementation of inclusive and sustainable (social) policies within the EU, addressing inequalities highlighted or exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.



EU added value/innovativeness: The grant explored and utilised innovative data and methods for analysing economic insecurity and income instability, enhanced comparability of sub-national income data across countries and leveraged OECD's cross-country analytical capacity.

Direct grant to OECD⁸: Monitoring the adequacy of social protection in long term care

Activity: Direct grant to OECD: Monitoring the adequacy of social protection in long term care (2022)

Target groups: Policymakers (EC and associated scientific committees); Scientists and researchers; General public

EU funding (EUR): 300,000.00



Description: The grant provides evidence on the effectiveness of social protection for long-term care (LTC) across EU Member States, addressing relevant European Pillar of Social Rights principles and supporting the implementation of the European Care Strategy and Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care.



Main aim of activities: The main aim was to produce national-level indicators of effective social protection for older people with LTC needs in EU Member States. The project sought to measure and compare the generosity of social protection against the costs faced by individuals with defined typical LTC needs and provide analytical support for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the above-mentioned initiatives.



Main outputs and results: Key results include findings on the prevalence of LTC needs, the high costs without public support, the extent to which public social protection eases the burden (covering over half the costs on average), and remaining substantial gaps resulting in unaffordable out-of-pocket costs and insufficient poverty reduction in several countries. Evidence was generated on system design features and the impact of potential reforms (policy simulations). A typology of EU LTC systems was developed. Main outputs include the final report ([Measuring the Effectiveness of Social Protection for Long-Term Care in Old Age in Europe](#)) and comparable national-level indicators.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The project directly supports EaSI/ESF+ priorities by providing evidence to strengthen social protection systems, address poverty risks (especially for vulnerable groups like women, the oldest-old, low-income individuals), and improve access to services like LTC, in line with relevant European Pillar of Social Rights principles and the European Care Strategy.

⁸ This project was continued as an indirect management activity (in a contribution agreement with OECD), presented in the next section as Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis (2022).



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The analytical framework (typical cases, modelling approach, policy simulation tool) is designed for cross-national comparison and is transferable to other countries or regions. The generated indicators facilitate benchmarking and policy learning.

Integrated European Social Statistics & Labour Force Survey

Activities:

- Co-delegation to ESTAT: Integrated European Social Statistics Regulation (2021)
- Co-delegation to ESTAT: Labour Force Survey (2022)
- Co-delegation to ESTAT: Direct grants to Member States: Labour Force Survey (2023)

Target groups: National statistics institutes; Policymakers (EC and associated scientific committees); Scientists and researchers

EU funding (EUR): 4,939,040.98 (2,208,470.00 in 2021; 1,097,380.00 in 2022; 1,633,190.98 in 2023)



Description: These ESF+/EaSI strand projects provided direct grants to National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) to support data and statistic activities such as the harmonised implementation of the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 and to enhance the EU LFS through developing and implementing specific ad-hoc modules (e.g., on pensions, job skills) and pilot studies (e.g., on digital platform employment). These actions aimed to modernise and improve the quality, comparability, timeliness, coverage, and policy relevance of key European social statistics, particularly the EU-LFS and EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).



Main aim of activities: The projects aimed to facilitate the effective and harmonised implementation of the IESS Regulation across Member States and strengthen the EU LFS by providing financial support to NSIs. This funding enabled NSIs to adapt their systems, improve data collection methodologies, enhance statistical comparability, timeliness, and coverage (including through specific LFS modules and pilot studies exploring new areas), develop analytical capacity for high-quality statistics, and enable the monitoring of trends in EU employment, labour markets, health, disability, skills, and training. These efforts ensure a continuous supply of robust, high-quality, and relevant European social statistics to meet EU evidence-based policymaking needs, including detailed statistics on specific labour market topics.



Main outputs and results: The projects strengthened the capacity of NSIs to implement the IESS Regulation framework and conduct targeted LFS data collections (modules and pilots) They led to the production and dissemination (via Eurostat) of improved, more comparable, timely, and coherent European social statistics datasets, specifically modernised EU-LFS and EU-SILC data under the IESS framework. This included the production and release of updated EU-LFS microdata datasets (yearly and quarterly), covering both core variables and specific modules, made available to eligible researchers. These activities generated new statistical insights on specific policy-relevant topics such as digital platform work, pensions and labour market participation, and job skills, enriching the evidence base available to policymakers, researchers, and the public.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: These activities provided statistical evidence base required for designing, monitoring, and evaluating EU employment and social policies. The improved data (EU-LFS, EU-SILC) directly feeds into key EU frameworks, including the EPSR monitoring (via the Social Scoreboard), the European Semester, EU 2030 targets, and contributes to monitoring Sustainable Development Goals. They strengthen the capacity for evidence-based policy formulation in areas of employment, skills, social inclusion, poverty, and living conditions.



European added value/innovativeness: These projects fostered the harmonised and comparable collection of crucial social statistics across participating countries – an outcome likely unattainable through national actions alone. This evidence base for EU policy formulation and monitoring (like the EPSR and European Semester) was strengthened through key innovations supported by the projects: they facilitated the rollout of the IESS Regulation with its unified framework, and fostered EU LFS adaptation via targeted modules and pilot studies addressing new realities like digital platform work. In doing so, the projects ensured data relevance and reinforced the ESS through enhanced NSI collaboration and capacity, demonstrating economies of scale.

4.1.2. Indirect management

Contribution agreement with WHO



GOOD PRACTICE

Activities: International Programme on Chemical Safety (2021; 2022)

Target groups: Regulators and policy-makers; Risk-assessment institutions and scientists; Occupational safety & health professionals; International and inter-governmental bodies; Employers and workers handling chemicals; Wider public and vulnerable populations

EU funding (EUR): 330,000.00 (165,000.00 in 2021; 165,000.00 in 2022)



Description: Contribution agreements with the World Health Organization's International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) to provide information, methodologies, and tools for managing risks posed by chemicals. Activities include developing information products (like International Chemical Safety Cards), coordinating chemical risk assessment methodologies, promoting risk management tools for priority chemicals, and running the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network.



Main aim of activities: To contribute to the sound management of chemicals globally by establishing the scientific basis, strengthening national capacities for chemical safety, and providing accessible information and tools. This aims to improve working conditions, reduce work-related ill health from hazardous chemical exposures, and prevent adverse health effects in the wider population, particularly concerning priority chemicals like lead and mercury.



Main outputs and results: Main results/outcomes include 1) maintenance and expansion of the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network (reaching 97 institutions from 55 countries by end of 2023, holding meetings including the 3rd in-person meeting in Dec 2023, newsletters, webinars); 2) update and dissemination of International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs), including peer review meetings (23 updated in 2022, 24 in 2023), expansion to 15 language versions, and high usage (over 3.6M pageviews in 2022, over 4.3M in 2023); 3) maintenance and dissemination of WHO chemical safety publications via the INCHEM web portal (over 1.3M pageviews in 2022, over 1.1M in 2023); 4) promotion of WHO/IPCS risk assessment methodologies (e.g., Chemical Risk Assessment Toolkit) through workshops, professional meetings (e.g., ICT2022/Eurotox), and webinars; 5) initiation of guidance development on problem formulation in chemical risk assessment (expert meeting held Dec 2023); 6) updating and dissemination of information on chemicals of major public health concern (e.g., lead, pesticides), including updating the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities directly support the goals of the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027 by developing and disseminating information and methods to prevent occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals (including carcinogens and reproductive toxins). They also align with the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The outputs (methodologies, ICSCs, publications via INCHEM) are developed for global use and made freely available online in multiple languages, enhancing uptake. WHO/IPCS methods and publications are widely taken up and used by risk assessment bodies, governments, and institutions worldwide, including EU institutions (e.g., EFSA, ECHA) and Member States.



European added value/innovativeness: The activities leverage WHO/IPCS's strong reputation and convening power to enhance collaboration between national experts (within and outside the EU) and EU institutions. Developing authoritative global guidance saves national resources. The global reach of WHO tools and publications achieves impact beyond what individual national governments or EU bodies could achieve alone, complementing EU Member State activities in chemical safety.

Good practice: These grants delivered global information tools and networks to manage chemical risks, directly supporting EU occupational safety goals. Outputs are extensively disseminated, including the expansion of the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network to 97 institutions (55 countries) and the update of International Chemical Safety Cards in 15 languages, with millions of online views. Products are freely accessible and used by regulators and practitioners worldwide, underlining high transferability and uptake of the project's results. By leveraging WHO's global platform, it achieved a reach and coordination beyond what any single country or the EU could do alone. A clear EU added value for improving worker safety and public health.

Contribution agreement with OECD

Activities:⁹

- Monitoring the adequacy of pensions (2022)
- Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis (2022)¹⁰
- Support OECD survey on housing (2022)
- Ageing and adequacy of pensions (2023)

Target groups: EU and national social policy-makers; Pension and social protection institutions; Housing and homelessness authorities and service providers; Researchers and analytical bodies; Social partners and civil society organisations; Vulnerable populations (low-income households, pensioners, homeless)

EU funding (EUR): 1,100,000.00 (900,000.00 in 2022; 200,000.00 in 2023)



Description: A series of contribution agreements with the OECD focusing on analytical work to support EU policy in key social protection areas. This includes monitoring and analysing inequalities (especially post-COVID-19 impacts and inflation as well as accessibility of services), pension adequacy and ageing, and affordable housing including homelessness.



Main aim of activities: Activities covered in these agreements aim to 1) deepen the understanding and analysis of inequality trends and drivers across various dimensions (e.g., access to services, income distribution, opportunities, post-COVID impacts, beliefs about social policies); 2) monitor pension adequacy in the EU through comparable indicators, including calculating Theoretical Replacement Rates (TRRs), and analysing the impacts of ageing and the COVID-19 crisis on pension systems; 3) monitor access to affordable, good-quality housing and issues of homelessness/housing exclusion in OECD and EU Member States via the Affordable Housing Database (AHD), covering market context, conditions, and public policies; 4) support the design, implementation, and evaluation of inclusive, evidence-based, and sustainable social policies within the EU.



Main outputs and results: Key outputs and results include analytical reports, policy briefs, and policy papers on inequality, i.e. accessibility of services and distributional impacts of inflation, pension adequacy (TRRs, ageing impacts, COVID-19 impact, working life duration, retirement transitions), and affordable housing. They also cover key analytical work and calculations (e.g., TRRs) feeding into the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report and the development and population of the OECD AHD with indicators on housing and homelessness, as well as specific frameworks and toolkits, such as the OECD Monitoring Framework to Measure Homelessness (developed with EU support) and seminars. The work on inequality also feed into Commission annual flagship report Employment and Social Developments in Europe.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities directly support EaSI/ESF+ priorities by enhancing analytical knowledge for evidence-based policymaking in social areas. They contribute to monitoring progress towards goals outlined in the European Pillar of Social Rights (specifically on old-age income and pensions) and support related EU initiatives like the European Platform on Combating Homelessness (EPOCH). The focus on inequality, pensions, housing, and homelessness aligns with core objectives of social inclusion, poverty reduction, and strengthening social protection systems.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The methodologies developed (e.g., TRR calculations, AHD indicators, homelessness measurement framework using European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion Light typology) and the resulting databases and reports are designed for cross-national comparison and application across OECD and EU Member States. This facilitates mutual learning and the transfer of knowledge and good practices.



European added value/Innovativeness: The EU added value lies in generating comparable cross-country data and analysis (AHD, TRRs, inequality metrics, homelessness data) in complex social policy areas where national approaches differ significantly. This enables better EU-level monitoring, policy coordination (feeding into the Pension Adequacy Report, supporting EPOCH), and benchmarking. The development of harmonized indicators and comprehensive frameworks (like the Homelessness Monitoring Framework) represents an innovative approach to tackling social challenges at an international level.

⁹ Final reports for these projects are still pending, so outputs and results may still evolve.

¹⁰ This project is the continuation of Direct grant to OECD. Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis (2021) presented above under direct grants.

4.1.3. Other actions


SLA with JRC

Activities:


- Use of EUROMOD microsimulation (Transition) (2021)
- Support to EUROMOD: Maintenance of the model (2021)
- Mitigation, exit and recovery from Covid-19: Evaluating policy effectiveness using administrative data (2021)
- Climate change, adaptation and just resilience: Assessing socio-economic impacts, risks and vulnerabilities (2022)¹¹
- Measuring the green economy and associated skills (2023)¹²
- Developing pension modelling capacity (2023)¹³
- AMPWork+ / AIM-WORK (Analysis on impact of Algorithmic Management and Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace) (2023)
- Assessing and promoting synergies between green and digital transitions (APSY – COLLEEM+) (2023)¹⁴
- Sources and mitigation of carbon inequality and environmental footprint inequality (2023)

Target groups: EU and national policymakers; Researchers and analytical institutions; Social partners and civil society organisations; National statistical offices and data providers; Households and workers affected by tax-benefit and pension reforms


EU funding (EUR): 7,954,674.00 (2,874,000.00 in 2021; 250,000.00 in 2022; 4,830,674.00 in 2023)




Description: These activities involve cooperation with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to maintain, develop, and utilise key analytical tools (like the Tax-Benefit Microsimulation Model for the European Union microsimulation tool (EUROMOD) and pension models), conduct socio-economic analyses and evaluations using various data sources (including administrative data and surveys), and develop methodologies to assess the impacts of major societal and economic trends (such as the Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical/energy shocks, climate change, and the green and digital transitions) on employment, social conditions, inequalities, and working life.




Main aim of activities: To ensure the continuity, maintenance, and development of key analytical tools within the Commission; to facilitate access to and use of data for policy evaluation and analysis; to assess the socio-economic, labour market, and distributional impacts of various crises, developments, and policy measures; to develop methodologies and provide evidence on specific areas like green jobs, skills needs, algorithmic management, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the workplace, carbon inequality, and the synergies between the green and digital transitions; and to strengthen the evidence base to inform EU policy responses.



Main outputs and results: Maintained and updated analytical models (Tax-Benefit Microsimulation Model for the European Union (EUROMOD), pension model); analytical contributions used for Commission publications (European Semester, Employment and Social Developments in Europe Reviews, Pension Adequacy Report) and policy initiatives; reports and studies on the impacts of Covid-19 as well as online learning on learning loss, geopolitical/energy shocks, climate change ('just resilience'), carbon inequality, algorithmic management/AI, and twin transition synergies; improved data management and evaluation capacity (using administrative data); developed methodologies for measuring green jobs/skills and linking models; and generated survey data/reports on emerging workplace trends.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities strengthen the Commission's analytical capacity for evidence-based policy making in employment, social inclusion, and social protection. They also support the assessment of tax-benefit reforms, provide timely data on poverty/income, inform responses to crises and recovery strategies, enhance policy evaluation, support the design of policies for a just transition (climate, green, digital) by addressing social fairness, vulnerability, skills, and inequalities, monitors pension adequacy, and inform policies on the future of work and working conditions shaped by digitalisation and AI.



European added value/Innovativeness: The activities enhance the Commission's internal capacity for EU-wide, comparative, and often rapid analysis and impact assessment across Member States. They also provide a common platform for simulating/comparing policies and build evaluation capacity

¹¹ The final report was not available to the study team, so outputs and results may still evolve.

¹² The final report was not available to the study team, so outputs and results may still evolve.

¹³ The final report was not available to the study team, so outputs and results may still evolve.

¹⁴ The final report was not available to the study team, so outputs and results may still evolve.

using EU-wide data. Moreover, they conduct complex assessments of interconnected shocks and transitions, focusing on granular distributional impacts and resilience and integrate social fairness into climate analysis. They develop novel, EU-comparable data and methodologies on emerging labour market/social phenomena and complex interactions (twin transitions, carbon inequality), supporting better, more coherent, targeted, and socially fair EU policies informed by unique, Union-level insights.

SLA with ECHA

Activities: Scientific support for evaluation of chemicals at work (2021; 2023)¹⁵

Target groups: Regulators and policymakers; Employers handling hazardous substances; Workers exposed to carcinogens, mutagens and hazardous medicinal products; Occupational safety & health professionals and labour inspectors; Social partners and research community

EU funding (EUR): 2,730,000.00 (975,000.00 in 2021; 1,755,000.00 in 2023)



Description: Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) providing assessment in scientific support of OEL's setting for evaluating carcinogenic and mutagens, reprotoxic substances and other hazardous substances. The 2021 SLA (completed) included the delivery of scientific assessments. The 2023 SLA provides continued, ongoing scientific assessment (multi-year implementation).



Main aim of activities: To provide scientific assessment of carcinogenic, mutagenic, reprotoxic and other hazardous substances at work.



Main outputs and results: Delivery of scientific opinions up to 5 scientific assessments on annual basis.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Provides scientific opinions underpinning policy on worker protection from carcinogenic, mutagenic reprotoxic, and other hazardous substances on an ongoing basis and support EU occupational health and safety policy development by informing amendments to worker protection legislation and fostering safer working environments. They advance the evidence base for policymaking.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: Scientific assessments are used for developing OELs at EU level.



European added value/innovativeness: Utilises the specialised scientific expertise of an EU agency (ECHA) for consistent, high-quality assessments relevant across the EU, avoiding duplication of effort by Member States. Development of a harmonised EU-wide approach to assessing occupational risks linked to hazardous substances.

¹⁵ The final report was not available to the study team, so outputs and results may still evolve.

Co-delegation to PMO

Activities:

- Labour Market Policy statistics Task Force meeting (2022)
- Labour Market Policy statistics Expert Group meeting – 10th anniversary (2023)

Target groups: EU and national statistical authorities; Government labour ministries and policymakers; Labour market policy analysts and researchers; Social partners and civil society organisations

EU funding (EUR): 32,588.00 (10,000.00 in 2022; 22,588.00 in 2023)



Description: Organisation of technical meetings (Labour Market Policy statistics Task Force meeting in 2022, Labour Market Policy statistics Expert Group meeting – 10th anniversary in 2023) involving country experts and Commission staff, focused on the periodical Labour Market Policy (LMP) statistics compilation. The 2023 meeting also served as an occasion to reflect on achievements and future directions.



Main aim of activities: To further develop, update, and reflect upon the LMP data collection through technical expert meetings.



Main outputs and results: Technical meetings held involving country experts and Commission staff for LMP statistics compilation.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Contributed to the development and updating of Labour Market Policy statistics, which inform evidence-based policy.



European added value/innovativeness: Provided EU added value by facilitating coordination and discussion between national experts and the Commission for the harmonised compilation of Labour Market Policy statistics across EU Member States.

4.1.4. Procurement¹⁶



Reports

Activities:

- Analysis on Access to essential services (2021)
- Analysis on Access to Social Protection and Pension Rights (2022)
- Analytical support on the future of Social Protection (2023)
- Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) Report (2022; 2023)
- European centre of expertise in the field of labour law, employment and labour market policies (ECE Lot 2) (2022; 2023)
- [Ex-post evaluation of Europass \(2021\)](#)
- Studies and/or guidance documents on social economy topics (2022)
- [Studies supporting legislation/analysis on employment and working conditions/pandemic response/vulnerable people \(2021\)](#)
- [Studies/Evaluation/Impact Assessments on working conditions/platform work/company restructuring \(2021\)](#)
- Study - The digital transition notably Artificial Intelligence (incl. automation) (2021)
- Study on a social taxonomy (2022)
- Study on Employment of persons with disabilities (2021)

¹⁶ Please note that in this report all procurement activities (contracts) are presented by type of foreseen outputs, with each output type presented in a dedicated box within each operational objective section. Thus, each operational objective is organised according to the following nine output types: Audit, Capacity building activities; Communication; Conference, events, meetings, Data and statistics; IT Projects; Network of experts, Reports and Translations.

- [Study on measurement and assessment of micro and macro-economic returns of social budgeting \(2021\)](#)
- Study on protection of workers from risks related to exposure to carcinogens/mutagens (2022)
- Study to support the assessment of the need and impact for the update of OSH directives (2021)
- Support to activities related to the Future of Work (2021)

Target groups: Long Term Unemployed (LTU); Workers; Persons with disability; Most deprived; Homeless; Children; Marginalised communities; Women; Elderly people (3rd age); Micro entrepreneurs; Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy

Indicative number of contracts: 39

EU funding (EUR): 7,187,745.84 (3,919,517.57 in 2021; 2,569,855.00 in 2022; 698,373.27 in 2023).

Main aim of activities: These activities aim to provide analytical knowledge, evidence, studies, reports, evaluations, and guidance to support policy development and implementation in employment, social policy, and labour market areas. They cover a wide range of topics including employment and social developments, working conditions, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), rights of persons with disabilities, access to essential services and social protection, digital transition, returns of social budgeting, social taxonomy feasibility, hazardous substances risks for workers, social economy topics and future of work.

Main outputs and results: Main outputs encompass reports on several topics such as essential services, social protection and pension rights, labour law, employment and labour market policies, Europass, social economy, artificial intelligence, person with disabilities, social budgeting, OSH, workers protection.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities directly support EaSI/ESF+ priorities by providing the necessary analytical evidence and knowledge base for policy-making. They contribute to improving labour market outcomes and addressing labour and skills shortages, supporting vulnerable groups including young people, enhancing social protection systems, addressing new forms of work, adapting to digital and green transitions, promoting social convergence through social investment and the social economy, and ensuring safe working conditions. The studies and evaluations inform better-targeted policies, support legislative initiatives, and contribute to the monitoring of progress towards EU employment and social goals.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The activities support the implementation of EU legislation and strategies (like the Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), and initiatives (like the European Pillar of Social Rights). The analysis on new and evolving topics demonstrates innovativeness in addressing emerging challenges.



Audit

Activities: Co-delegation to REGIO: Outsourced audit of EaSI Grants (2021; 2023)

Target group: Social partners

Indicative number of contracts: 2

EU funding (EUR): 169,828.46 (150,000.00 in 2021; 19,828.46 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: Outsourced audits of EaSI grants as part of a co-delegation arrangement with REGIO.

Main outputs and results: Audit reports (listing specific VS references) are the foreseen outputs, available as Final audit reports.



Data and statistics

Activities:

- [Eurobarometer 2023 on Traineeships \(2022\)](#)
- [Eurobarometer. European Year of Skills 2023 \(2022\)](#)
- Gauss statistical software (2022)
- [Special Eurobarometer survey on perceptions of the green transition \(2022\)](#)
- [Studies related to future of work and youth employment \(2022\)](#)

- [The labour market reform database \(LABREF\) \(2022\)](#)
- [Transport poverty definitions, indicators, determinants, and mitigation strategies \(2022\)](#)
- Co-delegation to ESTAT: Development of EODS (2021)
- Co-delegation to DIGIT EC Data Platform (2023)

Target groups: Long Term Unemployed (LTU); Most deprived; Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) / Inactive; People in vulnerable situations; Persons with disability; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Workers; Marginalised communities; Women; Social partners; Mobile citizens (social protection).

Indicative number of contracts: 10

EU funding (EUR): 2,103,689.68 (219,605.40 in 2021; 1,869,084.28 in 2022; 15,000.00 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: These activities support EU social and labour policy through data collection, analysis, and conceptual development. They include surveying citizens on the social impacts of the green transition, defining and measuring transport poverty, maintaining a database of national labour market reforms (LABREF), evaluating youth integration into the labour market via traineeships, identifying SMEs' upskilling needs during the European Year of Skills, and mapping AI use in the workplace alongside analysing related legal gaps and follow-up on traineeship quality frameworks.

Main outputs and results: The activities generate data and statistics, including Eurobarometer evidence (Special Eurobarometer on the social dimension of the green transition; Eurobarometer 2023 on traineeships, Flash Eurobarometer 529 on SMEs' up-/reskilling needs for the European Year of Skills), a final report defining and measuring transport poverty with proposed indicators and mitigation profiles, updated entries and analytical reporting for the LABREF labour-market-reform database, and three thematic studies: (i) algorithmic management in the workplace, (ii) use of AI systems in EU social-security administrations, and (iii) quality of traineeships in the EU.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Activities generate evidence for employment policies, social protection, and social inclusion. These Eurobarometer datasets, indicator frameworks, database updates and thematic studies underpin monitoring, evaluation and evidence-based policy-making within the ESF+ framework.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The activities demonstrate significant EU added value through the collection of comparable data across Member States (e.g., Eurobarometers, LABREF). The studies on AI and the future of work address emerging challenges at the EU level.



Network of experts

Activities:

- European centre of expertise in the field of labour law (2022; 2023)
- Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC), Evaluation within Programme (2022-2023)
- SLIC Train the trainer event on safety of machinery (2023)
- Expert Network for Analytical Support in Social Policies (2023)

Target groups: Workers; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Women; Children; Elderly people (3rd age), Homeless, Long Term Unemployed (LTU), Marginalised communities, Most deprived, Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) / Inactive; People in vulnerable situations; Persons with disability, National Labour Inspectorates.

Indicative number of contracts: 6

EU funding (EUR): 4,440,390.21 (1,074,590.00 in 2022; 3,365,800.21 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: These activities relate to the provision of services in the field of labour law and employment, as well as promotion of exchange between Member States in regard to OSH legislation enforcement aspects. It also includes supporting the European Commission with expertise and rigorous analysis of social protection and social inclusion policies and developments at national and European levels.

Main outputs and results: The foreseen output is primarily a network of experts. Specific outputs include Flash Reports on Labour Law, and support for events such as the SLIC Train the trainer event on safety of machinery (2023), the SLIC evaluation programme (2022-2023) and the Advisory Committee for Safety and Health at Work meeting, including meeting organisation and catering services.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Activities support evidence-based policy-making at both EU and national levels in the fields of social protection, inclusion, labour law, and employment, thereby advancing the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights and other key EU strategies.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The use of pan-European networks of experts and the focus on analysis and monitoring at both national and European levels ensures EU added value by providing comparable insights across Member States. The activities facilitate the transfer of knowledge and best practices by supporting the Commission's role in coordinating and monitoring social policies and by promoting exchange on enforcement aspects between national authorities, fostering mutual learning and supporting coordinated EU action.



Conference, events, meetings

Activity: Support for the Homelessness Platform (2023)

Target groups: Homeless; Marginalised communities; Most deprived; People in vulnerable situations

Indicative number of contracts: 1

EU funding (EUR): 15,000.00

Main aim of activities: The activities aim to support the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness. This involves preparing research-based policy options notes to enhance the Platform's impact, participating in meetings and events with relevant stakeholders (European, national, regional, and local authorities, and others) to help achieve the goals of the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness, and attending ad-hoc meetings with the Contracting Authority.

Main outputs and results: Foreseen outputs include conference, events, and meetings. Specific outputs include three research-based policy options notes (7 to 10 pages each).

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: These activities directly contribute to the EaSI/ESF+ priority of social inclusion and poverty reduction by supporting efforts to combat homelessness, a core issue for vulnerable groups and marginalised communities. They align with the "Analytical knowledge" objective by producing policy analysis and facilitating knowledge sharing among stakeholders to inform and improve policies.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: By supporting the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness and involving stakeholders at European, national, regional, and local levels, the activities promote a coordinated EU-level approach to tackling homelessness. The focus on preparing research-based policy options provides analytical support that can inform transferable best practices and policy development across Member States, demonstrating significant EU added value.



Translations

Activities: Co-delegation to DGT: Translations (2021, 2022; 2023)

Target group: Workers

Indicative number of contracts: 150

EU funding (EUR): 320,330.00 (159,800.00 in 2021; 59,500.00 in 2022; 101,000.00 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: Contracts aimed at providing translation activities, as part of a co-delegation arrangement with DGT.

Main outputs and results: Translations are the foreseen outputs.

4.2. Social and labour standards (j)

4.2.1. Indirect management

Contribution agreement with ILO



GOOD PRACTICE

Activities:

- Project to combat violence and harassment in the world of work (2021)
- Strengthen the OSH and notably the labour inspections in the Mediterranean Region (2022)
- Sustainable supply chains to build back better - Advancing decent work in five global supply chains of key importance to the European Union for a fair, resilient, and sustainable COVID-19 crisis recovery (2nd phase) (2023)¹⁷

Target groups: Government labour authorities and OSH inspectorates; Employers and business organisations in global supply chains; Workers' organisations and trade unions; Occupational safety and health professionals; Vulnerable workers (youth, women, agricultural and informal workers); International and regional bodies promoting labour standards

EU funding (EUR): 1,198,061 00 (398,061 00 in 2021; 100,000 00 in 2022; 700,000 00 in 2023)



Description: A series of contribution agreements entrusting the ILO to implement projects focused on strengthening international labour standards. Key areas include combating violence and harassment in the world of work, particularly through an OSH perspective and promoting ILO Convention 190; strengthening OSH systems and labour inspections, with a specific focus on the Mediterranean (Maghreb) region, vulnerable workers (youth, women), the agricultural sector, and ILO Convention 129; and promoting decent work within sustainable global supply chains, addressing informality and supporting post-COVID-19 recovery.



Main aim of activities: Main aims relate to improving knowledge, raise awareness, build capacity, and inform policy advice for ILO constituents (governments, employers', and workers' organisations) regarding key international labour standards. This includes: 1) Researching and promoting the prevention and addressing of violence and harassment (V&H) through OSH frameworks, supporting the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 190; 2) Strengthening OSH and labour inspection systems, particularly for vulnerable groups in specific regions (Maghreb) and sectors (agriculture), and campaigning for ratification of ILO Convention 129; 3) Advancing decent work principles in key global supply chains, addressing informality, and contributing to a fair and sustainable COVID-19 recovery.



Main outputs and results: Main outputs and results include 1) Research & Knowledge Products such as a Global Report on Preventing V&H through OSH; inventory and database of national legal instruments, guidance, and tools on V&H; Working Paper on Addressing Gender-based V&H in OSH, 7 country studies on V&H via OSH; reports on promoting decent work, addressing informality and COVID-19 impacts in supply chains; 2) Capacity Building & Tools such as training workshops on strategic planning for labour inspection conformity (>90 inspectors trained); pilot compliance plans developed for specific sectors/issues (e.g., Algeria, Morocco); sensitization activities and promotion of OSH best practices (Tunisia); 3) Dissemination & Dialogue outputs such as high-level conferences (Geneva on V&H via OSH; Bilbao regional meeting for Maghreb OSH), research seminars; development of communication strategies and products (websites, factsheets, social media, videos), translation of key reports (V&H report into French/Spanish); 4) Formulation of actionable recommendations for policymakers and social partners based on research findings.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Activities directly contribute to generating evidence, building capacity, and promoting dialogue around the implementation and ratification of core international labour standards. They strengthen the ability of national authorities and social partners to create safer, healthier, and fairer working environments, particularly focusing on vulnerable workers and challenging sectors, thereby supporting social protection and fair working conditions priorities within the ESF+.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The Global Report on V&H, country studies, the Working Paper, and research on supply chains offer lessons and models applicable across different countries and regions. Moreover, the strategic planning tool for labour inspection is adaptable and recommendations are often broadly applicable. Dissemination through international conferences and publications actively promotes the transfer of findings and good practices.

¹⁷ Final report for this project still pending, so outputs and results may still evolve.



European added value/Innovativeness: EU funding enables targeted ILO research and action aligned with shared priorities (combating V&H, promoting OSH, ensuring decent work in supply chains, supporting Convention 190 ratification). The projects explore specific, potentially innovative angles, such as systematically addressing V&H through the OSH framework and developing strategic compliance planning for labour inspections. Support facilitates global and regional knowledge sharing (e.g., Maghreb cooperation), providing comparative perspectives and evidence to inform policy development within the EU and beyond.

Good practice: Entrusted projects with the ILO yielded tangible outcomes in advancing international labour standards, with deliverables spanning research and action-oriented tools. The projects also prioritized dissemination and dialogue, organising high-level conferences and producing multi-language communication materials to spread findings and recommendations. These activities had a strong transnational component – supporting multiple countries in upgrading labour inspections and implementing ILO Conventions – and the knowledge outputs are applicable broadly and shared via international forums, indicating transferability. EU support ensured alignment with European priorities (safe, fair working conditions) and enabled innovative approaches like integrating violence prevention into OSH frameworks and new compliance strategies, thereby adding value back to EU policy discourse.

4.2.2. Procurement



Conference, events, meetings

Activities:

- Political dialogues with key partners for Bilateral cooperation (2021; 2022; 2023)
- EU Neighbourhood support for Eastern and South partnership (2021; 2023)
- Economic Reform Programmes (Mini-Semester) and Western Balkans Strategy (2021)

Target groups: 3rd country citizens; Children; LTU; Marginalised communities; NEETs / Inactive, People in vulnerable situations; Persons with disability; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy; Women; Workers; Social partners, Elderly people (3rd age), Homeless; Micro entrepreneurs; Most deprived, Mobile citizens (social protection)

Indicative number of contracts: 52

EU funding (EUR): 1,348,083.97 (575,912.69 in 2021; 240,000.00 in 2022; 532,171.28 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: These activities facilitated political dialogues on labour issues with key EU partners (e.g., United States, Japan, China, Taiwan, Thailand), provided support for Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood partnerships (including events with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), such as the 5th UfM Ministerial on Employment and Labour in May 2022, Morocco), and offered support for Western Balkans Economic Reform Programmes (e.g., a meeting of Western Balkans Youth Guarantee coordinators).

Main outputs and results: The contracts organised recurring labour dialogues with partner countries and events/meetings on employment and social policies with the Union for Mediterranean. The 5th UfM Ministerial on Employment and Labour took place, and a meeting of Western Balkans Youth Guarantee coordinators was held.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities contributed to EaSI/ESF+ priorities by promoting international cooperation and social dialogue on labour standards and employment policies; supporting youth employment and activation in enlargement and neighbourhood countries; and enhancing inclusion and employability for vulnerable groups.



Network of experts

Activity: Preparing EU positions within ILO and supporting EU MS efforts on ratification (2021)

Target group(s): 3rd country citizens; Children; LTU; Marginalised communities; Most deprived; NEETs / Inactive; People in vulnerable situations; Persons with disability; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy ; Women; Workers; Social partners.

Indicative number of contracts: 4

EU funding (EUR): 50,342.25

Main aim of activities: This activity focused on preparing EU positions within the ILO and supporting EU Member States' efforts in ratifying relevant conventions.

Main outputs and results: This contract organised the bi-yearly EU-ILO high-level meeting to exchange views on joint priorities and international labour standards.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: This activity directly addresses the EaSI/ESF+ priority of promoting international labour standards and decent work globally. By supporting the preparation of EU positions within the ILO and fostering high-level dialogue, it strengthens the EU's capacity to influence international standard-setting and promote its social values on the global stage, aligning with the external dimension of EU employment and social policy.

5. KPI 2 – Information sharing and mutual learning activities

THE EASI STRAND OF THE ESF+

KPI 2.

Information sharing and mutual learning activities

KPI 2 covers the number of information sharing and mutual learning activities, as well as peer reviews and dialogue. It intends to assist Member States and other countries participating in the strand in developing their policies and the Member States in implementing EU law. Practical guidance and mutual learning are foreseen to help the Member States in transposing and applying the EU Directives. They should also assist in ensuring that minimum labour standards are in place and that working conditions improve constantly in the EU, considering evolving work patterns and new health and safety risks.

INFORMATION SHARING, MUTUAL LEARNING, PEER REVIEWS

ACTIVITIES TO FACILITATE EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE INFORMATION SHARING, MUTUAL LEARNING, PEER REVIEWS AND DIALOGUE

THE EASI STRAND FUNDED (2021-2023)

Direct Grants	Indirect Management	Procurement Activities	Other Actions
3	5	38	17

EXAMPLES OF OUTPUTS PRODUCED

- Communication activities such as tv episodes (e.g., Euronews Real Economy), campaigns (e.g., #coffeepeople, DG COMM's corporate campaigns), websites on topics such as social economy and occupational safety and health.
- High-level policy activities, expert groups (e.g., SPC, EMCO, PES network, Free Movement of Workers Bodies, Minimum Wage, Pension Adequacy Working Group) and meetings on topics such as minimum wage and employment, social dialogue and social policies.
- Reports on various topics including publications on pensions, inequality, as well as long-term care.
- Tangible tools and digital infrastructure such as the launch of an EC-owned online interface, the Social-Economy Gateway Site, the ESSPASS proof-of-concept and OSH tools.

5.1. Information sharing, mutual learning, peer reviews, and dialogue on policies (b)

5.1.1. Direct grants

Euronews Real Economy Magazine

Activity: Co-delegation to ECFIN: Euronews Real Economy Magazine (2021; 2022)

Target groups: European public and EU citizens; Workers and jobseekers; Young people and vulnerable groups; EU and national policymakers; Social partners (employers' and workers' organisations); Media and opinion-formers

EU funding (EUR): 250,666.00 (125,333.00 in 2021; 125,333.00 in 2022)



Description: This communication project involved Euronews in producing and broadcasting episodes featuring EU policies and initiatives of DG EMPL and DG ECFIN as part of the "Real Economy" TV magazine, which focused on economic, social, and employment topics. The content was disseminated across Euronews multiple platforms (TV, website, mobile apps, social media) in all languages used by Euronews reaching out to wide audiences across Europe and beyond.



Main aim of activities: The project aimed to utilise the established multilingual "Real Economy" magazine to inform the public across Europe about EU actions and policies on employment, social affairs, and inclusion. It sought to enhance the visibility of EU measures, especially those implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights, by covering relevant topics such as the pandemic recovery (European Instrument for Temporary Support to Mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency - SURE, Recovery and Resilience Facility - RRF), Green Deal impacts, platform work, child poverty, support for vulnerable young people who are neither in employment nor in education (the ALMA initiative) and responses to the war in Ukraine.



Main outputs and results: As part of the project Euronews produced and broadcast 28 "Real Economy" episodes during two broadcast seasons, with 14 episodes under the 2020-2021 convention, and 14 episodes under the 2021-2022 convention. Of those, 6 EMPL episodes per season (total of 12 episodes between 2020-2022). Content, including supplementary digital materials (bonus videos, web articles), was widely disseminated via Euronews' TV channel, website, mobile apps, and social media platforms. The project achieved significant reach, with estimated TV viewership of over 10 million affluent Europeans per season and substantial digital engagement with millions of web page views and social media impressions/interactions annually.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The project addressed EaSI/ESF+ information sharing objectives by using storytelling to communicate widely in an engaging way how ESF/EaSI projects support the implementation of EU employment and social policies. The stories about EU-funded projects and topical interviews with policy makers and experts increased in an impactful way the visibility of measures implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights and illustrated key horizontal principles such as equal opportunities, gender equality and non-discrimination.



European added value/Innovativeness: The project leveraged Euronews' unique pan-European, multilingual reach to ensure wide dissemination of information on EU policies and responses to transnational challenges (like the pandemic, energy crisis, poverty and war impacts), providing European added value likely unachievable at national levels. It enhanced collaboration between EU institutions (DG ECFIN, DG EMPL) and a major European media. Innovativeness stemmed from using Euronews' unique reach and a mix of traditional broadcast and diverse digital formats to engage wide audiences in multiple languages by communicating timely on complex socioeconomic topics with real stories about real people filmed around Europe.

Direct Grant to the Government of the Republic of Portugal or its designated bodies to support a high-level conference: the 'Porto Social Forum'



GOOD PRACTICE

Activity: Direct Grant to the Government of the Republic of Portugal or its designated bodies to support a high-level conference: the 'Porto Social Forum' (2023)

Target groups: EU and national policymakers; Social partners (employers' and workers' organisations); Education, training and skills providers; Civil society organisations focused on social inclusion and poverty, Researchers and policy experts; Vulnerable groups (children, low-skilled, disadvantaged)

EU funding (EUR): 100,000.00



Description: The grant supported a high-level event in Porto, following up on the Porto Social Commitment agreed upon during the Porto Social Summit in May 2021. As announced in a joint statement by the European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Portugal on 7 May 2022, Portugal committed to organising a Forum every two years, starting in 2023, linked to the milestones of the Porto Social Commitment.



Main aim of activities: The 2023 event sought to recognise the social model as a global advantage, highlight how skills, education and training policies can foster better jobs, labour market integration, and social inclusion, thereby increasing EU resilience and competitiveness. It also aimed to emphasise the importance of an integrated strategy to combat poverty and social exclusion, particularly concerning access to essential services and the implementation of the European Child Guarantee. A further aim was to reinforce the Social Commitment between the EU institutions and social partners.



Main outputs and results: The project organised and held the two-day Porto Social Forum 2023, bringing together over 400 delegates from 30 countries. A key outcome was the signing of an Open Letter by 37 European leaders, renewing the Porto Social Summit commitments for 2030 and foreseeing acceleration of the European Child Guarantee target, alongside commitments on skills and qualifications for the twin transitions. The Social Commitment between the Presidency of the EU Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament and social partners was reinforced. The Forum highlighted the role of sound skills, education, and training policies in creating better jobs, facilitating labour market integration, promoting social inclusion, and enhancing the EU's economic and societal resilience and competitiveness.



Transnational dimension: The project involved over 400 delegates from 30 countries, participation from key EU institutions, and focused on EU-level policies and commitments (EPSR, Porto Social Commitment, European Year of Skills, European Child Guarantee). It facilitated information sharing and learning among participants from across Europe and reinforced the Social Commitment between European-level actors.



European added value/Innovativeness: The Forum served as a high-level platform for policy debate on the European Social Model, skills, poverty, and social inclusion. The Forum made a direct contribution to monitoring and promoting the implementation of key EU policies, particularly the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Porto Social Commitment, while also addressing current priorities such as the European Year of Skills and the European Child Guarantee. Furthermore, it fostered benchmarking and mutual learning among high-level policymakers and stakeholders from across Europe by facilitating shared information and debate.



Sustainability measures: The Porto Social Forum is planned as a biennial initiative promoted by the Portuguese Government with the support of the European Commission. The next edition is planned to take place in 2025, demonstrating a clear strategy for continuation and ensuring sustained focus on the Porto Social Commitment beyond the funded period.



Horizontal principles: Gender equality, gender mainstreaming, non-discrimination (based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation), and the inclusion of vulnerable groups were discussed during an event, primarily within the debates on the "European Social Model" (covering policies for equal opportunities, social justice, inclusion, and cohesion) and the "European Year of Competences" (aiming for inclusive investment in training, matching skills to opportunities, and activating more people, especially women and young people, in the labour market).

Good practice: This grant enabled a high-level conference gathering large group of delegates and producing a concrete outcome – an Open Letter signed by 37 European leaders reaffirming and accelerating EU social commitments. The Forum had a clear transnational dimension and EU added value, facilitating EU-wide mutual learning and policy dialogue among institutions, national governments, social partners and civil society, and reinforcing the European Pillar of Social Rights. It included a sustainability plan as the Portuguese government committed to continue the Forum biennially, ensuring the initiative's continuity and long-term impact beyond the

initial event. The content of the Forum also mainstreamed horizontal principles by incorporating debates on gender equality, non-discrimination, and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

5.1.2. Indirect management

Contribution agreement with ILO

Activities:

- Vision Zero Fund (VZF) on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in GSC (2022)
- Provide technical assistance to Western Balkan countries for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee (2022)
- Designing and assessing Just Transition policies - joint research, new evidence & good practices (2022)¹⁸
- EU-ILO Technical Assistance Facility for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee in the Western Balkans, phase 2 (2023)¹⁹

Target groups: Government and public employment services, Employers and global supply chain companies, Workers' organisations and trade unions, Occupational safety and health professionals and labour inspectors, Youth in the Western Balkans, Coffee sector workers and other vulnerable supply chain workers

EU funding (EUR): 1,700,000.00 (1,300,000.00 in 2022; 400,000.00 in 2023)



Description: Agreements supporting the ILO in promoting Just Transition policies, implementing the Youth Guarantee (YG) model in the Western Balkans (Phase 1 & 2), and enhancing OSH, particularly in global supply chains (e.g., coffee) via the Vision Zero Fund.



Main aim of activities: To promote Just Transition policies globally through research and best practice exchange; to support Western Balkan countries in establishing and implementing Youth Guarantee schemes aligned with EU standards to facilitate youth labour market integration; and to improve Occupational Safety and Health in global supply chains (e.g., coffee) by fostering safer working environments through research, capacity building, awareness campaigns, and sharing good practices.



Main outputs and results: Key outputs and results include 1) the development of joint research, new evidence, and good practices on Just Transition policies; 2) drafted/adopted Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans (YGIPs) and established coordination mechanisms (including a regional network) in Western Balkan countries; 3) the provision of tailor-made technical guidance, legal reviews, functional assessments, and capacity building (training, peer-learning events, guidelines) for Youth Guarantee implementation in the Western Balkans; 4) a major global awareness campaign (#CoffeePeople) on OSH in the coffee supply chain, reaching an estimated 25 million people, resulting in pledges for action from global organisations; 5) development and dissemination of OSH tools (e.g., Collective Action Kit, campaign materials, documentary) and integration of OSH into national training systems (e.g., Vietnam's National Sustainability Curriculum for Arabica coffee); 6) delivery of OSH training, advice, and capacity building for legislators, authorities, social partners, and private sector actors in global supply chains.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities contribute to promoting fair employment and quality job creation by supporting Just Transition policies. Directly tackle youth unemployment (NEETs) in candidate/potential candidate countries by facilitating the adoption of effective Youth Guarantee schemes, enhancing skills and labour market integration. They also promote the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment and improves working conditions, particularly in vulnerable sectors like global supply chains, aligning with decent work principles and fair work standards.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The EU Youth Guarantee model is adapted and transferred to Western Balkan countries, with guidelines, peer-learning, and regional networks facilitating knowledge sharing within the region. OSH tools (e.g., Collective Action Kit, #CoffeePeople campaign model) and methodologies (e.g., mainstreaming OSH into national curricula) developed for the coffee sector are designed for broader applicability and have been shared across different countries/platforms, potentially transferable to other supply chains. The Just Transition activity inherently focuses on the international exchange and transferability of good practices and experiences.



European added value/Innovativeness: Activities provides EU added value by promoting core EU policies and standards (Youth Guarantee, Just Transition, OSH as a fundamental right) internationally, particularly in candidate/potential candidate countries and global supply chains relevant to EU

¹⁸ Final report for this project still pending, so outputs and results may still evolve

¹⁹ Final report for this project still pending, so outputs and results may still evolve.

markets/legislation (e.g., due diligence). They also utilize innovative approaches like large-scale global awareness campaigns (#CoffeePeople), integration of OSH into national training systems, and flexible, demand-driven technical assistance facilities (Technical Assistance Facility for YG). Moreover, they facilitate unique multi-stakeholder partnerships (e.g., with International Coffee Organization, Global Coffee Platform) and leverages the ILO's global reach and tripartite structure to foster dialogue, share best practices, and promote systemic change aligned with EU priorities.

Contribution agreement with OECD

Activity: Global Deal to promote their capacity building for social dialogue and collective bargaining in third countries (2022)

Target groups: Government labour authorities; Employers and business organisations; Workers' organisations and trade unions; Tripartite social dialogue and collective bargaining institutions; National industrial relations bodies

EU funding (EUR): 400,000.00



Description: This project, implemented under the Global Deal initiative with the OECD, brought together governments, employers, and workers to foster collaboration, address decent work deficits, enhance economic stability, and promote shared prosperity by strengthening social dialogue institutions and processes.



Main aim of activities: To promote capacity building for social dialogue and collective bargaining in Kenya, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka, thereby contributing to decent work, social inclusion, and the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the EC Communication on decent work worldwide.



Main outputs and results: Key outputs and result include 1) producing 3 baseline studies (one per country), 1 final synthesis report, and 6 good practice case studies (two per country); 2) delivering 3 tailored training programmes on social dialogue, industrial relations, and dispute resolution for key tripartite bodies, involving over 90 participants combined; 3) organising 3 final high-level conferences (one per country) to present outcomes and discuss challenges, fostering commitment among stakeholders; 4) identifying key challenges related to social dialogue, implementation, just transition, digital economy, informal work, and labour inspection etc; 5) strengthening the capacity of relevant national institutions to engage in tripartite dialogue and advise governments (e.g., development of an action plan for Kenya); 6) increasing knowledge and capacity reported by participants (96% of e-learning participants reported increased awareness/capacity).



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The project directly supported EaSI/ESF+ Operational Objective by facilitating information sharing, mutual learning, and peer exchange among tripartite stakeholders (governments, employers, workers) in the target third countries. It promoted social dialogue and collective bargaining as key mechanisms for achieving decent work, social inclusion, improved industrial relations, and shared prosperity, aligning with core EU social policy goals and the European Pillar of Social Rights.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: Training participants were selected based on potential to replicate training and act as future trainers (as in the example of Sri Lanka). Moreover, participants retain access to the e-campus online platform and additional learning resources (e.g., industrial relations toolkit). The 6 good practice case studies document effective and innovative actions achieved through social dialogue, providing examples for potential replication.



European added value/innovativeness: The project demonstrated EU commitment to promoting decent work and social dialogue globally, linking actions in third countries to EU policy priorities. It leveraged the multilateral Global Deal partnership (with OECD) to enhance effectiveness and visibility and facilitated high-level engagement between national stakeholders and EU representatives (Delegations, Ambassadors), reinforcing policy dialogue. Moreover, it strengthened national capacities and tripartite institutions, contributing to more stable labour markets, fair competition, and conditions conducive to sustainable development and trade relationships (contributing to policy dialogue relevant to frameworks such as the EU-Kenya).

5.1.3. Other actions

Co-delegation to PMO

Activities:

- Meetings: Reimbursement of experts travel costs (2022; 2023)
- EMCO experts' reimbursements (2022; 2023)
- Expert group on Minimum Wage Directive - experts' reimbursements (2023)
- Expert reimbursements - SPC Working group on Pension adequacy (2023)
- Meetings of expert groups in the field of labour law and Meetings of the group of Directors General for Industrial Relations-Reimbursement of experts (2022; 2023)
- PES (Public Employment Services) experts' reimbursement of travel costs (2022)
- SPC and Mutual learning events expert reimbursements (2023)
- SPC Experts reimbursements (2022)

Target groups: Government officials and national experts on employment and social protection; Social partners (employers' and workers' organisations); Public employment services representatives; EU advisory committee and expert group members; Labour mobility and labour law policymakers

EU funding (EUR): 1,388,000.00 (625,000.00 in 2022; 763,000.00 in 2023)



Description: These activities involve the co-delegation to the Paymaster Office (PMO) for the reimbursement of travel and related costs for national experts, social partners, and other invited experts. These experts participated in various treaty-based committees (Social Protection Committee - SPC, EMCO), advisory bodies (Free Movement of Workers, Europass), expert groups (Labour Law, Industrial Relations, Minimum Wage Directive), network activities (PES Network), and mutual learning events convened or supported by the European Commission.



Main aim of activities: To facilitate information sharing, mutual learning, peer reviews, and policy coordination among Member States, EU institutions, and social partners in the fields of employment, social affairs, labour mobility, labour law, industrial relations, and social protection. This includes monitoring the social and employment situation (contributing to the European Semester), supporting the transposition and implementation of EU legislation (e.g., Minimum Wage Directive), contributing to network activities (PES Network), and providing expert advice to the Commission.



Main outputs and results: Outputs and results include 1) Convening of key committees and expert groups (e.g., SPC, EMCO, PES Network, Free Movement of Workers bodies, Labour Law/Industrial Relations groups, Minimum Wage Expert Group, Pension Adequacy Working Group); 2) Facilitated exchange of views and progress monitoring at the national level on EU policy priorities and legislation, 3) Production of specific outputs, notably the November 2023 report by the Expert Group on the transposition of Directive 2022/2041 on adequate minimum wages, aimed at supporting legislative work in Member States; 4) Contributions to policy monitoring within the European Semester framework (via SPC and EMCO meetings); 5) Expert input into PES Network activities; 6) Preparation for future reports (e.g., 2024 Pension Adequacy Report, potentially Long-term care report).



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities directly contributed to EaSI/ESF+ priorities by enhancing policy coordination and mutual learning in employment and social protection. They also promoted fair labour mobility through dedicated advisory committees and bodies, improved working conditions and rights by supporting the implementation of relevant directives and fostered dialogue on labour law and industrial relations. Moreover, they supported evidence-based policymaking through expert discussions and targeted reports.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The knowledge and practices shared during meetings (e.g., on minimum wage setting, pension adequacy analysis, labour mobility challenges) are intended for use and adaptation by participating Member States. Outputs like the Minimum Wage Expert Group report are designed to support national-level processes, making the generated knowledge transferable.



European added value/innovativeness: These grants provide a platform for bringing together diverse national experts, officials, and social partners from across the EU. This facilitates a shared understanding of EU policies, promotes convergence in approaches, enables peer learning on common challenges, and leverages collective expertise for better policy outcomes across the Union – something individual Member States likely cannot achieve alone.

Co-delegation to OP

Activities:

- Co-delegation to OP: EMPL Publications (2021; 2022; 2023)
- Co-delegation to OP: Provision of Interactive Visualisation Services (2023)
- Co-delegation to OP: EMPL Publications, subscriptions (2023)

Target groups: 3rd country citizens; Children; Elderly people (3rd age); Homeless; Long Term Unemployed (LTU); Marginalised communities; Micro entrepreneurs; Mobile citizens (social protection); Most deprived; Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) / Inactive; People in vulnerable situations; Persons with disability; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy; Social partners; Women; Workers

EU funding (EUR): 201,494.13 (60,000.00 in 2021; 50,000.00 in 2022; 91,494.13 in 2023)



Description: These activities involve the co-delegation to the Publications Office (OP) for communication activities.



Main outputs and results: Planned outputs included the conception, printing, storage and distribution of DG EMPL publications, as well as the coverage of the costs related to the delivery of interactive visualisation services and the provision of interactive websites.

5.1.4. Procurement



Capacity building activities

Activities:

- Meetings of experts' groups - logistics extra muros meetings (2021)
- Support to social economy stakeholders (2022)

Target groups: Workers; Micro entrepreneurs; Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy

Indicative number of contracts: 10

EU funding (EUR): 488,558 41 (18,710.00 in 2021; 469,848.41 in 2022)

Main aim of activities: The activities involve the organisation of expert groups meetings outside Commission premises in the field of labour law. They also aim at providing support to social economy stakeholders through mutual learning activities, guidance, awareness training workshops, advisory services, and trainings related to actions in the Social Economy Action Plan.

Main outputs and results: Capacity building activities, including organising sub-group and full meetings of Directors General of Industrial Relations (specifically on 3 December 2021 and 19 November 2021); and mutual Learning activities including workshops and events.



Communication activities

Activities:

- Co-delegation to COMM: Corporate Communication (2021; 2022; 2023)
- Communication and implementation of the action plan for the social economy and its actions (2022)
- Communication strategy for the Social Economy Action Plan (2021)
- EMPL Communications Activities (Campaigns - Audiovisual - WEB - Publication) (2021)
- Maintenance and further development of Better Entrepreneurship online tool (2021)

Target groups: Elderly people (3rd age); Long Term Unemployed (LTU); Persons with disability; Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy; Workers; 3rd country citizens; Children; Homeless; Marginalised communities; Micro entrepreneurs; Most deprived; Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) / Inactive; People in vulnerable situations; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Women; Social partners; Mobile citizens (social protection)

Indicative number of contracts: 23

EU funding (EUR): 1,513,290.51 (991,118.65 in 2021; 507,171.86 in 2022; 15,000.00 in 2023).

Main aim of activities: These communication activities encompass corporate communication efforts across three years (2021-2023) specific communication and implementation support for the Social Economy Action Plan (SEAP); general communication campaigns (digital, audiovisual, publications); and the maintenance/development of an online policy assessment tool website (Better Entrepreneurship, developed jointly by the European Commission and the OECD). Specific actions include communication around the SEAP, organising events, planning digital meetings for the SEAP strategy, and ongoing development/update of an online tool.

Main outputs and results: Foreseen outputs primarily involve communication activities. Specific outputs include mandatory contributions to DG COMM's corporate campaigns, general communication activities, communication activities related to the Social Economy Action Plan, Intramuros support, and IT services for the development and update of an online tool/self-standing website.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities contribute to the objectives of EaSI/ESF+ by communicating about and supporting initiatives like the Social Economy Action Plan. They also target a broad range of groups, including vulnerable populations (e.g., LTU, NEETs, homeless, persons with disability, marginalised communities).



Conference, events, meetings

Activities:

- Development of mechanisms to prepare the OSH Summit (2022)
- ESDE Report Annual Conference. Dissemination and discussion of findings of the Report (2021)
- EU Neighbourhood support for Eastern and South partnership (2022)
- Events (on Access to Social Protection, LTC, Active Ageing Index) (2021)
- Events, mutual learning and capacity building (2023)
- High-level group meetings and conference on Social Protection (2022)
- Meetings and Events (Dir C) (2022)
- Meetings logistics online (2022)
- Meetings of experts groups in the field of labour law (2023)
- Mutual learning activities to alleviate poverty (2021)
- Promoting dialogue with civil society and stakeholders (2021)
- Support Services for Mutual Learning within the European Employment Strategy (2021)
- Support to activities related to the Future of Work (2022)

Target groups: Elderly people (3rd age); Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Women; Long Term Unemployed (LTU); Micro entrepreneurs; Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) / Inactive; Workers; People in vulnerable situations; Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy; Homeless; Most deprived; 3rd country citizens; Children; Marginalised communities; Persons with disability; Mobile citizens (social protection); Social partners

Indicative number of contracts: 47

EU funding (EUR): 2,627,826.31 (1,108,685.54 in 2021; 1,004,283.64 in 2022; 514,857.13 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: The activities primarily involve the planning, organisation, and implementation of a wide range of conferences, events, and meetings to support policy development, mutual learning, and stakeholder engagement in key areas such as employment, social protection, social inclusion, and working conditions.

Main outputs and results: Foreseen outputs included conferences, events, and meetings. Specific outputs include: Organisation and follow-up of the OSH Summit; ESDE Report Annual Conference; Organisation of events and meetings on employment and social policies with the Union for Mediterranean; Mutual learning activities; High-level group meetings and conference outputs (including reports/recommendations); Organisation of meetings such as the Youth Guarantee and LTU; Online meetings logistics; Meetings in Member States; Support to the Steering

Board of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness; Support Services for Mutual Learning within the European Employment Strategy.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activities support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and EU policy initiatives in key areas such as employment, social inclusion, social protection, working conditions, youth employment, and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. By facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices, they contribute to enhancing policy effectiveness and capacity-building for national authorities and stakeholders.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The activities facilitate cross-border exchange, dialogue, and learning among Member States, partner countries, EU institutions, social partners, civil society, and experts that would likely not occur at the national level. They support coordinated action towards common EU policy goals like the European Pillar of Social Rights and social convergence. They also support critical reflection, assessment, and benchmarking among Member States, potentially identifying and promoting innovative approaches developed at national/local levels. With an aim to exchange information, experience, good practice, and best practices between countries and stakeholders, activities facilitate the transfer and uptake of successful policies and practices across the EU and Neighbourhood.



Data and statistics

Activity: Labour Market Policy data base online interface (2021)

Target group: Workers

Indicative number of contracts: 3

EU funding (EUR): 49,400.00

Main aim of activities: The contract focused on the design and implementation of an online platform for uploading Labour Market Policy data and interaction with an underlying relational data base owned by the Commission. The design of the solution had to be in accordance with the European Commission requirements, Labour Market Policy methodology, and compatible with existing software. The contract also involved the implementation and full functionality testing of the package, as well as providing the Commission with full software package, documentation, user functionality tutorial and final report.

Main outputs and results: The main output of the contract was the design and implementation of an online interface, a software owned by the European Commission.



IT Projects

Activity: Co-delegation to DIGIT: Hosting of the social economy gateway (website) (2023)

Target groups: Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy

Indicative number of contracts: 1

EU funding (EUR): 10,000.00

Main aim of activities: Activities involve the hosting of the social economy gateway.

Main outputs and results: Main outputs include the delivery of IT services for a website (https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/index_en).



Network of experts

Activities:

- EMCO meetings organisation (2023)
- Employment occasional seminars and meetings with experts to support analytical and policy activities of DG EMPL and improve their quality and accuracy with front-line research (2023)
- Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) Evaluation Programme (2022-2023)
- Meetings of experts groups in the field of labour law - logistics extra muros meetings (2022)
- Meetings: Organisation of conferences, catering and logistical support (2023)
- Mutual learning for upskilling pathways and ILA (2022)
- PES (Public Employment Services) network support (2021)
- SPC (and related bodies) meetings, including mutual learning events and peer reviews (at the request of the MSs) (2023)
- Support for mutual learning and exchange of good practices in the context of the Social Open Method of Coordination (2022)
- Support platform on combatting homelessness (2022)
- Support Services for Mutual Learning within the European Employment Strategy (2022)
- Support to Active Labour Market Policies, including implementation of the Youth Guarantee and LTU Council Recommendation (2022)

Target groups: Workers, LTU, NEETs; Inactive, People in vulnerable situations; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy; Women; Mobile citizens (social protection); 3rd country citizens; Children, Elderly people; Homeless, Most deprived; Persons with disability; Marginalised communities; Micro entrepreneurs; Social partners, National Labour Inspectorates

Indicative number of contracts: 52

EU funding (EUR): 4,120,335.73 (2,810,044.66 in 2021; 1,139,949.25 in 2022; 170,341.82 in 2023).

Main aim of activities: The activities promote exchange and evaluation between Member States and stakeholders (including national labour inspectorates, experts, and policymakers) regarding enforcement aspects, employment policies, social protection, and labour mobility. They provide administrative, logistical, and expert support for organising meetings, seminars, conferences, and mutual learning events for various committees (SLIC, EMCO, SPC) and expert groups. A core purpose is to support analytical and policy activities, improve their quality and accuracy with front-line research, facilitate peer reviews, enhance cooperation between PES, support the implementation of EU initiatives like Upskilling Pathways, the European Pillar of Social Rights, Youth Guarantee, and the LTU Council, and manage support platforms (e.g., on combatting homelessness).

Main outputs and results: Foreseen outputs foster network of experts, which includes meeting organisation, administrative and logistics support, catering services, interpretation services, organisation of seminars and events, mutual learning activities, service contracts, management of a support platform (including meetings, communication aspects like website, newsletter, Twitter/X, and monitoring), and the delivery of mutual learning services. Specific outputs include the SLIC: Evaluation Programme, the Social Protection and Social Inclusion Peer Review Programme (including examples like the CY Peer Review and NomCom for Poland and Croatia), and the organisation of specific meetings like the Directors General of Industrial Relations in Stockholm.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: By fostering exchange and knowledge sharing among Member States, experts, and relevant stakeholders, activities contribute to improving policy design and implementation in key areas such as employment, social inclusion, working conditions, and skills development. They support vulnerable groups (LTU, NEETs, homeless, etc.) and address specific challenges (e.g., OSH enforcement), aligning with priorities to build a more social and inclusive Europe and contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The EU added value lies in providing structured frameworks and resources for cross-border learning and exchange that would likely not be possible at the national level. The activities leverage established networks and facilitate the transferability of successful policies and practices between Member States through mutual learning, peer reviews, and expert discussions. This promotes a common understanding of challenges and encourages coordinated or convergent policy responses across the Union. The structured dialogue platforms and peer review mechanisms offer systematic approaches to knowledge sharing and benchmarking.



Reports

Activities: Inequality of opportunity for young people: trends before and after the financial crisis (2021)

Target group: Workers

Indicative number of contracts: 1

EU funding (EUR): 14,900.00

Main aim of activities: Activities involved a study of the impact of parental background and gender on inequality of opportunity. The analytical focus was on young workers and the cohorts who entered the labour market after the financial crisis.

Main outputs and results: The main output includes the development of a report on inequality of opportunity for young people, with trends before and after the financial crisis. The study fed into the Commission flagship analytical report Employment and Social Developments in Europe report 2022.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The study contributes to the evidence base on inequality of opportunity across EU countries, especially for youth. By highlighting how circumstances such as parental background, gender, and family composition shape income inequality, particularly before and after the financial crisis, the findings support ESF+ priorities of promoting equal opportunities and inclusive labour markets. It also informs policy interventions aimed at addressing intergenerational disadvantages.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The methodology, based on EU-SILC data and a consistent cross-country analytical model, enables replication and benchmarking across member states. The study offers robust, comparable measures of inequality of opportunity, providing insights transferable to national policy contexts. The use of intergenerational modules and decomposition of inequality by specific circumstances (e.g., parental education, occupation) adds significant EU-level value and fosters mutual learning and policy alignment.

6. KPI 3 – Social experimentation activities²⁰

THE EASI STRAND OF THE ESF+

KPI 3.

Social experimentation activities

KPI 3 measures the number of social experimentation activities aimed at promoting innovation and scaling up successful solutions within the specific policy areas defined in Article 4(1) of the Regulation. These activities aim to create better conditions for social policy innovations, supporting strategic welfare reforms and translating successful innovations into policy changes. Additionally, the activities facilitate transnational partnerships and networking among public, private, and third-sector stakeholders, encouraging their involvement in developing and implementing new approaches to address emerging social and economic challenges.

SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION AND BUILD UP THE STAKEHOLDERS' CAPACITY AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS TO PREPARE, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT, TRANSFER OR SCALE UP TESTED SOCIAL POLICY INNOVATIONS

THE EASI STRAND FUNDED (2021-2023)

Projects

1

EXAMPLES OF OUTPUTS PRODUCED



 An overview of digital and social trends in the digital transitions embarked by social enterprises active in the reuse sector, and the challenges and opportunities associated with these emerging trends.

²⁰ The activity count for this KPI is low because only one project had been finalised by the cut-off date of this report.

6.1. Social experimentation (c)

This section covers a project under the call **ESF-2022-SOC-INNOV** (Social innovations for a fair green and digital transition). This call aimed to develop and test integrated and inclusive social innovation approaches – in schools or training centres, in the social economy, at work or in local communities, or other relevant environments – to foster just green and digital transitions. The main objective was to enable and step up a fair green and digital transition by promoting and disseminating inclusive social innovation approaches. This call aligns with the EPSR Action Plan principles such as education, training and life-long learning, active support to employment, secure and adaptable employment, social dialogue and involvement of workers, social protection, inclusion of people with disabilities and access to essential services.²¹

6.1.1. Projects

The digital era of social enterprises: Trends and opportunities in the circular economy		 GOOD PRACTICE
Call identification number	ESF-2022-SOC-INNOV	
Grant/contract identification number	101102452	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Project Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social enterprises networks • Individual social enterprises • Disadvantaged individuals 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted desk-based research and workshops focused on how digital trends and digitalisation are influencing all activities along the value-chain of re-use activities • Newsletters updating the state of the art and outcomes of the project • A series of videos of partner initiatives • Development of case studies on skill sets and social impact • Development of findings and evaluations report 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Participating countries	Austria, Romania, Croatia, Netherlands, Germany, Finland, France, Spain	
Coordinating organisation	Re-Use and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises VZW (Belgium)	
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria: Re-Use Austria – Verein zur Förderung der Wiederverwendung, Reparatur und Ressourcenschonung sowie der Beschäftigung in der Kreislaufwirtschaft • Romania: Asociația Ateliere Fără Frontiere • Croatia: Socijalna zadruga Humana Nova – Zadruga za proizvodnju tekstila 	

²¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2022-soc-innov>

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netherlands: Branchevereniging Kringloopbedrijven Nederland (BKN) • Germany: Wiederverwendung – Interessengemeinschaft der sozialwirtschaftlichen Reparatur- und Recyclingzentren (WIR) e. V. • Finland: Pääkaupunkiseudun Kierrätyskeskus Oy • France: Fédération Envie; Emmaüs Europe • Spain: Asociación Española de Recuperadores de Economía Social y Solidaria (AERESS)
EU funding (EUR)	383,234.44
Project/activity duration	01 October 2023 – 30 September 2024
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies: Case studies on skills sets and social impact #1; Case studies on skills sets and social impact #2 • Reports: Final report; Findings and evaluation report #1; Findings and evaluation report #2 • Workshops: Workshop #1 Results; Workshop #2 Results; Workshop #3 Results • Newsletters • Summary and video(s) final conference • Videos of partner initiatives
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal
<p>Main aim of activities: The DigiSocCirc project aimed to take stock of the threats, opportunities and potential common solutions for social enterprises to adapt to change through three main ways: 1) analyse and map existing digital initiatives and main trends in the re-use and repair sector; 2) identify their impact on social inclusion and skills; 3) promote cross-border cooperation to develop common, innovative digital solutions with high added social value.</p> <p>Main outputs and results: The project outputs provided a comprehensive overview of the different digital and social trends in the digital transitions embarked by social enterprises active in the reuse sector, and the challenges and opportunities associated with these emerging trends. Its final report is the culmination of the research and workshops conducted across the one-year duration of the project, with contributions by the project consortium and other RREUSE members. It is based on case studies reports and finding reports on reuse operations and customer-facing services. The project identifies the necessary steps for mainstreaming and scaling up digitalisation and provides a roadmap for long-term cooperation within the social enterprise community. It also proposes a list of policy recommendations to determine the support that social enterprises require from EU and national institutions to digitalise.</p> <p>Transferability element(s) of the activities: The collaborative framework and methodologies developed are designed for replication in other European contexts, supporting broader digital and green transitions. The project involved a consortium with social enterprises and networks from multiple EU countries, indicating high potential for replication across different contexts. The final report also discusses a roadmap for social and circular enterprises to embrace digital tools. To maintain digitalisation high in the agenda of social enterprises, this roadmap developed identified building blocks to embrace digital tools that can be applied to any stakeholder group.</p> <p>Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project leverages digital technologies to modernise re-use and repair operations while addressing social inclusion, merging digital transformation with targeted upskilling for vulnerable groups. In addition, it also combines desk-based research with structured workshops and comprehensive evaluation reports to map digital trends, assess their impact, and identify innovative solutions that improve operational efficiency and social outcome. Furthermore, it introduces an integrated framework that not only responds to current digital challenges but also anticipates future needs, enabling continuous innovation and adaptive scaling across the EU.</p> <p>European added value: By addressing both digital and green transitions, the project supports EU policy objectives, promotes best practices, and fosters economies of scale through collaborative networks. The project final report also provides recommendations for policy interventions to support social enterprises' digitalisation at both EU and national institutions.</p> <p>Sustainability measures: Sustainability appears integral to the project's design, given its emphasis on establishing long-term cooperation mechanisms among participating social enterprises. Strategic discussions, technical exchanges, and cross-border projects provide clear pathways for continued collaboration and knowledge transfer beyond the project's lifecycle.</p>	

Horizontal principles: The project directly addresses the goal to foster the inclusiveness and fairness of green and digital transitions. It also contributes to social inclusion and upskilling vulnerable individuals, promoting equal opportunities and enhancing employability of disadvantaged individuals distanced from the labour market

Good practice: The project concluded within its planned duration and have achieved the intended outputs of mapping digital trends, identifying impacts on social inclusion and skills, and promoting cross-border cooperation. Sustainability appears integral to the project's design, given its emphasis on establishing long-term cooperation mechanisms among participating social enterprises. The project demonstrated innovativeness, particularly in integrating digital solutions in the reuse and repair sectors for social enterprises. It contributes to EU policy objectives on digital and green transitions, particularly by fostering inclusive employment, enhancing digital literacy among vulnerable groups, and supporting circular economy principles.

6.2. Transfer and scaling up of innovative solutions (i)

6.2.1. Indirect management: the Social Innovation Plus Initiative (Managed by ESFA)

The ESF+ Social Innovation+ Initiative, managed by the entrusted entity ESFA, represents a major component of the EaSI strand's activities and funding, particularly focused on social innovation. With a dedicated budget of EUR 197 million for the current Multiannual Financial Framework, this initiative focuses on developing, replicating, and scaling up innovative solutions across the EU.

The initiative launched three major calls for proposals in 2022-2023: Aim-Learn-Master-Achieve, National Competence Centres, and Skills for Vulnerable Youth, described in the box below.²² Results from these calls are still limited, since implementation is still ongoing.



"Our mission is to be a partner in delivering targeted and meaningful investment in people."

Aim-Learn-Master-Achieve (ALMA) (2022) – ESF-SI-2022-ALMA-01

Indicative budget: EUR 15 million

Aims of the call: ALMA, which stands for "Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve", is an EU initiative, aiming at supporting young people that are not in any kind of employment, education or training. The goal is to help the most disadvantaged young people (aged 18-29) integrate into society by gaining access to work or training. This call for proposal aims to help Member States to integrate ALMA in their ESF+ programmes, by piloting or scaling up ALMA type of operations.

Preliminary outputs and results: Under the ALMA call, over 20 projects were selected²³ with a total grant amount of over EUR 10 million. These projects span over 10 EU Member States and focus on integrating disadvantaged young people through transnational mobility experiences.

National Competence Centres (NCC) (2023) ESF-SI-2023-NCC-01

Indicative budget: EUR 8 million

Aims of the call: The call aims at building up and consolidating the capacity of National Competence Centres for social innovation. It builds on the lessons learnt and the developments triggered in most Member States by a previous Call, published in 2020.

²² <https://www.socialinnovationplus.eu/transnational-calls/projects/>

²³ https://www.esf.it/data/public/uploads/2024/02/list-of-signed-gas-alma-call-with-regions-partners-descriptions-2024-01-10_24.01.15.pdf

Preliminary outputs and results: Under the NCC call, 5 projects have been selected with beneficiaries of over 20 countries and a total grant amount of over 8 million EUR.²⁴ It is expected that NCCs will develop more sustainable structures and relationships and be engaged in systematic cooperation, capacity building and mutual learning.

Skills for Vulnerable Youth (SKILLS) (2023) – ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01

Indicative budget: EUR 9 million

Aims of the call: The objective of the call is to develop the skills of vulnerable youth, and in particular NEETs, by re-engaging them in learning and aiming at their (re-) integration into the labour market.


Preliminary outputs and results: Under the SKILLS call, 20 projects have been selected involving 20 countries, with a total grant amount of over 9 million EUR.²⁵ It is expected that projects focus on further developing innovative approaches to effective outreach, learning models and skills activation in the labour market, targeting vulnerable young people and making a success by combining the essential elements as the core of the projects.

²⁴ <https://socialinnovationplus.eu/app/uploads/2025/02/List-of-signed-GAs-NCC-Call.pdf>

²⁵ <https://socialinnovationplus.eu/app/uploads/2025/04/List-of-signed-SKILLS-GAs.pdf>

7. KPI 4 - Capacity building and networking activities

THE EASI STRAND OF THE ESF+



KPI 4.

Capacity building and networking activities

KPI 4 tracks the number of capacity building and networking activities aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. These activities are designed to enhance the skills, knowledge, and effectiveness of relevant organisations, including public employment services, public social security and health insurance institutions, civil society organisations, microfinance institutions, and institutions supporting social enterprises and the social economy.





INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING, EU LEVEL NETWORKING AND DIALOGUE

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT NETWORKING AT UNION LEVEL, STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AND TO BUILD UP STAKEHOLDERS' INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

THE EASI STRAND FUNDED (2021-2023)

Direct Grants	Operating Grants	Procurement Activities	Other Actions
9	74	21	4

EXAMPLES OF OUTPUTS PRODUCED

-  Organisation of cross-border events, peer learning/exchanges, workshops, training, and communities of practice (e.g., PES Board Meetings, CARITAS, SAFE).
-  Production of knowledge and communication tools such as monographs, statements, reports, indexes, podcasts, toolkits, policy briefs, platforms and databases (e.g., IARC, Social Services Index, Europass, ESCO, EPSR Flashcard Tool).
-  Contribution to EU and national policies through consultations, position papers, strategy development, and direct work with European institutions (e.g., Care Strategy, Child Guarantee, Just Transition, EU Migration Pact, EPSR).
-  Production of impact studies, benchmarking reports, tracking systems to inform and improve practice, mutual learning labs and comparative indicators (e.g., impact-wises, poverty watch, monitoring and learning frameworks).

7.1. Networking, dialogue, and institutional capacity (f)

7.1.1. Organisations

This section covers projects under the following calls:

- **Annual operating grants - Social Inclusion (ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA²⁶ / ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA²⁷ / ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA²⁸):** These calls aimed at awarding annual operating grants to networks active in the area of social inclusion that signed a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreement for the period 2022-2025. EU level Social Non-Governmental Organisation Networks active in the areas of social inclusion and poverty reduction are instrumental in the implementation of many of the principles expressed in the EPSR. This partnership aimed at enhancing the capacities of these networks to contribute actively to the development and implementation of the EU policies in this area.
- **Annual operating grants - Social Enterprise (ESF-2021-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA²⁹ / ESF-2022-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA³⁰ / ESF-2023-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA³¹):** These calls aimed to provide specific operating grants to networks active in the areas of microfinance and social enterprise finance that signed a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreement for the period of 2022-2025. Social enterprises and microenterprises are instrumental in the implementation of many of the principles expressed in the EPSR, in particular in terms of equal opportunities, active support to employment, secure and adaptable employment, inclusion of people with disabilities, long-term care and access to essential services.

²⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2021-og-netw-sga>

²⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2022-og-netw-ngo-sga>



²⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2023-og-netw-ngo-sga>

²⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2021-og-netw-mf-se-sga>

³⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2022-og-netw-mf-se-sga>

³¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2023-og-netw-mf-se-sga>

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Shaping a Strong Social Europe fit for Families of Today (COFACE Families Europe)		 GOOD PRACTICE
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <p><i>"We promote the well-being, health and security of families and their members in a changing society. Our mission is to serve as a trusted entity for family mainstreaming and for the voice and needs of families in the EU and beyond."</i></p>
Grant/contract identification number	101057644 (2021); 101101911 (2022); 101144123 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF+ Operating Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and civil society organisations • Policymakers • Families and family carers • Persons with disabilities • Education professionals 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 European expert meetings on family diversity, work-life balance, and lifelong learning (2023-2024) • 2 European expert meetings on inclusive education and family carers (2023-2024) • 8 breakfast byte webinars on family supports (2022) • 3 breakfast byte webinars on digital environment, Early Childhood Education and Care, and bullying (2023) • 1 capacity-building on EU elections participation (2023) • 1 capacity-building on accessible communications (2024) • 3 policy briefs/thematic notes on Early Childhood Education and Care, energy poverty, and ageing family carers (2022-2024) • 1 assessment of EU work-life balance directive transposition (2022) 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Participating countries	23 EU member states	
Coordinating organisation	COFACE Families Europe	
EU funding (EUR)	611,952.30 (call 2021); 624,164.40 (call 2022); 686,580.00 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://coface-eu.org/	
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report 2023 • Organise a European expert meeting on life-long learning, and how to bring the family perspective to the education field. Dublin, Ireland • Reviewed European Charter for Family Carers • Meeting reports from European expert meetings • Assess the results of the 2024 European elections, by taking stock of their impact on the social rights of families • Breakfast byte webinar recordings • Families Corner newsletters 	
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023	

Main aim of activities: COFACE's work addresses the need for stronger social rights implementation under the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, with particular attention to the European Child Guarantee, European Care Strategy, and EU work-life balance policies. The organisation responds to demographic changes and increasing family diversity across Europe, working to ensure that family policies acknowledge and support all family types without discrimination. COFACE aims to shape a European agenda that works for all types of families through a mix of universal and targeted measures. Specific objectives include assessing the resilience of families considering recent crises; strengthening synergies between the European Green Deal and social rights; exploring intersectional vulnerabilities in EU policies; consolidating evidence-based family policies; mainstreaming disability perspectives; and promoting gender-responsive family policies. COFACE also works to build capacity among member organisations and facilitate transnational exchanges on good practices in family support.

Main outputs and results: COFACE has demonstrated resilience despite challenging circumstances, developing new tools to link practice, policy, and research. Key achievements include: assessment of the EU work-life balance directive transposition across 10 countries; development of policy briefs on energy poverty and its impact on families; strengthening of the COFACE Disability platform; launch of the European Observatory on Family Policy with a first comparative report on five countries; review of the European Charter for Family Carers; organisation of European expert meetings on large families, single parents, inclusive education, family diversity, work-life balance, and lifelong learning; and capacity-building activities on EU elections participation and accessible communications. The organisation has successfully built partnerships with education stakeholders, research institutions, and other European networks, while also engaging with EU institutions on key policy developments such as the European Child Guarantee and European Care Strategy.


Innovativeness of the project/activities: COFACE has developed innovative approaches to family policy advocacy by applying a "whole-family lens" to different policy areas and exploring intersections between age, disability, and gender equality. The European Family Lab represents an innovative platform combining research, education, and practice to support family professionals across Europe. The LINK education programme, co-launched with KMOP education hub, offers e-learning courses on social challenges like school bullying. The European Observatory on Family Policy provides a novel approach to studying family policy integration across different countries.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: COFACE's work demonstrates strong transferability through its focus on collecting and sharing good practices across countries. The organisation facilitates knowledge transfer between members through European expert meetings, breakfast by webinar, and working groups. The assessment of EU work-life balance directive transposition provides valuable insights for countries still implementing the directive. The European Family Lab functions as a resource centre to help family professionals connect and deliver better supports. The reviewed European Charter for Family Carers offers a framework that can be adapted to different national contexts. COFACE's approach to building multi-level bridges between EU and local levels enables the transfer of innovation between different governance levels.

European added value: COFACE provides significant European added value by connecting family organisations across 23+ countries, enabling them to exchange knowledge and good practices that would not be possible at a purely national level. The organisation bridges EU policy developments with local implementation, helping to ensure that EU frameworks like the European Pillar of Social Rights, European Child Guarantee, and European Care Strategy effectively reach families on the ground. COFACE's advocacy work brings the family perspective to EU policy discussions, ensuring that diverse family needs are considered in policy design.

Horizontal principles: COFACE addresses gender equality by advocating for gender-responsive family policies and promoting equal sharing of care tasks. The organisation works to close the gender care gap through campaigns and policy recommendations. Non-discrimination is central to COFACE's approach, with particular attention to family diversity and the inclusion of families in vulnerable situations. The organisation mainstreams disability through its COFACE Disability platform and ensures that the concerns of families of persons with disabilities are considered across all activities. COFACE's work has a strong transnational dimension, facilitating exchanges between organisations from different countries and building bridges between EU and local levels.

Good practice: COFACE qualifies as a good practice due to its effectiveness in building a European network of family organisations, its innovative approaches to family policy advocacy, the transferability of its methods and outputs, and its strong European added value. The organisation demonstrates impact through policy influence, capacity building, and knowledge sharing. COFACE's work is sustainable through its network structure and partnerships, while consistently addressing horizontal principles of gender equality, non-discrimination, and accessibility. The European Family Lab, the European Observatory on Family Policy, and the COFACE Disability platform represent particularly valuable methodologies that could be considered good practices in their own right.

Investing for an Impactful European Social Economy		
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA	
Grant/contract identification number	101058144 (2021); 101101919 (2022); 101144589 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication	<i>"We work together to increase prosperity and social progress for all, fix inequalities and injustices and preserve the planet."</i>
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact investors • Policymakers 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building through bootcamps, mentoring, and peer learning on EU funding and impact practices • Development and dissemination of case studies, learning videos, and concise training tools (e.g. "Learning Pills") • Research and analysis on impact investment trends, Impact Measurement and Management practices, and market gaps • Policy engagement via consultations, roundtables, and dissemination of position papers • Strategic events and networking (online/offline) to foster collaboration, co-investment, and community building • Knowledge sharing through an online platform, publications, and partnerships with research institutions 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Coordinating organisation	European Venture Philanthropy Association	
EU funding (EUR)	599,831.00 (call 2021); 599,935.00 (call 2022); 600,000.00 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.evpa.eu.com/	
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices (policy and research) • EU partnership report • Case study on public private collaboration 	
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023	
<p>Main aim of activities: In 2023, EVPA became Impact Europe, the investing for impact network, with the aim to "rally people, capital, knowledge and data to catalyse, innovate and scale impact". Impact Europe is a network of impact capital providers along the full continuum of capital (foundations, impact funds, banks and financial institutions, corporate impact actors, public funders). EVPA/Impact Europe undertakes specific actions, to achieve the following objectives: 1) Support the Commission in its outreach activities and its mission at EU, national and local levels, to increase awareness about, and enable the implementation of, EU policies and funding in the area covered by the call; 2) Reinforce the capacity of its network members, including through offering a platform for the exchange of good practices, and raising their awareness about relevant EU policies; 3) Provide input for policy design and implementation in the area of the social economy and access to finance, by voicing the concerns and expectations of social enterprises, microenterprises and their support organisations/financial intermediaries in the various European countries; 4) Provide data/research on developments in the field of microfinance or social enterprise finance, which can serve as input for evidence-based policy making at EU, national and local levels.</p> <p>Main outputs and results: Over the past years, EVPA/Impact Europe delivered capacity building actions to support access to EU funding and facilitate interactions between the impact community and EU and national policy makers on key EU policy instruments. It has increased awareness among its members and other relevant stakeholders about EU policies and relevant funding and strengthened their knowledge of opportunities in the area of social</p>		

enterprise finance. As a result of policy insights and of engaging its members around EU priorities, the European Commission and other EU institutions were informed about challenges and weaknesses of specific EU policy developments, financial instruments, current gaps in the social finance market, and forward-looking solutions to consider to improve the market and its instruments. The organisation has developed research and built capacity specifically on Impact Measurement and Management, a key element of investing for impact. The data and research work enabled an increase knowledge about social finance within the wider impact ecosystem, helping in the identification of key sector/thematic-specific funding and capacity gaps.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: EVPA/Impact Europe facilitated replication and scaling up of successful models by publishing case studies showing how investors for impact accessed EU funding opportunities and the outcomes achieved. It has also revamped its database of "success stories", presenting successful business models of social enterprises, highlighting the role of investors in driving this success.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project integrated practitioners-based research with capacity building focused on impact measurement and management. It leveraged digital tools such as an online membership platform and interactive "Learning Pills" to enable agile, real-time knowledge exchange and peer learning, while its novel training formats – including mentoring programmes and EU Funding Bootcamps – provided practical, hands-on experiences to unlock EU funding. This dynamic approach is combined with cross-border networking that fostered strategic partnerships and evidence-based policy contributions.

Dissemination strategy: The organisation raised awareness of its members and the wider impact ecosystem about relevant EU policies and EU funding through activities such as: regular policy exchanges with relevant EU and multilateral authorities; roundtable with policy makers and practitioners; learning videos on the Social Economy and Impact Measurement and Management; disseminating educational materials about EU policy developments and regulations through its channels; and a regularly updated EU Funding webpage providing targeted information on funding opportunities at EU level and beyond.

European added value: The organisation contributed to EU policy design and implementation by voicing the concerns and expectations of its members and other stakeholders, and by disseminating recommendations for policy makers. It has organised regular exchanges with its members to inform them about EU policy developments and funding opportunities and contributed to EU policy design by submitting consultations, such as one on the Social Economy Gateway and on the implementation of the Sustainable Finance Disclosures Regulation. It also created European added value by increasing its members and other relevant stakeholders' capacity to access EU funding through actions such as: a mentoring programme to connect practitioners and encourage peer learning through the exchange of practical experiences in unlocking EU funds; EU Funding Bootcamp to increase the capacity of social finance providers to access EU funding and boost co-investment between public and private stakeholders in the social finance ecosystem; a revamped webpage providing targeted information on funding opportunities in the EU and beyond.

Caritas Actions Reinforce the European Social Dimension (CARES) III



GOOD PRACTICE

Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101058843 (2021); 101101856 (2022); 101144470 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caritas Member Organisations staff and leadership • Policymakers (EU and national) • Civil society platforms and strategic partners • People experiencing poverty, exclusion, and vulnerable situations
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of Innovation Festivals, Spring/Autumn Academies, Forums (e.g., EU Funding, Communication and Fundraising, Young



"We have a heartfelt commitment to analyse and fight poverty and social exclusion as well as to promote true integral human development, social justice and sustainable social systems in Europe and throughout the world."

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
 Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caritas, European elections), workshops/webinars (e.g., capacity building, Safeguarding for Young Caritas staff/volunteers) • Launching/continuing of Learning Paths (e.g., Advocacy, Safeguarding, Fundraising, Youth Volunteering) • Development of a solidarity system for member organisations • Development of reports/studies (e.g., inclusive labour markets, long-term care & live-in care workers, integration of refugees) • Development of (joint) statements and position papers (e.g., Ukraine response, Roma inclusion, refugees, labour migration), as well as a memorandum on European Parliament (EP) elections • Input to EC consultations and European Parliament amendments • Exchange and monitoring of the implementation of the EPSR • Participation/organisation of meetings (e.g., induction meetings, meetings with European institutions & national representatives) • Ongoing communication activities (newsletters, social media dissemination, media relations) & capacity building • Ongoing accompaniment of MOs • Ongoing training of staff
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Participating countries	46 European countries (Network members)
Coordinating organisation	Caritas Europa
Partner organisations	49 Member Organisations in 46 European countries (Caritas national organisations)
EU funding (EUR)	796,435.00 (call 2021); 899,986.50 (call 2022); 989,814.60 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	www.caritas.eu
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing notes • Monthly general newsletters • Innovative Solutions Resource Guide • Annual report 2023 • EP Elections congratulation letters to stakeholders • Social Policy Updates • Human Mobility Updates • Output relative to the study visits • Regular general newsletters
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023

Main aim of activities: The project aims to reinforce the understanding of and contribution to important EU processes relating to the EPSR and the European Semester among its member organisations (MOs). It seeks to bring the reality of people experiencing poverty to the attention of European and national stakeholders to ensure adequate policy responses. Activities focus on policy-guidance, advocacy, capacity-building, communication, and dissemination, alongside ensuring the good governance of the organisation. Specific objectives include monitoring EPSR implementation, providing concrete support to the European Semester process (including National Recovery and Resilience Plans and Country-Specific Recommendations), strengthening MO capacity (with a specific focus on youth) to contribute to EPSR implementation, and raising awareness of the EPSR and social rights to positively impact people experiencing poverty and exclusion.

Main outputs and results: During 2022-2023, Caritas Europa contributed to poverty reduction efforts through both direct support to MOs (enabling their services) and advocacy for structural change. Caritas Europa supported MOs via extensive capacity-building (Learning Paths, Forums, webinars, solidarity system), informing them about EU policy impacts. This enabled MOs to undertake more targeted national advocacy, complementing European efforts. Grassroots experience from MOs informed EU policy debates. The network demonstrated efficiency, coordinating the response to the war in Ukraine. Communication efforts led to increased media presence and public awareness.

The focus on innovation via the Innovation Festival promoted the upscaling of successful practices and peer learning. Work on Caritas Internationalis Management Standards and safeguarding policies improved governance and procedures.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The annual Online Innovation Festival is a distinct feature, designed to showcase successful, innovative Caritas practices, promote their upscaling, and facilitate peer-to-peer learning on improving activities. The development and implementation of the Advancing Caritas Through Solidarity (ACTS) solidarity mechanism represents an innovative approach to fostering institutional development and mutual support within the network.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated policy-relevant evidence during 2022-2023, including: the biennial CARES poverty reports (2022: inclusive labour markets; 2023: long-term care); a study on the integration of Ukrainian refugees (2023); numerous position papers and statements on key EU social policy files (e.g., Minimum Income, Care Strategy, Social Economy, Child Guarantee); inputs to European Commission consultations and EP amendments; and data gathered from MOs on grassroots realities (e.g., cost-of-living impact survey).

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating through a network of 46 European countries. Activities fostered cross-border exchange and learning (Academies, Forums, study visits, CoPs), coordinated advocacy on EU-level policies impacting multiple Member States, shared practices transnationally (Innovation Festival), and implemented a network-wide solidarity mechanism (ACTS). It acts as a conduit, bringing national and local perspectives to the EU level and disseminating EU developments back to the network.

Dissemination strategy: Caritas Europa employed a comprehensive dissemination strategy using its website, social media channels (Twitter/X, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube), regular electronic newsletters, press releases, op-eds, and direct media engagement. Key publications and policy stances were widely communicated. The strategy included building the communication capacity of MOs through dedicated forums and webinars, and providing materials for national adaptation and dissemination, leveraging the network's multiplier effect. A communication strategy was further developed during this period.

European added value: The EU funding enables Caritas Europa to operate at a scale and scope unlikely achievable otherwise, coordinating a large network for pan-European advocacy and capacity building. The project directly contributes to the implementation and monitoring of EU policies, particularly the EPSR, providing valuable grassroots feedback to EU institutions. It fosters economies of scale in sharing knowledge, promoting best practices (e.g., via Innovation Festival), and developing evidence (e.g., CARES reports) for policymaking across Member States. Its core function is facilitating transnational networking and collaboration to address shared social challenges within the European context.

Sustainability measures: Caritas Europa undertook measures to enhance organisational sustainability during 2022-2023, including implementing a Caritas Internationalis Management Standards improvement plan, strengthening governance policies (e.g., safeguarding, whistleblowing), and developing a fundraising strategy to diversify income sources. The work aligns with the long-term mission of Caritas.

Horizontal principles: Addressing poverty and social exclusion is central to the project, with advocacy and Member Organisation activities focusing on promoting the rights and inclusion of various vulnerable groups such as refugees, migrants, Roma, children, the elderly, and people experiencing homelessness, evidenced by work on initiatives like the Child Guarantee, refugee integration, Roma inclusion, and fair care.

Good practice: The project was effective, supporting 49 national Caritas members with extensive capacity-building and coordinated advocacy, which enabled rapid response to crises like the Ukraine war while achieving key outputs. It fostered innovative practice-sharing and had a strong transnational dimension, added to a multi-channel dissemination strategy and sustainability measures. The project's pan-European reach and feedback loops provided clear EU added value while also prioritizing principles such as poverty reduction for vulnerable groups.

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Moving Forward: smart transformation and building resilience (EASPD)	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101058849 (2021); 101101975 (2022); 101144398 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social partners and social entrepreneurs • EU policymakers • Disabled Persons Organisations (and other support services) and persons with disabilities • Children and elderly people • Marginalised communities and people in vulnerable situations, migrants/refugees
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EASPD Annual Report (2023) • Supporting services of excellence for persons with disabilities (2023) • Social services as part of the social economy
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Participating countries	Over 50 countries
Coordinating organisation	European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities
EU funding (EUR)	1,065,351.60 (call 2021); 1,143,967.50 (call 2022); 1,257,930.00 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.easpd.eu/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EASPD Events Report • EASPD Annual Report • Supporting services of excellence for persons with disabilities • For a more caring support to inclusive living • Social services as part of the social economy • Employment for all and inclusive labour markets • Promoting inclusive education • Building up early childhood intervention • Supporting Ukrainian refugees with disabilities • EASPD Communication & Dissemination Report
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023
<p>Main aim of activities: “Moving Forward” aims to proactively ensure that the sector of support services for persons with disabilities is part of the societal change. It seeks to ensure they are part of the European movement forward, towards increased digitalization, environmental awareness, and health security. EASPD's strives to improve the quality of exchange with EU policymakers, backed by more qualitative and quantitative evidence-based data.</p> <p>Main outputs and results: Empowerment of the EASPD team through the modernization of working conditions, work contracts, social package, salary & competence grid, and an annual employee survey could be observed as a result of the project. A stronger reach and cooperation with EU level organisations.</p>	



“Moving Forward” aims to be a proactive force in ensuring the sector support services for persons with disabilities is part of the societal change, in ensuring that they are part of the European movement forward, towards increased digitalisation, environmental awareness, and health security.”

Transnational dimension: The project fosters cooperation among various European countries. This is achieved through activities such as the Lighthouse Network, member visits, and European conferences, promoting the exchange of good practices and knowledge.

New partnerships created: In 2022 and 2023, EASPD developed 17 new cooperation partnerships benefiting persons with disabilities. This includes cooperation on arts, education, youth, technology, and employment.

Dissemination strategy: EASPD uses communication tools to disseminate its position and impact EU policies. EASPD ensures that its members, partners, and stakeholders are informed on new policy and legal frameworks developed at the European level as well as other important European news. EASPD also channels information and recommendations received from its members through EASPD policy work and communicate to EU Institutions.

European added value: The added value of the project lies in its contribution to the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the European level, as well as promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in various EU policies and initiatives. The project's transnational approach and focus on European cooperation demonstrate added value.

Sustainability measures: EASPD's sustainability analysis and strategy focuses on the European Disability Rights Strategy, #Fundinclusion, #Eucarestrategy, #Employment4all, #Inclusiveeducation & #Earlyintervention, Digital & Green Transition, Public Procurement & State Aid, Migration and Social Care Workforce, Accessibility, Ageing, Access to Health.

Horizontal principles: The project addressed gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and the integration of gender. The project also focused on non-discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups, such as young people.

European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)



GOOD PRACTICE

Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101058946 (2021); 101101936 (2022); 101145579 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit homeless service providers • Policymakers • Researchers • Vulnerable groups and people with lived experience of homelessness • Stakeholders from related sectors
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and management (statutory meetings, financial management, evaluation, networking) • publication of 2 editions per year of the European Journal of Homelessness; production of 1 comparative research study per year (2022: Private sector in emergency accommodation; 2023: Leaving prison and homelessness); organisation of 1 annual European Research Conference (approx. 230 participants each) • coordination of Housing First Europe Hub (including 1 international conference in 2022, training programmes), coordination of Housing Solutions Platform (including events, publications, policy monitoring) • monitoring and providing input on anti-discrimination, youth inclusion, Child Guarantee, migration/asylum (including Ukraine response), EU citizenship, health, and disability policies • activities focused on youth homelessness (training, study session), LGBTQI homelessness (training, toolkit), women's homelessness



"We are the only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight against homelessness. Our ultimate goal is an end to homelessness in Europe."

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	<p>(webinars, community of practice), peer support, rights of mobile EU citizens, migration (1 study visit in 2022), digital inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active participation in Steering Board and work programme activities; organisation of 1 annual Policy Conference/Forum (2022: 296 participants; 2023: 300 participants); contribution to mutual learning and funding workstreams • production of 1 annual Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe report (with Fondation Abbé Pierre); monitoring Recovery and Resilience Plans; supporting monitoring initiatives; feeding into European Semester • management of 5 websites; publication of 3 editions per year of Homeless in Europe magazine; dissemination of 11 Flash newsletters per year and thematic newsletters; social media engagement; specific campaigns
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Coordinating organisation	Fédération européenne d'associations nationales travaillant avec les sans-abris Aisbl (FEANTSA)
EU funding (EUR)	1,023,166.80 (call 2021); 1,092,887.10 (call 2022); 1,202,144.40 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	www.feantsa.org
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit Youth Participation in Homeless Services • Concept Note: Meeting the needs of Roma people in the Homeless Sector • Homeless in Europe Magazine • Thematic Study: Leaving Prison and Homelessness • Housing exclusion report • FEANTSA Conference • Election manifesto tracker • "Worst practice" guide - 10 housing solutions to avoid" • Report on relevance EU health policy for homeless people • Policy paper on hospital discharge • Report on unaccompanied minors • Homeless in Europe Magazine (3 editions) • Compendium LGBTIQ practices, research, policy • Report on transformational Trauma-Informed Care practices • Comparative research on homelessness • Best practice report on vacant housing
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023

Main aim of activities: The overarching aim was to contribute to the mission of ending homelessness in Europe. Specific objectives included: ensuring the performant operation of FEANTSA; strengthening the evidence base for policy and practice through research; improving the capacity of stakeholders to implement housing solutions and enhance homelessness policies and services; mainstreaming homelessness within relevant EU policies (e.g., social inclusion, anti-discrimination, health, migration); making a significant contribution to the establishment and implementation of EPOCH; improving the mobilisation of EU funding for homelessness projects; and enhancing the monitoring of homelessness trends and policies at all levels, including through the European Semester.

Main outputs and results: During 2022 and 2023, FEANTSA delivered ambitious work programmes, largely fulfilling its planned activities across research, policy, capacity building, EPOCH contribution, monitoring, and communication. Key outputs included research publications, policy briefings, conferences, training events, and monitoring reports. The activities had a direct impact on engaged target groups, including the non-profit homeless sector, policymakers at various levels, researchers, and other stakeholders, contributing to improved awareness, strengthened ambition, increased knowledge, and enhanced capacity to tackle homelessness effectively. Indicators

suggest significant reach through events (hundreds of participants), publications (e.g., 670 Google Scholar citations in 2022), website and social media engagement (thousands of visitors/followers), and influence on policy documents.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: FEANTSA operates as a European network, inherently designed for sharing knowledge and practices across countries. Outputs such as research reports, the European Journal of Homelessness, thematic toolkits (e.g., on youth homelessness, LGBTQI inclusion), policy briefings, and the Homeless in Europe magazine are widely disseminated to facilitate learning and adaptation in different contexts. Conferences, webinars, study visits, and mutual learning events (including those linked to EPOCH) serve as platforms for direct exchange and transfer of know-how among practitioners, policymakers, and researchers across Europe.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: FEANTSA's work incorporates several innovative elements compared to traditional homelessness responses. Promoting and building capacity for housing-led approaches, particularly Housing First, represents a shift from staircase models. The organisation actively develops and advocates for the use of specific tools like the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion classification for monitoring homelessness. It addresses homelessness within specific, sometimes overlooked, groups through dedicated workstreams (e.g., LGBTQI, youth, women, migrants). Its role in co-shaping and supporting the EPOCH is a novel development at the EU level.

Policy evidence generated: The project consistently generates evidence to inform policy. Key outputs include the annual Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe (co-produced with Fondation Abbé Pierre), the peer-reviewed European Journal of Homelessness, and comparative research studies on pertinent themes. FEANTSA produces policy papers, statements, and responses to EU consultations, feeding directly into EU policy processes like the European Semester, the Child Guarantee, anti-discrimination strategies, and migration policy debates. It also supports the development of national homelessness strategies and monitoring efforts.

Transnational dimension: The transnational dimension is fundamental to FEANTSA's operation as a European federation. Activities inherently involve cross-border collaboration, networking, and knowledge exchange among members and partners from numerous countries. Research is comparative across Europe, conferences draw international audiences, and advocacy targets EU institutions. The organisation plays a key role in the transnational EPOCH initiative.

Dissemination strategy: FEANTSA implements a comprehensive and systematic communication and dissemination strategy. This includes maintaining multiple websites (general and thematic), publishing the Homeless in Europe magazine three times a year, distributing regular electronic newsletters (general and thematic), active engagement on various social media platforms, and running targeted campaigns.

European added value: FEANTSA's work, operating at the EU level, facilitates economies of scale in research, networking, and advocacy that would be difficult to achieve nationally. It promotes the exchange of best practices (like Housing First) across borders and supports benchmarking through comparative data and mutual learning. EU funding enables the coordination of this extensive European network and its contribution to EU policy goals, notably the EPSR and EPOCH, which likely could not be sustained at this scale without EU support. The transnational nature allows for addressing homelessness as a cross-border issue, particularly concerning mobile EU citizens and migration.

Sustainability measures: The operating grants are part of a four-year Framework Partnership Agreement (2022-2025), ensuring continuity of core activities and allowing FEANTSA to build on achievements year-on-year. FEANTSA also actively seeks and secures external funding for specific initiatives like the Housing Solutions Platform, Housing First Europe Hub, and Housing Rights Watch, diversifying income streams and ensuring the continuation of these platforms. The work supporting EPOCH aligns with a longer-term EU policy framework aiming for results by 2030.

Good practice: FEANTSA delivered an "ambitious work programme" in 2022–2023, fulfilling most of its planned outputs across research, policy and capacity-building domains. It showed innovativeness and EU added value, influencing practices Europe-wide. Its activities actively fed into EU initiatives and ensured homelessness is addressed in broader EU social agendas. As a pan-European network, FEANTSA facilitated cross-border exchange and diversified its funding, indicating that its results and collaborations will continue beyond the project.

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Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Financial Inclusion for Green Inclusive Growth in Europe		 GOOD PRACTICE
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA	 <p>"Our mission is to empower people and communities through sustainable social finance."</p>
Grant/contract identification number	101059040 (2021); 101101971 (2022); 101145489 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfinance Institutions • Microenterprises and social enterprises • Vulnerable groups 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Finance Vibe Conference to discuss trends and innovations in inclusive, green, and digital finance • European Microfinance Day, an awareness campaign promoting microfinance • Borrow Wisely 2.0, campaign focused on female entrepreneurship • Capacity-building webinars and trainings on topics such as EU funding, green/digital transition and migrant inclusion • Policy research, development and position papers on InvestEU, Social Economy Action Plan, and Sustainable Finance Taxonomy • Local policy forums and stakeholder engagement in Romania, Bulgaria, and Poland • EU-level advocacy through meetings with EU institutions, participation in ESF+ Committee and EaSI Technical Working Group • Dissemination activities through newsletters, social media and website updates 	
Implementation country(ies)	Poland	
Coordinating organisation	Fundacja Microfinance Centre (MFC)	
EU funding (EUR)	320,255.00 (call 2021); 325,745.60 (call 2022); 355,095.15 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.mfc.org.pl/	
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrow Wisely 2.0 Campaign • Brief mapping of the key actors and their actions • Communication activities presenting action groups work and disseminated EU relevant news • European Microfinance Day campaign with European Microfinance Network (EMN) • Local policy forum in Poland • Mapping the needs and solutions of FSPs • New Website launched • Paper on trends & good practices • Webinars/videocasts/sessions 	
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023	
<p>Main aim of activities: The programme gives priority to supporting the EC in its outreach levels and raising understanding about the EU policies and support tools and in particular has the following objectives: a) Supporting EU's outreach by increasing local level awareness of the EU policies and programmes and encouraging membership and stakeholders to participate in the relevant EU programmes; b) Building institutional capacity of MFC membership</p>		

for mission driven, sustainable microfinance concerned with climate protection issues; c) Voicing microfinance institutions beneficiaries' concerns; d) Conducting research and facilitating development of evidence based, favourable policies for social finance institutions as well as microenterprises and social businesses.

Main outputs and results: The project organised multiple conferences, webinars, and virtual group meetings, involving hundreds of professionals and stakeholders across Europe. It contributed to policy development by submitting recommendations to EU institutions, including the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. It launched awareness campaigns such as European Microfinance Day and Borrow Wisely 2.0. Through research and consultation, it has helped shape understanding of the microfinance sector's role in addressing market failures and supporting green, inclusive finance. Local-level activities in countries like Romania, Bulgaria, and Poland further enabled direct engagement with stakeholders and authorities, fostering more tailored policy dialogues and actions.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project combined digital, green, and inclusive finance under one coherent strategy. It introduced the Social Finance Vibe conference as a dedicated event to highlight novel solutions and trends in the sector. A mobile office in Brussels created a unique tool for ensuring continuous engagement and visibility with EU institutions, reinforcing the policy impact of the project.

Policy evidence generated: MFC produced position papers and consultation feedback on the InvestEU programme, the Sustainable Finance Taxonomy, and the Social Economy Action Plan. Research on the status of microfinance in Europe was carried out jointly with EMN. These documents were submitted to high-level EU bodies and presented in key forums such as the ESF+ Committee and the EaSI Technical Working Group, contributing to informed policy design.

Transnational dimension: The transnational dimension was a core feature of the action. MFC collaborated closely with European networks like EMN, European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers - FEBEA, EVPA, and SEE. These partnerships facilitated cross-border knowledge exchange and coordinated advocacy efforts. The initiative also addressed issues related to accessing countries and Western Balkan states, ensuring the EU's inclusive agenda extended beyond its immediate borders.



New partnerships created: Several new partnerships were created during the project's lifecycle. MFC welcomed 12 new members in 2022, including seven from EU countries and two from candidate countries. New joint initiatives were launched with networks such as FEBEA and EVPA. The groundwork was also laid for a Central and Eastern Europe Policy Forum, which involved coordination with multiple networks and represented a strategic step toward fostering regional policy dialogue.

Dissemination strategy: A comprehensive dissemination strategy ensured broad visibility of project activities and outcomes. Over the years, the project communicated through regular website updates, newsletters, and social media posts across multiple platforms. More than 50 communication activities were carried out to disseminate relevant EU news and Action Group outputs, with content reaching over 200,000 readers.

European added value: The project delivers EU-added value by advancing key EU priorities such as green and inclusive finance, social economy, and financial inclusion. It supports EU policies like the Green Deal, InvestEU, and ESF+, while enhancing transnational cooperation and building the capacity of social finance actors across member states. Through targeted local engagement, EU-wide campaigns, and structured feedback mechanisms, it improves awareness and uptake of EU programmes at grassroots level. By linking field realities with EU policymaking, fostering innovation, and addressing market failures, it strengthens the EU's social and economic cohesion agenda.

Horizontal principles: The project supported social inclusion, equal opportunities, and sustainability, supporting vulnerable groups such as migrants, female entrepreneurs, and low-income individuals, and promoting green finance initiatives. It ensured that both content and implementation methods aligned with the principles of inclusiveness, equality, and environmental responsibility.

Good practice: The project embraced innovative practices by integrating green and digital transitions into microfinance and even creating a "mobile office" in Brussels for continuous engagement with EU policymakers. Its design was highly transnational and it expanded its network, adding new member institutions and new partnerships. A broad communication strategy was carried out that increased knowledge transfer and awareness at both grassroots and EU levels. It advanced key EU objectives by improving the capacity of social finance actors across Member States and linking local realities with European policymaking. It also upheld horizontal principles by targeting vulnerable groups and incorporating environmental sustainability into social finance practices.

Upscaling food systems for the mitigation and exclusion of poverty (Food4Inclusion)		 GOOD PRACTICE
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <p><i>"We aim to project aims to act on the causal link that exists between nutrition and social inclusion, identifying a more inclusive food system as the key to encouraging the inclusion of at-risk populations."</i></p>
Grant/contract identification number	101059068 (2021); 101101916 (2022); 101145126 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds) • People in vulnerable situations and at-risk populations • Most deprived people and marginalised communities 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and delivered food literacy training modules for children (targeting 7-13 years old) focusing on food packaging/labelling and sugar consumption (reaching 20 classes across 17 schools in 2023 reporting period) • Translated training materials into multiple languages (e.g., Croatian, Greek, Italian, Romanian) • Mapped and contacted schools in disadvantaged areas for training expansion (e.g., Greece, Croatia, France, Belgium, Italy, plus mapping in Germany, Spain, Denmark) • Expanded the "Healthy Meal" pilot project providing affordable/free healthy meals in restaurants for vulnerable groups (signing 10 MoUs with restaurants in Italy, Greece, Croatia, Belgium) • Developed IT tools for the Healthy Meal project (e.g., website pages, reservation prototype in Czech Republic) • Conducted analysis and advocacy on food redistribution, labelling, marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and inflation's impact on consumers • Produced policy papers/reports on topics like food donation barriers, marketing techniques, inflation impact, and food redistribution • Organised working groups, webinars, and dissemination events • Managed and expanded a network of member organisations across Europe • Implemented a communication plan using website, social media, newsletters, and press releases 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Participating countries	Greece, Croatia, Lithuania, Italy, France, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain	
Coordinating organisation	Safe Food Advocacy Europe (SAFE)	
EU funding (EUR)	251,100.00 (call 2021); 269,100.00 (call 2022); 260,082.00 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.safefoodadvocacy.eu/	
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on communications • Report on food literacy school trainings • Position paper on marketing techniques to promote unhealthy food towards children 	

- [Translated food literacy school training material](#)
- [New partnerships with organisations and schools](#)
- [Analysis of the improvements and difficulties of dissemination of Healthy Meal projects in the participating Member States](#)
- [Status Analysis of the improvements and difficulties of dissemination of projects in the participating Member States and some indications of Policy Lines](#)

Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal

Funding & Tenders Portal: [call 2021](#); [call 2022](#); [call 2023](#)

Main aim of activities: The project aimed to act on the established causal link between nutrition and social inclusion, proposing that a more inclusive food system is essential for fostering the inclusion of at-risk populations. Key objectives included promoting healthy diets, combating health inequalities in disadvantaged households, guaranteeing children's equal access to nutrition, and supporting social inclusion through quality education on health literacy and nutrition. The project focused on two main areas: 1) improving food literacy among vulnerable children through training and workshops, and 2) enhancing food accessibility and redistribution for at-risk groups to ensure equal access to healthy foods. Concurrently, the project involved targeted advocacy campaigns addressing the health impact of ultra-processed foods on children and promoting equitable food access and redistribution systems. Further aims included facilitating resource access for vulnerable groups, improving the visibility of healthy food options, and exchanging data and good practices related to food-based inequalities across the EU.

Main outputs and results: During the 2023 period, the project expanded its food literacy program, exceeding its target by signing 17 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with schools and involving 20 classes across Greece, France, Belgium, Croatia, and Italy. Training materials were developed and translated into several languages. The "Healthy Meal" initiative, providing affordable healthy meals via restaurants, also expanded, with 10 new restaurant MoUs signed in Italy, Greece, Croatia, and Belgium, exceeding the target of 8. Supporting IT tools were developed, including website enhancements and a reservation prototype in the Czech Republic. Advocacy efforts resulted in the production of position papers and reports analysing food redistribution, marketing practices, and the impact of inflation. A workshop involving experts led to a policy report on food donation barriers. The coordinating organisation, SAFE, expanded its membership network, adding members from countries like Spain and Denmark.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: Training materials and communication resources were translated into multiple EU languages (Greek, Croatian, Italian, Romanian) facilitating adoption in different national contexts. The model relies heavily on collaboration with national member organisations (e.g., in Greece, Croatia, Italy, Romania) which inherently supports transfer and adaptation to local conditions. The project actively sought expansion, successfully implementing activities in new countries (e.g., France, Belgium, Czech Republic) and mapping potential schools/partners in others (Germany, Spain, Denmark) during the 2023 period.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project's approach of explicitly linking food systems (literacy, access, redistribution) directly to *social* inclusion outcomes for vulnerable populations presents an element of innovativeness. The "Healthy Meal" pilot project, creating a network of 'solidarity restaurants' offering affordable or free healthy meals, seems a novel approach to combine food access with social participation for disadvantaged groups. The integrated strategy combining education, direct access initiatives, and EU/national level advocacy under a single social inclusion framework also appears innovative.

Policy evidence generated: The project explicitly aimed to generate policy evidence. Key outputs include position papers and reports focusing on critical policy areas such as the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, the impact of inflation on consumer purchasing power, barriers to food donation, and the effectiveness of food redistribution policies. A SAFE Manifesto for the EU institutions was also developed with member input, including points on inclusion. These documents were used for advocacy targeted at EU institutions (e.g., DG EMPL, DG SANTE) and national stakeholders.

Transnational dimension: The project possesses a significant transnational dimension. Coordinated from Belgium, it implemented activities directly or through members in multiple EU countries including Greece, Croatia, Italy, France, Lithuania, Romania, and the Czech Republic. The project fostered collaboration and exchange between the coordinating organisation and its members across Europe through working groups, webinars, and joint events. Mapping and outreach activities extended to potential new countries like Spain, Germany, and Denmark, indicating a broad European scope.

New partnerships created: The project led to the creation of new partnerships and network expansion. SAFE successfully recruited new member organisations, notably consumer organisations in Spain and Denmark during the 2023 reporting period. Operationally, numerous partnerships were formed through Memoranda of Understanding with 17 schools and 10 restaurants across several countries for implementing the food literacy and Healthy Meal initiatives during 2023.

Dissemination strategy: The project employed a systematic dissemination strategy outlined in its communication plan. Activities included regular updates on SAFE's website (news posts, dedicated project pages for Food4Inclusion and Healthy Meal), active use of social media channels (Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, etc. with ~70 posts on the project in 2023), production and sharing of videos (e.g., conference, Healthy Meal), publication of policy reports, and distribution of newsletters to members and stakeholders. Public workshops and significant participation in conferences (16 attended, 4 speeches given in 2023) were key dissemination channels targeting policymakers, members, consumer organisations, and other stakeholders. A specific dissemination event was co-organised in Croatia.

European added value: The project delivers European added value by addressing pressing issues (food insecurity, health inequalities, poverty) that transcend national borders and are relevant across the EU, aligning with EU objectives like the European Pillar of Social Rights. It facilitates the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and good practices between organisations in different Member States through its network structure and transnational activities. The scale of the project, involving multiple countries and aiming for EU-level advocacy, would likely be difficult to achieve without the coordination and resources provided by EU funding.

Sustainability measures: For the food literacy trainings, the strategy involved empowering national members and local teachers to deliver the courses independently, supported by translated materials and ongoing feedback mechanisms. The long-term goal is integration into standard school curricula. For the "Healthy Meal" initiative, sustainability efforts included registering the logo for brand recognition, developing IT tools to improve usability, continuing network expansion, and seeking media visibility and institutional partnerships (e.g., Croatia event, planned TV ads in Belgium). The strengthening of the SAFE network itself contributes to the sustainability of advocacy and future initiatives.

Horizontal principles: Non-discrimination was central, with the project specifically targeting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including children and families facing poverty, aiming to reduce socioeconomic inequalities in health and nutrition. Gender equality and mainstreaming were reported as addressed, although specific details on implementation methods are limited in the provided documents. The transnational nature of the project inherently promoted cooperation across borders.

Good practice: SAFE's Food4Inclusion project achieved concrete results in addressing food poverty and social exclusion. It expanded a food literacy education programme for children in multiple countries, exceeding its targets and translating the training modules into several languages. It also broadened its "Healthy Meal" initiative by partnering with 10 restaurants, surpassing the initial goal of 8 and directly benefiting vulnerable groups. The project's integrated approach is novel and was designed for replication. Materials and tools were made multilingual and accessible, and partnerships with schools, local authorities and even a registered EU trademark for the "Healthy Meal" concept were established to facilitate upscaling. Moreover, by empowering national members and teachers to continue trainings independently and engaging in EU-level campaigns on food policy, Food4Inclusion ensured that its outcomes be sustained and expanded beyond the project timeframe.

EuroHealthNet SGA Proposal

2022: Promoting health and ensuring care: Redefining the value of care and skills across the life course for a strong Social Europe
2023: Making social protection and health systems fit for the new world. Investing in resilient, equitable and integrated health and social protection systems
2024: Fair transitions to a new world of work



GOOD PRACTICE

Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059167 (2021); 101101981 (2022); 101144724 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health institutes and authorities, promotion agencies and policymakers Civil society actors



"We aim to tackle health inequalities within and between European States through action on the social determinants of health."

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers and research institutes • National Contact Points for EU funds
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of key governance meetings (e.g., Policy & Strategy, General Council, Annual Seminar, Executive Board meetings) • Development of strategic documents (e.g., Member Strategy, Business Plan, Policy & Advocacy Plan, Communication & Dissemination Strategy, Gender & Inclusion Strategy) • Engagement in policy work (e.g., Policy Précis, Policy Briefings, EU submissions, WHO statements, European Semester & EPSR analysis, Health Data Space Briefing) • Development of practical tools and resources (e.g., Guidelines on psychosocial health, updated e-Guide on health service financing, Health Inequalities Portal) • Facilitation of member engagement and capacity building (e.g., Info Day, Capacity Building Workshop, Country Exchange Visits, active Thematic Working Groups, Technical Support Instrument application) • Strengthening outreach and communications (e.g., 'Network Intelligence' and 'Health Highlights' newsletters, news releases, videos, active web and social media presence) • Participation in major public health events (e.g., European Public Health Conference) • Organisation of Communication Network meetings, podcast training and attendance in strategic meetings
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Participating countries	26 European countries
Coordinating organisation	EUROHEALTHNET ASBL
Partner organisations	Approx. 73 member organisations (as of end 2023)
EU funding (EUR)	648,305.00 (call 2021); 773,919.00 (call 2022); 851,294.70 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EuroHealthNet - European Partnership for Health Equity and Wellbeing • Understand Health Inequalities and Act on Them- Health Inequalities portal • Homepage - EuroHealthNet Magazine
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EuroHealthNet Online Magazine • EPSR Flashcards • Updated e-guide on innovative financing and Helpdesk • Updated Health Inequalities Information Portal • European Semester multi-annual review report • Report of 2024 General Council Meeting
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023
<p>Main aim of activities: EuroHealthNet operates within a context marked by significant health inequalities within and between European states. The project recognised that tackling poverty and social exclusion necessitates multifaceted, multi-sectoral action, positioning EuroHealthNet at the nexus of social and health policy.</p> <p>Main outputs and results: Key results include raising awareness among government authorities and stakeholders about EU policy and funding opportunities related to social and health inequalities, enhancing their capacity to act. Activities contributed to the EU goals of fostering equality, justice, solidarity, and wellbeing, promoting key areas like early childhood conditions, gender equality, healthy working conditions, social protection, and healthy ageing. Significant outputs included the launch of the EPSR Flashcard Tool, the annual European Semester analysis, policy précis, briefings, guidelines, and capacity-building events (seminar, workshop, country exchanges).</p>	

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project's network model itself is inherently transferable, providing a structure that could be adopted in other contexts. Beyond the overall model, specific elements demonstrate high transferability: the methodology developed for the EPSR Flashcard Tool offers a template for other networks or sectors aiming to operationalise EU principles relevant to their field. Similarly, the approach used for analysing the European Semester from a specific sectoral or equity viewpoint is a transferable methodology. The established formats for Country Exchange Visits and Thematic Working Groups present models that can be replicated by other transnational networks. Furthermore, practical resources such as the e-Guide on financing health promoting services and the continuously updated Health Inequalities Portal serve as readily transferable assets for use by others.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project demonstrated innovation primarily through its systematic effort to link health equity goals directly with the implementation of the EPSR and broader EU economic governance processes, such as the European Semester, thereby moving beyond traditional public health silos. Innovation was also evident in the development of novel tools like the EPSR Flashcards, specifically created to bridge the gap between high-level EU policy principles and practical application for health actors on the ground. The project further promoted a forward-thinking shift in policy perspective by actively focusing on and advocating for an 'Economy of Wellbeing' framework, aiming for more holistic societal progress. Finally, the utilisation of an integrated multi-platform approach, combining distinct Policy, Practice, and Research streams, represented an innovative way to tackle complex, multifaceted issues in a coordinated manner.

Policy evidence generated: Key outputs included the publication of the annual European Semester analysis report, which specifically examined health equity considerations within national Recovery and Resilience Plans, providing timely insights for policymakers. Complementing this were Policy Précis focusing on the concepts of the Economy of Wellbeing and Health-Promoting Care Systems. The project also produced multiple ad hoc Policy Briefings addressing emergent and pertinent EU issues, such as food security implications of the Ukraine crisis and the EU's NCDs Initiative. Substantial input into policy processes was provided through 18 contributions to official EU policy consultations and the delivery of two joint statements to the WHO. Furthermore, specific guidelines concerning psychosocial health in the workplace were developed, the EPSR Flashcard Tool offered practical policy and practice examples related to the Pillar's principles, and the Health Inequalities Portal repository was consistently updated with relevant evidence.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating as a partnership across 26 European countries. Key transnational activities included: coordinating the European network; facilitating cross-country learning and exchange via Country Exchange Visits, Thematic Working Groups, the Annual Seminar, and other meetings; developing EU-level policy analysis and recommendations reflecting diverse national contexts (e.g., Semester analysis); and fostering collaboration with international bodies like WHO Europe.

Dissemination strategy: The project employed a comprehensive dissemination strategy managed by a dedicated Communications Team and guided by a 2022 Communication and Dissemination Strategy. Key channels included: the main EuroHealthNet website (redeveloped for usability, accessibility, machine translation), the Health Inequalities Portal, the EuroHealthNet Magazine website, active social media presence (LinkedIn, Twitter/X), targeted newsletters ('Network Intelligence' for members, 'Health Highlights' for public), news releases, audio-visual content (videos), participation in major conferences, and publication of reports, précis, briefings, and statements.

European added value: The project contributed to the implementation of key EU policies, such as the European Pillar of Social Rights and related strategies such as the EU Care Strategy and Child Guarantee. Furthermore, it generated economies of scale by enabling the efficient sharing of knowledge, resources like the online portal and e-guide, and expertise across its 26 participating countries, surpassing what individual national efforts could achieve. European added value was also evident in the active facilitation and promotion of best practices through mechanisms like Country Exchange Visits and Thematic Working Groups, as well as publications. Additionally, the project provided valuable comparative analysis, such as the European Semester report, and generated evidence through briefings and consultations, thereby promoting benchmarking and informing both EU and national policymaking.

Sustainability measures: The project operates under a multi-annual Strategic Development Plan (2021-2026), indicating a long-term vision and organisational sustainability beyond the single year of the grant. The development of resources like the Health Inequalities Portal and the EPSR Flashcards aims for lasting utility.

Horizontal principles: A dedicated Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, developed and approved in 2022, explicitly aimed to enhance gender balance, increase racial and ethnic diversity, and support the inclusion of people living with disability within both the EuroHealthNet office and the wider partnership, directly engaging with principles of gender equality and non-discrimination. The project also demonstrated a commitment to the inclusion of vulnerable groups by targeting policies affecting children, older people, and those facing poverty and social exclusion.

Good practice: EuroHealthNet improved effectiveness by raising awareness and capacity among health authorities and social policymakers on health inequalities. Moreover, it ensured transferability of its methods by developing

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replicable tools and formats. The project was innovative in bridging public health with EU social governance and creating novel resources and promoting forward-thinking frameworks. It also had a strong transnational dimension and an expansive dissemination strategy. It directly supported implementation of EU initiatives and generated economies of scale via joint resources and facilitated benchmarking across countries. These efforts were sustained by a multi-annual plan and creation of lasting tools, indicating strong sustainability beyond the annual grants. Moreover, EuroHealthNet exemplified respect for horizontal principles, adopting a strategy to improve internal diversity and ensuring that its work addressed the needs of vulnerable groups.

**Annual Work Programme of the European Social Network under FPA
2022-2025**



GOOD PRACTICE

Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <i>"We Inspire Social Services Leaders to Improve the Lives of People in the Community."</i>
Grant/contract identification number	101059169 (2021); 101101915 (2022); 101145547 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public administrations Social services professionals 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group meetings (Social Services Resilience and Transformation, Social Services Quality Assurance, European Semester/Social Services Index) European Parliament Roundtables (e.g., Building a Resilient Social Service Workforce, EU Funding for Social Services) Seminars (e.g., Social Services Leading Care in the Community; Integrated Social Inclusion) Launch and development of the Social Services Index Peer Learning Visits programme Publication of policy briefings, cross-country analysis reports, seminar/roundtable reports, and Annual Reviews Development of annual membership & development strategy Production and dissemination via newsletters, Members Communications, podcasts, videos, website, and social media Co-organising webinars with partners (e.g., Future of the Welfare State) 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Coordinating organisation	European Social Network	
EU funding (EUR)	999,240.10 (call 2021); 998,800.20 (call 2022); 1,098,679.05 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.esn-eu.org	
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Review Background Note - Building a resilient social services workforce ESN Social Services Index Monthly Podcasts Newsletters and Members Communications Policy briefings: #1, #2, #3, #4 	
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023	

Main aim of activities: The annual work programmes of the European Social Network (ESN) aim to support public administrations with statutory duties in social services to promote their role in implementing key European social inclusion policies, particularly the EPSR and accompanying initiatives. Key aims include safeguarding social rights through quality services, gathering evidence on quality assessment, resilience, and transformation, promoting the transfer of effective practices across Europe via peer learning, engaging in EU policy processes like the European Semester, and strengthening ESN's own capacity, membership, communications, and impact by building bridges between local, national, and European stakeholders.

Main outputs and results: Activities included annual meetings for working groups (Resilience/Transformation, Quality Assurance, European Semester/Index), European Parliament roundtables, and annual seminars, resulting in publications like policy briefings and reports. The launch of the Social Services Index in 2023, covering 10 countries initially, aimed to improve understanding of national social service landscapes and inform the European Semester process. Participation in EC-funded events grew (over 400 delegates in 2022 and 2023). Communication outreach increased through publications, social media growth, and podcast production. Peer Learning Visits were organised. The activities enhanced knowledge exchange and provided policy recommendations to the European Commission.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The Peer Learning Visits programme facilitates the transfer of practices between member organisations in different countries. Working groups, seminars, and conferences serve as platforms for sharing experiences. Resulting publications, including policy briefings (often translated), cross-country analyses, reports, and the ESN practice library, are disseminated widely to members and stakeholders across Europe to enable the application of lessons learned and identified practices in other contexts.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The creation and launch of the Social Services Index in 2023 provides a novel structured approach to gather and compare data on social services legislation, investment, and coverage across EU countries. The use of a dedicated podcast series to disseminate member experiences and discuss key themes in social services is also an innovative communication method.

Policy evidence generated: Key outputs include the Social Services Index (country factsheets and cross-country analysis) designed specifically to inform the European Semester process. Policy briefings produced following working group meetings, seminars, and roundtables offer recommendations on topics like resilience, quality, workforce, community care, and EU funding.

Transnational dimension: The transnational dimension is inherent in ESN's nature as a European network with members across 34 countries. Activities involve participants from multiple Member States, facilitating cross-border exchange and learning (working groups, seminars, peer visits). The Social Services Index explicitly involves cross-European comparison. Policy work addresses EU-level processes and aims to bridge local, national, and European levels. Events are organised in different countries, ensuring geographical engagement.

Dissemination strategy: Outputs are shared through newsletters, targeted member communications, the ESN website (including a Members Area and e-library), social media platforms (LinkedIn, Twitter/X), and the ESN podcast. Publications like policy briefings, reports, and the Annual Review are produced and disseminated. Executive summaries are translated to improve accessibility. Events (working groups, seminars, roundtables, conferences, awards) are key dissemination platforms. Specific engagement plans are developed for policy outputs to reach stakeholders such as EU officials and national representatives.

European added value: ESN provides evidence and a unified voice from local/regional social services to inform EU policy development and implementation (European Pillar of Social Rights, European Semester, Care Strategy). It contributes to a better understanding of diverse national social service systems and promotes common principles (e.g., quality, community care). The network strengthens the capacity of social services across Europe and fosters collaboration. The development of tools like the Social Services Index provides EU-level comparative data likely unavailable otherwise.

Sustainability measures: Sustainability is pursued through strengthening the network's capacity and membership base. High member retention rates (over 95%) and growth in new members provide a stable foundation. ESN diversifies activities, including self-funded initiatives like the European Social Services Conference and Awards, which also contribute to co-financing. Tools like the Social Services Index creates lasting resources. Continuous efforts in communication and outreach aim to maintain and grow engagement beyond the grant period.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality is considered through guidelines aiming for gender balance among event speakers and monitoring participation by gender. Non-discrimination and accessibility are addressed by ensuring events are accessible and through a non-discriminatory recruitment policy covering various grounds (gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, age, disability etc.). The content of activities often focuses on improving services for vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, children, older people, marginalised communities), inherently promoting inclusion and non-discrimination.

Good practice: ESN's delivered concrete results, with annual working group meetings, roundtables, and international seminars that produced policy briefings and cross-country analytical reports. In 2023 it launched the

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Social Services Index – an innovative tool to compare social service frameworks and inform EU policy. Its outputs and tools greatly facilitated transferability, with its peer learning visits, online practice library, publications and translated briefings allowing a wider adoption of best practices. The creation of the Social Services Index and use of podcasts for outreach also show innovative approaches to gathering and sharing knowledge. Operating inherently transnationally, ESN enabled cross-border exchange on common challenges. It also implemented a comprehensive dissemination strategy, while informing EU initiatives with on-the-ground data. It also took steps to ensure sustainability and respected horizontal principles.

Eurochild specific grant agreement		 GOOD PRACTICE
Call identification number	ESF 2021-OG NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <i>"We are striving for a society where all children and young people grow up happy, healthy, confident and respected as individuals in their own right."</i>
Grant/contract identification number	101059184 (2021); 101101972 (2022); 101144517(2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in need EU institutions, national governments and policymakers Civil society organisations and networks (e.g. working with and for children) 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular engagement with members via newsletters, webinars, General Assemblies Support of national-level activities for Child Guarantee implementation Development of reports (e.g., country reports with recommendations for Child Guarantee NAPs, annual reports on children in need across Europe) Development of policy briefings and analyses on EU policies Organisation of webinars and meetings on thematic priorities (e.g., anti-rights movements, alternative care, digital rights) Producing of evidence and research (e.g., DataCare project, VOICE project) Engagement in regular dialogue with EU policymakers Support of children involvement (e.g., Eurochild Children's Council, National Eurochild Forums, co-design of Europe Kids Want survey) Coordination of the 'First Years. First Priority' campaign nationally and development of related thematic papers Creation of online resources (e.g., Solidarity with Children of Ukraine Hub) Engagement with media (e.g., media references) and development of newsletters Development of position papers and statements (e.g., on Ukraine, anti-rights movements, online child safety regulation) Provision of technical assistance and capacity building to members 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Coordinating organisation	Eurochild	
EU funding (EUR)	990,000.00 (call 2021); 990,000.00 (call 2022); 1,089,000.00 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.eurochild.org/	

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Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the European Semester • Children's Manifesto EP elections • 'Toolbox' on child participation training for adults by children (the ECC) public and for members
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023

Main aim of activities: The Eurochild network supports the development and implementation of EU policies for a stronger social Europe. It brings expertise in early childhood development, children in alternative care, child participation, and online safety. Key aims include advocating for policies and funding to reduce child poverty and promote children's social inclusion; influencing the development, implementation, and monitoring of the European Child Guarantee National Action Plans (NAPs); supporting members in gathering evidence, monitoring EU policy implementation, and leveraging EU funds nationally; collecting and disseminating good practices; promoting meaningful child participation in decision-making; and strengthening the network's governance, capacity building, communication, and cooperation with other EU networks.

Main outputs and results: The network actively engaged its members (reaching approx. 200 organisations across 37+ countries) and supported their national advocacy, particularly concerning the Child Guarantee NAPs, where Eurochild's recommendations were visibly included in several plans. It implemented a top-down, bottom-up advocacy approach, influencing EU policies (e.g., contributing to EP resolutions, European Semester recommendations) while building national NGO capacity. Eurochild strengthened its relationships with EU institutions (EC, EP, Council) and became a recognized expert voice, particularly on child participation and child protection, leading to requests for training and involvement in high-level events (e.g., EU Forum on the Rights of the Child). Direct child participation was central, with the Eurochild Children's Council (ECC) and National Eurochild Forums (NEFs) informing advocacy and governance.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The Eurochild model and its activities possess transferable elements. The network structure itself, connecting national NGOs to EU-level advocacy, is replicable. The methods for fostering child participation (ECC, NEFs, co-design processes) can also be adapted by other organisations or institutions. The top-down, bottom-up advocacy strategy, combining EU influence with national capacity building, could be applied to other policy areas or networks.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: Eurochild demonstrates innovativeness through its approach to systemic child participation, embedding children's input beyond consultations into governance structures (e.g., ECC input) and co-creation processes (e.g., survey design), thereby modelling the practical realisation of children's right to be heard. Eurochild has also established a proactive, rights-based stance on the digital environment and online safety, mobilising civil society and engaging with complex legislative proposals.

Policy evidence generated: The network consistently generates evidence to inform policy. Key outputs include annual reports on the situation of children in need across Europe (e.g., '(In)visible Children', 'Children's Rights: Political will or won't?'); specific reports analysing Child Guarantee NAPs (e.g., 6 country reports in 2022, ongoing overviews); thematic papers (e.g., children in alternative care); findings from the DataCare project on improving data collection for children in alternative care; early findings from the VOICE project on online safety; results from the 'Europe Kids Want' survey gathering children's views for EU elections; and numerous policy briefings and recommendations related to the European Semester, EU funding, and specific legislative files.

Dissemination strategy: Eurochild employs a comprehensive dissemination strategy using various channels: monthly public e-newsletters ('eNews Bulletin' to ~3K contacts) and members-only newsletters ('InfoFlash'); maintaining websites (Eurochild main site, Members Room, campaign sites); active social media presence (LinkedIn, X/Twitter, Facebook, Instagram); publishing reports, policy briefs, articles, blogs, and opinion pieces; media engagement (proactive outreach and responding to requests); producing videos and infographics; and organising webinars and events. Specific dissemination plans are developed for key outputs, often including toolkits for members and partners. The Members Room serves as a key internal channel for timely information exchange.

European added value: The EU operating grant enables Eurochild to operate at a scale and level of influence that would be unlikely without EU funding, connecting nearly 200 organisations across ~41 countries. This facilitates the sharing of best practices and capacity building across borders, contributing to more harmonised approaches to children's rights. The network's EU-level advocacy directly contributes to the development and implementation of EU policies and legislation (EPSR, Child Guarantee, EU Child Rights Strategy, Digital Services Act aspects). By gathering evidence from across Europe, Eurochild provides valuable comparative insights for policymakers (promoting benchmarking) and ensures national realities inform EU debates. Its transnational nature allows for coordinated responses to cross-border issues (like the Ukraine crisis response) and fosters significant networking between child rights actors across Europe.

Sustainability measures: Eurochild's sustainability is underpinned by its Strategic Framework (2022-2025), which guides its work and impact goals. The organisation actively pursues diversified funding, securing grants from

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philanthropic foundations alongside the crucial EU operating grant, and has developed a fundraising strategy and action plan. The established network structure with a large, engaged membership, the Secretariat's expertise, and core structures like the ECC and NEFs provide operational continuity.

Horizontal principles: Eurochild's work strongly integrates principles of non-discrimination and inclusion of vulnerable groups. Its activities explicitly focus on children experiencing disadvantage, including those affected by poverty, children with disabilities, children with migrant or ethnic minority backgrounds, children in alternative care, and children impacted by crises. Advocacy efforts, such as pushing for specific indicators in the Child Guarantee monitoring framework for vulnerable groups, directly address inclusion. The network also actively works against discrimination by countering anti-rights movements that target excluded groups.

Good practice: Eurochild actively supported organisations in over 30 countries, and its recommendations were reflected in several national action plans. The network delivered numerous outputs, including country reports on children in need and policy briefings, and coordinated campaigns. It innovated by pioneering meaningful child participation in its work and co-creating initiatives with youth input. By facilitating mutual learning among child-rights NGOs and working closely with EU institutions, Eurochild ensured practices are shared and adopted across borders. In addition, its Strategic Framework 2022–2025 and diversification of funding (including foundations) strengthen the sustainability of Eurochild transnational efforts.

Microfinance for social and financial inclusion in Europe	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059196 (2021); 101101965 (2022); 101145214 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European microfinance practitioners Supporting organisations (e.g., consultants, academics, social investors, other networks) Vulnerable groups
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Conferences (e.g., Paris 2023, Brussels 2022) EMN-MFC Survey Report (biannual, then annual from 2023 onwards, providing updated data and analysis on the sector) Impact studies and update of national reports (covering regulation and trends in microfinance in Europe) Meetings with European authorities and networks Microfinance Research Award (annual, promoting links with academia) National network meetings Peer-to-peer exchanges and study visits between EMN members across all Europe Public consultations (e.g., responses submitted on EU policies)
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Coordinating organisation	Réseau Européen de la Microfinance
EU funding (EUR)	460,128.00 (call 2021); 465,188.00 (call 2022); 538,000.00 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.european-microfinance.org/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMN's Online activity report



"European Microfinance Network is a member-based not-for-profit organisation based in Brussels, which promotes microfinance as a tool to fight social and financial exclusion in Europe through self-employment and the creation of microenterprises."

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- [EMN-MFC Survey Report](#)

Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal

Funding & Tenders Portal: [call 2021](#); [call 2022](#); [call 2023](#)

Main aim of activities: EMN pursues the overall objective of representing its members before the institutions related to the microfinance sector in Europe. In this role, EMN contributes to ensuring that the members' projects are in line with the EC's priorities, and that the EU policies will have more impact on the field. It also pursues the overall objective to strengthen the capacities of the practitioners in delivering on their mission in serving the underserved. It also aims to offer the most reliable and comprehensive source of market statistics and reinforce its position as knowledge hub for the sector, supporting its members.

Main outputs and results: EMN's activities delivered results in building the capacity of microfinance practitioners, strengthening policy engagement, and generating evidence to support financial and social inclusion. Through targeted training, peer exchanges, study visits, and the development of advocacy tools, EMN supported its members and amplified their voice within EU policy dialogues. The EMN-MFC Survey Report, along with updated national regulatory reports, working papers and impact studies provided policy-relevant data. In 2022, EMN members reported tangible outcomes, including increased access to finance for previously unbankable individuals, injecting significant funding into national economies, and creating thousands of jobs, particularly benefiting women, migrants, and young people. High-profile dissemination activities, including the Annual Conferences and European Microfinance Day campaigns, supported visibility and reinforced EMN's role as a knowledge hub and representative voice of the European microfinance sector at both national and EU levels.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The innovative approach lies in the hybrid structure of events, combining national activities with a transnational closing event, and in the bottom-up method that places stakeholder recommendations at the centre. Also, the transition from a biannual to an annual overview survey to deliver more up-to-date statistics further demonstrates innovative adaptation.

Policy evidence generated: EMN worked on raising awareness of the microfinance sector, through various meetings and input to consultations, related to the multiannual financial framework (and within it the InvestEU and ESF+ programmes). In 2022, three public consultations were answered by EMN. EMN also promotes impact studies and updated national reports to provide the most up-to-date information on regulation in Europe, together with updated top-level comparative analysis. With its Microfinance Research Awards, it also strengthens links with academia and contributes to an increased number of working papers.

Transnational dimension: The transnational dimension of EMN's activities is reflected in its annual conferences and awareness campaigns, which regularly involve participants from across Europe. In 2022, the Annual Conference held in Brussels gathered 204 participants from 26 countries, while the European Microfinance Day awareness campaign to the wider public featured 14 actions in 8 different countries. In 2023, the Annual Conference in Paris further demonstrated EMN's transnational reach, bringing together 286 participants from the European microfinance ecosystem. Hosting key events in different European cities, such as Brussels and Paris, underscores EMN's commitment to fostering cross-border exchange and cooperation.

New partnerships created: EMN has reinforced its network by working towards establishing new memberships and partnerships – for example, with Funds for Good and FAIR, EVPA and FEBEA. Under the joint suggestion of EVPA and EMN, regular meetings of networks (gathering EMN, EVPA, MFC, SEE and FEBEA) have been organised. By the end of 2022, EMN counted 8 new members and had overall 95 members in 26 countries.

Dissemination strategy: EMN outputs are disseminated to members, made up of microfinance practitioners, partners and corporate members all across Europe. It also sends information to its general mailing list, made up of sector stakeholders, academics, and other interested parties. Its social media tools have been regularly updated and messages were seen over 100 thousand times in 2023. Bulk emails were sent on an ad hoc basis to draw the attention to concrete issues (Annual Conference registration, European Microfinance Day, EMN strategy etc). In addition, EMN sends Policy Briefings and Members Updates throughout the year to about 300 recipients and regularly updated its website.

European added value: EMN has been present at relevant meetings, representing the microfinance perspective to EU stakeholders and to civil society. Meetings with the European Commission and EIB Group were set up to discuss the EaSI programme and the new financial instruments. EMN played an active role in the implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan. It also contributed to the European Code of Good Conduct work and remained an observer of its Steering Group. EMN contributed to different thematic working groups organized by the EC and in 2022, it became member of the Financial Services User Group (DG FISMA). Through its communication channels, EMN disseminated messages from the European Commission to the network and to its members with policy briefings and Members Updates.

Horizontal principles: Implicit in EMN's engagement activities is the commitment to inclusivity, bringing together diverse stakeholders and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups.

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Inclusive and participatory Europe Empowering young people (Europower)	
Call identification number	ESF 2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059198 (2021); 101145580 (2022); 101101943 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people with fewer opportunities • Youth and social work professionals • Policymakers • Social partners
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 in-person activities and events in 7 EU Member States (2022) • 6 capacity building activities for young people and professionals (2022) • 2 on-site exhibitions about photovoice results (2022) • 5 study visits for professionals in 3 different countries (2022) • 3 study visits for young people in 3 different countries (2022) • 2 reports on COVID-19 impact on youth and social work (2022) • 1 policy paper with recommendations (2022) • 1 report on promotion of hands-on approaches (2022) • 1 annual event and 1 policy event (2022, 2023) • 24 advocacy initiatives and 11 expert contributions to policy conferences (2023) • 3 learning mobilities for disadvantaged youth (2023) • 1 online internship platform (2023) • 1 campaign "#explainEU" (2023)
Implementation country(ies)	Germany
Participating countries	Austria, France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands
Coordinating organisation	Yes Forum Ewiv - Youth and European Social Work Forum
EU funding (EUR)	EUR 209,728.00 (call 2021); EUR 252,150.00 (call 2022); EUR 277,365.00 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.yes-forum.eu/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive website and social media outreach • Exploring and enhancing dialoguing activities in diverse groups • The impact of AI and digitalisation on Social Cohesion • Policy recommendations on a critical use of digital tools and AI in social and educational contexts • Key messages on fostering youth political participation at the EU level, especially EU elections
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023



"We are a European network of youth and social work organisations that strive for a Europe where every young person, regardless of their background, has the skills and support they need to reach their full potential."

Main aim of activities: EuroPower aimed to promote the social inclusion and active participation of young people with fewer opportunities by providing formal and non-formal learning opportunities. The project established itself in a unique position by encouraging dialogue between its members who work directly in the field and policy makers, acting as a bridge to give young people a voice in decision-making processes that influence their lives. The project sought

to improve the life chances of vulnerable young people, combat poverty and inequalities, develop their professional skills, and contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.

Main outputs and results: In 2022, the project organised 28 in-person activities and events in 7 different EU Member States, gathering 719 participants including youth and social work professionals, young people, students, and policy makers. The project published reports on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth and social work and how learning mobilities were restarting. In 2023, the project focused on skill development among young vulnerable people to enhance employability and break the cycle of vulnerability and poverty, aligning with the European Year of Skills. The project strengthened its network by welcoming new member organisations and reinforcing cooperation with other European networks. The project successfully implemented capacity building activities, policy and advocacy work, and mobility opportunities for both young people and professionals. The project's advocacy messages primarily focused on making learning mobility opportunities more accessible to disadvantaged young people, enhancing their inclusion.



Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project demonstrated innovativeness by developing new approaches to engage vulnerable young people and professionals in European dialogue. The project utilized participatory methodologies such as photovoice to help young people articulate their needs and demands. The project also launched the "#explainEU" campaign to make EU language more accessible for young people and foster greater inclusivity within EU discourse. The project introduced a new concept of an online internship platform to streamline the posting of internship vacancies and candidate recommendations, enhancing learning mobility opportunities and fostering collaboration within the network.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project's methodologies and approaches, particularly the use of participatory methods like photovoice and the development of guidelines on accessible EU language, have potential for transferability to other contexts and target groups. The project's capacity building activities, which focused on topics such as mental health in the social work sector, intergenerational knowledge transfer, inclusive youth participation, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on youth and social work practices, provide valuable insights and tools that can be adapted and applied in different settings.

European added value: The project contributed to the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan by promoting social inclusion and active participation of young people with fewer opportunities. The project fostered dialogue between young people, professionals, and policy makers at the European level, giving vulnerable young people a voice in European policy discussions. It also contributed to making EU language more accessible for young people, enhancing their understanding of European opportunities and fostering active citizenship. The transnational dimension of the project, bringing together professionals and young people from different European countries, added significant value by enabling the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and good practices across borders.

Sustainability measures: The project built sustainability by cultivating collaborations and advocating for critical youth and social work issues. The project enhanced efforts in building bridges between different regions in Europe, promoting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. It developed a concept of co-organising events and contributions to stakeholder conferences by engaging experts from member organisations, which not only boosted the visibility of the work but also created a platform for dialogue on key challenges and good practices in the social and youth field. The project's deliverables and outputs were shared on the website, in newsletters, and on social media platforms, ensuring broad dissemination and continued use beyond the project lifetime.

Horizontal principles: The project consistently addressed gender equality and non-discrimination in all its activities. As specified in its "Safeguard Policy," all young people and professionals, regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, religion or belief, social status, or sexual identity, had the right to safely participate in the project's activities. The project strived to create and maintain a safe environment for everyone who participated. The project also addressed the transnational dimension by bringing together professionals and young people from different European countries, providing economic and logistical support to ensure that all interested parties had the opportunity to join the activities and benefit from them.

Achieving Inclusion for Migrants living with Undocumented or Precarious Status		 GOOD PRACTICE
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <p>“We are a network of organisations working to ensure social justice and human rights for undocumented migrants.”</p>
Grant/contract identification number	101059211 (2021); 101101953 (2022); 101144844 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network members • Policymakers (EU, national) • Civil society organisations 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint statements and open letters on policy developments • Dissemination of guides and toolkits (e.g., guide on undocumented workers; toolkit on hope-based regularisation narratives) • Country case studies on labour migration • Development and dissemination of reports (e.g., social protection, transition to adulthood, early childhood education and care, health, regularisation, criminalisation of solidarity) • Development of surveys among members • Engagement in EU policy processes and advocacy • Targeted support and capacity building for members • Engagement with media (e.g., media requests, press pieces) 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Coordinating organisation	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants ASBL (PICUM)	
EU funding (EUR)	796,219.00 (call 2021); 796,219.00 (call 2022); 796,219.00 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.picum.org/	
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animated video on access to residence permits and procedural safeguards • Briefings: Access to early childhood education and care by undocumented children and families, Equal access to services for marginalized groups, Unequal treatment by enforcement authorities • Country case studies: Labour migration, Labour migration in France, Labour migration in Spain • Media engagement package: 2023, 2024 • PICUM Website • Reports: Good practices and lessons learned in supporting children and young people transitioning into adulthood, Community-based approaches to migration, Social determinants of health outcomes and promising practices in delivery of health care to undocumented migrants, Trends leading to a shrinking environment for civil society organisations and individuals defending the rights of people with an irregular or precarious status • Toolkit on narratives about regularisation • Translation of reports/case studies: Access to early childhood education and care: promising practices, Social determinants of health outcomes and promising practices in delivery of health care to undocumented migrants, Community-based approaches to migration, Residence statuses for migrants who cannot be returned to address 	

	<p>social exclusion linked to a perpetual state of legal limbo, Country case study on labour migration: France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos: Access to residence permits and benefits for individuals and society, Promising practices for labour rights and inclusion on precarious and undocumented workers
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023

Main aim of activities: PICUM is a Brussels-based network of organisations striving for social justice and rights for undocumented migrants in Europe. It is the only European civil society network exclusively focused on migrants with an insecure or irregular status. PICUM facilitates engagement in EU-driven processes and informs the policy level about the social and employment realities unfolding in towns and communities across the EU. Gathering members' expertise, evidence and insight, it engages policymakers in the development of informed and sustainable solutions. Through its communications work, it aims to broaden its reach and supporter base by engaging new audiences, creating positive narratives and increasing visibility of policies for an inclusive Europe.

Main outputs and results: Between 2022 and 2024, PICUM produced a significant volume of outputs, including reports, case studies, briefings, policy submissions, blogs, and communication materials, often translated into multiple languages. The network actively engaged in EU policy debates, such as on the Single Permit Directive, the Directive on Violence Against Women, the Anti-Trafficking Directive, and the Victims Rights Directive. It facilitated several exchanges and capacity-building activities for its members through meetings, workshops, and targeted support. It also coordinated joint advocacy statements and campaigns with members and partner networks on various issues, including the EU Migration Pact, the Care Strategy, and child rights.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project's outputs, such as reports, toolkits (e.g., on regularisation narratives), and case studies, are designed for use by members and partners across different national contexts, demonstrating inherent transferability. The network model itself, facilitating exchange and mutual learning among organisations working on similar issues in different countries, is transferable. PICUM actively disseminates findings through its website (relaunched in 2023), newsletters, social media, and participation in external events, adapting communication to different target audiences (policymakers, NGOs, academics). The development of joint recommendations and participation in multi-stakeholder platforms further aids transferability of knowledge and advocacy approaches.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: PICUM's exclusive focus as an EU-level network on migrants with an insecure or irregular status can be considered relatively novel. The project also demonstrated innovativeness through its specific approaches, such as developing hope-based regularisation narratives and applying an intersectional lens across diverse policy areas.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated substantial policy evidence through numerous reports, briefings, country case studies, and submissions to EU and UN consultations. Key evidence produced includes comparative reports on regularisation mechanisms and programmes, analyses of social protection measures, research on access to early childhood education and care, reports on the social determinants of health linked to migration status, analyses of labour migration policies, and briefings on topics such as administrative fees, transition to adulthood for young migrants, racial profiling, and access to justice for survivors of violence.

Transnational dimension: The project's transnational dimension is central to its operation as a European network with over 160 members across more than 30 countries. Activities involved transnational collaboration, exchange, and learning (e.g., member meetings, task forces, learning exchanges, joint statements). Research often involved comparative analysis across multiple EU member states (e.g., reports on regularisation, social protection, case studies). PICUM also engaged with international bodies (e.g., UN) and participated in global networks and campaigns.


Dissemination strategy: PICUM employed a multi-channel dissemination strategy. Key elements included regular production of content for its website (relaunched in 2023 with new visual identity), newsletters (with growing readership, particularly via LinkedIn integration), and social media engagement (Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook). Dissemination activities also included holding events to disseminate the analysis and policy recommendations on EU policy developments, addressing expert audiences and the general public at EU, national and local levels.

European added value: The project provided European added value by coordinating an EU-wide network focused exclusively on the rights of undocumented and precariously documented migrants, a group often overseen from policy considerations. The project contributed to the implementation and development of EU policies related to migration, social inclusion, labour rights, and fundamental rights, providing critical evidence and perspectives to EU policymakers. It fostered collaboration between diverse actors across Europe working on these issues.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality was mainstreamed, particularly through advocacy on the Violence Against Women Directive, the Victims Rights Directive, and work on domestic/care work, including specific meetings and analysis focusing on migrant women and intersectional feminism. Non-discrimination was central, with activities explicitly countering racial profiling, promoting anti-racism (e.g., engagement with EU Anti-Racism Action Plan coalition, Equinox collaboration), addressing intersectional discrimination (disability, gender identity, sexual orientation), and calling out disparate treatment in migration policies (e.g., response to Ukraine arrivals). The project inherently promoted the inclusion of vulnerable groups by focusing on undocumented and precarious migrants, advocating for their access to rights, services, and justice, and promoting their participation.

Good practice: PICUM's project produced concrete outputs that filled a critical gap in social inclusion policy for an often-neglected group. It developed and disseminated practical guides and toolkits as well as country case studies on migrant access to services. These resources equip stakeholders across Europe to replicate and implement good practices in supporting people with insecure status. As the only EU-wide network focusing exclusively on undocumented migrants, PICUM brought the experiences of this vulnerable group into European policy debates. The project contributed to shaping EU policies on migration and social rights and highlighted issues that are often overlooked nationally. Through its transnational network and advocacy, PICUM ensured that lessons are shared across countries.

Realising Social Europe for All and With All (RSE4ALL)  **GOOD PRACTICE**

Call identification number	ESF 2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <i>"We are a European network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with a global reach working to advance social justice through a just transition in Europe and worldwide."</i>
Grant/contract identification number	101059225 (2021); 101101890 (2022); 101145170 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member organisations and partners • EU policymakers • Citizens and residents in Europe • Social partners and social economy actors • Vulnerable groups 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and coordination (incl. 6 Social Affairs Forum meetings, 13 Task Force on Migration and Inclusion meetings, Membership/Fundraising Strategy development) • Advocacy (incl. Social Rights Monitor methodology revision and implementation for 9 countries, development and launch of interactive web map, 2 Social Europe Conferences, 1 European Roundtable, 1 Expert Paper, ongoing policy recommendations/statements) • Capacity building and networking (incl. 2 Training Academies, 4 Social Rights Ambassadors Workshops, 2 Member-to-member exchanges/Study Visits, 2 Policy Focus events, 6 Briefing Papers, 10 Support Missions, 45 Policy Pills) • Communication and Dissemination (incl. Communication/Advocacy Strategy, regular updates via website/social media/newsletters, awareness campaign development for EU elections) 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Coordinating organisation	SOLIDAR	
EU funding (EUR)	393,851.00 (call 2021); 398,405.00 (call 2022); 437,535.00 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.solidar.org/	
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic publication 'An economy beyond profit. Solidar membership's vision on social and solidarity economy' 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness Campaign materials ("Go Vote for People and the Planet") • Regular SOLIDAR updates • Work Plan for the Task Force on Migration & Inclusion 2025 • Social Rights Monitor (SRM)
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023
<p>Main aim of activities: The RSE4ALL programme aimed to achieve three primary targets during 2022 and 2023. Firstly, to ensure Social Rights are more mainstreamed in EU policies and better implemented, by contributing to the development, implementation, and monitoring of EU processes such as the EPSR, the European Semester, the Green Deal, and migration policies. Secondly, to strengthen the capacity of SOLIDAR's members and partners in promoting Social Rights at national and local levels, including enhancing their ability to monitor policy developments and influence policymaking. Thirdly, to increase the awareness of Social Rights among citizens and residents in Europe.</p>	
<p>Main outputs and results: SOLIDAR reported successful implementation of the activities foreseen in the work programmes for both 2022 and 2023, based on the final technical reports for each year. Key achievements include the revision and implementation of the SRM methodology, culminating in the launch of an interactive, multilingual web map showcasing results for nine countries and EU trends in 2023. Advocacy efforts resulted in publications on Just Transition/EPSR (with Erasmus University) and EU Economic Governance (with European Policy Centre), as well as numerous policy recommendations shared with EU policymakers. Capacity-building activities like Training Academies, Social Rights Ambassadors Workshops (SRAWs), Member-to-member exchanges, and Policy Focus events were held, targeting members and partners on topics like social inclusion, migration, social economy, and intersectionality. Communication and dissemination were enhanced through a dedicated strategy, regular updates, and the development of an awareness campaign for the 2024 EU elections.</p>	
<p>Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project demonstrated innovativeness primarily through the development and launch of the interactive, multilingual Social Rights Monitor web map, designed to present complex data and advocacy messages in a more engaging and accessible format than traditional reports. The SRAW format, piloted in 2022, was presented as a novel way within the network to directly link European policy dimensions with activities organised by members at national/local levels. The project also focused on integrating social dimensions (using EPSR indicators) into the analysis of the European Green Deal, contributing a social justice perspective to the environmental transition discourse.</p>	
<p>Policy evidence generated: The annual Social Rights Monitor provides analysis and data on the state of social rights and civic space in selected European countries from a civil society perspective. Specific publications were produced, including a thematic publication on Just Transition and the EPSR with Erasmus University (2022) and an Expert Paper on EU Economic Governance with the European Policy Centre (2023). Numerous policy recommendations, statements, and contributions to EU consultations were developed and disseminated on topics like the EPSR, European Semester, Green Deal, platform work, migration, and social economy. Additionally, six briefing papers analysing specific EU policy developments were produced over the two years.</p>	
<p>Transnational dimension: The transnational dimension is inherent in the project's structure and activities, coordinated by SOLIDAR, a European network with members across numerous countries. Activities consistently involved participants from multiple nations, fostering cross-border exchange and learning (e.g., Social Affairs Forum meetings, Training Academies, Member-to-member exchanges). The Social Rights Monitor gathers and compares data transnationally. Advocacy work targets EU institutions, reflecting a European scope. The Social Rights Ambassadors Workshops explicitly aimed to connect EU policy discussions with national/local realities in different member states.</p>	
<p>Dissemination strategy: The project implemented a structured dissemination strategy, formalized in a Communication and Advocacy Strategy document. Results and activities were communicated through various channels: the dedicated SRM interactive web map, articles on the SOLIDAR website, posts on social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, LinkedIn), monthly newsletters (general and specific Social Affairs newsletters), and targeted 'Policy Pills' for members. Key findings were disseminated through events like the annual Social Europe Conference, a European Roundtable, and participation in external events organised by partners or EU institutions. Publications (SRM reports, thematic/expert papers, briefing papers) were produced and shared. Internal communication channels like Basecamp and forum meetings were also used.</p>	
<p>European added value: The European added value stems from the project's capacity to operate at a transnational level, which would be difficult to achieve without EU support. It facilitates mutual learning, exchange of practices, and coordinated advocacy among civil society organisations from diverse European countries. The project generates unique EU-level policy evidence, particularly through the Social Rights Monitor, which aggregates grassroots civil society perspectives from multiple Member States and candidate countries. It strengthens the link between EU policy processes (like the EPSR and European Semester) and national/local realities, enhancing the capacity of national actors to engage with and influence EU social policy.</p>	

Sustainability measures: Internal organisational strategies, including finalised Membership Development and Fundraising strategies, aim to strengthen the network's operational and financial stability beyond the grant period. Knowledge management practices within the Secretariat aim to preserve and build upon project results. Outputs like the SRM web map are designed for ongoing use and updates. Exploration of complementary funding sources, including other EU programmes, is also part of its strategy

Horizontal principles: Gender equality and gender mainstreaming were integrated, especially through the SRM methodology assessing gender equality policies and specific activities focusing on gender, migration, and employability. Non-discrimination was addressed through the SRM's focus on the inclusion of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable groups, as well as through advocacy promoting a rights-based, intersectional approach to inclusion, particularly in migration policy via the dedicated Task Force. Communication materials aimed for gender-inclusive, non-discriminatory language and accessibility, considering persons with disabilities and diverse backgrounds.

Good practice: Planned activities were delivered, with key achievements including a comprehensive revision of the SRM methodology and the launch of an interactive SRM web-map tool. These outputs enabled SOLIDAR's member organisations to benchmark progress and engage in evidence-based advocacy across Europe. By developing the SRM web tool and naming "Social Rights Ambassadors" among members, SOLIDAR introduced new ways to bridge EU-level policy discussions with grassroots action. The network also produced thematic publications and ran pan-European campaigns to disseminate good practices. Internal measures, like newly adopted membership development and fundraising strategies, were put in place to ensure continuity of SOLIDAR's work beyond EU funding.

Innovation Supporting Inclusive Transitions in Europe (INSITE)		GOOD PRACTICE
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <i>"EPR's mission is to build the capacity of its members to provide sustainable, high-quality services through mutual learning and training."</i>
Grant/contract identification number	101059257 (2021); 101101891 (2022); 101144646 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People with disabilities Social service providers EU institutions and policymakers 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Working Group meetings per year (e.g., Policy Development, Youth, Mental Health, Disability Management, Funding) Task Force activities and publications (e.g., Pathways to Employment, Pathways to Community Inclusion, Quality) 3 Annual Conferences (2022 Dublin, 2024 Malaga) Multiple National Awareness Raising Events (e.g., 2022 Netherlands, 2022 Spain, 2024 Portugal) Multiple Study Visits (e.g., Mental Health in Latvia, Youth in Greece, EPSR principles) Policy monitoring, analysis, and production of 3 Policy Briefings per year Policy engagement activities (e.g., contributions to EU/UN consultations, participation in Disability Platform meetings) Partnership building and collaboration (e.g., within Social Services Europe, Inclusive Labour Market Alliance, D-WISE network, European Disability Forum) Capacity building activities (e.g., 2 Goal Oriented Project Planning workshops, 1 PM2 webinar, training on AI for project management, training on Job Recruitment/Retention) Development and maintenance of a searchable Knowledge Hub Communication and dissemination activities (e.g., 5 News bulletins per year, Annual Reports, social media campaigns with infographics, website enhancement, Communications Network meetings) 4 General Assembly meetings per year (reported for 2022) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of an Environmental Strategy
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Participating countries	Activities involved participants from over 20 countries
Coordinating organisation	European Platform for Rehabilitation
EU funding (EUR)	274,925.70 (call 2021); 284,318.10 (call 2022); 312,710.40 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	www.epr.eu (Specific project page: https://www.epr.eu/project/insite-innovation-supporting-inclusive-transitions-in-europe)
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation report 2023 • Briefing Employment Package • Mapping employment opportunities in the green economy • Knowledge Hub content (good practices, glossaries, EU initiatives) • Member interest report • Annual Conference • Public Affairs event • Partnerships with Employers Toolkit • EPSR study visit
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023
<p>Main aim of activities: The overall aim of the INSITE projects (Years 1-3) was to harness European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) members' expertise to consolidate and increase the network's contribution to social policy, focusing on people with disabilities, and build EPR's reputation as a key partner for EU institutions. Specific objectives included increasing EPR's policy engagement and influence; increasing members' policy engagement and competences; improving EPR's policy implementation support activities; achieving higher visibility for the organisation and its members; successfully raising awareness of EU initiatives, especially the EPSR; better meeting members' needs through network activities and governance; diversifying EPR's income for financial sustainability; and successfully completing all planned activities.</p> <p>Main outputs and results: The project reported increased policy engagement and influence, evidenced by contributions to EU and UN consultations, amendments to an EP opinion being adopted, active roles in alliances like the Inclusive Labour Market Alliance and contributions to the Disability Platform. Members' policy engagement and competences reportedly increased, with a high percentage stating EPR helped them understand policy initiatives better. Policy implementation support activities were rated highly, with members finding EPR activities useful for their own work, indicating an impact on service improvement. Visibility increased significantly through social media growth (particularly LinkedIn) and communication efforts. Awareness of EU initiatives among members grew, facilitated by briefings, news bulletins, and the knowledge hub.</p> <p>Transferability element(s) of the activities: Elements with potential for transferability include the model used for National Awareness Raising Events, which engaged diverse stakeholder groups across different levels (local, national, EU) and could be adapted for various policy topics in other contexts. The capacity-building workshop formats on topics like project planning, AI applications, or recruitment strategies could be replicated by other networks or organisations in the social sector. The methodology for collaboratively developing thematic publications or policy analyses that combine research, member expertise, and practical examples (like "Pathways to Employment" or "Pathways to Community Inclusion") is transferable. The concept of a searchable online knowledge hub containing curated resources, good practices, and glossaries could be adopted by other networks.</p> <p>Innovativeness of the project/activities: The "Pathways to Employment" publication combined policy analysis, service provider content, and interactive elements in a novel structure. Adapting the Goal Oriented Project Planning methodology specifically for use by social service providers was an innovative approach to capacity building. The project marked the first time EPR had policy amendments taken on board by the European Parliament and the first time it contributed detailed input to a partner's position paper in such a way. The collaborative method used to develop studies with members was also innovative for the network. The use of a "TED-Style" conference format for a mental health event, bringing together local, national, and European perspectives, was also noted as an innovation. Introducing training on emerging topics like AI in project management demonstrated responsiveness to new trends. The focus of the 2024 Annual Conference on technology and AI for inclusion addressed a novel and complex topic for the sector.</p> <p>Policy evidence generated: The project generated policy evidence through various outputs aimed at informing policy and practice. Key examples include the "Pathways to Employment" publication analysing successful factors</p>	

in policies and models for labour market inclusion of people with disabilities. The "Pathways to Community Inclusion" publication provided analysis and recommendations related to UN Deinstitutionalisation Guidelines and EU Guidance on Independent Living. Numerous policy briefings were produced on relevant EU initiatives like the Social Economy Action Plan, EU Disability Strategy, European Care Strategy, AI's impact on services, and the Framework for Social Services of Excellence. EPR submitted written responses and amendment proposals to various EU and UN consultations and policy initiatives. Recommendations were developed through Task Forces (e.g., on quality services) and events (e.g., on the economy of wellbeing, AI for inclusion).

Transnational dimension: The transnational dimension was fundamental to the project, as EPR is a European network built on transnational exchange. All mutual learning activities, including working groups, study visits, workshops, and conferences, involved participants from numerous ESF+ participating countries (reported as 5-18 different countries per activity across over 20 countries total). These activities facilitated the exchange of good practices, strategies, and challenges across national borders, allowing for transnational transfer of effective approaches. The project involved collaboration and joint advocacy with other European-level networks and partners (e.g., Social Services Europe, European Disability Forum, EASPD, EuroHealthNet).

New partnerships created: The project activities led to the development of new partnerships and the deepening of existing ones. EPR strengthened its collaboration within Social Services Europe and with key partners like EASPD, European Disability Forum (becoming a member in 2024), Caritas Europa, and Mental Health Europe. The project facilitated EPR joining the Inclusive Labour Market Alliance, bringing in new members like Autism Europe to the group, and participating actively in the D-WISE network. Collaboration with EuroHealthNet resulted in a joint webinar. Engagement in events like the Annual Conferences also led to connections with potential new member organisations.

Dissemination strategy: EPR implemented a planned communication and dissemination strategy throughout the project years. Key channels included the EPR website (featuring project pages, news, event listings, thematic sections, and a searchable knowledge hub), social media platforms (LinkedIn, X/Twitter, Facebook, with noted growth and high engagement on LinkedIn), and targeted email dissemination via Mailchimp for news bulletins and event invitations. Outputs like reports, briefings, and publications were made available online and sometimes printed. Specific online campaigns using infographics were run annually on thematic topics. Public events (Annual Conferences, NAREs, webinars) served as major dissemination and engagement opportunities. A Communications Network involving professionals from member organisations was established to share practices and enhance dissemination reach.

European added value: EU funding enabled transnational mutual learning activities (study visits, working groups, conferences) and the sharing of good practices across numerous European countries on a scale that would likely not have been possible otherwise. It supported the development of consolidated, evidence-based input for EU policymaking, drawing on the diverse experiences of service providers across Member States. The project strengthened the capacity of service providers throughout Europe by facilitating knowledge exchange and providing training. It fostered collaboration and partnerships at the EU level among key stakeholders in the social sector. Furthermore, it actively promoted awareness and understanding of EU initiatives like the EPSR and related strategies among service providers, supporting their implementation. The project also built capacity within the network and its members regarding access to and correct use of EU funding.

Sustainability measures: Key results and knowledge generated (e.g., policy analysis, good practices) are integrated into the ongoing work of EPR's thematic working groups and policy monitoring activities. Efforts to diversify income through membership growth and seeking further project funding aim to ensure the financial stability needed to continue core activities. Moreover, strengthened partnerships with other EU organisations provide a basis for continued collaboration and joint advocacy beyond the project period.

Horizontal principles: Non-discrimination was central to the project's focus on improving social and employment inclusion for people with disabilities, inherently combatting discrimination and equipping service providers to do so. Activities specifically addressed the needs of vulnerable groups, including young people with disabilities and those with mental health issues. Gender equality was addressed by aiming for gender balance among speakers at events and applying a gender perspective in documents and research.

Good practice: The INSITE project demonstrably enhanced the capacity and cooperation of social service providers for people with disabilities across Europe. It implemented a rich array of activities, leading to concrete publications and joint initiatives among members. By facilitating partnership-building with other European networks, the project ensured that innovative practices in disability support were exchanged and adapted across countries. INSITE introduced forward-looking topics into EPR's training modules and strengthened its role as a key EU-level partner in disability policy, underlining the EU added value of a transnational approach. The knowledge hub and methods developed under this project are set to continue, supporting sustainability and upscaling of results.

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Partnership for a socially inclusive and green economy	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059269 (2021); 101101913 (2022); 101145577 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Enterprises (SE) and Support Organisations (SO) • Public authorities and policy makers
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchanges with public authorities • Updates to an EU Funding Toolkit • EU funding & policy bootcamps/webinars • Launch of a Policy & Funding Podcast • Member masterclasses and knowledge exchange • Communities of Practice (EU Policy, Social Procurement, Impact Measurement & Management) • Preparation of a Social Enterprise Support Organisations Development Toolkit • High-level meetings and events participation/organisation (e.g., Policy Roundtables, SE Finance Market Summit) • Policy and Position Papers on key developments or topics of concern to its members • Compendium of Good Policy Practices • European Social Enterprise Monitor and Social Enterprise Surveys • European Social Enterprise Support Organisation (SESO) State of the Industry Report • Euclid Network's Knowledge Centre updates
Implementation country(ies)	Netherlands
Coordinating organisation	Euclid Network (EN)
EU funding (EUR)	367,850.00 (call 2021); 367,850.00 (call 2022); 428,989.90 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 April 2022 – 31 March 2025
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.euclidnetwork.eu/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Centre 2022-23 • Knowledge Centre 2023-24 • EU Funding Toolkit • European Social Enterprise Monitor Report and Community Panel • Euclid Network Website • Annual Impact report • SE Finance Market Summit • Position papers • SESO State of the Industry Report • SESO Development Toolkit • Membership growth report
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023



Main aim of activities: Euclid Network's vision is to empower social enterprises and their support organisations to drive positive change. This project focuses on exchanges with public authorities, reinforces the capacity of support organisations and raises their awareness about relevant EU policies through exchange and tools on data, research, knowledge, policy and learning, thus contributing to strengthening EC policies within the Social Economy. The core objectives of this multi-year partnership are: 1) To support the European Commission in its outreach and mission at EU, national, and local levels to increase awareness and enable the implementation of EU policies and funding in the social economy sphere; 2) To reinforce the capacity of its members by offering platforms for exchange and raising awareness of relevant EU policies; 3) To provide input for policy design and implementation by voicing the concerns and expectations of social enterprises, microenterprises, and their support organisations/financial intermediaries in various European countries; 4) To provide data and research on microfinance and social enterprises finance to serve as input for evidence-based policymaking at EU, national, and local levels.

Main outputs and results: Between April 2022 and March 2023, the Euclid Network exceeded targets for exchanges with public authorities (10 were planned and 72 were held). It updated the EU Funding Toolkit with three new chapters and hosted 8 EU Policy & Funding webinars/bootcamps alongside a helpdesk. Four EU Policy Podcast were produced in that period. Member engagement remained high (75% satisfaction rate reported), supported by Board meetings, Annual General Meetings, peer exchanges, and Communities of Practice. Policy influence was exerted through participation in expert groups, position papers, and policy roundtables. The European Social Enterprise Monitor was scaled from 8 to 21 countries, gathering 1,907 responses, leading to European and 9 national reports, and an award-winning academic paper.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project's transferability is a core strength, evident in the widely disseminated resources (toolkits, Knowledge Centre, Compendium of Good Practices), and established cross-border exchange models (PeerEx, CoPs), supported by a comprehensive communication strategy.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: Scaling the European Social Enterprise Monitor survey from 8 to 21 countries in one year represents an innovative approach to pan-European data gathering in the social economy field. Moreover, the creation of a dedicated Policy & Funding Podcast was an innovative communication channel for the target audience.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated policy evidence through several activities, such as the European Social Enterprise Monitor, the European SESO State of the Industry Report, the Compendium of Good Policy Practices, and thematic Position Papers (e.g., on framework conditions, cross-border activities, women/youth in social enterprises, Western Balkans Social Economy Action Plan). Direct policy input was provided via participation in EC expert groups (DG EMPL, DG GROW, DG ESTAT, InvestEU Committee, EU Parliament) and policy roundtables.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational. Euclid Network coordinates members across over 30 countries. Activities like the European Social Enterprise Monitor also cover over 30 countries. The PeerEx programme also facilitates direct cross-border collaboration and shared learning. In addition, events/meetings gather stakeholders from across Europe and beyond.

New partnerships created: Euclid Network experienced a continuous growth in membership, welcoming 7 new members in 2022/23. In 2024, its membership included 51 members operating in 33 countries, marking a significant increase in the network's size and scope. This expansion represented a 112% growth in membership from 2019 (24 members) to 2024.

Dissemination strategy: EN employs a multi-channel dissemination strategy including its website (142k page views in 2022/23) and Knowledge Centre (3.4k downloads in 2022/23), newsletters (15 sent in 2022/23), social media presence, a podcast series, and participation/organisation of numerous events (over 200 in 2022/23), including webinars, bootcamps and conferences. Key reports like European Social Enterprise Monitor and outputs like the Top 100 Women campaign are subject to dedicated communication campaigns, engaging outreach partners and press.

European added value: The project adds value by connecting and strengthening the European social enterprise ecosystem and facilitating cross-border learning and collaboration. It provides a channel for diverse national perspectives to inform EU-level policy-making (via position papers, expert group participation). It also develops and disseminates resources (toolkits, survey data, Knowledge Centre) with European utility and supports the implementation of EU strategies, like the Social Economy Action Plan.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality is addressed through dedicated research and policy work (e.g., position paper and podcast on women in social enterprises, European Social Enterprise Monitor) and promotion (Top 100 Women in social enterprises campaign). Accessibility is considered in communication efforts (e.g., alt-text on social media). Transnational cooperation is a core element of the project's design and activities

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Assuring a Just, Socially Inclusive and Circular Transition



GOOD PRACTICE



"RREUSE is an international network representing social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling."

Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059270 (2021); 101101940 (2022); 101145202 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and circular enterprises • EU Institutions and Policy makers
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published policy papers (position papers or open letters) and research reports • Responded to EU public consultations and engaged in strategic dialogues with EU institutions • Organised and participated in policy and networking events, including annual conferences and workshops • Facilitated member exclusive sessions, working groups, task forces, and Innovation Forums • Developed, maintained and updated a best practice database (approx. 200 practices) • Collected member impact data through annual surveys and published results via factsheets/infographics to demonstrate the sector's social, economic, and environmental contributions • Managed communication channels including website updates, internal/external newsletters, social media, and videos • Participated in and supported advocacy campaigns (e.g., Right to Repair Europe, Green Friday Collective) • Developed and implemented internal Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning • Engaged in EU project development and fundraising efforts
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Coordinating organisation	Re-Use and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises VZW
EU funding (EUR)	443,574.00 (call 2021); 479,576.70 (call 2022); 481,609.80 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.rreuse.org/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports: Activity Report 2022; Activity Report 2023 • Briefings and short articles 2024 • Conference reports: 2023 and 2024 • External Research on circular skills • Interactive online map: 2023 and 2024 • Member survey – Factsheet infographic: 2022 and 2023 • Policy papers: Policy papers / consultation responses 2024; Policy papers / position / consultation responses 2023 • Short articles on a number of topics 2023
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023

Main aim of activities: RREUSE operates as a European network representing social enterprises active in the circular economy, focusing on re-use, repair, and recycling. The operating grant enables RREUSE to further strengthen its social and circular enterprise community by ensuring that EU policies, good practices and the creation

of new partnerships meaningfully contribute to developing their activities in the circular economy on the ground. Key objectives include influencing EU policy to create a supportive ecosystem for social enterprises; building members' capacity to understand and engage with EU policy processes; facilitating cross-border learning and partnerships (including with public/private actors); expanding the EU's knowledge base on social entrepreneurship, social inclusion, jobs, and skills within the circular economy through data collection and research; developing internal and external communication outreach and campaigns; and strategically enlarging the network, with a specific focus on Central and Eastern Europe.

Main outputs and results: The network reported collective impact through its members (e.g., 1,200 social enterprises represented by 22 member organisations, 120,000 employees/volunteers/trainees, EUR 1,072 billion turnover, 1,095,000 tonnes waste collected, 110,000 tonnes CO2 emissions avoided). RREUSE produced several publications (including policy papers, research, consultation responses) and organised/participated in many events, workshops, and member sessions (including the Innovation Forum). Internally, a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system was developed and implemented to better track and communicate impact. Success was achieved in securing grants from private foundations and winning EU projects (e.g., CISUTAC, BuySocCirc, DigiSocCirc).

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The operating model of a European network dedicated to representing a specific sector (social enterprises in circular economy), influencing EU policy, and facilitating knowledge sharing is inherently transferable. Specific methodologies like the Innovation Forum sessions for best practice exchange, the development of a sector-specific Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation framework, and the approach to collecting member impact data could be adapted by similar networks in other fields. Dissemination of outputs through publications and events further supports potential transferability.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The creation and sustained use of the Innovation Forum as a response to pandemic limitations and continuation for virtual exchange is positive. The development of specific tools like the Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation system and impact infographics also represents internal innovation.

Policy evidence generated: RREUSE systematically generates policy-relevant evidence. This includes policy position papers, responses to EU consultations, research reports, a database of best practices from its members, and member surveys that collect quantitative data on the social, economic, and environmental impact of its members. This evidence is used directly in advocacy efforts and contributes to the EU's knowledge base, as evidenced by citations in official documents and use by institutions like the OECD and the European Environmental Agency.

Transnational dimension: The transnational dimension is fundamental to RREUSE's existence and operations as a European network with members across numerous EU and non-EU countries. Activities involve cross-border collaboration, learning (e.g., Innovation Forum, member meetings), and the aggregation of national perspectives to inform EU-level policy advocacy.

Dissemination strategy: RREUSE uses bi-weekly newsletters, an online member area, and regular member meetings/sessions (including policy working groups and Innovation Forums). Externally, communication includes a public website with news and publications, external newsletters, social media engagement (Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube), participation in and organisation of public events (conferences, webinars), production of reports and infographics, press relations, and direct engagement with policymakers and stakeholders.

European added value: Its transnational character is essential for effectively representing diverse national social enterprise realities at the EU level and influencing EU policy, which would be difficult for individual national organisations. It also facilitates cross-border learning and exchange of best practices among members. The network contributes directly to the implementation and monitoring of EU policies and legislation related to social economy and circularity and fosters networking activities between organisations from different countries.

Sustainability measures: RREUSE actively pursued funding diversification, successfully securing grants from private foundations and leading/participating in other EU projects, reducing sole reliance on the operating grant for all activities.

Good practice: RREUSE generated a broad set of outputs bridging social inclusion and circular economy goals. By maintaining a rich knowledge base and facilitating working groups, innovation forums and campaigns, RREUSE enabled its members across Europe to learn from each other and adopt proven inclusive circular business models. The network's transnational advocacy directly informed EU policies on circular economy and the social economy, showing clear added value. RREUSE also diversified its funding, which, along with its ongoing monitoring and evaluation framework, helps ensure that the initiatives and collaborations seeded by this project are sustained and scaled up in the future.

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

EaSI Operating Grant SGA – Cities for Inclusive Recovery		
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <p><i>“Our mission is to build places where people can enjoy a good quality of life in a healthy, green environment, where low-carbon and smart solutions make for cleaner air and better public services. And where people can move around sustainably, feel connected to their community and all newcomers are welcomed.”</i></p>
Grant/contract identification number	101059276 (2021); 101101876 (2022); 101145495 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities (local politicians, directors, technical staff) EU institutions, regional and national authorities International organisations Research community Practitioners 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of city social trend papers (covering topics like childcare, minimum income, digital skills, etc), thematic reports on EPSR implementation and an Integrating Cities report Organisation of Social Innovation Labs, in-person mutual learning events, online city dialogues/webinars, policy transfer and peer-learning activities, a political roundtable with EU Commissioner and a Directors of Social Services roundtable Organisation of Annual Social Affairs Forums, Cities' Social Summit Ongoing members' coordination via Steering Committee and Working Groups Political Campaigns and ongoing engagement resulting in city pledges Maintenance and update of project website and main Eurocities website Targeted social media campaigns, production of testimonial videos and regular dissemination of reports, policy recommendations, and event outcomes Participation in EU events and platforms (e.g., Urban Agenda Partnerships, EPOCH) and contributions to European Commission Calls for Evidence. Ongoing project management, monitoring, reporting, and risk management 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Coordinating organisation	EUROCITIES ASBL	
EU funding (EUR)	697,500.00 (call 2021); 704,394.00 (call 2022); 767,803.50 (call 2023)	
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024	
Project/organisation/activity website	https://eurocities.eu/	
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Cities4InclusiveRecovery’ political campaign: summary City social trends papers: #1, #2 Integrating Cities Report 2024 Mutual Learning activities on EPSR implementation in cities: #1, #2 Online mutual learning modules: #1, #2 Populate inclusivocities4all.eu website Short informative video clips presenting local level social challenges and action 	

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- [Social Affairs Forum event](#)
- [Social Innovation Lab event](#)
- [Summary of communication and dissemination of information from the local level](#)
- [Thematic Report on EPSR implementation in cities](#)

Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal

Funding & Tenders Portal: [call 2021](#); [call 2022](#); [call 2023](#)

Main aim of activities: The project aims to strengthen cities' capacity to implement EU social policy initiatives, particularly the EPSR, leading to concrete policy changes at the local level. This is pursued through four interconnected objectives: collecting research and data on social inclusion within cities, including monitoring city pledges and producing analyses on urban poverty and exclusion; increasing cities' ability to implement better social policies via a dedicated mutual learning programme focused on the EPSR; actively engaging cities in relevant EU policy initiatives and funding opportunities, notably through political discussions and the ongoing 'Cities for Inclusive Recovery' / 'Social Heroes' campaign which secures city pledges for action; and disseminating the findings gathered from cities to key stakeholders such as EU institutions, national authorities, researchers, practitioners, and the media to inform debates and enhance policymaking.

Main outputs and results: In terms of research and data, numerous City social trend papers, thematic reports focusing on specific European Pillar of Social Rights principles such as Long-term Care and Homelessness/Youth, and the Integrating Cities report were produced, providing evidence on urban social challenges and policies. Mutual learning was fostered through Social Innovation Labs, in-person mutual learning events, and online city dialogues, facilitating policy improvement and innovation among participating cities on diverse topics including fair transitions, education inequalities, youth homelessness, migrant integration, and green skills. Furthermore, political engagement was strengthened by the continuation and expansion of the political campaign, which secured numerous city pledges committing significant social investment (reported as €92.4 billion across 102 pledges by end 2022, with figures updated by end 2023) to implement EPSR principles locally, alongside the successful organisation of annual Social Affairs Forums attracting high numbers of city representatives and stakeholders. The project's overall impact stems from Eurocities' extensive network (200 cities, 38 countries), enabling high-level political and technical exchange, thereby contributing substantially to the local implementation of EU social objectives and fostering sustainable urban development, including addressing inclusive green and digital transitions.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The mutual learning methodologies used are inherently transferable to other networks or policy domains. The findings and good practices documented in reports and shared during events are intended for replication or adaptation by other cities. The city pledge model, linking political commitment to specific principles and investments, could potentially be adapted for other policy areas or by different types of organisations or administrative levels.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project exhibits innovativeness primarily through its 'city pledge' campaign, which presents a novel method for operationalising the EPSR at the local level by securing direct political commitments tied to specific principles and financial allocations, and through the use of Social Innovation Labs to foster the co-design of solutions for complex challenges, such as achieving a socially fair climate transition by engaging social economy actors.

Policy evidence generated: Complementing its innovative approaches, the project systematically generates valuable policy evidence. This includes concise analyses of key urban social trends and city responses via City Social Trends Papers (covering areas like childcare, minimum income, and digital skills), in-depth mappings of city challenges and practices related to specific EPSR principles through Thematic Reports (e.g., on Long-term Care and Homelessness), analyses of progress in migrant and refugee integration via Integrating Cities Reports, and direct city-level perspectives contributed to EU policy development through responses to Calls for Evidence.

Dissemination strategy: An integrated, multi-channel strategy is employed, using the project website, the main Eurocities website, social media platforms (Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram), testimonial videos, podcasts, articles, and news stories. Key events like the annual Social Affairs Forum, Social Innovation Labs, and mutual learning activities serve as major dissemination platforms. Targeted dissemination occurs via the Eurocities members' platform. Audiences include network members, EU institutions, national governments, international bodies, academia, media, and the wider public.

European added value: The project facilitates extensive transnational networking, mutual learning, and the promotion of best practices among cities from 38 countries, activities whose scale and coordination would be difficult to achieve without an EU-level structure and funding. Furthermore, it generates comparative data and policy evidence from the city perspective, informing both EU and national policymaking and enabling benchmarking. Through coordinated city action and knowledge sharing, it contributes to addressing shared European challenges such as social inclusion, crisis recovery, and migrant integration, while leveraging the network structure allows for economies of scale in capacity building and knowledge dissemination.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality is addressed through dedicated research such as a City social trend paper, a specific mutual learning event focusing on the labour market integration of vulnerable women, targeted city pledges addressing gender equality and work-life balance, and its integration into broader discussions concerning the impact of informal care on women, digital skills access, and childcare accessibility. Central to the project's focus on social inclusion is the principle of non-discrimination and the inclusion of vulnerable groups; activities and research explicitly target challenges faced by diverse groups including migrants/refugees, Roma, homeless individuals, children, the elderly, NEETs, people with disabilities, and the most deprived. The project consistently promotes equal access and non-discrimination in policies and services, aligning with the network's strategic priority of "Welcoming everyone in our cities".

Eradicate Poverty and Enhance Social Rights in Europe	
Call identification number	ESF 2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059279 (2021); 101102018 (2022); 101145588 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People experiencing poverty • EU institutions and governments • Legislators and decision-makers • Network member organisations • Civil society organisations
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of campaign (e.g., International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) • Ongoing Policy & Advocacy contributions (e.g., minimum income, energy poverty) • Organisation of conferences and events (e.g., launch event for the Poverty Watch Report, policy conference on adequate minimum income protection, People Experiencing Poverty conference) • Production of reports (e.g., EPSR Report, Assessment Report on the European Semester, EU Funds, and Recovery & Resilience Plans, EU Poverty Watch Report) • Conduction of a mapping of members' advocacy needs • Delivery of capacity building/training sessions (e.g., financial management for National Networks, Social Scoreboard) • Participation/organisation of meetings (e.g., coalition meetings, network meetings, internal coordination and strategic meetings, advocacy meetings at EU level) • Ongoing website and social media management and dissemination, target mailings, op-eds, newsletters, awareness-raising campaigns
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Coordinating organisation	Réseau européen des associations de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale AISBL
EU funding (EUR)	1,066,244.38 (call 2021); 1,129,412.25 (call 2022); 1,220,679.15 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.eapn.eu • www.endpoverty.eu



"We believe in the power of democracy, true and meaningful participation, social justice and solidarity in a Europe that puts people at the center of policy-making."

Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 EU Poverty Watch • Annual EU Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty 2022 • Annual Policy Conference • Assessment of the European Semester, the implementation of the EU Funds and the Recovery and Resilience Plans • Awareness Campaign • Briefing Paper on voices from the ground for a socially just EU • EAPN Flash • EPSR Report • EU Poverty Watch launch Conference • Model for Mutual Learning and Organisational Strengthening • Position Paper on the post-pandemic at the EU
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023
<p>Main aim of activities: The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is the largest European network of national, regional and local networks, involving anti-poverty NGOs and grassroots groups as well as European Organisations, active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. It was established in 1990. The mission of EAPN is to promote a socially inclusive and sustainable Europe, free from poverty and inequalities. Key objectives included highlighting poverty and inequality data and testimonies to prompt EU/Member State action; supervising the implementation of the EPSR Action Plan and the poverty target; monitoring and engaging with the European Semester, EU funds, and Recovery and Resilience Plans to ensure poverty reduction focus; supporting people experiencing poverty (especially those facing multiple vulnerabilities) in claiming their rights; and contributing policy proposals on key EU transitions (green, digital). The overarching goal was to work with EU institutions to prioritise the fight against poverty and social exclusion and guarantee social rights</p> <p>Main outputs and results: Major achievements included the Policy Conference on Minimum Income, the influential 2022 Poverty Watch Report and its launch, the first fully EAPN-led People Experiencing Poverty Annual Conference ('The unbearable cost of living') bringing together 175+ participants, and contributions to the EU policy agenda (notably on Minimum Income). The network demonstrated resilience and alignment around objectives. Data collection, policy work, and dissemination supported members' capacity at EU and national levels. Communications efforts increased awareness of poverty's dimensions and systemic nature, targeting legislators, CSOs, and the public.</p> <p>Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project's consistent emphasis on a bottom-up approach, systematically integrating the voices and analysis of people experiencing poverty into monitoring EU policies and formulating recommendations (e.g., Poverty Watch, People Experiencing Poverty Conference inputs), stands out. The inclusion of intersectional analysis (gender, migration, race, LGBTIQ+) within the Poverty Watch methodology represents an innovative approach to understanding poverty's complexities. Plans to update the data collection methodology and explore digital welfare issues further indicate ongoing development.</p> <p>Policy evidence generated: The project generated significant policy evidence through several key documents designed to inform EU and national decision-making. The 2022 EU Poverty Watch Report provided an analysis of poverty and inequality realities across the EU, drawing on inputs from the national network members. An EPSR Report specifically monitored the implementation of principles 16, 17, and 18 of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. Furthermore, an assessment evaluated the social impact and governance of crucial EU economic and funding mechanisms, namely the European Semester, EU Funds, and the Recovery and Resilience Plans. Capturing the key demands and analysis directly from participants, the Briefing Paper "Voices from the Ground for a Socially Just EU" summarised outputs from the People Experiencing Poverty Annual Conference. Alongside these reports, the project produced targeted policy inputs and statements contributing to ongoing discussions on critical issues such as Minimum Income and Energy Poverty.</p> <p>Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating as a European network coordinating 32 national networks and 13 European organisations. Key activities, such as the EU-wide Poverty Watch, the People Experiencing Poverty Annual Conference bringing together delegations from 30 countries, joint advocacy at the EU level, and participation in European coalitions, were designed and implemented transnationally.</p> <p>Dissemination strategy: A multi-channel dissemination strategy was employed, targeting EU institutions, Member States, members, partners, media, academia, and the public. Tools included the EAPN website, 5 'Flash' newsletters, 26 targeted mailings (reaching ~2.3k subscribers each), social media platforms (LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube), dedicated campaigns (e.g., 1710, Minimum Income, People Experiencing Poverty), 2 op-eds, and dissemination via events (conferences, launches). Key publications like the Poverty Watch had specific dissemination plans, and user-friendly summaries (2-pagers) were planned.</p>	

European added value: The project's EU-level structure was essential for facilitating transnational networking, knowledge exchange, coordinated advocacy, and comparative analysis (evidenced by the Poverty Watch) across 32 countries, achievements difficult to replicate without such coordination. Centralised data gathering, analysis, and advocacy likely led to economies of scale, ensuring greater efficiency compared to disparate national efforts. The project provided a vital platform for amplifying the voices of people experiencing poverty from across Europe, enabling their direct engagement in EU-level discussions.

Sustainability measures: The project focused on consolidating the network's long-standing experience and ensuring impacts are progressively cumulated. The recruitment of a permanent Director aimed to strengthen long-term strategy and sustainability.

Horizontal principles: The project addressed horizontal principles, such as non-discrimination and the inclusion of vulnerable groups, by focusing activities on people experiencing poverty while explicitly considering added vulnerability factors such as disability, age, gender, race, and migration status. Recruitment policies aimed for diversity, and data collection methodologies, particularly for the Poverty Watch, sought to disaggregate data and incorporate intersectional perspectives to capture the complex realities faced by different groups. Furthermore, consistent efforts were made to ensure the inclusive participation and representation of vulnerable individuals in meetings and consultations. Gender equality was also integrated as a transversal component within the project's analysis, exemplified by its inclusion in the Poverty Watch, alongside efforts to ensure gender balance and perspective throughout participation activities.

Food4Future	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059291 (2021), 101102002 (2022), 101145587 (2023)
Policy area	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable populations, people at risk of poverty or social exclusion FEBA national member organisations Charitable organisations Food Banks across Europe EU institutions and policymakers Corporate partners and foundations International organisations
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 meetings of the FEBA Board of Directors 66 meetings of the 4 Committees (Audit & Risk, Finance, Governance, Emergency Response) 6 General Assembly meetings 26 meetings of the EU Working Group 17 EU Monitoring Reports and 1 Special Edition 50 on-site visits or meetings with members 36 partnerships established or renewed with companies, organisations, and foundations 12 online fundraising campaigns 3 Annual Conventions (hybrid format) 3 Annual Forums on Food Aid and Social Inclusion 1 "Taste of Thanks" Partners Event 7 "Morning Insights" (MOIN) sessions 47 newsletters and direct mailings 31 reports (online and printed) 293 social media publications 17 videos on YouTube



"We contribute to reducing food insecurity mainly through the prevention of food loss and the support and development of Food Banks in countries where they are most needed."

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple webpages and website updates
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Coordinating organisation	European Food Banks Federation (FEBA)
EU funding (EUR)	630,588.60 (call 2021); 688,785.30 (call 2022); 755,872.20 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.eurofoodbank.org/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports: FEBA EU Working Group 2023 Report; FEBA Annual Forum on Food Aid and Social Inclusion report; EU crisis response & FEBA Network: impact assessment report. 2023 version Report and a video about two minutes in English focusing on the 2023 activities of the 'Membership Capacity Building Working Group'. The ESF+ and the European Food Banks Federation. 2023 version
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023

Main aim of activities: The key objective is to strengthen the activity of FEBA and its members, which contribute to reducing poverty and social exclusion through the redistribution of food in partnership with charitable organisations that assist the most deprived in Europe. The specific objectives include coordinating the FEBA network to fulfil the mission, fostering dialogue and exchange of knowledge and best practices within the network, and reinforcing the leadership of national member organisations. The project aims to raise awareness about the vision, mission, values, and activities of FEBA and its members, particularly regarding the EPSR and related initiatives, while contributing to EU policy initiatives with accurate data and evidence-based information. Additionally, the project seeks to strengthen FEBA members enabling them to actively impact food insecurity reduction and social inclusion through differentiated capacity building activities, promote a cross-sectoral approach to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration at EU, national, and local levels, and strengthen FEBA communication activities at all levels. These objectives directly contribute to the EU headline target to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030.

Main outputs and results: In 2022, FEBA Members brought together 351 Food Banks that redistributed 876,316 tonnes of food to a network of 44,884 charitable organisations, reaching over 12.4 million people experiencing severe material deprivation. By 2023, the network expanded to 352 Food Banks redistributing 839,942 tonnes of food to 44,374 charitable organisations, benefiting over 12.8 million individuals. This represents a notable increase of over 300,000 people compared to 2022, reflecting the growing demand for food assistance amidst the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The project demonstrates remarkable growth since 2014, with a 110% increase in end beneficiaries assisted. The network also expanded with Full Member status granted to Food Bank Albania and Federația Băncilor pentru Alimentație din România, while Associate Memberships were granted to organisations in Moldova, Slovenia, and Malta.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: Best practices sharing was facilitated through regular exchanges and capacity-building activities among network members. Training programmes and knowledge transfer mechanisms ensure that successful approaches can be adapted across the network. The project employed standardised monitoring and assessment methodologies that can be implemented by Food Banks in different countries. Partnership models and communication strategies are replicable across various European contexts, allowing local adaptation while maintaining core principles.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: A new Customer Relationship Management system was launched to streamline operations and enhance efficiency in connecting with members and stakeholders. FEBA developed a grant management tool to improve the distribution and reporting processes related to funding for members. Evidence-based policy contribution was enhanced through continuous data collection and analysis, providing meaningful qualitative and quantitative information to feed the EU policy-making process.

Policy evidence generated: FEBA produced 17 EU Monitoring Reports providing quantitative and qualitative data on relevant EU and international legislative and policy developments. A Joint Statement on VAT for donations was issued in collaboration with other stakeholders. The organisation actively participated in 6 EU Expert Groups and over 15 high-level events hosted by EU institutions and international organisations. Three specialised reports were produced: the ESF+ Report, the Socio-Economic Report, and the Report on Food Insecurity Among Children. FEBA's President participated in the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture. Since 2018, FEBA EU Working Group has advocated for common interests at the EU and international level.

Transnational dimension: The project operated across a comprehensive transnational network spanning 30 European countries, coordinating 352 Food Banks across Europe. Collaboration extends to international

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organisations including the UN, FAO, and other international bodies. The project facilitated cross-border knowledge sharing and capacity building, enabling best practices to be transferred across national boundaries.

New partnerships created: The project established and renewed 36 partnerships with companies, organisations, and foundations throughout the implementation period. The network expanded with 30 new supporters added to the broader FEBA community. A new category of supporters was created with 12 new entry-level donors known as Friends of FEBA, providing an accessible entry point for smaller contributors. Enhanced collaboration was developed with EU institutions and international organisations. The project also facilitated the fundraising campaign #AllTogether4Ukraine, demonstrating the network's ability to mobilise partnerships for emergency response.

Dissemination strategy: FEBA distributed 47 newsletters and direct mailings to over 3,078 subscribers. The organisation published 31 reports both online and in print. Social media engagement was maintained through 293 publications across multiple platforms including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube, reaching a collective audience of 8,888 followers. The project produced 17 videos for the YouTube channel to communicate key messages visually. Regular website updates and the creation of dedicated webpages ensured current information was accessible to all stakeholders. Annual conventions and forums provided platforms for face-to-face knowledge exchange with international participation.

European added value: FEBA plays a role in the EU as the only EU/Europe-wide organisation coordinating and supporting Food Banks across 30 European countries and representing them at the European level. The project contributed directly to the implementation of the EPSR and its Action Plan, and addresses the green, digital, and demographic transitions while reducing poverty and inequalities. Its transnational approach enables coordinated responses to challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, demonstrating solidarity and shared values across European borders.

Social Policies and Rights in Europe (SPARE)	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059301 (2021); 101101985 (2022); 101145366 (2023)
Policy area	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers of social and healthcare services and advocacy organisations EU institutions and political groups Vulnerable groups Social partners and other stakeholders in social policy development
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network meetings, expert group meetings, and member consultations (approx. 50 events in 2022, multiple meetings/seminars annually) Training and capacity building via the 'Social Europe Academy' (approx. 10-12 events/sessions annually) Development and dissemination of publications: policy inputs, recommendations, research reports, analyses (approx. 18-25 annually) Advocacy targeting EU institutions on key social policies (EPSR, Care Strategy, Minimum Income, Homelessness, Social Economy, Just Transition, etc.) Monitoring of EU processes (European Semester, RRF, EU funding use) Development of a social innovation hub Communication and dissemination activities (website updates, social media campaigns, newsletters, events) Stakeholder engagement and partnership activities Specific campaigns (e.g., Mental Health Inclusion, European Year of Youth)
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium

Eurodiaconia  Consulting and
 Operational
 Development

"We are a European network of churches and Christian NGOs providing social and healthcare services and advocating social justice"

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Participating countries	Network members across the European Union and neighbouring countries (32 countries)
Coordinating organisation	EURODIACONIA AISBL
EU funding (EUR)	763,953.00 (call 2021); 816,170.00 (call 2022); 896,138.00 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.eurodiaconia.org/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on food poverty • EU funding updates • Event and paper on social investment • Scorecard on use of funds for EPSR • Website, social media analytics report • Comms Campaign on Mental Health, services, and inclusion
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023

Main aim of activities: The overarching aim of the SPARE operating grants was to enable Eurodiaconia, as a major European network of social and healthcare service providers, to advocate for and contribute to a Europe of social justice where everyone can thrive. Key objectives across the three years included: supporting the implementation and monitoring of the EPSR as a guide for social policy reforms; strengthening member capacity to engage with EU policies (like the European Semester, RRF, Child Guarantee, Care Strategy) and funding opportunities through training and networking (e.g., via the Social Europe Academy); providing evidence-based policy input and expert knowledge derived from members' experiences on topics such as social services quality and access, poverty reduction, inclusion of vulnerable groups (including migrants and refugees), homelessness, and adequate minimum income; supporting the modernisation of welfare states; promoting the social economy and social innovation; and addressing the social dimensions of the green and digital transitions.

Main outputs and results: Key results included increased member participation in network activities (approx. 50 events in 2022, ongoing engagement via expert groups, network meetings, and the Social Europe Academy), the production of numerous publications annually (approx. 18-25 reports, policy papers, recommendations) providing input to EU policy processes (e.g., Care Strategy, Minimum Income recommendations, Social Economy Action Plan, EPSR monitoring); strengthened advocacy efforts, including early engagement with political groups ahead of EP elections and direct outreach to new Commissioners, capacity building for members on EU policies and funding; and enhanced communication and dissemination via updated strategies and tools, including a website renewal. Specific initiatives included establishing a social innovation hub, focusing on the inclusion of Ukrainian refugees, addressing the cost-of-living crisis, and developing work on just transition and essential services. Impacts include influencing Council conclusions, contributing to EU strategies and recommendations, raising awareness among policymakers and stakeholders, and enhancing the network's role as a trusted partner providing ground-level information.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The network model itself, which connects diverse national/local service providers for EU-level advocacy and mutual learning, is potentially transferable to other sectors or networks. Specific elements like the 'Social Europe Academy' concept for capacity building on EU affairs, the methodology for developing evidence-based policy positions grounded in members' experience, and the social innovation hub could be adapted by other organisations.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project demonstrated novelty through initiatives like the formalised 'Social Europe Academy' for member training, the creation of an online 'social innovation hub' and proactive engagement with emerging intersections like social policy's link to the green/digital transitions and crisis preparedness. The focus on bringing a diaconal (faith-based social action) perspective into EU social policy debates also adds a specific dimension.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated policy evidence through numerous publications each year. These included analyses of EPSR implementation, the European Semester, and RRF social investments, research reports on long-term care, migrant inclusion, Roma employment barriers, digital tools uptake, and CO2 reduction in services; policy papers and recommendations on minimum income, care strategy, homelessness, social economy, just transition, essential services, and in-work poverty; and briefings on various EU initiatives.


Transnational dimension: The activities were implemented by a pan-European network with members in 32 countries. Events, network meetings, and expert groups facilitated cross-national exchange, learning, and comparison. Policy work involved gathering diverse national perspectives to inform EU-level advocacy and analysis, addressing common European challenges.

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Dissemination strategy: Based on the transferability/dissemination criterion, the project employed a systematic dissemination strategy. This involved developing annual communication plans and distribution strategies for outputs and events. Methods included targeted presentations, publications (policy reports, research, recommendations), online toolkits, website updates and thematic hubs, regular newsletters ('weekly update'), social media engagement (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), video content, and stakeholder events.

European added value: As an operating grant supporting an EU-level network, it enabled activities focused specifically on EU policies and processes (EPSR, Semester, EU funding, legislation) that would be difficult for individual national or local members to undertake alone. It facilitated transnational cooperation, learning, and the development of common positions among social service providers across Europe. The project provided a channel for grassroots experiences to inform EU policy-making and for EU policies to be understood and potentially implemented more effectively at national/local levels.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and non-discrimination were addressed. This was done through mainstreaming gender in policy documents and events, focusing on intersectionality (e.g., migrant women, racialized groups), participating in the EU Anti-Racism Forum, and paying attention to various grounds of discrimination (gender, racial/ethnic origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation) and vulnerable groups in policy work.

Be WISE in supporting Inclusive Social Europe		
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA	 <i>"ENSIE, the European Network for Social Integration Enterprises, represents the interests of national and regional networks of 'Work Integration Social Enterprises' striving for more inclusive and integrated forms of employment at European level."</i>
Grant/contract identification number	101059325 (2021); 101101934 (2022); 101145575 (2023)	
Policy area from the Regulation	Social Inclusion, including poverty eradication	
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Integration Social Enterprises Networks • EU Institutions and policy makers 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in meetings with EU networks and with EU bodies and representatives • Participation in EU expert groups (e.g., Just Transition Platform, Fit for Future) • Participation and moderation of events, at international, national and EU-levels • Submission of consultations, feedback and policy recommendations (e.g., Social Economy Gateway, Social Innovation, Social Economy) • Draft of position papers on various themes (e.g., Social Economy Action Plan, European Pillar of Social Rights) and proposals for legislative changes • Organisation of trainings and capacity-building webinars (e.g., EU policies, funding opportunities, project proposal preparation) • Development and update of online Work Integration Social Enterprises database • Development of info sheets and factsheets (e.g., European Pillar of Social Rights, Social Economy Action Plan, European Work Integration Social Enterprises) • Data collection and research (e.g., annual Impact-WISEs study, database updates; research reports) 	
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium	
Coordinating organisation	European Network of Social Integration Enterprises	

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EU funding (EUR)	197,335.00 (call 2021); 225,495.63 (call 2022); 248,044.50 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.ensie.org/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of members' needs, challenges and priorities: 2023, 2024 • Communication and dissemination report: 2022, 2023 • Cooperation and services folder • ENSIE contributions: 2023, 2024 • ENSIE participations: 2023, 2024 • EPSR action: 2023, 2024 • EU Semester and National Recovery and Resilience Plans: 2023, 2024 • Impact WISEs and database: 2023, 2024 • Policy joint actions • Projects folder: 2023, 2024 • Research and analysis folder with all the valuable and pertinent research and analysis: 2023, 2024 • Seminars, trainings, mutual learning seminars, good practices exchange sessions: 2023, 2024 • WISEs workers campaign: 2023, 2024
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023
<p>Main aim of activities: ENSIE's core objective is the maintenance, representation, and development of the European network of Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs). Key aims include engaging with EU institutions (Commission, Parliament, Council) and influencing relevant policies, particularly the EPSR and the SEAP. ENSIE also aims to support and build the capacity of its members to implement EU-driven processes like the European Semester and Recovery and Resilience Plans at the national level, and to strengthen their own advocacy work, including contributing to adapted legislative frameworks. Further objectives involve generating evidence on the social and economic impact of WISEs through research (such as the annual Impact-WISEs study) and developing shared resources like online databases. The network also aims to raise the visibility of WISEs and voice the concerns of their workers, often through targeted communication campaigns.</p> <p>Main outputs and results: ENSIE participated in numerous meetings, events, and stakeholder consultations (over 100 only in 2023), contributing to EU policy discussions through position papers, feedback on consultations, and legislative proposals. Key policy areas addressed by ENSIE activities included SEAP, EPSR, EU Semester, Just Transition, skills, and digitalisation. Capacity building activities (webinars, trainings, info sheets) increased members' knowledge of EU policies and funds and improved their engagement with EU processes like the EU Semester, with several members establishing direct contact with European Semester Officers. The annual Impact-WISEs study provided valuable data on the socio-economic impact of WISEs, used for advocacy.</p> <p>Policy evidence generated: Key outputs include the annual "Impact-WISEs" study, providing data on the socio-economic impact of WISEs on vulnerable groups across multiple countries. Research reports were produced on topics such as the national implementation of EPSR principles, WISEs and social innovation and youth employability through WISEs. ENSIE maintains and develops online databases, including a WISEs database, a database on social public procurement, and the wisebusiness.eu platform, contributing to the visibility and understanding of the sector.</p> <p>Dissemination strategy: Key tools for dissemination include external quarterly newsletters and internal monthly newsletters for members, as well as website updates with articles and positions, social media presence, targeted campaigns and occasional publications in external media outlets (e.g., printed and online journals).</p> <p>European added value: ENSIE contributes to the development and implementation of EU policies and legislation relevant to social economy and social inclusion, also facilitating transnational cooperation, exchange of good practices, and mutual learning among members across Europe. By collecting comparable data (Impact-WISEs) and generating policy evidence, it informs EU-level policy-making.</p> <p>Sustainability measures: The network actively seeks to diversify funding sources, with the development of a fundraising strategy to differentiate funding sources and enabling long-term sustainability. This includes applying for new EU/private foundation projects, developing paid services and creating a potential sponsors database.</p> <p>Horizontal principles: The network's primary focus is promoting social and professional inclusion for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups through WISEs, directly addressing non-discrimination and inclusion. Gender equality is also accounted through actions such as specific campaigns (e.g., Women in Social Enterprises).</p>	

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Cooperatives' contribution to quality employment and social inclusion	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101059345 (2021); 101101882 (2022); 101145310 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network members and their affiliated cooperatives • EU institutions and social partners
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General administrative and financial coordination • Statutory activities (e.g., General Assembly, Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings) • Staff field visits • Hiring of an external expert for Gender Diversity and Inclusion policy advice and collaboration with an external expert for data collection, survey launch and analysis • Organisation of a campaign (#Skillscoops2023), including a conference, videos and a publication • Organisation of Working Group meetings on non-standard and platform work • Organisation of COODING event on cooperatives, digital and new technologies and of a Mutual Learning Session on cooperatives and commons • Co-hosting of a seminar on social economy • Dissemination activities (e.g., activity report, #COOPTALES articles, internal & external newsletters, website updates, social media promotion)
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Coordinating organisation	Confédération Européenne des Coopératives de Travail, des Coopératives sociales et des Entreprises Sociales et Participatives AISBL (CECOP)
EU funding (EUR)	171,449.00 (call 2021); 175,202.10 (call 2022); 192,722.40 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.cecop.coop/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video and photo messages for social media campaigns: 2023, 2024 • Policy recommendations to national and EU level on the EU Social Economy Action Plan • Cooptales: 2023, 2024 • Activity Report 2023 • Publication on cooperatives contribution • Publication of data collected • Publication of EU elections Manifesto
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal: call 2021 ; call 2022 ; call 2023



"Our aim is to bring democracy and solidarity to the workplace, sustainable economic growth, and social cohesion."

Main aim of activities. The project sought to provide policy recommendations to EU institutions, collect and exchange good practices, and facilitate mutual learning concerning cooperatives' contributions to quality employment and social inclusion. A core aim was reinforcing the capacity of the CECOP network and its members to actively engage in the development and implementation of EU policies, bringing the cooperative dimension to

relevant topics and fostering the transposition of solutions between countries. Engaging members through statutory meetings and specific activities was also a key objective.

Main outputs and results: Key results include the #CoopSkills2023 campaign, the COODING event, Mutual Learning Sessions, and active participation in the EU Social Economy Conference. The Working Group on Transformation of Work continued its focus, data collection processes were advanced, and work commenced on a Gender Diversity and Inclusion (GDI) policy. Impacts were reported qualitatively across target groups: CECOP members gained visibility, benefitted from mutual learning through Mutual Learning Sessions (MLS), Working Groups (WGs), and events, enhanced networking opportunities, increased their knowledge of EU policies concerning skills, platform work, digitalisation, and commons, and contributed directly to CECOP's EU advocacy, while internal network strengthening was pursued through staff visits and work on GDI and data collection. Concurrently, EU institutions benefitted from receiving policy recommendations, particularly on skills for worker buyouts and platform work, gained increased knowledge of cooperative contributions to various policy areas like the social economy and digital transition, and engaged via policy events such as the Gothenburg conference, with activities aiming to bridge the gap between EU and national/regional levels. Furthermore, other EU stakeholders experienced increased awareness of cooperative models like platform cooperatives and worker buyouts, and collaboration was notably strengthened with organisations including the European Investment Bank, European Trade Union Confederation, EU Youth Forum, Solidar, Social Platform, and other EU networks.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The methodologies employed, including the models developed for thematic campaigns, Mutual Learning Sessions, Working Groups, and the consistent use of hybrid events, could be readily adapted and applied by other networks or organisations facing similar objectives. Similarly, the processes undertaken for developing internal policies, such as the Gender Diversity and Inclusion policy, or for improving data collection strategies within a network setting, offer transferable frameworks. Beyond methodologies, the specific knowledge shared, and the content produced through the project holds relevance and applicability for audiences beyond the immediate project participants. Internal network strengthening activities, such as targeted staff visits to member organisations and the development of internal policies like the GDI framework, provide models that other networks could adopt to enhance their own cohesion and operational capacity.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project demonstrated innovativeness in several aspects of its implementation and focus. In terms of digitalisation, it implemented a digital survey system to streamline data collection from members and utilised interactive online tools, such as Miro boards, during Mutual Learning Sessions to enhance engagement. Regarding event formats, the consistent use of hybrid models was maintained, and the organisation of the COODING event introduced an innovative matchmaking element, specifically connecting technology-focused cooperatives with those in more traditional sectors requiring support for digitalisation. The focus of the annual campaign, #CoopSkills2023, was also innovative in highlighting the specific skills required for successful worker buyouts and the crucial role played by cooperative federations in supporting these processes, offering a unique perspective within the broader European Year of Skills agenda.

Policy evidence generated: The project provided direct policy recommendations to EU institutions, formulated based on the expertise within its membership and the focused discussions held within its Working Groups, with examples relating to skills development for worker buyouts and regulations concerning the Platform Work Directive. The project also contributed valuable knowledge regarding various cooperative models and their relevance to key EU policy initiatives, including the EU Social Economy Action Plan, the EU Care Strategy (informed by 2022 activities), the EU Skills Agenda, and broader digital transition policies. Furthermore, it generated concrete data on the industrial and service cooperative sector across its network through a dedicated survey, the results of which were compiled for publication. The production of specific publications, such as the conference report on worker buyouts, served to consolidate the evidence gathered and clearly articulate the resulting policy recommendations.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating as a European network. Activities consistently involved members and stakeholders from numerous EU countries and the United Kingdom. Statutory meetings, MLS, WGs, campaigns, and events facilitated cross-border exchange and learning. Specific events were hosted in Sweden and Italy, and staff visits occurred in Spain and Italy. The project focused on EU-level policies and bridging the gap between EU and national/regional cooperative realities.

New partnerships created: While primarily focused on its members, the project strengthened or fostered collaboration with external partners. This included reinforced cooperation with the European Investment Bank, European Trade Union Confederation, EU Youth Forum, Solidar, Social Platform, and Eurofound. Collaboration occurred with other EU-funded networks and European cooperative organisations (e.g., for the Gothenburg workshop). The COODING event aimed to create new links between tech and traditional cooperatives.

Dissemination strategy: CECOP employed a multi-channel dissemination strategy, including its website, social media platforms (Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Facebook), internal member newsletter (CECOP LINK - 9 editions), external newsletter (1 edition), the #COOPTALES best practice series (4 issues), publications (activity report, conference report), and videos. Activities were promoted via members and achieved press coverage.

European added value: The project directly contributed to the implementation and understanding of EU policies (EPSR, SEAP, Skills Agenda, Platform Work) by providing a consolidated cooperative perspective. It facilitated transnational mutual learning, benchmarking, and sharing of good practices through MLS, WGs, and events, which would be difficult to achieve without EU-level coordination. The network structure allows for efficient gathering and dissemination of information relevant to EU policy-making and helps bridge the gap between EU institutions and national/regional actors. It fostered networking and collaboration between organisations from different countries.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality was actively tackled through the initiation of dedicated work on developing a Gender Diversity and Inclusion policy within the CECOP organisation. Additionally, attention was paid to striving for gender balance among speakers selected for project events, with this focus carrying forward into subsequent activities like a dedicated Mutual Learning Session in 2024. Broader principles of non-discrimination and inclusion were addressed partly through conscious efforts to ensure diverse representation in communication materials and inherently through the project's overarching focus on quality employment and social inclusion.

FEBEA – Taking Social Enterprise Finance in Europe to the next level through the contribution of Ethical financiers	
Call identification number	ESF-2022-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-MF-SE-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101101989 (2022); 101145336 (2023)
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social finance practitioners
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General management and running of the organisation Publication of research papers and reports, production of articles, policy papers, policy briefs, and a policy newsletter Agreements development with social finance practitioners and research centres Organisation of trainings and one-to-one technical assistance sessions Contribution to EU consultations Organisation of policy webinars and participation in policy events and meetings Organisation of workshops with EU institutions Draft/update of a map of social finance stakeholders and members' needs analysis Test/development of an exchange platform for members Establishment of a helpdesk for members and stakeholders Organisation of study visits among members Funding group meetings and dissemination of EU funding opportunities Organisation of the FEBEA annual conferences Development of a communication and dissemination plan Design, update and implementation of communication materials and tools
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Coordinating organisation	Fédération européenne de finances et banques éthiques et alternatives
EU funding (EUR)	330,312.00 (call 2022); 343,562.35 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2023 – 31 December 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.febea.org/
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports: Annual Activity Report of the Training 2023; Annual Activity Report on Research and Publications 2023; Annual Activity Report on

febea

"FEBEA brings together different financial organisations driven by the values of Ethical Finance."

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[Technical Assistance 2023](#); [Annual Report on Communication and Dissemination Activities 2023](#); [Annual Report on External Cooperation Activities 2023](#); [Annual Report on Internal Cooperation Activities 2023](#); [Annual Report on Policy Formulation Activities 2023](#); [Annual Report on Policy Outreach Activities 2023](#)

- [Updated map of stakeholders](#)
- [Updated Needs analysis](#)

Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal

Funding & Tenders Portal: [call 2022](#); [call 2023](#)

Main aim of activities: FEBEA's focused on boosting the capacity of Social Enterprise Finance providers in Europe for a strong social investment market. The action dedicated on strengthening and expand the activities and services offered to the organisation members (i.e., social finance practitioners) and on reinforcing the organisation's structure to ensure high-quality services and foster fruitful collaborations with stakeholders. Activities were put in place to achieve several goals, such as 1) monitoring and informing on the recent trends in the social finance market; 2) support practitioners in improving and expand their social finance offer; 3) strengthen Policy activity and partnerships/collaboration with relevant stakeholders at EU, national and local level and among FEBEA members; 4) inform practitioners, civil society organisations and citizens on the add-value of social finance tools and their role for local development. The expected impact was the improvement and increase of tailored financial and non-financial support for the social economy market in Europe.

Main outputs and results: FEBEA contributed to the improvement of investment readiness services, access to finance tools and financial instruments for social economy organisations. The collection of regular data on Social Finance and establishment of partnerships with academic organisations generated the basis to track the evolution of Social Finance among Ethical banks and set up the academic framework that will allow the analysis and improvement of the quality and impact of financial tools for Social Finance. FEBEA worked to monitor, discuss and propose initiatives linked in particular to InvestEU and the SEAP, and boost the social economy among EU institutions to promote its recognition, the definition of concrete instruments and regulation. A permanent dialogue and partnership with the EU Institutions was established and the communication, knowledge and mutual collaboration with Ethical Banks and Alternative Financiers was improved; the promotion of Social Enterprise Finance within other policies of the EU was pursued as well. It established permanent communication channels towards the EU civil society and the promotion of the work of social economy organisations among responsible citizens, consumers and civil society organisations, the social base of its members.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: FEBEA introduced innovative approaches by integrating new research activities with tailored training and capacity-building services and a comprehensive policy outreach strategy. This integrated model positions the organisation as a multiplier of EU policies within the social finance sector.

Policy evidence generated: The project directly aimed to contribute to evidence-based regulation, policies, and reforms at EU, national, and local levels. It achieved this by gathering relevant evidence, contributing to EU consultations, and producing policy papers, articles, policy briefs, and a policy newsletter.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, coordinating FEBEA, a European federation based in Belgium, and targeting its members and stakeholders across Europe. Activities focused on boosting the capacity of social enterprise finance providers across Europe and strengthening a European network. Activities like training, workshops, study visits, and the exchange platform facilitated cross-border knowledge sharing and collaboration among members from different European countries.

Dissemination strategy: FEBEA's dissemination strategy was multifaceted and targeted, aiming to reach both internal members and a broader audience of stakeholders. Key components included the development and implementation of a Communication and Dissemination Plan, the organisation of the FEBEA Annual Conference as a flagship visibility event, and the design and regular update of communication materials and tools. The strategy also leveraged digital channels, resulting in a doubling of social media subscribers and increased engagement. Outputs include policy briefs, newsletters and webinars, contributing to policy formulation and outreach and ensuring that findings and recommendations were communicated in formats tailored to the needs of specific target groups, contributing to the broader visibility and uptake of the findings.

European added value: FEBEA members, given their approach towards community development and their focus on social and environmental criteria with regard to all their activities, can act as a multiplier of EU policies and tools directed at the development of a social finance market in Europe, to foster a green, just and inclusive growth. FEBEA, through the grant implementation, supported the Commission in its outreach activities and its mission at EU, national and local levels, increasing awareness about, and enabling the implementation of, current and future EU policies and funding in the social economy and social finance sector. Moreover, it provided input for policy design and implementation in the social economy and social finance sector, by voicing the concerns and expectations of FEBEA members, social economy and social enterprise finance stakeholders in the various European countries and

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provided data and research on developments in the field of social enterprise finance, which can serve as input for evidence-based policy making at EU, national and local levels.

Horizontal principles: The project's core focus on social economy and social finance inherently aligns with social inclusion goals. The needs analysis task included examining gender balance and diversity of workers in social finance organisations, also indicates consideration of equality aspects.

Informal carers in Europe, from recognition to rights (Eurocarers)	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2022-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA ESF-2023-OG-NETW-NGO-SGA
Grant/contract identification number	101057275 (2021); 101101857 (2022); 101144174 (2023)
Policy area	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Operating Grants Framework Partnerships
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal carers Policymakers Research and development organisations Healthcare professionals
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 meetings of the European Parliament's Interest Group on Informal Carers 2 meetings of the Eurocarers Policy Working Group 2 meetings of the Young Carers Working Group 11 in-country policy dialogues 1 study visit to Scotland 1 research study (replacing planned study visit in 2022) 4 policy briefings 17 position papers, calls for action, and consultation responses 2 annual updates of country profiles and monitoring documents 17 newsletters 2 Annual General Meetings 9 Board meetings 2 Annual Reports 2 European Carers Day campaigns 1 external evaluation
Implementation country(ies)	Belgium
Participating countries	26 countries
Coordinating organisation	Eurocarers - Association Européenne Travaillant Avec et Pour les Aidants
EU funding (EUR):	351,108.00 (call 2021); 353,421.00 (call 2022); 385,036.20 (call 2023)
Project/activity duration	01 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Project website	www.eurocarers.org
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eurocarers bi-monthly newsletter (At least) 1 Meeting of the Eurocarers Research Working Group Meetings of the European Parliament's Interest Group on informal carers Meeting of the Eurocarers Policy Working Group Position papers, calls to action or consultation responses Monitoring of situation and needs of informal carers in Europe



"We call for the development and implementation of an ambitious and comprehensive EU-level initiative that would address the various challenges facing carers throughout Europe by encouraging member states to recognise and support their significant contribution to care systems and society as a whole."

- [Active support to \(at least\) 2 in-country policy dialogues about care and caring](#)
- [Expansion of Eurocarers library of policy briefings by at least 2 new publications](#)
- [Annual Report 2023](#)
- [Policy briefings](#)
- [External evaluation of Eurocarers activities](#)

Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal

Funding & Tenders Portal: [call 2021](#); [call 2022](#); [call 2023](#)

Main aim of activities: Eurocarers aimed to promote and disseminate evidence-based recommendations for developing successful, integrated, and sustainable approaches to recognizing and supporting carers in their daily caregiving responsibilities. The network also sought to stimulate alternative solutions to informal care, such as investment in formal care, flexible working arrangements, and acknowledgment of carers' skills. The organisation worked to ensure that carers' voices are heard at local, regional, national, and EU levels, and that policy impacts on their daily lives are recognized by policymakers and politicians.

Main outputs and results: Eurocarers implemented capacity-building, networking, communication, and advocacy activities informed by research and good practices. The network contributed to EU policy developments, particularly the EU Care Strategy which reflects most elements listed in their own proposal for an EU Carers Strategy. At the national level, the network's efforts contributed to the development of the Swedish Carers' Strategy. The organisation maintained and expanded its network to 75 carers' organisations and research institutions from 26 countries, creating a unique combination that enables evidence-based advocacy.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: Eurocarers' approach is innovative in its combination of research and advocacy, bringing together both carers' organisations and research institutions to enable evidence-based policy recommendations. The network's European Carers Day campaign represents an innovative awareness-raising tool that has been successfully adopted by member organisations across Europe. Their comprehensive monitoring of carer-friendly policy environments across the EU through country profiles and overview tables provides a unique resource for tracking progress in supporting informal carers.

Sustainability measures: Eurocarers has developed a Network Development Strategy for 2023-2030 to ensure long-term sustainability. The strategy, in conjunction with the implementation of their proposed EU Strategy to support and empower carers, directs development efforts toward creating carer-friendly societies in Europe. The organisation also continuously updates its operating procedures and governance structures to remain transparent, agile, and financially sustainable in the long run. External evaluations conducted regularly have helped the organisation identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, enabling them to act in real time.

Transnational dimension: The transnational dimension is central to Eurocarers' work, bringing together 75 organisations from 26 countries. The network facilitates cross-border knowledge exchange through its working groups, study visits, and policy dialogues. In 2023, a study visits to Scotland focused on "From competition to collaboration: The interface between informal and formal carers," bringing together 31 participants from 13 countries to exchange knowledge and promote peer learning. The organisation also maintains collaborations with international bodies such as the WHO, OECD, and various European civil society networks.

Dissemination strategy: Eurocarers employs a comprehensive dissemination strategy including a website serving as an information hub, bi-monthly newsletters, social media campaigns, position papers, policy briefings, and the annual European Carers Day campaign. The organisation also contributes to podcasts and participates in various conferences and events to disseminate its message. Their Annual Reports provide detailed accounts of activities, achievements, and financial performance, contributing to transparency and visibility. Its website attracted over 97,500 page views in 2022 alone, and their European Carers Day campaign reached thousands through social media.

European added value: The project demonstrates European added value by fostering consistency and synergies between EU, national, and regional stakeholders. Eurocarers serves as a platform for collaboration, support, exchange, awareness-raising, and policy change across Europe. The network's influence on the development of the EU Care Strategy and its implementation at national levels (such as the Swedish Carers Strategy) demonstrates how EU-level coordination can drive positive changes for carers across member states. The project also facilitates the exchange of good practices and knowledge between different countries, which would be difficult to achieve without EU-level coordination and funding.

7.1.2. Direct grants

The IARC Monographs Programme

Activities: Direct grant to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs Programme (2021; 2022; 2023)

Target groups: Public health authorities; Policymakers (EC and associated scientific committees); Scientists and researchers; General public

EU funding (EUR): 180,000.00 (60,000.00 in 2021; 60,000.00 in 2022; 60,000.00 in 2023)



Description: The IARC Monographs programme aims to prepare and distribute authoritative information on the causes and prevention of human cancer by identifying environmental and occupational factors and other exposures that pose a carcinogenic hazard. It provides evidence-based, independent evaluations by global experts, disseminated worldwide as the IARC Monographs series, serving as a crucial resource for scientists, public health authorities, policymakers, and the public. The EU grants provided partial funding for convening Monographs evaluation meetings, scientific workshops, and advisory groups during the grant periods.



Main aim of activities: To provide partial funding for convening IARC Monographs evaluation meetings, scientific workshops, and advisory groups during the grant periods (8 July 2021 – 7 July 2024) to support the overall objective of preparing and distributing authoritative information on carcinogenic hazards for cancer prevention (Meetings: [KCs Ws, 135](#), [AGP, 136](#), [Report on Priorities 2025-2029](#)).



Main outputs and results: The programme convened seven Monographs evaluation meetings (Volumes 130-136), evaluating agents such as 1,1,1-trichloroethane, cobalt, occupational exposure as a firefighter, anthracene, 2-bromopropane, aspartame, methyleugenol, Perfluorooctanoic Acid, Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, talc, and acrylonitrile. Two scientific workshops on methodology (bias assessment, key characteristics) and one Advisory Group meeting to set future priorities were also held. The key outputs are the published IARC Monographs volumes and workshop/advisory group reports. The Monographs are regarded as authoritative evaluations globally and provide input to cancer prevention policies and regulatory actions (e.g., setting occupational exposure limits) in the European Union and worldwide. They serve as essential resources for health authorities, researchers, and policymakers. The programme has evaluated over 1045 agents since its inception. (Link to results on Funding & Tenders Portal: [call 2021](#); [call 2022](#); [call 2023](#))



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The outputs provide input to cancer prevention policies and regulatory actions (e.g., setting occupational exposure limits) in the European Union and worldwide, serving as essential resources for health authorities, researchers, and policymakers. This contributes to EU priorities like worker health and safety and chemical regulation, supporting the horizontal principle of ensuring a high level of health and safety protection, particularly for workers.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The IARC Monographs methodology itself is highly transferable and serves as a model for other hazard identification programmes globally, including within the European Union.



European added value/Innovativeness: The EU funding directly enabled the production of timely scientific evidence crucial for EU priorities, facilitating EU legislation and policies through authoritative scientific input (Articles: [Carcinogenicity of perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid](#), [Carcinogenicity of talc and acrylonitrile](#)). The programme generates economies of scale and promotes best practices in hazard identification, serving as a benchmark for regulatory science and fostering international collaboration. Innovativeness is demonstrated through continuous refinement of the evaluation methodology, incorporating cutting-edge science and developing advanced methods for integrating diverse evidence streams.

Direct Grant to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)

Activities: Direct Grant to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) (2021; 2022; 2023)

Target groups: Workers; General population; National radiation protection authorities; EC and Policymakers

EU funding (EUR): 75,000.00 (25,000.00 in 2021; 25,000.00 in 2022; 25,000.00 in 2023)



Description: Provision of independent scientific advice and guidance by an internationally recognised body International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection EV (ICNIRP) on the health effects of non-ionizing radiation (NIR) exposure, supporting occupational safety and health for workers and the general public through evidence-based guidance and policy underpinning.



Main aim of activities: To provide independent scientific advice and guidance on non-ionizing radiation protection, benefiting workers and the general population. This involves developing and updating guidance based on scientific advancements, providing the evidence base necessary to underpin policy developments and support evidence-based policymaking.



Main outputs and results: Over the 2021-2024 period (01 August 2021 – 31 July 2024), ICNIRP advanced its work plan across various NIR areas, including Low Frequency fields, Radio Frequency (RF) Guidelines knowledge gaps, Laser guidelines, Short Wavelength Light, Ultrasound, and Ultraviolet Chronic Exposure. Key results include the finalisation and publication of three Statements in 2023-2024 on Short Wavelength Light, Airborne Ultrasound, and RF Knowledge Gaps, relevant for worker protection (e.g., night-shift workers, industrial settings). Previous outputs include a Statement on ICNIRP's Best Practice System (2022) and a Joint Note on international radiation protection systems following a joint meeting (2023). The activities result in the advancement and dissemination of radiation protection guidance for the workforce and the general public. The core activity is the generation of policy-relevant evidence. The published scientific Statements (on Short Wavelength Light, Airborne Ultrasound, RF Knowledge Gaps, ICNIRP Best Practice System) and ongoing work on Guidelines (e.g., Low Frequency Fields) constitute direct evidence to inform policy developments, particularly supporting the maintenance and adaptation of EU Directive 2013/35/EU. (Link to results on Funding & Tenders Portal [call 2021](#); [call 2022](#); [call 2023](#) and link to [Annual Report 2023-2024](#))



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Supports occupational safety and health for workers and the general public by providing evidence-based guidance on NIR protection. Contributes to the scientific underpinning and adaptation of EU legislation (e.g., Directive 2013/35/EU) and harmonised safety standards, aligning with ESF+ priorities related to OSH and evidence-based policy-making.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The scientific guidelines and statements provide scientific benchmarks and are inherently transferable for global use by regulatory bodies and stakeholders. The methodology of independent scientific review and guidance development is also transferable to other technical domains.



European added value/Innovativeness: The activity demonstrates EU added value by directly contributing to the scientific underpinning and potential harmonisation of EU legislation (e.g., Directive 2013/35/EU) through providing a common, science-based foundation for NIR protection. Its innovativeness lies in the continuous updating of scientific advice and guidance to keep pace with rapid technological advancements and address emerging knowledge gaps, ensuring the guidance remains relevant and evidence-based.

Events organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU

Activities: Events organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU (2021, 2022, 2023)

Target groups: Public Employment Service leaders; European Commission

EU funding (EUR): 67,240.00 (16,000.00 in 2021; 16,000.00 in 2022; 35,240.00 in 2023)



Description: These projects involved the Public Employment Service (PES) of the Member State holding the rotating EU Council Presidency organising the bi-annual PES Network Board Meetings. These meetings convened senior PES leaders from across Europe and the European Commission to enhance cooperation, tackle major labour market challenges (e.g., COVID recovery, green/digital transitions, skills gaps, Ukraine war impacts), and support the European Employment Strategy. It also included the SLIC Thematic day bi-annual events, organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU.



Main aim of activities: The projects aimed to organise the bi-annual PES Network Board Meetings to strengthen PES cooperation and drive modernization across Europe. They facilitated strategic debate, the exchange of information and good practices, mutual learning through methods like 'Benchlearning', monitoring of the Network's work programme, and the generation of input for the European Employment Strategy, focusing on key EU priorities. It also involved the organisation of the SLIC Thematic days.



Main outputs and results: The projects delivered the bi-annual PES Network Board meetings hosted by successive EU Presidencies (including Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Sweden) from 2021-2023 as well as the organisation of the bi-annual SLIC Thematic Days of 2021-2023. Key outputs included the adoption of the PES Network Strategy, the development of thematic and position papers (e.g., on greening PES, skills intelligence), updates from the Benchlearning process, and detailed meeting reports capturing discussions and agreements.



Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: These projects significantly contributed to EaSI/ESF+ priorities by enhancing the institutional capacity and collaborative functioning of Public Employment Services across the EU. The meetings ensured PES activities aligned better with major EU initiatives like the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Green Deal, and the European Year of Skills, thereby supporting the effective implementation of employment policies and coordinated responses to labour market transformations.



Transferability element(s) of the activities: The projects highlighted several transferable elements inherent in the PES Network's functioning: the 'Benchlearning' methodology for comparative performance assessment and mutual learning, adaptable meeting formats including thematic sessions and 'marketplaces', the collaborative development of network-wide strategies and papers, Mutual Assistance Projects (MAPs) for targeted peer support, and the PES Practices online knowledge-sharing database.



European added value/innovativeness: The projects offered European added value by providing a platform for transnational PES cooperation, strategic dialogue with the Commission, and shared learning (Benchlearning) that could likely not be replicated at the national level. They demonstrated innovativeness by adapting to crises (virtual meetings during COVID, addressing Ukraine refugee influx), tackling future-oriented themes (AI, green skills), and adopting new communication tools like the PESPod podcast.

7.1.3. Other actions


Co-delegation to PMO


Activities:


- Experts reimbursement - SPC Working groups on Pension adequacy and long-term care, and High-Level Group on Social Protection (2021; 2022)
- Meetings of the Advisory Committee for Safety and Health at Work and Meetings of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (2022; 2023)


Target groups: Government and social protection officials; Occupational safety and health authorities; Labour inspectorates; Social partners (employers' and workers' organisations), Pension and long-term care experts


EU funding (EUR): 415,000.00 (15,000.00 in 2021; 200,000.00 in 2022; 200,000.00 in 2023)

 **Description:** These grants financed expert reimbursements and meeting costs for SPC Working Groups (Pension Adequacy and Long-term Care), High-Level Groups (Future of Social Protection), the Advisory Committee for Safety and Health at Work (ACSH), and the SLIC.


 **Main aim of activities:** To facilitate the work of key EU-level committees and working groups by financing expert participation and meetings. This supports dialogue and the preparation of policy reports and analysis on social protection (pension adequacy, long-term care), safety and health, and labour inspection.

 **Main outputs and results:** Facilitation of meetings and expert participation for SPC Working Groups, High-Level Groups, the ACSH, and SLIC. Key outputs include the preparation and finalisation of joint EC-SPC reports on Pension Adequacy and Long-Term Care, including policy mappings.

 **Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities:** Activities strengthened institutional capacity and fostered networking and dialogue at the EU level on critical social policy areas (social protection, safety and health), contributing to evidence-based policy making and mutual learning among Member States.

 **European added value/Innovativeness:** Facilitated essential EU-level cooperation, coordination, and evidence gathering on social protection and safety and health issues, ensuring consistent analysis and dialogue across Member States. The co-delegation mechanism supports the functioning of these key EU bodies.

7.1.4. Procurement

 **IT Projects**

Activities:

- Co-delegation to DIGIT: Corporate IT contribution (2023)
- Co-delegation to DIGIT: e-Grants and SEDIA annual contribution (2023)
- Co-delegation to DIGIT: IT Project: Corporate IT (2021, 2022)
- Co-delegation to DIGIT: IT Project: EURES: JIRA Support (2021; 2022)
- Co-delegation to DIGIT: IT Project: e-Grants + SEDIA - annual maintenance fee (2021; 2022; 2023)
- Co-delegation to DIGIT: IT Project: Horizontal: Hosting and services, including computers (admin) (2023)
- IT Project: DMS (2) (2021, 2023)
- IT Project: ESCO: Development, Maintenance, Licenses (2021)
- IT Project: EUROPASS II business expertise (2021)
- IT Project: EUROPASS II operations (2021)
- IT Project: EUROPASS Support to the rollout of European digital credentials (2021)
- IT Project: Europass: Europass phase II (2021)

Target groups: Workers; 3rd country citizens; Children; Elderly people (3rd age), Homeless, LTU, Marginalised communities; Micro entrepreneurs; Most deprived; NEETs / Inactive; People in vulnerable situations; Persons with disability; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy; Women; Social partners; Mobile citizens (social protection)

Indicative number of contracts: 39

EU funding (EUR): 7,139,853.60 (5,362,211.17 in 2021; 363,297.51 in 2022; 1,414,344.92 in 2023).

Main aim of activities: These contracts aimed to develop, maintain, operate, and provide expertise for essential IT systems supporting EU employment, skills, and social innovation policies. Activities included managing the Europass portal content and support, providing business analysis and technical support for Europass, supporting Member States in rolling out Europass Digital Credentials, managing European Skills, Competences, development, and licenses, providing JIRA support for EURES, managing the Document Management System (DMS), and funding corporate IT contributions, e-Grants, and Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA) maintenance.

Main outputs and results: These activities delivered and maintained key IT platforms and systems. Outputs included the Europass portal (with tools like the Curriculum Vitae editor, e-Portfolio, and digital credentials), the ESCO platform, EURES IT support systems (like JIRA), the DMS, and contributions to corporate IT infrastructures like e-Grants and SEDIA. Specific deliverables encompassed content management, second-line user support, business analysis, technical support, project management, user testing, and system hosting, development, maintenance, and licensing.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ Priorities: The IT projects directly supported the digital transition by providing EU-wide digital tools for skills, learning, and employment (Europass, ESCO, EURES). They contributed to a fair transition and equal opportunities by making skills and qualifications more transparent and supporting mobility for various target groups, including vulnerable individuals.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: These contracts provided EU added value by creating standardized, interoperable digital tools (Europass, ESCO, EURES) facilitating cross-border mobility, recognition of skills, and access to information, which individual Member States could likely not replicate. Innovation was demonstrated through the development of Europass Digital Credentials and the integration of systems like ESCO with Europass and EURES.



Capacity building activities

Activities:

- Appropriation for the use of various existing framework contracts and small-scale procurement: DIRECTORATE COMMON POT (2023)
- PES (Public Employment Services) meetings (2022)

Target groups: Long Term Unemployed (LTU); Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) / Inactive; Self-employed and short term contract workers (up to 6 months); Women; 3rd country citizens; Most deprived; People in vulnerable situations; Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy.

Indicative number of contracts: 9

EU funding (EUR): 105,535.24 (5,535.24 in 2022; 100,000.00 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: These activities focused on capacity building activities such as support for meetings (meetings rooms and travels), to support the Commission's and Member States' work on implementation of social policy reforms.

Main outputs and results: These contracts resulted in support to the organisation of the AFEPAs meetings (Brussels). It also resulted in support for CY Peer Review, a joint initiative between the Ministry of Health and Social Care for Health monitoring of care homes in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ Priorities: These activities supported EaSI/ESF+ objectives by enhancing institutional capacity and EU-level networking. The CY Peer Review directly addressed social protection issues highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The EU added value lies in facilitating EU-wide networks for exchanging experiences and best practices, which strengthens national capacities. Mutual learning events and peer reviews promoted the transferability of innovative social policy approaches across Member States.



Conference, events, meetings

Activities:

- EMPL annual flagship event (2023)

Target groups: People in vulnerable situations; Marginalised communities; Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy; Women; Workers; Social partners.

Indicative number of contracts: 1

EU funding (EUR): 2,491,212.91

Main aim of activities: This contract aimed to organise the EMPL annual flagship event (European Employment and Social Rights Forum - EESRF). The EESRF 2023 focused on "AI and the world of work," aiming to foster high-level dialogue among stakeholders.

Main outputs and results: The main output was the organised event. Outputs for the EESRF 2023 encompassed developing and implementing a communication strategy, audiovisual production, managing speakers and exhibitors, logistics, and producing final event reports.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ Priorities: Activities contributed to a fair transition for better employment, working conditions, and social inclusion by providing platforms for high-level discussion on critical social and employment issues, such as AI's impact on work (EESRF 2023).

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The EU added value stemmed from convening diverse stakeholders from across the EU to discuss pressing social and employment challenges and share potential solutions. These flagship events raised visibility for EU social policy initiatives and fostered networking. The EESRF 2023's focus on AI demonstrated engagement with innovative and transformative topics.



Network of experts

Activity: Social Policy Network (ESPN) (2021)

Target groups: Elderly people (3rd age), Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy, Women

Indicative number of contracts: 1

EU funding (EUR): 2,200,000

Main aim of activities: This contract aimed to support expert networks and policy development. Activities included providing independent expertise on social policies.


Main outputs and results: The contracts established and maintained expert network and facilitated policy dialogue. Outputs included thematic reports, support to Semester analysis and secretarial support to the MISSOC (Mutual Information System on Social Protection).

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ Priorities: These activities contributed to a fair transition for better employment, working conditions, and social inclusion by providing expert analysis. The work addressed social policy concerns.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The EU added value lies in creating and sustaining EU-wide expert networks, which provide comparative analysis and expertise that informs both EU and national policymaking.

8. KPI 5 - Job placements under targeted mobility schemes (TMS)

THE EASI STRAND OF THE ESF+



KPI 5.

Job placements under targeted mobility schemes

KPI 5 is a key performance indicator covering a wide range of activities including those aimed at policy objectives such as improving access to employment, modernising the labour market, and enhancing active inclusion and employability. These activities include capacity-building initiatives, communication conferences, events, meetings, data collection and statistical analysis, IT project development, and the preparation of reports.






MOBILITY OF WORKERS

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE VOLUNTARY GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY OF WORKERS AND EXPAND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY DEVELOPING AND PROVIDING TARGETED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR EMPLOYERS AND JOBSEEKERS

THE EASI STRAND FUNDED (2021-2023)

Projects	Procurement Activities
18	22

EXAMPLES OF OUTPUTS PRODUCED

-  Transnational cooperation such as establishing operational plans, workshops, counselling centres, and stakeholder events.
-  Production of outputs such as country reports, podcasts, policy briefs, online platforms, data and statistics (e.g., Eurobarometer), communicating activities (e.g., EURES) and multilingual training materials.
-  Improvement of rights awareness and access to information for posted and cross-border workers, including third-country nationals.
-  Facilitation of job placements and cross-border contracts, as well as supporting individuals through coaching and counselling.
-  Development and dissemination of policy recommendations on topics such as labour mobility, worker protection and enforcement.

8.1. Geographical mobility of workers (d)

8.1.1. Projects

This section covers projects under the following calls:

- **Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information (ESF-2021-POW)³²:** This call intended to support the Commission and the Member States to understand existing and new challenges and develop initiatives in the field of posting of workers and a decent work agenda. The general objective of the call contributes to the implementation of the key principles of the EPSR in the area of posting of workers.
- **EURES Cross Border Partnerships (ESF-2021-CBC-ECP) / EURES EEA non-EU countries cooperation (ESF-2021-CBC-EEA)³³:** The overall objectives of these calls were to facilitate workers' intra-EU labour mobility, to boost employment opportunities as well as to support the implementation of the EURES Regulation. The ultimate goal of the call was to facilitate the job matching, placement and recruitment process on a fair basis.
- **EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme (ESF-2021-EURES-TMS-01)³⁴:** This action was part of the purpose to build a more inclusive and sustainable growth model, with a view to stimulating investments, creating jobs, fostering social cohesion and fairer labour mobility. The action was aimed to fulfil people's needs, supporting and promoting the implementation of tailor-made employment services and innovative forms of work, that ensure quality working conditions, to foster the placement and integration of mobile workers in the host country(ies), combined with financial incentives. It aligns with the key EPSR principle of equal opportunities and access to the labour market.

³² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2021-pow-01>

³³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ESF-2021-CBC-ECP>

³⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2021-eures-tms-01>

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Posting of workers: strengthening and deepening transnational cooperation	
Call identification number	ESF-2021 POW 01
Grant/contract identification number	101059324
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public authorities • Social partners • Non-governmental organisations
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of meetings (e.g., kick-off, remote steering committee) • Implementation of 8 operational cooperation plans (with 2 more being prepared) • Organisation of workshops (e.g., 1 workshop to co-design cooperation plans, 1 focus group workshop) • Preparing a summary of written questionnaires on third-country worker posting practices • Organisation of an extended transnational distance-sharing seminar (planned for December 2023)
Implementation country(ies)	France
Participating countries	Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Germany, Italy
Coordinating organisation	Institut National du Travail de L'emploi et de la Formation Professionnelle (France)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France: Institut national du travail de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle; Astrees; Ministère du Travail et de l'Emploi • Norway: Arbeidstilsynet • Portugal: Autoridade para as Condições do Trabalho • Germany: Arbeit und Leben DGB/VHS Hamburg e.V.; Arbeit und Leben Berlin-Brandenburg DGB/VHS e.V. • Spain: Organismo Autónomo Organismo Estatal Inspección de Trabajo y Seguridad Social • Luxembourg: Inspection du Travail et des Mines du Luxembourg ITM • Italy: Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro • Belgium: Europese Federatie voor Bouw- en Houtarbeiders FV; Service Public Fédéral Emploi, Travail et Concertation Sociale; Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants ASBL; European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism; Fédération de l'Industrie Européenne de la Construction; Confédération Européenne des Syndicats ADF; World Employment Confederation Europe • Slovenia: Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti – Inšpektorat Republike Slovenije za delo • Bulgaria: Glavna inspeksiya po truda • Romania: Inspectoria Muncii – Labour Inspection • Slovakia: Národný inšpektorát práce • Poland: Państwowa Inspekcja Pracy – Główny Inspektorat Pracy • Greece: Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Ypotheoseon



Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Netherlands: Tilburg University – Universiteit van Tilburg; Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid Finland: Etelä-Suomen aluehallintovirasto, Lounais-Suomen aluehallintovirasto
EU funding (EUR)	516,965.00
Project/activity duration	01 January 2023 – 30 June 2024
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tender Portal

Main aim of activities: Building on five previous EU-funded projects since 2011, this project addresses the ongoing need to strengthen transnational cooperation regarding the posting of workers. The general objective is to strengthen and deepen transnational cooperation for better effectiveness of Community law relating to posting operations. The project aims to achieve this through a scheme involving EU and national level stakeholders (public authorities, social partners, NGOs) from both sending and receiving countries. The project has three specific objectives: 1) Being a protagonist of cooperation process: Continue implementing operational cooperation plans to guarantee workers' rights; 2) Building up common expertise: Address the issue of third country posted workers by identifying obstacles and opportunities; 3) Sharing and disseminating knowledge: Transfer working practices and skills developed through successive projects, both within cooperation plans and among all project participants.

Main outputs and result: The project successfully organised its kick-off meeting, a steering committee, and workshops in Bratislava and Lisbon. Eight operational cooperation plans were underway, addressing diverse issues (safety, accident reporting, third-country workers, specific sectors) using varied methods (NGO-labour administration cooperation, multi-country plans, experience transfer). Two further plans were being prepared. Initial work on building common expertise regarding third country posted workers commenced, including questionnaires and a focus group workshop identifying key questions for future work.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project aims to transfer working practices and skills within partner organisations and more broadly. The operational cooperation plans themselves serve as vehicles for transferring experience and methodologies between partners. The project aims to consolidate and expand professional networks specifically for disseminating practices and know-how.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project's innovative nature lies in its working methods that promote individual and collective skills increase (capacity building) through learning by doing and practice exchange. It also provides impetus to strengthen collaborations between diverse stakeholders: public authorities, social partners, and NGOs, fostering a multi-faceted approach to transnational cooperation on posting. Some cooperation plans are noted as innovative in scope (e.g., involving 6 Member States) or focus (e.g., specific business models, NGO cooperation).

Transnational dimension: The project involves partners from numerous EU Member States and Norway, including labour authorities, social partners (at EU and national/local levels), and NGOs, representing both sending and receiving countries. Key activities include implementing cross-border operational cooperation plans and transnational workshops/seminars addressing shared challenges in enforcing posting regulations.

Dissemination strategy: Planned activities include a transnational distance-sharing seminar. The project aims to consolidate and expand professional networks to disseminate practices and know-how.

European added value: The project provides European added value primarily through 1) strengthening transnational cooperation – directly addressing the need for enhanced collaboration between Member States' authorities, social partners, and NGOs to improve the application of EU law on posting; 2) networking – consolidating and expanding networks of professionals across Europe involved in posting issues; 3) promoting best practices – facilitating the exchange and potential adoption of effective cooperation methods and practices developed through the project and previous initiatives (Eurodetachment); 4) complementarity with EU bodies – operating in synergy with the European Labour Authority. The project addresses cross-border enforcement challenges that individual Member States cannot tackle effectively alone.

Sustainability measures: The project design incorporates sustainability, with partners designing cooperation plans intended to be sustainable beyond the project duration. The long-term ambition explicitly aims for "structural and sustainable transnational cooperation" complementary to European Labour Authority (ELA)'s work. The project builds upon a long-standing network (Eurodetachment), suggesting potential for continuity.

Horizontal principles: The project's focus on guaranteeing workers' rights inherently supports the inclusion of potentially vulnerable groups (posted workers). The involvement of PICUM specifically addresses migrant workers' perspectives.

Posting of workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, current challenges, and future prospects



GOOD PRACTICE

Call identification number	ESF-2021-POW-01	
Grant/contract identification number	101059309	
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility	
Action	ESF Project Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted workers (potential and current) • Employers (in the manufacturing sector) • Social partners • Public authorities • Civil Society Organisations / NGOs • Research institutions / Universities 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of meetings (e.g., kick-off meeting, transnational project meetings, quarterly evaluation meetings, researchers' meetings) • Preparation of reports (e.g., technical reports, country-specific analytical reports, scientific reports, scenarios report) • Development of a communication and dissemination plan, including project branding, a web page, promotional materials and social media • Organisation of events and conferences (e.g., National Level Multiplier Events, International Final Conference) • Data collection activities (e.g., conduction of online surveys, in-depth interviews, focus groups) • Production of video podcasts • Creation of an online exhibition • Preparation and publishing of national level informative articles 	
Implementation country(ies)	Poland	
Participating countries	Bulgaria, Portugal, Slovakia, Greece, Serbia	
Coordinating organisation	Federacja Związkow Zawodowych Metalowcow i Hutnikow w Polsce (Poland)	
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greece: Panepistimio Thessalias; Kentro Ekpaidefsis kai Kainotomias Astiki Mi Kerdoskopiki Etaireia • Slovakia: Republiková únia zamestnávateľov • Bulgaria: Innogrowth European Association for Innovation and Growth • Portugal: Universidade Nova de Lisboa • Serbia: Samostalni sindikat metalaca Srbije • Bulgaria: Sindikalna federatsiya na mashinostroitelite i metalorabotnitsite na KT Podkrepa 	
EU funding (EUR)	255,448.40	
Project/activity duration	01 November 2022 – 30 April 2024	
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal	

Main aim of activities: The project aimed to analyse the impact of COVID-19 on the process of posting workers in the manufacturing sector. It had two dimensions: first, to observe and research the characteristics of posting in this sector during the pandemic, identifying main challenges faced by Member States, EU institutions, and stakeholders; second, to prepare scenarios of how the posting process might develop post-pandemic in the manufacturing sector.

Specific objectives included: (1) Researching the state of the art and current challenges via mapping and observing pandemic impacts on posted workers' conditions and the posting process; (2) Gathering evidence on worker and employer challenges, verifying the extent the pandemic undermined posting processes and freedom to provide services; (3) Building an evidence base and creating post-COVID-19 scenarios for posting in manufacturing.

Main outputs and results: The project produced a range of outputs including country-specific reports, articles, podcasts, and scenarios. Key results include the identification and analysis of challenges faced by posted workers during the pandemic (e.g., workplace safety, rights, mental health, logistics). Awareness among stakeholders was raised through national and international events. Policy recommendations, based on research findings and stakeholder consultations, were formulated to enhance worker protection during health crises.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project's specific focus on analysing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the posting of workers, particularly within the manufacturing sector, addresses a novel and timely issue. The development of future scenarios based on this unique crisis context represents an innovative approach to foresight in this policy field. The attempt to use storytelling and video podcasts to capture workers' direct experiences, despite participation challenges, was an innovative method for qualitative data collection in this area.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated policy-relevant evidence, including: 6 Country Specific Analytical Reports, 6 National Level Informative Articles, 6 National Level Academic Articles, 2 Summative Scientific Reports (academic and informative), and 1 Scenarios Report detailing potential future developments. These outputs are intended to provide an evidence base for stakeholders and policymakers.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, involving a consortium of organisations from six countries (Poland, Greece, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Portugal, Serbia), including EU Member States and a candidate country. The research compared experiences across these nations (net sending and receiving countries represented), and outputs were produced in national languages and English to ensure wider reach. The project facilitated networking and knowledge exchange through transnational meetings and an international conference.

Dissemination strategy: A comprehensive dissemination strategy was implemented, including project branding, a dedicated project website, a Facebook page, a YouTube channel for podcasts, use of partner organisations' websites and social media, national and international events (multiplier events, final conference), and the production of promotional materials (vests, posters, factsheets, newsletters). Outputs like reports and articles were published and disseminated online and through national media where possible.

European added value: The project directly contributed to understanding the implementation and challenges of EU legislation (Posting of Workers Directive) in the specific context of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing evidence for potential future policy adjustments. It generated comparative evidence across Member States and a candidate country, promoting benchmarking and informing decision-making. The project addressed a cross-border phenomenon (posting) and the risks amplified by the pandemic. It facilitated significant transnational networking among diverse stakeholders (unions, employers, CSOs, academia) from multiple countries.

Sustainability measures: The project plans for sustainability through the continued availability of digital outputs (reports, podcasts, website) and ongoing activities by partner organisations leveraging their networks. Partners intend to use the research findings for lobbying actions and future policy discussions. Cooperation agreements aim to maintain communication. The organisational stability of partners supports the continued use of results. Independent monitoring of output use is planned. Membership in European/international bodies will aid further dissemination.

Horizontal principles: The project addressed gender equality by ensuring gender balance within the project team and activities where possible. It focused on non-discrimination by targeting posted workers, considered a vulnerable group particularly during the pandemic. Efforts were made to reach out to third-country nationals as part of this vulnerable group through dissemination and consultation.

Good practice: The project produced multiple outputs related to COVID-19's impact on posted workers. It also raised stakeholders' awareness via events and formulated policy recommendations to better protect workers. It showed innovativeness by developing scenarios and using storytelling. A comprehensive dissemination strategy ensured findings reached policymakers across countries. Moreover, it provided comparative insights on applying EU posting rules during a crisis and fostered transnational networking.

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

POSTCARE 2.0: Informing the Care Services Workers on Posting Rules	
Call identification number	ESF-2021 POW 01
Grant/contract identification number	101059353
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third-country national posted workers (in the care sector) Employers (in the care sector) Workers' representatives / Trade unions / Employers' representatives NGOs Public authorities
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Online Kick-off meeting organised 1 Online International Working Meeting organised 6 Online Information Centres (OICs) established and managed (1 per partner country) 2 Online Information Exchange Meetings organised 12 "Postcare Info Labs" (Online Informative Seminars/workshops) organised (2 per partner country) 1 Report on the Info Centres' Activities produced 6 National Recommendation and Solutions documents produced (1 per partner country) 1 Online Information Platform established and maintained Dissemination activities conducted (including 1 project logo, 1 roll-up, project brochures, 5 newsletters, 9 social media posts, 8 video clips/vlogs, 1 principal video, 2 dissemination videos) 3 Information Fiches produced (for third-country nationals - TCNs, trade unions, employers)
Implementation country(ies)	Poland
Participating countries	Spain, Greece, Netherlands, Lithuania, Serbia
Coordinating organisation	Federacja Przedsiębiorców Polskich (Poland)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poland: Europejski Instytut Mobilności Pracy Spain: Coalición Sindical Independiente de Trabajadores de Madrid Greece: Paneristimio Thessalias, Kentro Ekpaidevsi Kai Kainotomias Astiki Mi Kerdoskópiki Etaireia Lithuania: Lietuvos profesinė sąjunga „Solidarumas“ Netherlands: The International La Strada Association Serbia: Sindikat zaposlenih u zdravstvu i socijalnoj zaštiti Srbije
EU funding (EUR)	237,005.85
Project/activity duration	01 September 2022 – 29 February 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	Postcare 2.0
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Information Platform Recommendation & Solutions document Project interim/final report narrative and financial reports Final external evaluation



Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal

[Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Main aim of activities: The general objective of POSTCARE 2.0 was to contribute to the implementation of key principles of the EU Pillar of Social Rights concerning the posting of workers across EU Member States. This was pursued by developing and improving information and advisory forms and formats and providing consultancy services targeting TCNs about posting rules and their rights to decent work conditions (including secure employment, wages, protection in case of dismissal, social dialogue). Specific objectives included improving the understanding of challenges related to posting TCNs in the care sector among employers and worker representatives in Poland, Spain, Greece, the Netherlands, Lithuania, and Serbia; and raising awareness among TCN posted workers and European employers, strengthening their capacity to deal with employment challenges through information campaigns and tools like the Online Information Platform.

Main outputs and results: The project successfully implemented its planned activities, including establishing OICs in all partner countries, organising international meetings, informative 'Info Lab' workshops, and developing key outputs. These outputs included a consolidated Report on OIC activities, national Recommendation and Solutions documents, an Online Information Platform, and targeted Information Fiches for TCNs, trade unions, and employers. Dissemination materials such as newsletters, videos, and vlogs were also produced and shared. These activities contributed to improving the understanding of challenges related to posting TCNs in the care sector and raising awareness among target groups.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The model of Online Information Centres and "Info Labs," focused on providing specific information on posting rules to TCNs and employers within a particular sector (care), could potentially be transferred to other sectors facing similar challenges or adapted for different Member States. The multilingual information materials developed (Report on OICs, Recommendation documents, Information Fiches, online platform content), available online, enhance the potential for transferability and wider use.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project's innovative aspect lies in its specific focus on third-country national posted workers, a group often overlooked in analyses and information initiatives concerning worker posting. It particularly addressed this group within the care sector. The development and implementation of tailored information tools like the Online Information Centres and country-specific Info Labs, directly addressing the practical information needs identified (partially through the preceding POSTCARE 1.0 project), can be considered an innovative approach to service delivery for this target group.

Policy evidence generated: The project produced a comprehensive Report on the Info Centres' Activities, consolidating findings from the national OICs, and six national Recommendation and Solutions documents. These documents analyse the legal framework, key challenges, and practical issues encountered by TCN posted workers and their employers in the care sector across the participating countries, offering case studies and potential solutions. These outputs constitute evidence that could inform future policy developments related to the posting of TCNs in the care sector.

Transnational dimension: The project was inherently transnational, involving a consortium of partners from six different countries (Poland, Spain, Greece, Netherlands, Lithuania, Serbia), representing both net sending and net receiving countries for posted workers. Activities such as the Online Information Centres, Info Labs, and international exchange meetings were implemented across these countries. This structure facilitated the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices regarding the posting of TCNs in the care sector across diverse national contexts.

Dissemination strategy: The project employed a comprehensive dissemination strategy using multiple channels. Key tools included a dedicated Online Information Platform, social media presence (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), project newsletters, promotional videos and vlogs (with multilingual subtitles), printed brochures, and a project roll-up. Project outputs like the OIC report, recommendation documents, and information fiches were made available online and distributed in printed format. The strategy aimed to reach target groups (TCNs, employers, social partners, public authorities) and raise awareness about the project and its findings, ensuring visibility of EU funding through appropriate logos and disclaimers.

European added value: The project provided European added value by addressing information gaps for TCN posted workers, contributing to fairer labour mobility and the implementation of the EU Pillar of Social Rights. Its transnational nature, involving partners from diverse Member States and a candidate country, allowed for the sharing of experiences and development of solutions applicable across different contexts. It fostered networking between organisations (trade unions, employer federations, research institutions, NGOs) from multiple countries dealing with posting issues. The developed resources (online platform, multilingual reports and fiches) are accessible EU-wide.

Sustainability measures: Project outputs, including the Online Information Platform, reports, and fiches, remain available online after the project's completion. The partners intend to continue cooperation and potentially develop follow-up initiatives building on the project's results and network. The knowledge and capacity built among social partners and involved experts through project activities are expected to persist.

Horizontal principles: The project addressed non-discrimination by focusing on the specific needs of a vulnerable group (TCN posted workers) and ensuring free access to information resources. It paid attention to gender equality by including participation data disaggregated by gender for meetings and Info Labs, showing significant female participation, relevant in the female-dominated care sector. Activities aimed to empower workers, including those in potentially precarious situations, by providing information on their rights and working conditions. Accessibility was addressed through online platforms and multilingual materials.

Mobility IMPACT on Transport Workers		 GOOD PRACTICE
Call identification number	ESF-2021-POW-01	
Grant/contract identification number	101059307	
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility	
Action	ESF Project Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted workers in the transport sector • Employers in the transport sector • Policy stakeholders and social partners 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Kick-off meeting (online, Nov 2022) • 1 Research and analysis phase on the influence of the Mobility Package (conducted in Italy, Poland, Croatia, Norway, Greece, Spain) • 2 Experts' working meetings (online, May & Sep 2023) focused on research results and article realisation • 1 Face-to-face workshop (Malaga, Spain, Feb 2024) involving partners and external stakeholders • 2 Online meetings to discuss the realisation of articles, infographics and vodcast (one specifically noted for infographics in Dec 2023) • 1 Follow-up meeting (online) to present final results and materials 	
Implementation country(ies)	Italy	
Participating countries	Belgium, Poland, Croatia, Spain, Greece, Norway	
Coordinating organisation	Federazione Autonoma dei Sindacati dei Trasporti (Italy)	
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poland: Izba Gospodarcza Europy Srodkowej • Croatia: Institut za Razvoj i Medunarodne Odnose • Spain: Fundación Antonio Bustamante para el Desarrollo de las Profesiones y el Movimiento Sindical Independiente • Greece: Panepistimio Thessalias; Kentro Ekpaidevsis Kai Kainotomias Astiki Mi Kerdoskepiki Etairia • Norway: Solidaritet • Belgium: CESI International 	
EU funding (EUR)	329,554.86	
Project/activity duration	01 August 2022 – 31 July 2024	
Link to output(s) produced	Vodcasts	
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal	

Main aim of activities: The project pursued several specific objectives focused on key stakeholders and the legislative context. It aimed to decrease the fear and insecurity of posted workers through direct communication, providing suitable and easy-to-understand information (such as infographics and videos), and involving them in the creation process, while also safeguarding companies that post workers by providing them with relevant information. Concurrently, the project sought to analyse the effects of implementing the changes and new rules introduced by the Mobility Package. Ultimately, it aimed to engage a wide audience, raising awareness about the Mobility Package and its specific relationship with both posted workers and the companies employing them.

Main outputs and results: The project strengthened partner organisations' roles in protecting posted workers' rights and safeguarding employers' interests. It provided analysis and understanding of Mobility Package measures and implications, presenting them accessibly through country and comparative reports. The project achieved its specific objectives by making posted workers aware of their rights through clear information and participation; involving posting companies and providing tools for understanding posting processes; strengthening transnational cooperation between employers and workers; sharing results with other actors; and raising public awareness via social media and partner dissemination. The project contributed to creating a framework for fair competition and respect for posted workers' rights, enabling businesses and workers to benefit from the internal market.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The methodology employed (multi-country research, comparative analysis, development of accessible communication materials) is transferable to assessing the impact of other EU regulations in different sectors or Member States. The outputs, particularly the multi-lingual reports, articles, infographics, and vodcasts, are designed for wider use and can be adapted or serve as models for similar initiatives elsewhere.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project was among the first activities to focus on the Mobility Package and changes to posted workers law after their entry into force in February 2022. It employed an innovative communication strategy combining different formats for varied reach and longevity: video podcasts as a long-term reference, printed infographics for initial attention, and interactive digital infographics for mid-term recall and engagement. The digital infographics featured QR codes linking to useful web pages and contact details for support. The timely focus on new legislation and the multi-format communication approach represents good practices in relevance and dissemination.

Policy evidence generated: The project directly generated policy-relevant evidence through its research activities. This includes 6 country-specific reports analysing the national situation regarding the Mobility Package and posting rules, a comparative report synthesising findings across seven languages, and numerous articles discussing the impacts and regulations. These outputs provide evidence on the application and effects of recent EU legislation in the transport sector.

Dissemination strategy: The project employed a multi-channel dissemination strategy. Outputs included printed and digital interactive infographics (with QR codes), videos podcast, and articles. These materials aimed to provide suitable and easy-to-understand information directly to workers and companies. It also engaged a wide audience, raising public awareness through social media, and dissemination activities undertaken by project partners.

European added value: The project demonstrated strong European added value through its transnational consortium (8 partners from 6 EU/EEA countries + Belgium), directly addressing EU-level directives and policies (Posting of Workers Directives, Mobility Package). It tackled cross-border issues inherent to worker posting in the transport sector. The research collected comparative data across multiple Member States, highlighting differences and common challenges in implementation. By fostering cooperation between diverse partners (unions, research institutions, chambers of commerce, foundations) and disseminating results (reports, articles, multimedia) in multiple languages, the project promoted shared understanding and solutions within the EU internal market, contributing to fairer competition and worker protection across borders.

Sustainability measures: Project results are designed for longevity. Outputs such as country and comparative reports, articles, infographics (digital versions), and video podcasts remain available online through project/partner websites after the project's conclusion. The partner consortium signed a continuity agreement, indicating commitment to future collaboration and building upon the project's work. This agreement outlines potential future actions focusing on areas such as health and safety for transport workers, occupational diseases, digitalization impacts, and further analysis of the Mobility Package implementation, potentially involving new partners.

Horizontal principles: The project focused on ensuring fair competition and respect for the rights of posted workers, thereby contributing to fair working conditions, a key EU principle. By aiming to reduce workers' insecurity and safeguard employers, it implicitly addresses social inclusion within the target group.

Good practice: The project demonstrated concrete effectiveness, including replicable methods and multi-lingual outputs that can be reused by other regions. It generated policy-relevant evidence, developed sustainability measures and innovated in its communication strategy. By directly addressing EU legislation in a cross-border context, it fostered cooperation across countries and produced shared solutions for fair competition and worker protection.

INFO-POW - Assessment of the channels of information and their use in the posting of workers



GOOD PRACTICE

Call identification number	ESF-2021-POW-01	
Grant/contract identification number	101059290	
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility	
Action	ESF Project Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public authorities • Social partners • Private service providers • Companies in the construction sector • Research community 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of 182 information channels across 5 EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia) • Pilot web survey on information access and use by posting and user construction undertakings in 5 countries • Stakeholder consultation workshop with 48 participants • 5 country reports (Austria, Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia) • 1 comparative report on survey results • 1 survey manual • 5 policy briefs • 5 blogs (one in each project country) • 1 e-book with 8 chapters, including country-specific chapters • 5 academic articles submitted for review • Final conference and upscaling event with 46 participants 	
Implementation country(ies)	Austria	
Participating countries	Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia	
Coordinating organisation	Europäisches Zentrum für Wohlfahrtspolitik und Sozialforschung (Austria)	
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium: Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Europese Federatie voor Bouw- en Houtarbeiders FV; vzw Bouwunie; European Builders Confederation, Fédération de l'Industrie Européenne de la Construction • Italy: Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Confindustria Vicenza • Slovakia: Centrum spoločenských a psychologických vied SAV; Konfederácia odborových zväzov Slovenskej republiky; Slovenská obchodná a priemyselná komora, Národný inspektorát práce • Slovenia: Znanstveno-raziskovalni center Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti; Zavod Republike Slovenije za zaposlovanje 	
EU funding (EUR)	371,902.87	
Project/activity duration	01 September 2022 – 29 February 2024	
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal	

Main aim of activities: The overarching aim of the INFO-POW project was to identify and assess both new and existing challenges and needs faced by undertakings within the construction sector when accessing and utilising relevant information concerning the process of posting workers and the obligations arising from it. To achieve this,

the project pursued several specific objectives: firstly, to map the online and offline information channels offered by state and non-state actors within the five participating countries (Austria, Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, and Slovenia). Secondly, it aimed to pilot a web survey specifically targeting posting and user undertakings in the construction industry to pinpoint their needs regarding the availability, accessibility, and quality of information. Thirdly, the project sought to collect valuable insights and recommendations directly from representatives of public authorities and social partners on how to enhance the access to and use of publicly available information on posting. Fourthly, it focused on identifying best practices and formulating concrete recommendations to improve the overall availability and quality of information. Fifthly, the project aimed to actively promote its findings through a variety of publications directed at scientific, specialised, and general audiences to heighten awareness about the importance of improved information access. Finally, it intended to promote the upscaling of the web survey methodology and the study's results beyond the construction sector and across the wider EU, thereby supporting better access to information, ensuring the correct application of rules, and preventing abuse related to the posting of workers.

Main outputs and results: The project successfully mapped 182 information channels across five countries, producing a comprehensive open-access dataset. It conducted 37 interviews and a pilot web survey with 121 companies, providing unique insights into company practices, needs, and challenges regarding information access. Key outputs include 5 country reports, a comparative analysis, a survey manual, 5 policy briefs, 5 blog articles, an e-book, and 5 submitted academic articles, all contributing evidence for policymakers, social partners, and researchers. Impacts include enhanced understanding of the information landscape, identification of information gaps, and the provision of recommendations. The project fostered dialogue between researchers and stakeholders through events.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project explicitly aimed to promote the upscaling of its methodologies and results. The mapping methodology and dataset, along with the survey manual and comparative analysis, are published open access, facilitating their use and adaptation in other countries or sectors. Recommendations produced are intended for broader application. The final event focused on discussing upscaling options with stakeholders.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project demonstrated innovativeness primarily through its research methodology and focus. It employed a systematic approach to comprehensively map both online and offline information channels available to companies involved in the posting of workers across five EU countries. A key innovative aspect was the development and piloting of a web survey specifically targeting both posting and user undertakings; this provided direct insights into the experiences, needs, and challenges of this often hard-to-reach group regarding information access, representing a novel approach.

Policy evidence generated: Key outputs include a comprehensive open-access dataset mapping 182 information channels across the five participating countries, five detailed country case study reports, and a comparative analysis report synthesising the findings from the pilot survey. Additionally, a survey manual detailing the methodology was produced, alongside five targeted policy briefs containing specific recommendations, and an e-book that synthesizes the overall findings and country specifics.

Transnational dimension: The research focused on the cross-border phenomenon of posting of workers, comparing practices and challenges across countries. Events involved EU-level stakeholders (e.g., European Labour Authority, European Commission representatives). Findings and methodologies are relevant for EU-wide policy discussions on improving information access in posting.

Dissemination strategy: A comprehensive dissemination strategy was implemented, targeting diverse audiences (policymakers, practitioners, social partners, companies, researchers, general public). Activities included: project pages on institutional websites, presentations at national and international conferences/workshops, stakeholder events (kick-off, consultation workshop, final upscaling conference), and publication of results in various open-access formats (dataset, reports, e-book, policy briefs, blog articles) and submitted academic articles. Institutional newsletters and social media (LinkedIn, Twitter/X, Facebook) were used extensively. Collaboration with associated partners aided dissemination.

European added value: The project generated valuable comparative evidence across five Member States, which promotes benchmarking and directly informs EU-level policy discussions, exemplified by contributions to European Labour Authority working groups on single national websites. Furthermore, it facilitated crucial networking and collaboration between research institutions, public authorities, and social partners from different countries. It also produced methodologies, such as the mapping tool and survey approach, designed for potential upscaling across the EU, thereby contributing to more harmonised data collection and analysis regarding information access in posting. Ultimately, the evidence generated provides practical support for the correct application of relevant EU legislation, specifically the Posting of Workers Directives, by enhancing the understanding of information barriers encountered by companies operating across borders.

Sustainability measures: Sustainability is primarily ensured through the open-access publication of project outputs (dataset, reports, manual, e-book), allowing continued use by stakeholders and researchers. The methodologies developed (mapping, survey) are designed for potential replication or upscaling. Project partners are continuing

research on posting in related initiatives (e.g., Posting STAT 2.0, ELA study), leveraging knowledge gained. Continued dissemination activities beyond the project end (e.g., conference presentations, academic publications) are planned.

Horizontal principles: The project addressed non-discrimination by inviting stakeholders to project activities in a non-discriminatory way as a foundational principle of work practices. The research inherently involved workers potentially in vulnerable situations (posted workers).

Good practice: The project produced a wide range of outputs, contributing with evidence for policymakers, social partners, and researchers. Its methodology and results were made openly available, facilitating uptake by other Member States, including a final event focused on scaling the approach EU-wide. Moreover, the project demonstrated innovativeness through its research methodology and focus and generated comparative evidence for EU policy and created tools used in follow-up projects.

Fair European Labour Mobility. Information and advice for posted workers



GOOD PRACTICE

Call identification number	ESF-2021-POW-01	
Grant/contract identification number	101057003	
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility	
Action	ESF Project Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted workers • Trade unions • Authorities 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 sector-specific information and counselling centres established/run • 1,266 posted workers counselled in 1,024 cases • 30 information sessions conducted for workers in Hungary • 3 transnational workshops organised • 15 work exchanges/traineeships for counsellors organised • 1 evaluation meeting/workshop conducted • 1 transnational conference organised ("Fair work in Europe") • 1 Parliamentarian Evening contributed to in Brussels • 8 typical case descriptions prepared and disseminated • 5 live information events conducted on Facebook • 1 project website established and maintained • 1 project Twitter/X account established and maintained • Monthly team meetings for coordination and exchange 	
Implementation country(ies)	Germany	
Participating countries	Romania, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Austria, Germany, Netherlands	
Coordinating organisation	Gemeinnütziges Bildungswerk des Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbundes (Germany)	
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romania: Blocul National Sindical; Zveza Svobodnih Sindikatov Slovenije; Federația Generală a Sindicatelor Familia • Hungary: Vasas Szakszervezeti Szövetség • Poland: Ogólnopolskie Porozumienie Związków Zawodowych • Austria: Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund 	

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany: IG Metall; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung e.V. Faire Mobilität; Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund; Europäischer Verein für Wanderarbeiterfragen e.V. Netherlands: Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging Slovenia: Zavod Republike Slovenije za zaposlovanje; Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti; Zavod Za Zdravstveno Zavarovanje Slovenije The Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia; Obrtno-podjetniška zbornica Slovenije
EU funding (EUR)	479,999.40
Project/activity duration	01 July 2022 – 31 December 2023
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The project aimed to support posted workers by establishing and running counselling centres in key sending countries (Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania) and a host country (Austria), focusing on specific sectors (care, metal, construction, agriculture, transport). These centres, cooperating closely with the established 'Faire Mobilität' counselling centres in Germany and coordinated by DGB Bildungswerk, aimed to provide advice to posted workers, exchange information on laws and regulations, arrange contacts, and help solve problems related to posting. Accompanying activities, including transnational workshops, work exchanges, information events, and knowledge transfer to Members of Parliament (MPs) and stakeholders, sought to enhance counsellor expertise, raise awareness among workers and the public, and transfer gained knowledge to trade unions and authorities to improve the correct implementation of posting directives and support fair labour mobility within Europe.

Main outputs and results: The project established and operated the five planned sector-specific counselling centres in Austria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovenia, which cooperated with Faire Mobilität centres in Germany. Across these centres, 1,266 workers were counselled in 1,024 cases, receiving information and support primarily on labour law issues, including remuneration problems, contract termination, working conditions, work permits, and tax issues. The counselling centres actively networked with stakeholders like labour inspectorates, health insurance institutes, employment services, ELA, and trade unions. The project conducted all planned activities, exceeding targets for work exchanges (15 implemented vs 11 planned) and case descriptions (8 produced vs 7 planned). Key events included 3 transnational workshops, 30 information sessions in Hungary (reaching 494 workers), 5 live Facebook information events, a transnational conference (212 attendees), and contributing content to a Parliamentary Evening in Brussels. The project widened general knowledge about the working and living conditions of posted workers, transferring this knowledge to trade unions and authorities.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The core model of networked, sector-specific counselling centres cooperating across borders is highly transferable to other regions or sectors facing similar posted worker challenges. The methodology of combining direct support with awareness-raising and stakeholder engagement can also be replicated. The outputs, particularly the 8 published case descriptions detailing typical problems and solutions, serve as valuable resources for other organisations and policymakers. The experience and structure developed are being transferred to a follow-up project, indicating inherent transferability.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: While building upon a network founded in 2017, the project's structured implementation of cross-border cooperation between dedicated sending and host country counselling centres, each with a specific sectoral focus (care, transport, metal, construction/agriculture), and integrated with established networks like Faire Mobilität, presents a refined and potentially innovative operational model. The use of targeted live information events on social media (Facebook) to reach specific groups of posted workers reflects a modern and direct communication approach.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated policy-relevant evidence through the detailed documentation and publication of 8 typical cases encountered by posted workers, illustrating concrete challenges related to remuneration, contract issues, working conditions, and access to social security. Findings and case examples were presented directly to policymakers and stakeholders during the Parliamentary Evening in Brussels and the transnational conference, aiming to inform policy discussions on fair labour mobility and the implementation of posting directives.

Transnational dimension: The project was inherently transnational, establishing and operating a network of counselling centres across five EU Member States (Austria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia) plus Germany (via cooperation). It facilitated cross-border case handling, organised transnational workshops and work exchanges for counsellors from different countries, and addressed issues related to EU directives governing the posting of workers across borders. The conference and parliamentary evening involved discussions at an EU level.

Dissemination strategy: A dedicated project website and Twitter/X account shared information on activities, results, case studies, and relevant news on posting. Live Facebook events targeted specific worker groups. Findings were presented at a transnational conference and a Parliamentary Evening. The 8 case descriptions were published online. Beneficiary organisations and associated partners disseminated information through their own networks (newsletters, websites, emails).

European added value: The project directly supported the implementation and correct application of EU legislation (Posting of Workers Directives). The scale of coordinated cross-border counselling and network activities would likely not have been achievable without EU funding. It fostered mutual learning and benchmarking among counsellors and trade unions from different countries through workshops and work exchanges. By providing information and support, it aimed to mitigate the risks of exploitation faced by mobile workers, thereby supporting fairer free movement of persons. The project strengthened transnational networks dedicated to protecting workers' rights across borders.

Sustainability measures: The network established and strengthened through the project is planned to continue operating after the project's end. The participating trade union associations remain committed to advocating for posted workers' rights. Experience and findings are being directly transferred into a follow-up EU-funded project, FELM2. Project outputs, such as the case descriptions and website content, remain accessible resources. Counsellors continue to share experience within wider networks, contributing to the ongoing public and institutional discourse on posting.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality was respected in all activities, with participation monitored. The project inherently focused on non-discrimination by aiming to ensure fair wages and working conditions for posted workers regardless of origin, combating exploitation. The primary target group, posted workers, often represents a vulnerable group susceptible to precarious employment; the project directly aimed at their inclusion and protection. Activities were designed to be accessible to the target groups mentioned.

Good practice: The concrete assistance provided by the project contributed to improving posted workers' conditions and informed authorities/trade unions of common problems. The project showed sustainability, with the transferring of experience and findings to a follow-up project. Moreover, it showed innovativeness and EU added value, directly supporting the implementation and correct application of EU legislation and generating policy-relevant evidence.

Cooperation as a key to overcome challenges in the field of posting of workers from care, construction, transport and agriculture sectors

Call identification number	ESF-2021-POW-01	
Grant/contract identification number	101059239	
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility	
Action	ESF Project Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers in care, construction, transport, and agriculture Employers and public organisations involved with the posting of workers Social partners (unions and employers) Decision makers and stakeholders 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Launch meeting (online, 24 October 2022) 1 Experts working session (online, 01 & 03 February 2023) 1 Co-organisation of the EU Labour Mobility Congress, including an expert discussion panel within the congress 1 International Training session (online, 17-18 October 2023) Production and dissemination of promotional, informative and training materials (e.g., blocknotes, folders, pens, leaflets) Publication of articles in national press and internet media 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination via website, social media and newsletters
Implementation country(ies)	Spain
Participating countries	Poland, Norway, Romania, Czech Republic, Serbia
Coordinating organisation	Coalición Sindical Independiente de Trabajadores de Madrid (Spain)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poland: Europejski Instytut Mobilności Pracy; Zakład Ubezpieczeń Społecznych Norway: Solidaritet Romania: Federația Națională a Sindicatelor din Administrație Czechia: Svaz Podnikatelů ve Stavebnictví; Odborový Svaz Stavba České Republiky Serbia: Sindikat Zaposlenih u Zdravstvu i Socijalnoj Zaštiti Srbije
EU funding (EUR)	261,197.79
Project/activity duration	01 September 2022 – 29 February 2024
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informative and training materials Project Website content Articles in national press/internet media
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The main goal was to increase the effectiveness of the enforcement of the fundamental rights of posted workers while ensuring their free and fair movement. This was pursued by developing, in cooperation with social partners (trade unions, employers) and public organisations (including social security institutions), solutions to overcome barriers and difficulties in monitoring and applying the Posting of Workers Directive in the specified sectors (care, construction, transport, agriculture). Specific aims included achieving better protection for posted workers, promoting the use of the Internal Market Information System (IMI), increasing the availability and transparency of information on posting conditions, and establishing cooperation and effective dialogue among partners and stakeholders.

Main outputs and results: The project reported achieving its main results, such as contributing to better protection of posted workers and their free movement, promoting IMI use, increasing information availability and transparency, and establishing cooperation and dialogue. Key outputs included an experts' working session leading to common conclusions, co-organisation of a panel at the EU Labour Mobility Congress, and an international online training session. Informative and training materials were developed in seven languages.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project demonstrated transferability through its transnational partnership involving six countries with diverse contexts. The informative and training materials, produced in seven languages and made available online, are designed for broad dissemination and use in various national contexts. The inclusion of partners from an EU candidate country (Serbia) further highlights the potential for transfer beyond current EU Member States.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project's approach can be considered innovative in its specific combination of focus sectors (care, construction, transport, agriculture), which face distinct challenges regarding posting, and its uniquely heterogeneous partnership structure, bringing together trade unions, employers, public bodies, and academic/research institutes from both EU Member States and a candidate country to collaboratively address these sector-specific issues.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated policy-relevant evidence through the conclusions drawn from the experts' working session and partner discussions, which identified specific problems and potential areas for regulatory improvement concerning the Posting of Workers Directive and its application. The informative and training materials produced serve as evidence-based resources for stakeholders and can inform policymakers about the practical challenges and potential solutions related to posting in the targeted sectors. Participation in the EU Labour Mobility Congress aimed to sensitise policymakers.

Transnational dimension: The project was inherently transnational, involving partners from Spain, Poland, Norway, Romania, Czechia, and Serbia. This structure allowed for the analysis and dissemination of strategies relevant across Europe, the sharing of diverse experiences and good practices, and the development of solutions considering different political, professional, and labour perspectives. All main activities (meetings, training, congress

participation, material development) involved cross-border collaboration and addressed transnational issues related to posting of workers.

Dissemination strategy: The project employed a dissemination strategy primarily focused on digital and online tools. Key tools included the project website, Facebook (including targeted posts/ads), newsletters (English/Spanish), and articles published in national press and online media across partner countries. Personal contacts of the project team were also utilised. Dissemination materials included leaflets and comprehensive informative/training materials, both available in seven languages and accessible via the project website. Project meetings and participation in the EU Labour Mobility Congress served as dissemination events.

European added value: The project demonstrated significant European added value through its focus on improving the monitoring, implementation, and enforcement of the Posting of Workers Directive and contributing to European Labour Authority objectives. It actively promoted the core EU principle of free movement by working towards ensuring the free and fair circulation of posted workers. Furthermore, the project fostered essential transnational cooperation and networking, bringing together diverse stakeholders such as unions, employers, and public bodies from six European countries, including an EU candidate country, to tackle common cross-border challenges. This collaboration facilitated the generation of policy-relevant evidence by producing analyses and materials highlighting practical issues and potential solutions pertinent to EU-level discussions on posting, while simultaneously enabling the sharing of good practices and experiences across different national contexts.

Sustainability measures: Sustainability is pursued through the lasting availability of the informative and training materials in seven languages online via the project website. The knowledge gained by participants is intended for practical application and further dissemination within their networks. Cooperation mechanisms developed between diverse organisations are expected to facilitate ongoing dialogue. Furthermore, potential synergies exist with subsequent EU-funded projects (e.g., INFO-RIGHTS) involving some of the same partners and target groups, allowing for the continuation and development of the analyses and recommendations.

Horizontal principles: The project addressed horizontal principles by actively promoting gender equality, ensuring gender balance within the project team and considering this balance during participant recruitment for events, while also adhering to non-discrimination principles by avoiding discrimination during recruitment processes. The project's focus on posted workers also promoted the inclusion of this group, which often faces vulnerabilities, particularly addressing issues faced by workers in sectors associated with precarious conditions.

Better enforcement through improved Nordic–Baltic cooperation

Call identification number	ESF-2021-POW-01	
Grant/contract identification number	101059244	
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility	
Action	ESF Project Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour inspectorates Social partners Public authorities 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of enforcement measures in participating countries, of conditions and obstacles for national and transnational cooperation and enforcement practices related to third-country national (TCN) posting Development and testing of new strategies and tools for national inspections (focused on identifying genuine posting) Document studies and literature reviews Interviews with labour inspectorates and social partners Workshops for experience exchange and cooperation among participants Development of indicators on factors influencing cooperation and enforcement Publication of working papers, opinion pieces, reports and policy briefs 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination via project website, Fafo East-forum (meetings, seminars, newsletter) • Organisation of webinars and seminars (e.g., Nordic-Baltic seminar on work-related crime) • Interview with Nordic Labour Journal • Cooperation with researchers on a related project (Norway-Lithuania cooperation)
Implementation country(ies)	Norway
Participating countries	Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Finland
Coordinating organisation	Forskningssiftelsen Fafo (Norway)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norway: Arbeidstilsynet • Denmark: Arbejdstilsynet (Danish Working Environment Authority) • Latvia: Valsts Darba Inspekcija • Iceland: Vinnuáæðisráðgjafi • Estonia: Tööinspektsioon • Lithuania: Lietuvos Respublikos valstybinė darbo inspekcija prie Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos • Finland: Lounais-Suomen Aluehallintovirasto
EU funding (EUR)	373,247.92
Project/activity duration	01 February 2023 – 30 September 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	https://www.fafo.no/en/projects/enforcement-of-posted-work-improving-transnational-cooperation-in-the-nordic-and-baltic-states
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report • Final conference
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The project aimed to improve the enforcement of posting regulations nationally and transnationally within the Nordic-Baltic region. Specific objectives included: mapping existing enforcement measures, tools, and experiences in construction and manufacturing; identifying best practices and obstacles; exploring, developing, and testing innovative strategies and tools for inspections and transnational cooperation; analysing and suggesting improvements in national approaches and transnational collaboration, including the use of the IMI; investigating conditions for cooperation between authorities and social partners; improving enforcement related to TCNs posting from other EU Member States into the region; and developing indicators related to cooperation and enforcement factors. The project sought to facilitate experience sharing and policy-learning among participants and disseminate findings to other Member States, social partners, and the European Labour Authority (ELA).

Main outputs and results: The project mapped enforcement measures, transposition of the Enforcement Directive, national strategies, tools, and transnational cooperation experiences, publishing findings in two working papers and associated policy briefs. Project results were utilised in a related Norwegian Labour Inspectorate evaluation project. Policy recommendations were developed covering assignor liability, notification systems, document access, IMI use, sanctions, and TCN enforcement.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project was designed with transferability in mind, aiming to share experiences and good practices not only among participants but also with other Member States, social partners, and ELA. The published working papers, policy briefs, final report, and webinars serve as key transfer mechanisms. The developed indicators for cooperation and enforcement factors are intended to be transferable and serve as inspiration for similar collaborations elsewhere. The findings and recommendations related to enforcement strategies, transnational cooperation (including IMI use), and TCN posting are relevant beyond the Nordic-Baltic context.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project's innovativeness lies in its action-oriented methodology, moving beyond mapping to actively test adjusted enforcement strategies and tools collaboratively across multiple national labour inspectorates. The specific focus on developing and testing approaches to identify genuine posting

situations, and the subsequent evaluation of this testing phase, represents a novel approach in this field. Furthermore, the systematic development of indicators to understand and improve transnational cooperation dynamics adds an innovative analytical dimension.

Policy evidence generated: The project produced policy-relevant evidence, including: two detailed working papers mapping legal transposition, enforcement strategies, tools, and cooperation practices in the Nordic-Baltic region; three policy briefs summarising key findings and recommendations; and a final report synthesising the project's research and evaluation results. The final report includes specific policy recommendations aimed at improving enforcement frameworks and practices. This body of work provides evidence for policymakers and practitioners involved in the enforcement of posting rules.

Transnational dimension: Activities included cross-country mapping, comparative analysis, shared workshops, transnational testing of enforcement tools, and a focus on improving cross-border cooperation mechanisms like IMI. The dissemination strategy explicitly targeted transnational audiences, including ELA and other Member States.

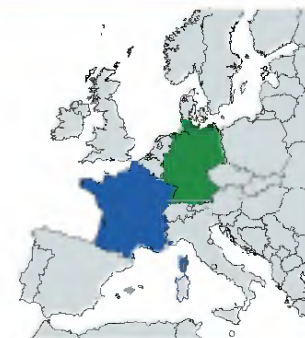
New partnerships created: The project facilitated structured cooperation and exchange between the participating labour inspectorates from the seven Nordic and Baltic countries. The involvement of social partners in interviews and discussions also fostered connections. The follow-up grant secured from the Nordic Council of Ministers indicates a strengthening of partnerships among the inspectorates.

Dissemination strategy: A comprehensive dissemination strategy was implemented, including: a dedicated project website hosted by the coordinator (Fafó); publication of 2 working papers, 3 policy briefs, and a final report, all made publicly available; organisation of 3 webinars (two in English targeting international audiences, one in Norwegian) featuring guest speakers (e.g., from ELA); presentation of final results at a Nordic-Baltic seminar for key stakeholders (inspectorates, ministries); dissemination through the Fafó East-forum network; an interview with the Nordic Labour Journal; and an opinion piece in a Norwegian newspaper.

European added value: By facilitating mutual learning, sharing best practices, and testing tools across seven countries, it promoted benchmarking and potentially led to more efficient enforcement strategies, avoiding duplication of effort. It also fostered essential networking between national labour inspectorates and involved social partners, strengthening administrative cooperation in the EEA.

Sustainability measures: The coordinator plans to participate in public debate using the findings and apply for further research funding to build on the results, potentially involving more authorities and Member States. The participating beneficiaries (labour inspectorates) have secured a grant from the Nordic Council of Ministers to further develop their cooperation, indicating a direct continuation of the network and activities fostered by the EU-funded project.

Regionaldirektion Baden-Wuerttemberg	
Call identification number	ESF 2021-CBC ICP
Grant/contract identification number	101058914
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobseekers • Employers • Cross-border workers
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Network meetings organised • 3 Steering Committee meetings organised • 1 annual conference organised • One-Stop-Shop demand processing (via e-mail/phone) and publication creation (website/Facebook) • Creation of a Skilled workers shortages and bottleneck professions analysing tool • Coaching for jobseekers held



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in several job fairs • Delivery of EURES advisor consultations (at job fairs and on a daily basis by PES, trade unions, employers' associations) • 4 cross-border information days organised • Implementation of a vocational cross-border training programme • Signing of cross-border trainee contracts • Collaboration with the Upper Rhine conference on information events and publications regarding fair home-office regulations
Implementation country(ies)	Germany
Participating countries	Germany, France
Coordinating organisation	Bundesagentur für Arbeit (Germany)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ France: France Travail, Mouvement des Entreprises de France Association - MEDEF Alsace • Germany: Regierungspräsidium Freiburg; Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund; DGB Rechtsschutz GmbH
EU funding (EUR)	1,149,642.24
Project/activity duration	01 April 2022 – 31 March 2024
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating the placement in the cross-border labour market of the Upper Rhine • Employers' associations • Skilled workers shortages and bottleneck professions analysing tool • Film sequences • Cross-border qualifications • Exchange of experience for the administrations of the public employment services ▪ Three country Coffee • Cross-border internships • Needs analysis of the companies
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The primary aim of EURES-T Upper Rhine is to promote labour mobility and create a unique labour market in the cross-border region, overcoming existing obstacles. This involves informing jobseekers and employers about opportunities and conditions, alongside communicating with the public and increasing the partnership's visibility through various channels (e.g., website, events, publications). The project facilitates fair job matching, placement, and recruitment processes using coaching, job fairs, common qualification programmes, and cross-border internships. It also provides counselling and detailed information on living and working conditions (social security, taxation, labour law, procedures), offers legal advice for cross-border workers, supports vocational training, and encourages the exchange of best practices to address mobility challenges.

Main outputs and results: Jobseekers received coaching, contributing to job placements and potentially reducing unemployment. (Potential, current, former) cross-border workers received information on labour market opportunities, living/working conditions (including social security, taxation, labour law), administrative procedures, and their rights through individual counselling, workshops, and events like job fairs. This has increased awareness and knowledge, aiming to make the cross-border labour market fairer and reduce mobility obstacles. Specific work was undertaken with the Upper Rhine conference on fair home-office regulations for cross-border workers. The implementation of activities like network meetings, the One-Stop-Shop, job fairs, advisor consultations, and the vocational training programme proceeded as planned during this period.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The development of a "Skilled workers shortages and bottleneck professions analysing tool" represents a specific innovative output tailored to the region's needs. Furthermore, the proactive engagement with the issue of fair home-office regulations for cross-border workers demonstrates an adaptation to evolving work patterns. The integrated EURES-T structure itself, bringing together public employment

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services, social partners (trade unions), and employers' associations from different countries for coordinated service delivery, remains a key innovative feature in facilitating cross-border labour market integration.

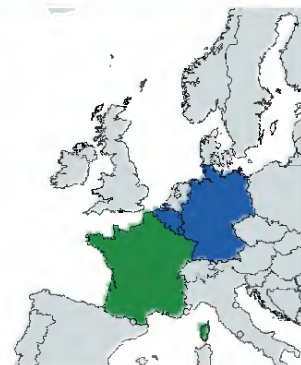
Policy evidence generated: The project contributes to policy-relevant evidence through the creation of the "Skilled workers shortages and bottleneck professions analysing tool," which can inform regional labour market policies. Additionally, the information events and publications developed in collaboration with the Upper Rhine conference concerning fair home-office regulations provide practical insights and potentially evidence for adapting regulations in this area.

Dissemination strategy: The project utilises multiple channels to disseminate information and raise visibility, including its website, social media (Facebook page mentioned), flyers, cross-border brochures, and online film sequences (planned). Information is also disseminated through direct interactions at job fairs, cross-border information days, and via the One-Stop-Shop service.

European added value: It addresses transnational challenges inherent in a border region that could not be effectively tackled by national entities acting alone. EU funding enables the coordination and implementation of joint services (counselling, matching, information) and the development of shared tools (analysing tool), likely leading to economies of scale and more efficient service provision compared to fragmented national efforts. The structure facilitates networking and the exchange of best practices among partners from different countries (Germany, France). It generates evidence (analysing tool, home-office work) relevant for policymaking in a cross-border context, promoting benchmarking and informed decision-making. By reducing obstacles to mobility, it directly contributes to the functioning of the internal market and opportunities for citizens.

Horizontal principles: The project aims to conduct job matching, placement, and recruitment "on a fair basis" and has worked on "fair home-office regulations," indicating a commitment to non-discrimination and fairness. By supporting jobseekers, including potentially unemployed individuals, the project contributes to social inclusion.

EURES-transfrontalier de la Grande Région 2022-2023	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-CBC-ECP
Grant/contract identification number	101059137
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobseekers Employers/Companies Public Employment Services Institutional partners in cross-border region Young people/Students
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published and disseminated joint analysis of labour needs Monitored publications relating to professional mobility Carried out and disseminated a study on wage differentials Organised a seminar on the development of the hydrogen sector in the Greater Region Developed and offered cross-border vocational training courses Provided cross-border placement services Offered coaching sessions to jobseekers or young people desiring cross-border mobility Organised/participated in job fairs Organised information days (e.g., for secondary school pupils, for border workers) Assisted nearly 400 companies with their cross-border recruitment processes Offered the 'Committed Employer' label to companies via Union des Entreprises de Moselle Updated/created brochures on living and working conditions



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised a seminar for EURES advisers and an annual seminar of the Public Employment Services of the Greater Region, resulting in a Joint Declaration
Implementation country(ies)	France
Participating countries	France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany
Coordinating organisation	France Travail (France)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belgium: Le Forem; Arbeitsamt der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft; Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Luxembourg belge ASBL Luxembourg: Ministère du Travail France: Union des Entreprises de Moselle; Centre de Ressources et de Documentation EURES/Frontaliers Grand Est, MEDEF Meurthe-et-Moselle; Commissariat d'Investissement à l'Innovation et à la Mobilisation Économique Germany: Vereinigung der Saarländischen Unternehmensverbände e.V.; Bundesagentur für Arbeit, Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Transformation und Digitalisierung Rheinland-Pfalz
EU funding (EUR)	1,269,887.02
Project/activity duration	01 April 2022 – 31 March 2024
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: Leveraging its long experience and complementarity, the partnership aims to contribute to the relaunch of European integration and play a decisive role in developing a more integrated interregional labour market within the Grande Région. This involves jointly identifying labour and skills shortages, particularly considering green jobs and the impacts of digitisation and decarbonisation, to determine priority sectors for action. Furthermore, the project seeks to cultivate a skilled and resilient workforce by supporting individuals in obtaining new skills for cross-border inclusion, while respecting the balance between territories. It also focuses on supporting jobseekers through comprehensive information and advice on cross-border mobility, living, and working conditions, and assists companies with their cross-border recruitment processes and in enhancing their attractiveness to address labour needs.

Main outputs and results: Key achievements in the first year include the publication of a joint analysis of labour needs and a study on wage differentials. A seminar was held on the hydrogen sector's impact on jobs and skills, leading to an European Territorial Co-operation proposal. Cross-border vocational training was offered, and Franco-German placement services assisted 9,089 jobseekers, resulting in 3,370 placements in 2022. Coaching, job fairs, and information days were provided. Nearly 400 companies received recruitment support. Information services (brochures, advice) were actively delivered. Networking and coordination were reinforced through seminars for EURES advisers and PES directors, culminating in a Joint Declaration by PES leaders on supporting the transformation of work in the region.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The model of a structured EURES-t partnership involving diverse stakeholders from multiple countries in a border region is potentially transferable to other European border areas. Specific elements like the methodology for joint labour market analysis, the collaborative design of cross-border training programmes, and the coordinated provision of placement and information services could be adapted and replicated elsewhere. Dissemination outputs like studies, guides, and potentially the employer label concept could also inform practices in other regions.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project addresses contemporary challenges by focusing on the impacts of decarbonisation (e.g., hydrogen seminar) and digitisation on the cross-border labour market. While building on established EURES practices, the specific joint training initiatives (e.g., Franco-German forklift operator training) represent practical innovation in skills development across borders. The introduction of the 'Committed Employer' label by a partner (Union des entreprises de Moselle) is an innovative approach to improving company attractiveness in a competitive cross-border context.

Policy evidence generated: The project directly generates evidence to inform policy. The joint analysis of labour needs across borders and the study on wage differentials provide data for regional decision-makers and labour market actors. The seminar on the hydrogen sector contributed to knowledge regarding emerging industries and skills needs.

Transnational dimension: The project is fundamentally transnational, operating within the Grande Région encompassing parts of France, Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg. All activities, including labour market analysis, training, placement, information provision, and partnership coordination, are inherently cross-border and involve collaboration between partners from these different countries.

Dissemination strategy: The project disseminated its joint labour market analysis and wage differential study to decision-makers, partners, and companies. Findings and activities were shared through seminars (e.g., Hydrogen sector, EURES advisers, PES Directors). Information is disseminated to target groups via brochures, information days, job fairs, coaching, and potentially digital means (videos, guides mentioned as in production). The CRD EURES Frontaliers Grand Est plays a key role in information provision.

European added value: The project directly supports the EU objective of free movement of workers and contributes to a more integrated European labour market within the strategically important Grande Région. It fosters networking and mutual learning among PES and other stakeholders from different Member States. By addressing labour shortages and facilitating mobility, it potentially leads to more efficient allocation of labour resources (economies of scale). The evidence generated (studies, analyses) promotes benchmarking and informs policy at regional and potentially EU level.

EURES-T Galicia-North Portugal Activity Plan (2022-2023)

Call identification number	ESF-2021-CBC-ECP	
Grant/contract identification number	101058996	
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility	
Action	ESF Project Grants	
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobseekers and cross-border workers • Employers / Entrepreneurs • Public employment services • Economic and social agents 	
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border job matching and labour intermediation, with targeted support for graduates and structured cooperation between employment offices • Personalised information and guidance services for jobseekers, employers, workers, and students through a one-stop shop, webinars, info sessions, focus groups, and engagement initiatives like job fairs and traineeship programmes • Research, reporting, and policy input on cross-border labour mobility, including legal/administrative resources, expert working groups, and contributions to future cross-border worker frameworks • Development and promotion of youth employment strategies, vocational training, and internships, including analysis and data collection from pilot programmes • Communication and visibility activities using traditional and digital media to promote EURES and cross-border mobility initiatives • Engagement in external events, seminars, and meetings with EU and national stakeholders 	
Implementation country(ies)	Portugal	
Participating countries	Portugal, Spain	
Coordinating organisation	Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional (Portugal)	
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spain: Consellería de Promoción do Emprego e Igualdade – Xunta de Galicia; Confederación de Empresarios de Galicia; Universidade de Vigo; Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Galicia-Norte 	

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	<p>de Portugal; Unión General de Trabajadores de Galicia (UGT Galicia); Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portugal: Associação Empresarial de Portugal; ACISAT – Associação Empresarial do Alto Tâmega, Associação Empresarial de Viana do Castelo; CEVAL – Confederação Empresarial do Alto Minho; Comunidade Intermunicipal do Alto Minho
EU funding (EUR)	440,429.95
Project/activity duration	01 April 2022 – 31 March 2024
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area EURES-T in Newsletters of Entrepreneurs Associations Blog EURES-T Brochure EURES-T for Employers Bulletin EURES-T Bulletin EURES-T Clarification Sessions CB workers Clarification Sessions Programme Conclusions of seminar Final Report Focus groups: Conclusions of 5th session of focus group; Conclusions of 6th session of focus group Guide to Cross-Border Self-Employment Newsletter EURES-T Programme of training session Reports: Current State of Crossborder Mobility, Labour Market and Potencial Future of Crossborder Mobility, New ways of working and Obstacles to Crossborder Mobility Stimulated by COVID, Obstacles to Mobility (S.Security, Labor Legislation and Finance), Crossborder Employment Strategy for Youth in the Euroregion, How to Implement cross-border Dual Vocational Training in the Euroregion, How to Implement Cross-border Curricular Internship in the Vocational Training Workshop Programme
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The EURES Crossborder North Portugal - Galicia service was created in 1997 aiming to improve the labour market situation in the Euroregion, create a transparent employment market, and foster cooperation. EURES Crossborder Galicia-North Portugal is established as a reference structure for cross-border employment information and mobility support, acting as a meeting point for relevant entities. Specific aims included facilitating job matching, placement, and recruitment on a fair basis; developing an open and accessible cross-border labour market respecting labour laws; enabling cross-border adjustment and placement through vacancy/application exchange; ensuring transparency and information exchange on the labour market, living/working conditions, and skills acquisition; and developing mobility indicators. The partnership aimed to provide specific services to promote mobility opportunities and ensure workers and employers can benefit on a fair basis, addressing obstacles and offering information on rights and obligations related to cross-border mobility. Key service goals included informing about mobility flows, offering advice to jobseekers/workers and employers, facilitating job search/placement, developing actions for apprenticeships/traineeships, minimising obstacles via a One-Stop Shop system, contributing to the European Pillar of Social Rights (fair working conditions), and gathering lessons learned from the Covid-19 period.

Main outputs and results: Key results include the continuous operation of the Crossborder One-Stop Shop, handling diverse and increasingly specialised queries (approx. 1500/year); the production of policy evidence through mobility reports and specific guides (e.g., self-employed, remote work); specialised working groups fostering inter-institutional dialogue; targeted actions for employers (reaching approx. 600) and jobseekers/students; and the development of a youth employment strategy. A pilot project for cross-border internships was implemented. A notable adaptation was the effective use of hybrid (face-to-face and online) formats for activities, adopted post-COVID restrictions, which facilitated broader participation across the Euroregion. The project also contributed analyses towards the development of a Cross-border Worker Statute.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The model of a multi-stakeholder cross-border partnership involving Public Employment Services, social partners, business associations, and academia is transferable to other border regions. Specific transferable elements include the methodology for the One-Stop Shop, the approach to collecting and analysing cross-border mobility data, the format of specialised working groups to address specific administrative hurdles, and the development of targeted information resources (guides, Frequently Asked Questions) for cross-border situations.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: While building upon its long-standing structure, the project demonstrated innovativeness by developing specific guidance on emerging issues such as cross-border remote work, teleworking, and simultaneous work across both countries. It also produced a dedicated guide tailored for cross-border self-employed workers, thereby addressing the needs of a significant segment within the Euroregion's workforce. Furthermore, the project implemented a pilot initiative for cross-border traineeships and formulated a comprehensive Youth Employment Strategy specifically for the Euroregion. The project actively contributed valuable analysis and proposals towards the development of the Cross-border Worker Statute initiative. Innovativeness was also shown through the extensive utilisation of hybrid formats for events to achieve wider reach, alongside adapting modern tools like online pitch sessions (Videotalentum) to facilitate graduate recruitment.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated evidence designed to inform both policy development and practical application within the Euroregion. Key outputs include the annual "Cross-border Mobility Indicators Reports" for 2021 and 2022, alongside a comprehensive "Report of Labour Market and Potential Future of Crossborder Mobility". The project also published detailed information and analysis concerning the legal and administrative framework applicable to cross-border remote work, teleworking, and situations involving simultaneous work in both countries. It provided an analysis of identified obstacles to mobility and formulated proposals for their elimination, directly feeding into ongoing discussions regarding the Cross-border Worker Statute. Additional evidence includes the "Crossborder Employment Strategy for Young People in the Euroregion G-NP" and reports analysing (Dual) Vocational Training and Higher Cross-Border Internships.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating across the Galicia (Spain) - North Portugal border region. All activities were designed and implemented with a cross-border focus, involving a partnership structure with members from both countries. The core aim was to facilitate and improve labour mobility between the two regions, addressing the specific challenges and opportunities of this shared labour market.

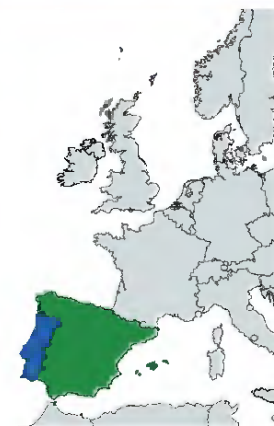
Dissemination strategy: Dissemination was actively pursued through various channels. This included traditional media (TV, radio, written press), digital media (with special attention to social networks relevant to young people), and the EURES-T G-NP website where reports, guides, and Frequently Asked Questions were published. Activities like workshops, seminars, job fairs, information sessions, and participation in external events also served dissemination purposes.

European added value: The project directly contributed to implementing EU objectives concerning the free movement of workers and the functioning of the EURES network. The creation of a single, coordinated structure and services like the One-Stop Shop likely generated economies of scale compared to purely national efforts in the border region. The project promoted benchmarking and evidence-based policymaking through its mobility reports and working groups. By providing information and facilitating fair mobility, it helped mitigate cross-border risks and obstacles for workers and employers. The inherent transnational character and networking among diverse stakeholders (PES, social partners, businesses, academia) across borders are core elements that would be difficult to achieve without an EU-level framework and funding supporting such cross-border partnerships.

Horizontal principles: The project aimed to promote "fair and equitable conditions" for cross-border mobility, aligning with the fair working conditions principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights. It targeted various groups including jobseekers and young people (addressing youth unemployment), potentially contributing to inclusion.

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

EURES CROSSBORDER EXTREMADURA – ALENTEJO 2022-2023	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-CBC-ECP
Grant/contract identification number	101059283
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobseekers and cross-border workers • Employers • Staff of Public Employment Services • External stakeholders (e.g., other European networks, vocational training centres, municipalities, Competent Authorities, embassies, professional boards)
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an Observatory of Employment and Mobility in the Euroregion • Provision of information and advice services to cross-border workers and jobseekers • Provision of information and advice services to employers • Provision of job matching services and search support in the cross-border labour market • Coordination with competent authorities to tackle obstacles to freedom of movement (including bilateral meetings) • Cooperation between cross-border partnerships to share best practices
Implementation country(ies)	Spain
Participating countries	Spain, Portugal
Coordinating organisation	Servicio Extremeño Público de Empleo (Spain)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portugal: Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional; Associação Comercial e Industrial da Ponte de Sor ACIPS; NERPOR - Núcleo Empresarial da Região de Portalegre Associação Empresarial; NERE - Núcleo Empresarial da Região de Évora - Associação Empresarial; Associação Empresarial de Elvas; Universidade de Évora; Confederação Geral de Trabalhadores Portugueses Intersindical Nacional; Município de Elvas • Spain: Cámara Oficial de Comercio e Industria de Badajoz; Fundación Centro Regional Extremeño de Servicios Empresariales; Federación de Municipios y Provincias de Extremadura; Universidad de Extremadura; Consejería de Economía, Empleo y Transformación Digital - Junta de Extremadura; Presidencia Junta de Extremadura
EU funding (EUR)	367,110.11
Project/activity duration	01 August 2022 – 31 May 2024
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-Border Mobility Guide • Reports: Report: Cross-border Mobility Passport for Employment - Matching results; Report: Coordination activities for Cross-border Mobility; Report: results on information services to jobseekers
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal



Main aim of activities: The project operates within the Extremadura (Spain) and Alentejo (Portugal) regions. The action addresses identified obstacles to free and fair mobility in this area, building on experience from previous EURES projects and continued service provision by public employment services since 2020. The primary objective is to overcome obstacles hindering free and fair mobility for workers and employers in the Extremadura – Alentejo cross-border region. This is addressed through services and activities aligned with EU principles on freedom of movement, including recruitment assistance, guidance, information provision, monitoring placement outcomes, contribution to the EURES job/Curriculum Vitae pool, post-recruitment assistance, analysis of cross-border mobility (including apprenticeships/traineeships), promoting fair working conditions, and responding to pandemic-related challenges.

Main outputs and results: Progress was made in establishing the Observatory of Employment and Mobility, delivering information, advice, and matching services to target groups, and coordinating efforts with relevant authorities.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project emphasises cooperation between cross-border partnerships as a way to share and implement best practices, suggesting inherent transferability potential to other EURES cross-border partnerships facing similar challenges. The methodologies developed for matching, post-recruitment, legal assistance, and stakeholder coordination are potential elements for transfer.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project highlights specific innovation elements such as matching methodologies, post-recruitment services, a dedicated legal assistance service (implied through coordination with authorities and advice services), the inclusion of new stakeholders (potentially referring to the breadth of the partnership), enhanced coordination mechanisms, and the transference of know-how, tools, and good practices within the partnership and potentially beyond.

Policy evidence generated: The creation of the "Observatory of Employment and Mobility in the Euroregion" is designed to analyse the current state and future changes in cross-border mobility. The findings from this observatory are expected to provide evidence relevant to labour market and mobility policies in the cross-border region.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating within the EURES framework specifically for the Spain-Portugal cross-border region of Extremadura-Alentejo. All core activities (information, advice, matching, obstacle removal) are focused on facilitating mobility between these two Member States, involving partners and targeting beneficiaries from both sides of the border.

Dissemination strategy: The project includes a communication plan designed to increase interest and awareness among the general population regarding the benefits, rights, obligations, and opportunities associated with cross-border mobility. Dissemination is also facilitated through cooperation and the sharing of best practices among cross-border partnerships.

European added value. By focusing on overcoming specific cross-border obstacles (legal, administrative, informational) between Spain and Portugal, it tackles issues that national or regional actions alone might struggle to resolve effectively. EU funding supports coordinated service delivery, the development of shared tools (like the Observatory), and structured cooperation between diverse actors from two Member States. It facilitates networking and the sharing of practices within the EURES network, contributing to better functioning of the cross-border labour market, which is a core aspect of European integration.

Horizontal principles: Through coordination with competent authorities, the project works towards achieving equality by ensuring that the national treatment principle is applied with consideration for the cross-border perspective, thereby supporting principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunities.

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

EURES CROSS BORDER ANDALUCIA ALGARVE 2022-2023	
Call identification number	ESF-2021 CBC ECP
Grant/contract identification number	101059304
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border workers and jobseekers • Posted workers • Employers • Self-employed
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered tailored recruitment, guidance, and information services for jobseekers, workers, and employers, including support for internships and traineeships • Conducted over 200 company visits and ran outreach campaigns to promote cross-border job and internship opportunities • Organised job showcases, an internship fair, coaching workshops, and student-focused sessions. Participated in employability forums and provided training for labour guidance professionals • Held webinars, seminars, and meetings on cross-border labour mobility, entrepreneurship, and business challenges, involving workers' councils, trade unions, and employers • Developed a Cross-Border Employment Observatory and produced studies, reports, and factsheets on mobility obstacles and labour market trends • Ran digital campaigns, maintained an updated website and social media presence, produced multimedia content, and disseminated newsletters and promotional materials • Managed coordination, monitoring, and representation activities, including regular committee meetings and presence at key project events
Implementation country(ies)	Spain
Participating countries	Spain, Portugal
Coordinating organisation	Servicio Andaluz de Empleo (Spain)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spain: Confederación de Empresarios de Andalucía; European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Eurociudad del Guadiana, Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras de Andalucía; Mancomunidad de Islantilla; Federación Onubense de Empresarios; Unión General de Trabajadores UGT, Diputación Provincial de Huelva; Universidad de Huelva; Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal • Portugal: Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional; Associação do Comércio e Serviços da Região do Algarve – ACRAL; Tertúlia Algarvia - Centro de Conhecimento em Cultura e Alimentação Tradicional do Algarve; Odiana - Associação para o Desenvolvimento do Baixo Guadiana; Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Algarve, I.P.; Faculdade de Ciências Humanas e Sociais da Universidade do Algarve; NERA - Associação Empresarial da Região do Algarve; Confederação Geral de Trabalhadores Portugueses Intersindical Nacional; União Geral de Trabalhadores
EU funding (EUR)	607,153 08



Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
 Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Project/activity duration	01 August 2022 – 31 March 2024
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EURES AA web update, implementation of the online one stop shop OESTE AA digital tool • Guide to crossborder socio-labour resources in Andalusia, Algarve and Alentejo • Andalusia Algarve 2022-23 Guide for Cross-Border Workers • Seminar of mutual learning and exchange of best practices between various EURES CBPs on post pandemic measures • 2nd Yearly report of the current state of the cross-border labour market and mobility • 1st Yearly report of the current state of the cross-border labour market and mobility • Prospective studies on the future of the cross-border labour market
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The initiative supported voluntary and fair geographical and occupational mobility between the Andalusia (Spain) and Algarve (Portugal) regions, aiming to increase recruitment prospects and job creation. The project aimed to promote the integration of workers into the cross-border labour market through tailored guidance and information services, including job vacancy information, application guidance, and information on living/working conditions (social security, taxation, health), alongside skills-boosting activities like coaching and training information. It sought to encourage employers to publish vacancies on the EURES portal, improving visibility and transparency, and provide guidance to ensure appropriate vacancy coverage and fair working conditions. Furthermore, it aimed to promote cross-border apprenticeships and traineeships via vacancy collection and specific fairs. Increasing the outreach of EURES services and visibility of the partnership's activities in Andalusia and Algarve through digital tools, radio, website updates, social media, newsletters, and leaflets was another key aim. Strengthening partnership cohesion, capitalising on experience, consolidating EURES presence, and generating synergies through networking and mutual learning, including updating EURES adviser skills, were also central objectives. Finally, it aimed to promote mutual learning with other EURES Cross-border Partnerships regarding crisis management lessons (including COVID-19) and exchange good practices supporting labour market recovery and resilience.

Main outputs and results: The project enhanced labour mobility, facilitated cross-border worker hiring, and promoted skills development in Andalusia and Algarve, fulfilling its mission despite challenges like a reduced implementation period (20 months instead of 24). Key achievements include enhanced cross-border collaboration among the 19 partners, evidenced by regular committee meetings. Over 1,500 cross-border job contracts were reportedly facilitated. Increased job opportunities resulted from targeted company visits (227 assisted) and specialised online seminars for employers. Professional orientation services were improved through comprehensive guidance and the updated Cross-Border Worker Guide. Support for training and internships was boosted by a Cross-Border Training and Internship Fair (over 500 students, 50 companies) and customised training programmes, enhancing youth employability. The creation of the innovative Cross-Border Employment and Occupations Observatory enabled real-time labour market analysis and promoted fair mobility. Project visibility and service accessibility were improved through the launch of the OESTE Digital One-Stop Shop and a comprehensive digital marketing and communication strategy.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project explicitly aimed to build on past good practices and propose new approaches transferable to other EU cross-border partnerships. Elements with potential transferability include the model of the Cross-Border Employment and Occupations Observatory, the concept and functionalities of the OESTE Digital One-Stop Shop, the multi-stakeholder partnership structure, and specific event formats like the Internship Fair, entrepreneur meetings, and targeted workshops (e.g., for non-EU workers, specific sectors). The methodologies used for identifying mobility barriers (pilot actions, working groups) could also be adapted elsewhere.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The establishment of the Cross-Border Employment and Occupations Observatory stands out as a novel approach, enabling real-time labour market analysis, the identification of trends and skills needs, and the active promotion of fair mobility principles. Furthermore, the development and implementation of the OESTE Digital One-Stop Shop represents a significant step for the region, effectively digitalising and centralising access to cross-border employment services. Additionally, the project addressed complex challenges in potentially new ways for this partnership through specific activities such as the pilot actions employing management consultancies to detect mobility barriers and the dedicated focus given to analysing and addressing cross-border mobility issues specifically for non-EU workers.

Policy evidence generated: The Cross-Border Employment and Occupations Observatory produced key reports, including its yearly report for 2022 and a prospective study focusing on future training and competence needs. A

dedicated report was also compiled specifically addressing the identified obstacles to cross-border labour mobility. Complementing these analytical documents, the project produced practical guides aimed at various stakeholders; these included an updated version of the comprehensive Cross-Border Worker Guide, a specific guide addressing the nuances of cross-border work for non-European Union citizens, and a practical guide tailored for Labour Training and Guidance teachers

Dissemination strategy: The project implemented a comprehensive dissemination strategy using multiple channels. Key elements included updating the project website and integrating the OESTE Digital One-Stop Shop, active use of social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, LinkedIn) for promoting activities, job opportunities, and sharing information, and production of specific digital content (6 videos, 4 infographics). Traditional media (regional TV - Canal Sur, local radio via Radio Eurociudad) and print/digital publications (monthly newsletter) were also used. Corporate identity materials (roll-ups, leaflets) were created and distributed. Targeted dissemination occurred through participation in university events, specific workshops (e.g., for LTG teachers), and establishing a 'needs detection point' at relevant events. Partners utilised their own communication platforms to amplify reach.

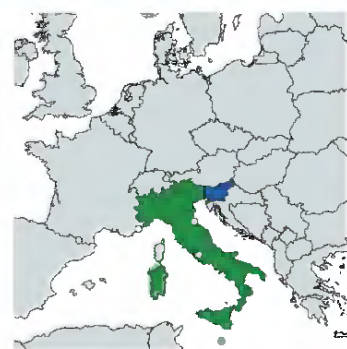
European added value: Its core focus on facilitating cross-border labour mobility between Spain and Portugal directly supports the principle of free movement of workers and implements the EURES Regulation. The multi-stakeholder, transnational partnership itself fosters cross-border cooperation and networking, unlikely to achieve the same scale or coherence without EU structure and funding. While basic PES services might exist, the EU grant enabled specific, ambitious initiatives like the Observatory, the Digital One-Stop Shop, numerous targeted events, and the production of specialised resources, contributing added value beyond national capacities alone. The project generated policy-relevant evidence (reports, studies) promoting benchmarking and informed decision-making for the cross-border region.

Sustainability measures: The partnership has a history predating this funding cycle, with core partners (PES of Andalusia and Algarve) possessing stable public funding ensuring continuity of essential EURES services. The project summary states a strong commitment from other key partners to continue relevant activities. The partnership successfully applied for and was awarded a subsequent EURES Cross-Border Partnerships (CBP) grant for the 2024-2026 period. This new project will consolidate the partnership, ensure the continuation of services, and build upon the results of the 2022-2024 project, including developing new activities like youth-focused podcasts ('EURES Talks for Youth'), company immersion experiences ('Learning Pills'), Vocational Education and Training (VET) student experiences ('T-Days'), and defining a cross-border user profile within PES systems. This demonstrates a clear strategy and secured funding for the continuation and further development of the initiative.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality was addressed through specific activities targeting women, such as the Cross-Border Entrepreneurship meetings where female participation was noted. Non-discrimination and inclusion of vulnerable groups were addressed implicitly through the provision of services by public employment services targeting jobseekers (including potentially long-term unemployed, youth/NEETs) and explicitly through activities focusing on youth (e.g., internship fair, university events, youth unemployment roundtable). The overarching theme of 'Fair Labour Mobility' promoted equitable working conditions. The project activities aimed to support individuals, including potentially vulnerable groups, in accessing employment and training opportunities across the border.

EURADRIA: cross-border partnership between relevant public and private Institutions and Organisations, within the cross-border area between Italy and Slovenia

Call identification number	ESF-2021-CBC-ECP
Grant/contract identification number	101058929
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontier workers and jobseekers • Employers • Policymakers • Institutions and Organisations (active within the labour market and social protection systems)



Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded the Infodesk Network and developed updated digital resources (One Stop Shop Portal and Project Landing Page) with added content for key sectors Produced guides and reports on cross-border legislation, students, innovation/research, and seasonal/agricultural work, including a Memorandum of Understanding Delivered targeted support actions for jobseekers, pensioners, and employers, including job placement support Organised and participated in cross-border job fairs and side events Piloted sector-specific actions on skills and innovation, and implemented a crisis preparedness strategy Developed and executed a communication strategy with active social media engagement Held multiple coordination and management meetings
Implementation country(ies)	Italy
Participating countries	Italy, Slovenia
Coordinating organisation	Regione Autonoma Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Italy)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italy: Centro di Servizi e Documentazione per la Cooperazione Economica Internazionale; Slovensko Deželno Gospodarsko Združenje Associazione; Servis d.o.o. - S.r.l.; Unione Sindacale Regionale CISL del Friuli Venezia Giulia; Unione Regionale UIL Friuli Venezia Giulia Associazione; Nuova Camera Confederale del Lavoro CGIL; CSI Nordest CGIL CISL UIL FVG SLO; Università degli Studi di Trieste, Università degli Studi di Udine; Istituzione del Gruppo Europeo di Cooperazione Territoriale (GECT) - European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), Agenzia Nazionale per le Politiche Attive del Lavoro Slovenia: Obalna Sindikalna Organizacija-KS 90; Območna Obrtno-Podjetniška Zbornica Nova Gorica; INAS Zavod za Varstvo Italijanskih in Slovenskih Delavcev Nova Gorica; Društvo Prijateljstva med Prebivalci Obmejnih Območij INCA Slovenija, Primorska Gospodarska Zbornica; Inkubator d.o.o., Ekonomske, Organizacijske in Tehnološke Storitve, Sežana; Fakulteta za Uporabne Družbene Študije v Novi Gorici Zavod; Primorski Tehnološki Park d.o.o.; Zavod Republike Slovenije za Zaposlovanje
EU funding (EUR)	591,299.93
Project/activity duration	01 April 2022 – 31 March 2024
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The project operates within the cross-border area between Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) and Slovenia. The project aimed to establish and reinforce a cross-border partnership of relevant public and private institutions active in the labour market and social protection systems. Key aims included offering targeted information and guidance to frontier workers and employers; collecting and analysing data on mobility flows and labour market trends; facilitating job matching, placement, and recruitment; developing post-recruitment support; enhancing employer access to services; supporting the EURES network goals; monitoring outcomes and satisfaction; investigating and targeting specific sectors (innovation, high-tech, agriculture, tourism, seasonal); supporting policy-making and institutional building; integrating services through an online one-stop shop and an expanded InfoDesk network; assisting vulnerable groups, and boosting contributions to EU resiliency policy.

Main outputs and results: The project achieved results in several areas, exceeding targets for reaching clients (10,270 jobseekers/workers vs 6,000 target; 896 employers vs 750 target) and collecting job vacancies (562 vs 250 target) and applications (7,998 vs 3,000 target). The InfoDesk network was successfully expanded to 12 desks, enhancing dissemination capacity and data collection on obstacles. Digital services were improved through updates to the one-stop shop portal and landing page, including adding English versions. Targeted actions for specific sectors (e.g., agriculture, tourism, innovation) aimed to better define skills needs and engage employers

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The project actively sought transferability by involving other EURES CBPs in meetings and the final conference (Cross-border Hackathon). The project's continuation into a new phase (2024-2026) allows for further refinement and potential sharing of its model.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project demonstrated innovation through several key activities, such as its specific focus on developing post-recruitment services and assistance for frontier workers and employers, addressing a phase often overlooked in mobility support. Pilot actions targeting high-tech/research and seasonal/agricultural/tourism sectors were also innovative, aiming to identify specific cross-border competencies and address mismatches, contributing directly to the European Year of Skills initiative. Further innovation was shown in the choice of a Cross-Border Hackathon as the final conference format, fostering digital collaboration, and through the explicit integration of resilience and cohesion policy objectives into the partnership's core activities and evaluation. Additionally, the project pursued innovation by attempting to digitise monitoring tools like the Performance Measurement System (PMS) and customer satisfaction surveys, even though implementation challenges were encountered.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated evidence through its data collection activities (PMS reports, analysis of flows), specific reports (e.g., on frontier legislation, sector analyses on agriculture/tourism and innovation/research), and the final report on the state of play. This evidence aims to inform policymaking regarding cross-border labour mobility between Italy and Slovenia and potentially address identified obstacles.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating exclusively within the Italy-Slovenia cross-border context. All activities, including the partnership structure, InfoDesks, one-stop shop, job matching, events, and data analysis, are designed to facilitate cross-border mobility and cooperation between the two countries. The project actively engaged with the wider EURES network and other CBPs.

New partnerships created: The project successfully engaged new stakeholders beyond the core consortium, with 13 new stakeholders involved, exceeding the target of 10. These included employer associations (e.g., Confindustria Alto Adriatico), a private employment service (Adecco), large companies, specialised service providers (e.g., SI.CON.TE for caregivers), an Interreg project, a university, Big Science Organisations, an EGTC, a regional liaison office in Brussels, a youth centre, and a technical institute.

Dissemination strategy: A formal Communication and Dissemination plan was developed and implemented, coordinated by an appointed responsible person and involving a communication working group. Key channels included the updated EURADRIA one-stop shop portal (www.euradria.eu) and project landing page (www.crossborderjob.eu) in three languages, social media (primarily LinkedIn, with 742 posts), participation in and organisation of numerous events (job fairs, informative sessions, final Hackathon), and production of targeted guides and reports (e.g., for students, on legislation). The InfoDesk network also served as a key dissemination channel.

European added value: The project contributed to implementing EU policy by addressing practical obstacles faced by frontier workers and employers. The partnership model fostered networking and exchange of practices between Italian and Slovenian organisations and aimed to share experiences with other CBPs. Data collection and analysis efforts aimed to provide evidence for policymaking at regional, national, and potentially EU levels. The project addressed cross-border challenges that national actions alone might struggle to tackle effectively.

Sustainability measures: The project's sustainability is strongly indicated by the approval of a follow-up project, EURADRIA 2024-2026, ensuring continuity of activities and building on the established structures (partnership, InfoDesks, portal). The project team actively planned for a smooth transition between phases. The involvement of permanent institutions (Regional government, social partners, chambers of commerce) also provides a stable base. Synergies with other initiatives (Interreg, b-Solutions, Pact for Skills) were actively sought to embed the project's activities within a wider ecosystem.

Horizontal principles: Inclusion was a key focus, with an explicit aim to assist vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities in accessing the cross-border labour market, supported by specific data collection concerning these groups. Non-discrimination was promoted by providing services open to all eligible frontier workers, jobseekers, and employers within the target region, and by actively tackling obstacles reported to create unequal situations. Furthermore, gender equality was incorporated into the project, with gender equity considerations included in the final report objectives, communication activities aiming for equality, and specific actions such as participation in the Women in Big Sciences working group related to the Big Science market activities.

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Cross border partnership Eures Scheldemond	
Call identification number	ESF 2021-CBC-ECP
Grant/contract identification number	101059159
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobseekers and workers Employers and Human Resources (HR) professionals Students and Cross-border workers Persons in vulnerable situations / with disabilities
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data mobility report (June 2022) Digital ABC for cross border workers and Fair Mobility Tool improvements Employer events: Midzomerbars, HR Xpert Finder, business networking Employer support: matchmaking, HR reports, Eures promotion Eures advisory services (incl. info session & Fair Mobility Tool update) GrensMatch app: matches, new module, tech update Guest lectures and expert sessions on topics such as taxation, social security, pensions, labour law etc Monthly website updates, new "GrensWerkt" branding Multiple Organisation of HR Midzomerbars for employers/entrepreneurs Organisation of meetings (project, steering and action team meetings) Partner workshop on reporting Podcasts on relevant cross border themes Student Instagram takeover at job fair Training on international recruitment
Implementation country(ies)	Netherlands
Participating countries	Netherlands, Belgium
Coordinating organisation	Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen (Netherlands)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belgium: Interregionale Vakbondsraad Schelde Kempen VZW; Voka-Kamer van Koophandel Oost-Vlaanderen; Limieland van Waas en Hulst Europese Groepering voor Territoriale Samenwerking met Beperkte Aansprakelijkheid; Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding Netherlands: Den Doelder Recruitment B.V.; Den Doelder Mobiliteit B.V.
EU funding (EUR)	958,815.00
Project/activity duration	01 April 2022 – 31 December 2023
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal
<p>Main aim of activities: Eures Scheldemond, founded in 2003, is a cross-border partnership facilitating labour market mobility between Flanders (Belgium) and the Netherlands. The project aimed to continue and enhance</p>	



information and advice services related to cross-border recruitment, matching, placement, and working conditions for jobseekers and employers, delivered individually and through targeted sessions. A key focus was promoting fair mobility via individualised/collective information and digital tools like the Fair Mobility tool. Matching activities involved Eures advisers (PES and Private Employment Services - PRES), the EURES portal, the GrensMatch app, and cross-border matchmaking events, linking screened jobseekers with employers seeking cross-border recruits. Employer engagement was fostered through outreach to HR professionals and B2B events. The project also aimed to promote cross-border student exchanges and learning/working opportunities (GrensTech) to improve entry into bottleneck jobs and access to VET. Reporting on cross-border obstacles, labour market statistics, and mobility flows was also an objective.

Main outputs and results: Key results included the establishment of project management structures, professional (re)presentation of Eures Scheldemond with new "GrensWerk" branding, and the provision of up-to-date information and advisory services (face-to-face, digital ABC, Fair Mobility Tool). The GrensMatch app facilitated digital matching, incorporating a 'work-ability' feature, simplified cross-border mobility, and won an award for best Eures communication product. Information and HR advisory services were delivered to jobseekers, students, and employers, utilising new communication methods like Virtual Reality (VR) headsets and podcasts. Collective information sessions for employers and networking events for businesses and students were organised. Digital advisory services for students (GrensTech) were also provided. The project's activities contributed to informing and supporting various target groups in navigating the cross-border labour market.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project demonstrated innovativeness primarily through its digital tools and communication methods. The Fair Mobility Tool offers a structured way to assess complex cross-border scenarios. The GrensMatch app employed a user-friendly, visual matching approach ("dating app for labour market"), aiming to overcome prejudice and including a specific 'work-ability' module. GrensTech provides a targeted digital resource for student mobility. The use of podcasts and VR headsets represents newer communication approaches within EURES activities to reach and inform target groups.

Policy evidence generated: The project contributed to policy evidence by producing a data mobility report analysing cross-border labour market shortages, excesses, and mobility flows within the Scheldemond region. It also systematically reported on cross-border obstacles encountered by its target groups, providing qualitative data for policymakers.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating within the Belgium-Netherlands border region (Scheldemond). All activities, from information provision and matching (GrensMatch, matchmaking) to events (HR sessions, business events) and tools (Fair Mobility Tool, GrensTech), were designed to facilitate cross-border labour mobility, cooperation, and understanding between the two countries.

Dissemination strategy: Project communication involved regular updates to the project website, development and roll-out of new branding, and promotion of activities and EURES services through partner channels and social media (including Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook). Podcasts were distributed via platforms like Spotify and Podbean. Events were promoted via websites, newsletters, and social media.

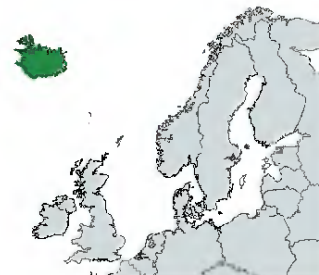
European added value: The project provided European added value by directly supporting the principle of free movement of workers within a specific cross-border context. It also actively promoted the EURES network and its services. EU funding enabled the development and maintenance of tools like GrensMatch, which ceased operation after funding ended, indicating the funding was crucial for achieving the project's full scope. The project facilitated cross-border networking among employers, HR professionals, PES/PRES staff, and other stakeholders.

Sustainability measures: Several activities and tools developed within the EaSI/ESF+ framework are planned to continue after the project's end, including the Fair Mobility Tool, the ABC for cross-border workers, the GrensWerk website, cross-border networking sessions, Expert sessions, guest lectures, matchmaking, and B2B events.

Horizontal principles: The project addressed horizontal principles, notably non-discrimination and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. Services were explicitly stated as available to all citizens crossing the border, irrespective of gender, origin, belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation. Specific attention was paid to persons with disabilities through the inclusion of a 'work-ability' profile section in the GrensMatch tool and tailored information/advice activities targeting persons in vulnerable situations.

Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

EURES project 2022-2023 - Iceland	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-CBC-EEA
Grant/contract identification number	101059121
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic employers Foreign jobseekers EURES staff Other Public Employment Service staff
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing and handling of EURES job vacancies Monitoring of placements Handling contacts with workers and employers Providing training sessions/events for EURES/PES staff Staff participation in EURES online training/webinars Participation in EURES Coordination Group (ECG), Information and Communication Officers (IOC), Communication Working Group (CWG) meetings, workshops, and webinars Overhaul of translations of ESCO into Icelandic Preparation for transfer of Curriculum Vitae from PES system to the EURES portal Update of the guidance material for EURES staff providing service to employers Organisation of meetings ("speed dates") with employers, and of an EURES day event for PES/EURES staff Participation in European Online Job Day (EOJD) Visit to a regional PES office Conduction of annual surveys on EURES/PES services for employers Update of Living and working information for Iceland on the EURES portal Organisation of ad-hoc information sessions for staff/interns Gathering of data and submission of Performance Measurement System (PMS) reports and national analyses
Implementation country(ies)	Iceland
Coordinating organisation	Vinnulastofnun
EU funding (EUR)	92,007.00
Project/activity duration	1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal
<p>Main aim of activities: The plan for 2022-2023 was based on previous action plans and represents a direct continuation, particularly influenced by the severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the implementation and results of the 2020-2021 plan. Many activities had to be changed or cancelled during that period. Therefore, this project served as a re-launch/re-activation of EURES services in Iceland. The project aimed to facilitate job matching between Iceland and other EU/EEA countries. Its two main specific objectives were to increase the number of advertised EURES vacancies and the number of confirmed placements. Quantitative targets were set at 400 advertised vacancies and 140 placements for 2022, and 450 advertised vacancies and 180 confirmed placements for 2023. The project aimed to implement the EURES regulation, participate actively in the EURES network, monitor and evaluate progress, and manage finances. Work packages focused on coordination and staff training, employer services, jobseeker services and visibility/awareness of EURES.</p>	



Main outputs and results: A main result in 2022 was a great increase in registered EURES job vacancies (664) compared to the pandemic period, attributed to decreasing Covid effects, increased economic growth, and lower unemployment. 92 placements were confirmed in 2022. Additionally, 446 contacts with workers and 315 with employers were registered in 2022. A key achievement was the successful re-introduction of EURES internally within PES through staff training and an EURES day event attended by nearly half the Directorate's staff at the time. Participation in EURES network meetings and events increased. In 2023, there was a decrease in registered EURES vacancies to 339. However, these vacancies received a total of 3,299 applications, indicating continued high interest from European jobseekers in working in Iceland.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The implementation of a new version of ESCO within the new PES IT system ('Galdur') and the subsequent launch (just after the project ended) of the first version of automated job matching using ESCO represent advancements. The preparation and planned launch (June 2024) of automated transfer of Curriculum Vitae from the PES system to the EURES Job Mobility Portal, fulfilling EURES regulation requirements, is also a significant technical development for EURES Iceland.

Policy evidence generated: The project generated regular PMS data and reports, PMS national analysis reports (2022, 2023), and results from annual surveys on employer satisfaction with PES/EURES services. This information contributes to the evidence base for monitoring EURES performance and PES service delivery in Iceland.

Transnational dimension: The core function of the project is inherently transnational, focusing on facilitating labour mobility between Iceland and the EU/EEA countries. This was achieved through advertising Icelandic vacancies on the EURES Job Mobility Portal, providing Living and Working Information (LWI) for Iceland on the portal, handling applications from foreign jobseekers, and participating actively in the EURES network (ECG, IOC, CWG meetings, workshops, EOJDs).

Dissemination strategy: Communication focused on improving awareness among employers, jobseekers, and internally within PES. Key channels included the EURES Job Mobility Portal (for vacancies, LWI), the PES website (information on EURES services, job vacancies), email and telephone consultancy. An EURES application database was used for jobseekers. Internal dissemination included staff training, an EURES day, ad-hoc information sessions, and use of internal communication tools ('Workplace'). Planned activities such as implementing the EURES chat and active social media management were limited or postponed due to resource constraints. Results from the annual employer survey were used internally within PES.

European added value: The project directly contributed to the functioning of the European labour market by facilitating cross-border job matching and placements, addressing labour needs in Iceland while providing opportunities for EU/EEA jobseekers. EU funding enabled the re-activation and continuation of these specific EURES activities, particularly following the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Participation in the EURES network meetings and working groups fostered knowledge exchange and cooperation at the EU level. The implementation of EURES regulation requirements (e.g., Curriculum Vitae transfer, ESCO) demonstrates contribution to EU policy implementation.

Horizontal principles: Gender equality was considered by ensuring job vacancies registered through EURES/PES did not contain gender bias, with guidance provided to employers if needed. Non-discrimination was applied in handling job applications received via the EURES database (forwarded to employers without discrimination) and in responding to information requests from all individuals. The transnational nature of the service inherently supports inclusion by providing information and access to opportunities for jobseekers across the EU/EEA.

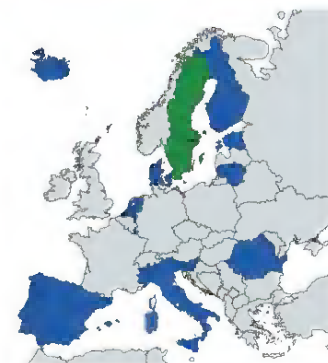
TMS Germany, Your EURES Job 3	
Call identification number	ESF-2021-EURES-TMS-01
Grant/contract identification number	101058923
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobseekers aged 18 to retirement age Employers Project stakeholders Political decision-makers



Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
 Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided support for 1,000 participants through measures including labour market information, counselling, job search assistance, and placement into internships, apprenticeships, or employment • Provided funding measures to overcome obstacles to transnational labour mobility • Provided consultation services to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) implementing integration programmes for new employees from other EU/EEA countries (via partners TIBOR and BBZ) • Carried out dissemination and communication activities to ensure project visibility and reach target groups, as well as networking activities within the EURES network
Implementation country(ies)	Germany
Participating countries	Germany, Cyprus, Greece, Spain
Coordinating organisation	Bundesagentur für Arbeit (Germany)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany: Berufsbildungszentrum Augsburg der Lehmbaugruppe gGmbH; Tibor –Gesellschaft für Bildung, Beratung und Vermittlung mbH • Cyprus: University of Cyprus; Ypourgeio Ergasias kai Koinonikon Asfaliseon • Greece: Manpower Employment Organisation • Spain: Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal
EU funding (EUR)	4,703,897.00
Project/activity duration	01 July 2022 – 30 June 2024
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal
<p>Main aim of activities: The primary aim was to support 1,000 participants in overcoming obstacles to transnational labour mobility by offering comprehensive support including information, counselling, job search assistance, placement (into jobs, apprenticeships, or internships of at least 3-6 months duration and subject to social security contributions), and funding measures. A specific focus was placed on jobseekers aged 18-35 (at least 70% of funding), particularly those with special needs, NEETs, and graduates (65% of youth funding). Support was also dedicated to participants aged 50+ (15% of funding for the 35+ segment). The project aimed to place participants in Germany, targeting sectors significantly affected by the pandemic (e.g., hospitality, tourism) and strategic sectors facing labour shortages (e.g., IT, health/care, education, logistics). It also aimed to support German SMEs (up to 250 employees) in integrating new employees from other EU/EEA countries through dedicated integration programmes, with advice provided by consortium partners TIBOR and BBZ.</p> <p>European added value: The project inherently possesses European added value as it directly supports the EU principle of free movement of workers by utilising the EURES network, a key EU instrument, to facilitate transnational placements. Furthermore, the project addresses transnational labour market imbalances by connecting job supply and demand across borders, particularly relevant in the post-COVID context, and facilitates networking and cooperation between employment services and training providers from Germany, Spain, Greece, and Cyprus.</p> <p>Horizontal principles: The project addresses the horizontal principle of inclusion of vulnerable groups through its specific focus on supporting NEETs, the long-term unemployed, young people entering the labour market, older workers (50+), and jobseekers without formal qualifications.</p>	

EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme Sweden	
Call identification number	ESF-2021 EURES TMS-01
Grant/contract identification number	101058926
Policy area from the Regulation	Employment and labour mobility
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobseekers • Employers • Spouses and families of mobile workers • Public Employment Services • EURES Network members and partners • Other EU networks and stakeholders
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job and traineeship placements • Granting of financial support to jobseekers and employers • Provided EURES mobility services • Processed applications for financial support measures • Conducted continuous marketing and outreach activities • Participated in dissemination session and in European job days across multiple countries • Updated the project website and partner national TMS/EURES websites • Organised consortium meetings and conferences • Gathered success stories for the European Year of Skills 2023 campaign, contributed with one success story to an EU film promoting EURES TMS and to national EURES 30-year campaign events • Presented project at an EU level meeting (ECG) • Arranged TMS training and dissemination sessions for EURES networks • Participated in 1 ELA webinar on EURES TMS and in 1 annual Nordic cross-border seminar
Implementation country(ies)	Sweden
Participating countries	Sweden, Slovenia, Finland, Romania, Denmark, Lithuania, Italy, Portugal, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, Estonia
Coordinating organisation	Arbetsförmedlingen (Sweden)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slovenia: Zavod Republike Slovenije za zaposlovanje • Finland: Better Business International Communication Finland Oy; Allianssin Kehittämispalvelut Oy; Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö • Romania: Agenția Națională pentru Ocuparea Forței de Muncă • Denmark: Københavns Kommune; Styrelsen for Arbejdsmarked og Rekruttering • Lithuania: Užimtumo tarnyba prie Lietuvos Respublikos Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos • Italy: Istituto Formazione Operatori Aziendali • Portugal: Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional • Sweden: Handelskammaren Mälardalen • Luxembourg: Ministère du Travail • Netherlands: Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen • Spain: Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal



Activities and Funding Report 2021-2023
Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland: Department of Social Protection • Estonia: Eesti Töötukassa
EU funding (EUR)	5,313,238.36
Project/activity duration	01 July 2022 – 30 June 2024
Project/organisation/activity website	EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme - European Union
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Tenders & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The primary purpose was to foster fair and sustainable mobility for workers within the EU/EEA. The project was result-orientated and quality-driven, with key objectives including helping jobseekers (aged 18-35 and 35+) find employment (jobs or traineeships) in an EU country, Norway, or Iceland other than their country of residence, and assisting employers across the EU27, Norway, and Iceland in recruiting needed workforce. This was pursued by offering targeted recruitment services suited to employer needs (particularly SMEs and those with hard-to-fill vacancies in sectors like information and communications technology, healthcare, education, hospitality, transport, construction) and providing tailor-made packages of mobility services to jobseekers. These services included information, guidance, recruitment, matching, pre- and post-placement support, combined with financial assistance (e.g., for interviews, relocation, language courses, qualification recognition, family support). The project focused on employments with fair working conditions and qualitative recruitments, supporting diverse jobseeker groups including low-skilled, professionals, long-term unemployed, and vulnerable individuals.

Main outputs and results: The project reached its target groups through information, training, communication, and dissemination activities. The results exceeded the placement target, achieving 1,810 placements (against a goal of 1,800). A total of 2,700 instances of financial support were granted. Key impacts included increased mobility of both skilled and non-skilled workers, helping balance the European labour market needs from an individual to an international scale. Employers, particularly SMEs, received tailor-made mobility services facilitating recruitment of needed staff. Support was provided to spouses and families contributed to the sustainable mobility of recruited candidates. It also included enhanced visibility and public perception of the EURES network as a practical tool for addressing European labour market challenges, consequently improving the image of PES.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The integrated and comprehensive nature of the support package – combining tailor-made services, diverse financial aids (including for SME integration programmes and family support), the cooperation between public and private entities within the consortium, and the specific focus on sustainable, quality placements – represents a well-developed and potentially advanced implementation model within the EURES TMS context. The explicit inclusion of family support to ensure sustainability could be considered a progressive element.

Policy evidence generated: The project contributed with success stories to EU campaigns (European Year of Skills, EURES 30 years), which can serve as anecdotal evidence of programme impact.

Transnational dimension: The project was fundamentally transnational, operating across all EU27 countries, Norway, and Iceland. It involved a consortium of 10 members from 8 countries, plus 7 associated partners from 7 additional countries (with some overlapping). Activities included facilitating cross-border placements, participating in European job days in multiple countries, addressing transnational labour market imbalances, and disseminating information through EU-wide networks (EURES, ELA, ECG). The cooperation within the diverse consortium was central to its operation.

New partnerships created: The project fostered partnerships between public EURES providers and private EURES members within the consortium. It also involved cooperation with several other EURES organisations beyond the core partners, as well as EU networks and stakeholders, indicating active partnership building and networking.

Dissemination strategy: The project implemented a multi-channel dissemination strategy to reach its diverse target audiences. This included digital marketing efforts through social media platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter, alongside regular updates to the main project website and partner national sites. Direct engagement was pursued via information sessions, seminars, and active participation in numerous online and physical European job days held across various European countries. Dissemination materials such as information leaflets and a promotional video were produced and distributed. Furthermore, the project leveraged EU-level platforms like EURES TV, contributed content to major EU campaigns including the European Year of Skills and the EURES 30th-anniversary film, and presented its work at high-level meetings and relevant webinars. A key component of the strategy also involved dedicated training and dissemination sessions specifically designed to share practices and knowledge with other EURES networks.

European added value: The project demonstrated European added value by supporting the fundamental EU principle of free movement for workers and actively addressing transnational labour market imbalances, objectives

that are challenging to achieve effectively at a purely national level. Given its substantial scale of operation, involving over EUR 5 million in EU contributions, facilitating 1,810 placements, and providing 2,700 instances of financial support across the EU/EEA, it is unlikely that the project could have been implemented or achieved comparable results without EU funding. It made a clear contribution to the implementation of EU policy objectives concerning employment, skills, and mobility, particularly within the framework of the EURES Regulation. Furthermore, the large consortium and strategic use of the established EURES network likely generated economies of scale and facilitated valuable knowledge sharing. The project also promoted best practices, drawing on previous experiences and disseminating its methods through training initiatives. Its inherent transnational character fostered networking activities among organisations from various countries and played a role in mitigating cross-border risks associated with labour market shortages and surpluses.

Horizontal principles: The project aimed to foster transparency and non-discrimination, explicitly stating that its services were equally available to both men and women, thereby promoting gender equality. Furthermore, it demonstrated a commitment to the inclusion of vulnerable groups by specifically targeting support towards subgroups such as the long-term unemployed and those not yet established on the labour market, offering extra assistance to help them (re-)enter employment, alongside support for low-skilled individuals. The principle of equality was also advanced through the provision of support for families, which aimed to reduce potential barriers associated with relocation and promote equality of opportunity for candidates with family responsibilities.

8.1.2. Procurement



Reports

Activities:

- EURES Biennial report covering the period July 2020 - June 2022 (2021)
- Study / Report EURES Performance measurement of activities financed under the EURES call for proposals for cross-border partnerships and targeted mobility schemes (PMS part) (2021)
- Study report on Posting of workers: evaluation of the situation of temporary cross-border mobile workers and workers in subcontracting chains (2021)

Target groups: Marginalised communities; Micro entrepreneurs; NEETS / Inactive; People in vulnerable situations; Self-employed and short-term contract workers (up to 6 months); Workers; Persons with disability; 3rd country citizens

Indicative number of contracts: 3

EU funding (EUR): 633,145.00

Main aim of activities: The activities aim to support the implementation and reporting requirements of the EURES regulation, particularly through providing input for the Commission's biennial report covering EURES activity from July 2020 to June 2022. They also include monitoring and measuring the results of projects funded under the EURES call for proposals for cross-border partnerships and targeted mobility schemes, integrating these into the EURES performance measurement system. Furthermore, a specific study evaluates the situation of temporary cross-border mobile workers and those in subcontracting chains who are posted or mediated by temporary work agencies/intermediaries.

Main outputs and results: The primary output is reports, including a comprehensive biennial report on EURES activity, semestrial PMS reports focusing on cross-border partnerships and targeted mobility schemes, and a dedicated study report on the situation of posted/mediated temporary cross-border workers.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: These activities directly contribute to the ESF+ EaSI strand's objective of facilitating the Mobility of workers by providing crucial data, monitoring, and evaluation on the functioning of the EURES network, compliance with EURES regulations, performance of funded mobility initiatives, and specific situations of cross-border workers. This evidence base is essential for informing policy, improving the effectiveness of mobility support systems, and ensuring fair working conditions for mobile workers within the EU.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The activities demonstrate EU added value by supporting an EU-level network (EURES), monitoring the implementation of an EU regulation, and evaluating EU-funded cross-border projects. The resulting reports and studies provide insights and data relevant across Member States, facilitating the transferability of knowledge and best practices related to labour mobility and the EURES network.



IT projects

Activities:

- Co-delegation to DIGIT: IT Project: EC DATA PLATFORM - DATA SCIENCE LAB (2022)
- Co-delegation to DIGIT: IT Project: ESCO: Hosting (2023)
- Co-delegation to DIGIT: IT Project: EURES: JIRA Support (2023)
- IT Project: EESSI - Implementation by A4 (2022; 2023)
- IT Project: EESSI - Implementation by F.5 (2021)
- IT Project: ESCO Technical Assistance (2021)
- IT Project: ESCO Technical support (2022)
- IT Project: ESCO Development, Maintenance, Licenses (2022; 2023)
- IT Project: EURES Portal: development and maintenance - implementation by F5 (2021)
- IT Project: EURES Portal: development and maintenance - implementation by A4 (2022; 2023)

Target groups: 3rd country citizens; Workers; Mobile citizens (social protection), NEETs / Inactive; Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy; LTU; Self-employed and short-term contract workers (up to 6 months)

Indicative number of contracts: 278

EU funding (EUR): 30,176,798.70 (17,228,163.00 in 2021; 10,665,779.54 in 2022; 2,283,856.16 in 2023).

Main aim of activities: The activities focus on providing technical support, development, maintenance, and operations for key IT systems supporting labour mobility in the EU. This includes the ESCO system, involving technical assistance, semantic content management, integration, hosting, and promotion. It also covers the EURES Portal, focusing on its development and maintenance, the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) system and supporting data infrastructure for skills intelligence (Europass).

Main outputs and results: Foreseen outputs include IT Projects related to ESCO, EURES, EESSI, and the EC Data Platform/Data Science Lab.³⁵

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Activities contribute to EaSI/ESF+ priorities by improving the functioning of the EU labour market, supporting vulnerable groups in accessing jobs, and enabling the exercise of free movement rights. They directly support the "Mobility of workers" objective by developing and maintaining essential pan-European digital infrastructure (ESCO, EURES, EESSI) that facilitates skills recognition, job matching, and seamless cross-border social security coordination.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The activities provide EU added value by standardising information (ESCO, EESSI data exchange) and offering services at a European scale (EURES portal), which likely cannot be efficiently replicated at national levels. The reliance on IT systems and data science (Data Science Lab) represents innovativeness in supporting policy objectives. The nature of these projects ensure transferability across countries, involving common platforms/digital tools designed for EU-wide application.



Conference, events, meetings

Activity: Meetings: Organisation of conferences, catering and logistical support (2022)

Target groups: Workers; Mobile citizens (social protection)

Indicative number of contracts: 8

EU funding (EUR): 22,235.65

Main aim of activities: Organisation of meetings, conferences, catering, and logistical support in the field of labour mobility. This includes support for the Free Movement of Workers Advisory Committee, Free Movement of Workers Advisory preparatory meetings, Free Movement of Workers Bodies, and EURES.

Main outputs and results: Foreseen outputs include conference, events and meetings.³⁶

³⁵ Detailed information on specific outputs not available

³⁶ Information on specific outputs not available



Data and statistics

Activity: Eurobarometer. Geographical and Labour Market Mobility (2022)

Target groups: Workers; Mobile citizens (social protection)

Indicative number of contracts: 1

EU funding (EUR): 395,550,08

Main aim of activities: To conduct a Eurobarometer survey updating a previous study from 2010. The aim is to gather data on the experience with, intention for, and attitudes towards labour mobility, including the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit. The results are intended as potential input for a communication on mobility.

Main outputs and results: Data and statistics, documented as a Eurobarometer study titled "Eurobarometer: Intra-EU labour mobility after the pandemic".



Communication

Activities:

- Communication activities for cross-border partnerships and targeted mobility schemes (2023)
- EURES Communication Activities (2022)

Target groups: 3rd country citizens; LTU; Micro entrepreneurs; NEETs / Inactive; People in vulnerable situations; Persons with disability; Self-employed and short-term contract workers (up to 6 months); Workers; Mobile citizens (social protection)

Indicative number of contracts: 2

EU funding (EUR): 81,289.50 (50,000.00 in 2022; 31,289.50 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: The activities aim at providing information and raising awareness of EURES initiatives, including EURES Targeted Mobility Schemes and Cross-border partnerships. This involves the use of audio-visual communication tools (e.g., short promotional videos) and general web-communication to promote the services offered by EURES to the general public.

Main outputs and results: The foreseen outputs are communication activities, specifically promotional videos and general web-communication materials. These outputs serve to promote EURES Targeted Mobility Schemes and EURES cross-border partnerships, with promotional videos being available documentation.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Activities contribute to facilitating the mobility of workers by raising awareness and promoting EURES initiatives, cross-border partnerships, and targeted mobility schemes. This supports a more integrated European labour market and enhances access to job opportunities across borders.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: The communication tools (audio-visual, web) are standard and transferable methods for disseminating information. The EU added value lies in promoting cross-border worker mobility and targeted schemes across different countries via a unified communication effort for the EURES network, reaching a wide European public and facilitating mobility that national-level actions alone could not achieve as effectively.



Capacity building activities

Activities:

- Use of External Experts for the evaluation of proposals (EURES calls) (2021)
- External expert evaluators (2023)

Target groups: Mobile citizens (social protection); LTU; Workers, Marginalised communities, NEETs / Inactive, Persons with disability; Self-employed and short-term contract workers (up to 6 months); Women

Indicative number of contracts: 25

EU funding (EUR): 85,000.00 (60,000.00 in 2021; 25,000.00 in 2023)

Main aim of activities: Recruitment and use of external experts for the evaluation of calls for proposals, covering areas such as cross-border partnerships, posting of workers, undeclared work, and EURES initiatives.

Main outputs and results: Capacity building activities, such as contracts with expert evaluators (specifically for EURES calls).

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: Supports the selection of projects aligned with EaSI/ESF+ objectives, ensuring effective use of funding for priorities related to worker mobility, social protection, employment, and inclusion of various vulnerable groups.

Transferability aspects of the contract/European added value/Innovativeness: Activities leverage external expertise for impartial and high-quality evaluation across EU-relevant policy areas. They support the implementation of EU-level initiatives and potentially utilize shared resources (expert database).

9. PPI 6 - Microenterprises, social enterprises, and social investment activities

THE EASI STRAND OF THE ESF+



PPI 6.

Microenterprises, social enterprises, and social investment activities

PPI 6 covers activities aimed at supporting microenterprises, social enterprises and social investment. They include the realisation of capacity-building initiatives, communication conferences, events, meetings, data collection and statistics, IT project development, and the preparation of reports.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MICROFINANCE ECOSYSTEM	ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE MARKET ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FOR PROVIDING MICROFINANCE TO MICROENTERPRISES IN START-UP AND GROWTH PHASES
DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT MARKETS	ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT MARKET

THE EASI STRAND FUNDED (2021-2023)

Projects	Procurement Activities
3	3

EXAMPLES OF OUTPUTS PRODUCED

-  Production of data and statistics such as the flash Eurobarometer on social entrepreneurship and youth, as well as impact reports.
-  Conduction of capacity building activities such as advisory services and technical assistance for microfinance and social enterprise finance providers, including workshops and interviews.
-  Investment activities as identifying/funding impact ventures, executing equity/debt deals, expanding networks, conducting due diligence on portfolio companies.

9.1. Microfinance to microenterprises (e)

9.1.1. Procurement



Capacity building activities

Activity: Advisory services and technical assistance for microfinance providers (2021)

Target group: Micro entrepreneurs

Indicative number of contracts: 6

EU funding (EUR): 1,381,071.00

Main aim of activities: The advisory services aim to assist microcredit providers within the EU to enhance their operational quality, expand their reach (scale up), and achieve self-sustainability. These services are designed to boost the capacity of microcredit providers and improve their access to existing EaSI financial instruments as well as those under InvestEU.

Main outputs and results: The contract delivered capacity-building activities, specifically advisory services and technical assistance (TA), for microfinance providers. Final reports detailing the TA and advisory services provided under the specific contracts were generated as outputs.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activity contributed to the green transition, the digital transition, and a fair transition aimed at better employment, working conditions, and social inclusion.

9.2. Development of social enterprises (g)

9.2.1. Projects

This section covers projects under call **ESF-2022-SOC-FIN** (Transaction costs to support social finance intermediaries). This call aimed to further support the development of the social investment market and facilitate access to finance for social enterprises through grants to intermediaries in the social enterprise finance field to partially cover the transaction costs. Social enterprises play a key role in implementing many principles expressed in the EPSR, in particular in terms of equal opportunities, active support to employment, secure and adaptable employment, inclusion of people with disabilities, long-term care and access to essential services.³⁷

³⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/esf-2022-soc-fin>

Facilitating smart investment into quality early-stage social enterprises in Iberia	
Call identification number	ESF-2022-SOC-FIN
Grant/contract identification number	101101765
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social enterprises • Investors (including crowdfunding investors, Business Angels, and institutional investors) • Social entrepreneurship ecosystem stakeholders in Iberia
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a pipeline of 145 potential social enterprise projects • Analysed and selected projects, holding 15 investment committees and approving 10 operations • Executed 3 capital investment campaigns (Sepiia, Recovo, CoCircular) and 5 debt investment campaigns • Expanded the investor network through marketing, events (3), blog posts (5), and creating the Impact Angels Club and Impact Network • Developed a reporting model for financed companies to enhance post-investment monitoring
Implementation country(ies)	Spain
Participating countries	Spain, Portugal
Coordinating organisation	La Bolsa Social Plataforma de Financiación Participativa S.L. (Spain)
EU funding (EUR)	509,969 70
Project/activity duration	01 February 2023 – 31 January 2025
Link to output(s) produced	Impact Angels Club website
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal
<p>Main aim of activities: The primary aim is to strengthen the social entrepreneurship sector in Spain and Portugal. This is achieved by facilitating investments in early-stage social enterprises needing less than EUR 500,000. Key objectives include creating a quality pipeline of investment-ready social enterprises, executing at least 16 investment operations totalling around EUR 6 4 million (target for the entire project duration), attracting new impact investors via crowdfunding and other mechanisms, and reinforcing investor confidence through better post-investment monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>Main outputs and results: During its first year, the project made significant progress. It identified 145 impact projects, produced 10 investment memoranda, finalized 3 equity and 6 debt operations, channelled EUR 1,475,042 to 9 companies/entities involving 510 investors in campaigns, grew its investor database to 1763 registered individuals, established an investment vehicle (Impact Angels Club) with 40 Business Angels, launched a professional investor network (Impact Network), secured an agreement with an institutional investor (Fundación ONCE), and developed a new reporting model. The project is directly impacting the beneficiary social enterprises by providing access to capital. It is strengthening the social finance ecosystem in Iberia by creating structures (investor clubs, networks) and attracting diverse investors.</p> <p>Innovativeness of the project/activities: It has established a dedicated, structured networks (Impact Angels Club, Impact Network) specifically for sub-EUR 500k social impact deals. It actively blended crowdfunding with more traditional impact investment (angels, institutional). Finally, it also focused EU funding on covering transaction costs to de-risk and enable smaller investment rounds.</p>	



Policy evidence generated: The project generated operational data on the social enterprise landscape in Spain and Portugal (pipeline size, investment needs) and the functioning of the social finance market (investor engagement, deal flow). The development of the reporting model contributed with practical evidence on standardizing impact/financial reporting for this segment.

Transnational dimension: The project is inherently transnational, operating across both Spain and Portugal to address the social finance ecosystem in the Iberian peninsula. It aims to build pipelines and execute investments in both countries.

New partnerships created: The project led to a new partnership agreement closed with an institutional investor, Fundación ONCE, to co-invest in equity and debt opportunities. The creation of the Impact Angels Club and Impact Network represents the formation of new collaborative structures among investors.

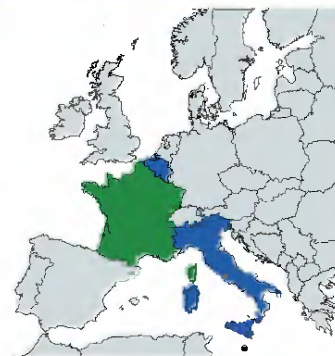
Dissemination strategy: The project conducted dissemination activities including marketing and communication for funding campaigns, publishing 5 blog posts to train small investors, and holding 3 ecosystem events; additionally, it created the Impact Angels Club website and organised Demo Days as dissemination and engagement channels.

European added value. EU funding directly enables the action by covering transaction costs associated with small investment rounds, which are a key barrier identified. This likely allows Bolsa Social to undertake more activity in this segment than would otherwise be possible. The project contributes to EU policy objectives related to social enterprise development, social investment, and social inclusion. It promotes networking and knowledge sharing between investors and social enterprises across EU countries (Spain and Portugal).

Sustainability measure: The creation of lasting structures like the Impact Angels Club and Impact Network, along with the growing investor database (target 2,200), suggests efforts towards sustainability beyond the project funding period. The partnership with Fundación ONCE also indicates potential for continued activity.

Horizontal principles: The project inherently supports social inclusion via funded enterprises, and it aligns with environmental/social impact focus.

Support early-stage social enterprises around Europe: LITA.co	
Call identification number	ESF=2022-SOC FIN
Grant/contract identification number	101101801
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfinance and Social Enterprise finance providers • Citizens
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of a European investment platform dedicated to social enterprises • Provision of a marketplace connecting investors with social entrepreneurs • Catalysing capital investments (early-stage, scale-up, growth) • Guidance of entrepreneurs (business plan, impact strategy, funding strategy) • Running fundraising campaigns • Actively following and supporting investees' growth • Developing a platform for digital management of crowd investors • Accelerating European expansion (France, Italy, Belgium) • Building a European group to support early-stage social entrepreneurship
Implementation country(ies)	France



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Participating countries	Italy, Belgium
Coordinating organisation	1001PACT (France)
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy: 1001PACT Italy Società a Responsabilità Limitata • Belgium: 1001PACT Impact Investments
EU funding (EUR)	404,338.46
Project/activity duration	01 April 2023 – 31 March 2025
Project/organisation/activity website	https://fr.lita.co/
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal

Main aim of activities: The primary aim is to support early-stage social enterprises across Europe by facilitating access to finance and providing strategic support through the expansion of LITA.co's platform in France, Italy, and Belgium. Key objectives include implementing its "ecosystem strategy" (guiding entrepreneurs on business plans/impact/funding, running fundraising campaigns via its investor network, supporting investee growth), building a strong European group leveraging this ecosystem approach and the harmonised regulations; and democratizing impact investing by engaging citizens.

Transferability element(s) of the activities: The model demonstrates inherent transferability, evidenced by its expansion from France to Italy and Belgium. The platform approach, combining investment facilitation with strategic support, could potentially be applied in other European countries, particularly facilitated by the harmonised European Crowdfunding Service Providers Regulation (ECSPR) framework. The methodology for guiding entrepreneurs and executing fundraising could also be adapted.

Innovativeness of the project: The project's innovativeness lies in being a dedicated European investment platform specifically for social enterprises, particularly focusing on the underserved early-stage segment. It uniquely combines impact investing with crowdfunding, democratizing access for individual investors. The holistic "ecosystem strategy" represents an innovative approach compared to traditional intermediaries, supported by its digital platform for managing crowd investors.

Transnational dimension: This project is inherently transnational, coordinated by the French entity with activities and participating partner organisations in Italy and Belgium. Its objective is explicitly to accelerate LITA.co's presence across Europe and build a strong European group, leveraging the ECSPR 'passport'. The transnational dimension is central to the project's design and strategy.

New partnerships created: The project utilizes an existing transnational partnership structure for implementation. Its core operational activity involves creating new partnerships between diverse investors and social entrepreneurs.

Dissemination strategy: The project involves sensitizing citizens through events and leveraging a network of 90,000 investors, which implies communication channels exist. The organisation's website serves as a primary dissemination tool for its services.

European added value: The project demonstrates European added value by addressing a market failure – the early-stage social finance gap – prevalent across Europe, which individual national actions might not tackle as effectively. Its transnational structure across France, Italy, and Belgium facilitates cross-border investment and learning, leveraging the harmonized EU crowdfunding regulation (ECSPR). Furthermore, it contributes to EU policy objectives related to the social economy, social inclusion, and potentially job creation by supporting social enterprises. The project also fosters networking between investors and social entrepreneurs across borders. EU funding likely enabled the scaling and acceleration of its European expansion and supported the higher transaction costs associated with small, early-stage investments, which might not have been feasible otherwise.

Sustainability measures: LITA.co operates as a business (private for-profit coordinator), suggesting a model intended for ongoing operation beyond the grant period. Its expansion strategy linked to the permanent change in EU regulation (ECSPR) also points towards long-term planning.

Makesense Seed I, next step for European impact	
Call identification number	ESF-2022-SOC-FIN
Grant/contract identification number	101101764
Policy area from the Regulation	Social inclusion, including poverty eradication
Action	ESF Project Grants
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social enterprises and investors • Public and private investors • European social entrepreneurship and impact investing ecosystem actors
Activities implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact investing in pre-seed and Series-A social enterprises • Acceleration and assessment of social enterprises • Support for portfolio enterprises to integrate and maintain social mission • Development of the operating team • Preparation for exits preserving social mission • Strengthening partnerships with various investor types • Development and sharing of impact investing tools, models, and learnings at a European level • Training and mutual learning activities
Implementation country(ies)	France
Participating countries	France
Coordinating organisation	Senseinvest Consulting (France)
Partner organisations	Sensecube
EU funding (EUR)	408,271.61
Project/activity duration	1 April 2023 – 31 March 2025
Link to output(s) produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open-source toolkit for early-stage social investors • Curriculum for new social investors • makesense Seed Impact study
Link to results to the Tender and Funding Portal	Funding & Tenders Portal
<p>Main aim of activities: The project's primary aims include investing in 5 new pre-seed social enterprises and re-investing in 10 portfolio companies during their Series-A funding rounds, utilizing makesense's acceleration and assessment models to ensure long-term impact protection. Further objectives are to support portfolio and ecosystem social enterprises in deeply embedding their social mission long-term through the development of makesense's operating team, prepare for responsible, mission-preserving exits from portfolio companies while strengthening partnerships with diverse investors, and share makesense's learnings, tools, and models at a European level to foster mutual learning and develop the wider impact investing ecosystem.</p> <p>Main outputs and results: During the period of April 1 2023 to March 31 2024, the project performed 12 due diligence assessments, made 6 new investments (in We Dress Fair, Ensweet, Atypique, Plant On Demand, Resortecs, Bio&Lo), and made 7 reinvestments in existing portfolio companies. The wider fund's activities included publishing two impact reports (for 2021 and 2022), with investees collectively generating 240 jobs and tracking 48 impact indicators across the portfolio.</p>	



Transferability element(s) of the activities: A core objective is to enable the transfer of makesense's operational models, tools, and expertise across Europe. This focus on sharing practical experience aims to make the fund's methods replicable by other actors, fostering the development of the social finance ecosystem in different national contexts.

Innovativeness of the project/activities: The project's innovation lies in its pioneering role in French pre-seed impact investing and its continued focus on designing and experimenting with new models for this stage. Disseminating these novel approaches and expanding the specific operational model across Europe represent key innovative steps for the organisation and the sector.

Policy evidence generated: The project generates policy-relevant evidence through its operational model and impact reports. The documented practices and learnings, actively disseminated as part of its transferability goals, offer practical insights for social finance policy discussions and market-building efforts, aligning with broader EU objectives in the social economy.

Transnational dimension: The project has a strong transnational dimension. This is evident in its European scope for knowledge dissemination, its aim to build partnerships with actors across the continent, and its ambition to expand makesense's operational influence beyond national borders.

Dissemination strategy: The project employs a multi-faceted dissemination strategy to achieve its knowledge transfer objectives. This includes publishing reports, organising and participating in European events (workshops, roundtables), providing online resources (like MOOCs), and facilitating mutual learning through peer-to-peer activities and training targeting the wider ecosystem.

European added value: European added value stems primarily from refining and scaling a pioneering impact investing model beyond its initial national context. Facilitating cross-border knowledge exchange and benchmarking through the systematic dissemination of tools and best practices enhances capacity across the EU social finance landscape. Furthermore, strengthened networking with diverse European investors contributes to a more robust ecosystem.

Sustainability measures: Sustainability is addressed internally by embedding the social mission deeply within portfolio companies and planning for responsible, mission-preserving exits. Externally, the project contributes to the long-term health and professionalisation of the wider European impact investing ecosystem through its commitment to sharing effective models and practices.

9.2.2. Procurement



Capacity building activities

Activity: Advisory services and technical assistance for social enterprise finance providers (2021)

Target groups: Social entrepreneurs, actors of the social economy

Indicative number of contracts: 4

EU funding (EUR): 425,950.00

Main aim of activities: This activity aimed at providing advisory services to help social enterprise finance providers improve operations, scale up, become self-sustainable, and access EaSI/InvestEU financial instruments. It aimed to boost the capacity of these providers.

Main outputs and results: The contract delivered capacity-building activities through advisory services and technical assistance for social enterprise finance providers. Specific actions included workshops and interviews and the provision of planned services.

Contribution to EaSI/ESF+ priorities: The activity contributed to the green transition, the digital transition, and a fair transition for better employment, working conditions, and social inclusion.



Data and statistics

Activities: Flash Eurobarometer on social entrepreneurship and youth (2022)

Target groups: Children; Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) / Inactive

Indicative number of contracts: 1

EU funding (EUR): 166,814.89

Main aim of activities: This activity aimed at collecting information via a Flash Eurobarometer on young people's attitudes and perceptions towards social entrepreneurship, focusing on its potential for employment and social inclusion, particularly linking to the European Year of Youth.

Main outputs and results: The contract produced data and statistics, specifically the "Flash Eurobarometer 513 - Social entrepreneurship and youth".

Afterword

This is the 1st report on projects and organisations' for the EaSI strand of the ESF+ covering the **2021-2023 period**. For the first time, it included detailed information on all types of expenditures, including procurement and other types of actions. It aimed to provide a cohesive overview of the activities funded by EaSI, aligning them with the fund's operational objectives.

The report presented a total of **22 fiches for action grants, 25 fiches for organisations** (covering 74 operating grants), along with **summaries of 18 direct grants, 14 indirect management projects, 34 projects funded as 'other actions', and 128 procurement contracts**. These fiches and summaries were developed based on multiple sources, including executive summaries from the EU Funding & Tenders Portal, EaSI Megareports, publicly available information (such as project and organisational websites), and documentation provided directly by DG EMPL and its Operational Units. Each fiche and summary functions as a standalone document describing individual grants, organisations, and contract output types.

In addition to administrative details on the various grants and contracts, the report identifies evidence on the effectiveness of supported practices, their potential for transfer to other instruments or programmes, their innovativeness, impact, EU added value, and sustainability. It also highlights **potential good practices**.

The report is intended to **support learning** among national authorities, civil society organisations, and private actors engaged in employment and social affairs. It is also designed to guide prospective applicants for EU funding and provide policymakers with insights to inform the development and implementation of future policy measures.

Annex I. List of projects in this report

List of projects provided as a separate document.

Annex II. List of organisations in this report

List of organisations provided as a separate document.

Annex III. List of direct grants in this report

List of direct grants provided as a separate document.

Annex IV. List of indirect management in this report

List of indirect management projects provided as a separate document.

Annex V. List of other actions in this report

List of other actions provided as a separate document.

Annex VI. List of procurement contracts in this report

List of procurement contracts provided as a separate document.



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