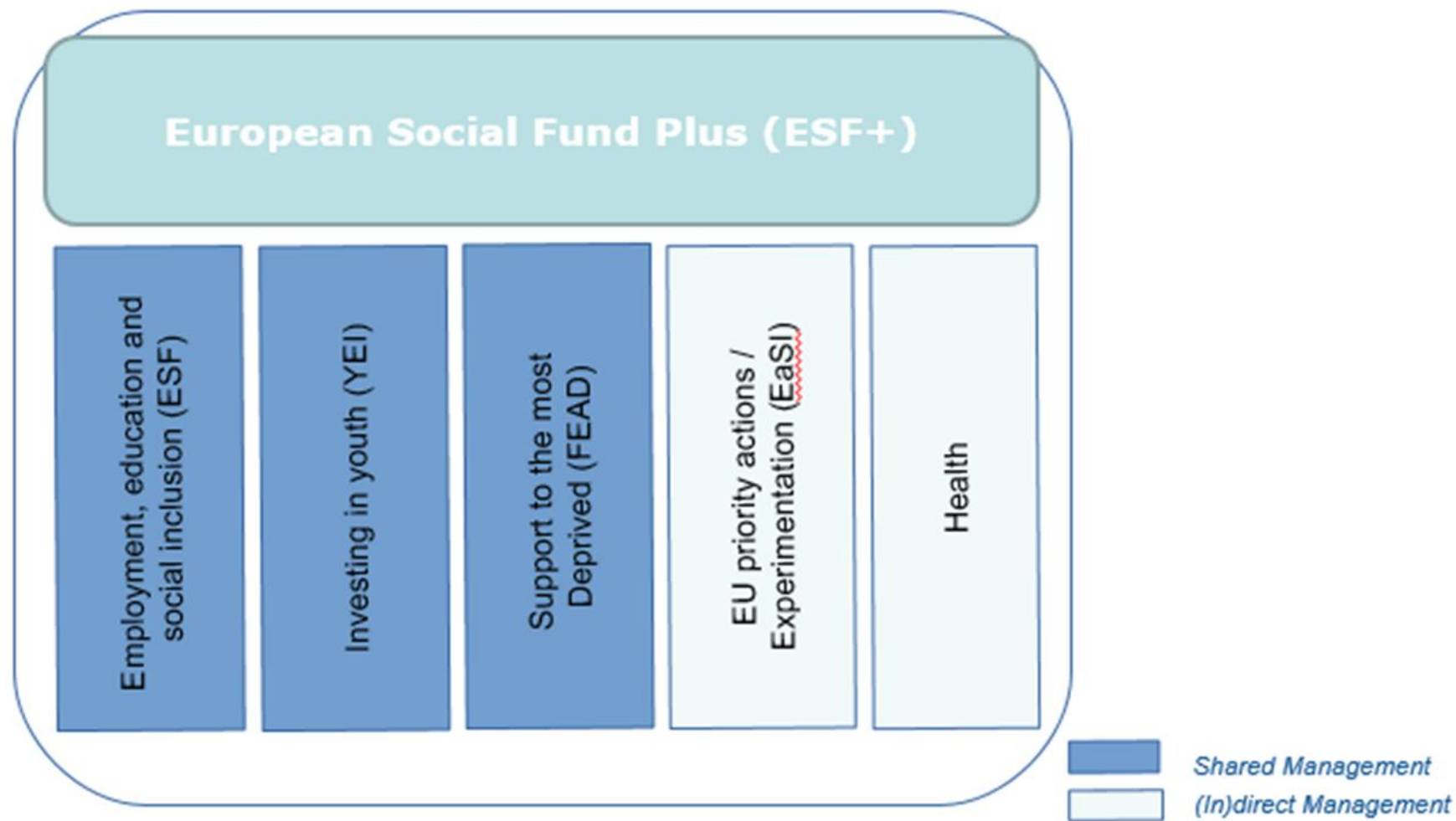


# The European Social Fund Plus





# The ESF+: 5 funds coming together



# Structure of the ESF+ Regulation proposal



# Structure of the ESF+ Regulation

- **Part I** – General provisions (applicable to all)
- **Part II** – Implementation under the ESF+ strand under shared management
- **Part III** – Implementation under direct and indirect management
- **Part IV** – Final provisions
- **Annexes**



# Part I: General provisions and main objectives



## General provisions – Art.1 to 6

- Subject matter
- Definitions (for shared management, in addition to the CPR)
- General objectives and methods of implementation
- Specific objectives
- Horizontal principles



## General objectives of ESF+ - Art. 3

- All strands: Support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights
- Shared management strand: also the Employment Guidelines and challenges identified in country-specific recommendations and in the European Semester
- EaSI Strand: special focus on employment, skills, social protection, social inclusion and working conditions
- Health strand: ensure a high level of health protection in the Union



# Specific objectives of the ESF+

EU  
Pillar of  
Social  
Rights

- (i) improving access to employment
- (ii) modernising labour market
- (iii) Promoting women's labour market participation, work/life balance, childcare, working environment, adaptation to change, active and healthy ageing
- (iv) Improving quality of education and training systems
- (v) Promoting equal access to education and training and lifelong learning,
- (vi) active inclusion
- (vii) integration of third country nationals and marginalised communities e.g. Roma;
- (ix) access to services; social protection healthcare systems and long term care
  
- (x) people at risk of poverty including / most deprived and children;
- (xi) addressing material deprivation

(yy) Health promotion

Horizontal  
principles

Gender  
equality

Equal opps

Non  
discrimination

Contribution to  
"Smarter Europe"  
"Greener Europe"



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## Specific objectives (SO) of ESF+ (Art. 4)

- 11 SO under “**a more social Europe**” (the CPR policy objective) in the policy areas of employment, education and inclusion including health;
- Wording closely follows the principles of the Pillar
- Specific references to third country nationals and basic material assistance
- ESF+ also contributes to other CPR policy objectives (a smarter Europe and a greener Europe)

# ESF+ 2021-2027

**European Social Fund Plus**  
Support to the most deprived

**€100 Billion**  
at least 4%

**Employment and Social  
Innovation strand**

**€761 Million**

**Health strand**

**€413 million**

**Total Budget**

**€101,2 Billion**





## Budget – Art.5

	EUR (current prices)	EUR (current prices)
<b>ESF+ total budget 2021-2027</b>	<b>101 174 000 000</b>	
Transnational cooperation	200 000 000	
Outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions	400 000 000	
Employment and Social Innovation and Health strands	1 174 000 000	EaSI: 761 000 000 (indicative) Health: 413 000 000 (indicative)



## Horizontal principles – Art. 6

- Mainstream and targeted actions to support:
  - equality between men and women
  - equal opportunities
  - non-discrimination
- Promote the transition from residential/institutional care to family and community-based care.
- The ESF+ should not support any action that contributes to segregation or to social exclusion.



# Part II: Common provisions for the ESF+ shared management strand



## Key changes

- Stronger alignment with the European Semester and alignment with the European Pillar of Social Rights
- More flexibility on thematic concentration requirements: adjusted to MS needs
- The scope of the ESF+ is broader (basic material assistance and social integration measures) but fewer specific objectives
- Introduction of conditions for eligibility of direct staff costs and purchase of equipment, furniture and vehicles
- Obligations on monitoring and reporting are simplified and indicators are reduced



## Consistency & thematic concentration

- ESF+ resources have to be concentrated on challenges identified in NRP and European semester and take into account the Pillar
- Appropriate amount of ESF+ resources under shared management to support CSRs and challenges under the EU Semester



***Programmed under one or more dedicated priorities (Art. 11)***



## Consistency & thematic concentration - Art. 7(1)

- Ensuring coordination, complementarity and coherence between the ESF+ and other Union funds or programmes.
- Avoid duplication of effort

### How?

- Authorities of relevant programmes should be involved in the preparation and implementation of ESF+ programmes.

*e.g The ESF can be used to top-up support by Erasmus, for instance, for students with a disadvantaged background*





## Consistency & thematic concentration - Art. 7(3)

- **At least 25% of MS ESF+ resources** has to be dedicated to social inclusion, i.e. :
  - Active inclusion
  - Socio-economic integration of third country nationals and marginalized communities
  - Equal access to services; modernisation of and access to social protection systems; healthcare and long-term care services
  - Social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion
  - Material deprivation



***The resources for material deprivation count for meeting the 25%***



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## Consistency & thematic concentration - Art. 7(4)

- At least 2% of the ESF+ resources of a MS has to address material deprivation (specific objective xi), but:

**In duly justified cases, this may include support to the social integration of the most deprived (specific objective x)**



***Programmed under dedicated priority or programme (Art. 9)***



## Consistency & thematic concentration - Art. 7(5)

- MS with high NEET rates (above the Union average) in **2019** should programme at least **10%** of their ESF+ resources for **2021-2025** to support youth employment.
- As part of the **midterm review**, MS will allocate at least 10% of their ESF+ resources for 2026-2027 to support youth employment if they have a high NEET rate in **2024**.
- For the **outermost regions** with high NEET rates: **15% of the ESF+ resources in their programmes.**



***Programmed under dedicated priorities  
(Art. 10)***



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## Partnership - Art. 8

- MS to ensure adequate participation of social partners and civil society organisations in the delivery of employment, education and social inclusion policies supported by the ESF+.
- Member States to allocate an appropriate amount of ESF+ resources in each programme for the capacity building of social partners and civil society organisations.





# Chapter II: General support of the ESF+ shared management strand



## Support to policy innovation - Art. 13

- Member States shall support actions of social innovation and social experimentations and strengthen bottom-up approaches based on partnerships
- Member States may support up-scaling of innovative approaches tested on a small-scale (social experimentations) developed under the Employment and Social Innovation strand and other Union programmes.
- Can be done under any of the ESF+ specific objectives (i) to (x)



***Programmed under dedicated priority -  
higher EU co-financing rate***



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# Eligibility of costs - Art. 14

## Ineligible costs:

- purchase of land
- purchase of real estate
- purchase of infrastructure

## Purchase of furniture, equipment and vehicles is only eligible if either:

- the purchase is necessary for achieving the objective of the operation; or
- they are fully depreciated; or
- or if the purchase of these items is the most economic option.

**Direct staff costs** are eligible provided that the level is not higher than 100% of the usual remuneration for the profession.

**Specific additional allocation outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions:** to be used for the achievement of the specific objectives (i) to (xi)





# Indicators and reporting – Art. 15

- **Common output and result indicators** are set out in Annex I
- Shorter list of common indicators: decreased from 44 to 23
- Indicators are :
  - to be reported on by specific objective
  - to be broken down by gender (M/F/non-binary)
- When data are available in registers or equivalent sources, **MS must enable MA to obtain data from these registers or equivalent sources.**
- MS can only transmit data on a participant if his/her record contains the data for all **common output indicators for participants** (i.e. employment status/age/education level)
- **Other common output indicators:** if data for these indicators cannot be collected from registers, the values can be determined based on informed estimates by the beneficiary.



# Chapter III: ESF+ Support for addressing material deprivation





## ESF+ support for addressing material deprivation

- Ensures continuation of support provided by the FEAD in 2014-2020 to OP I
- provision of food and basic material assistance (including through electronic vouchers) to the most deprived people, including accompanying measures
- CPR and ESF+ Reg. continues to provide for simpler requirements for this type of operations



## ESF+ support for addressing material deprivation (2)

Due to the target group and the type of support certain requirements are simpler, e.g. audit and indicators and reporting

Relevant provisions in ESF +:

- content of programming (Article 18 ESF +)
- eligibility of operations and expenditure (Article 19 and 20 ESF +)
- indicators and reporting (Article 21 and Annex II);
- audit (Article 22)

# Eligibility of expenditure - Art. 20 (1)

The **eligible costs** of the ESF+ support for addressing material deprivation are:

- **Cost of purchasing food and/or basic material assistance incl. cost related to their transport to the beneficiaries delivering the food/basic material assistance (point a)**
- Where transport costs to beneficiaries are not included under point a: **flat rate of 1%** on purchase costs to cover transport + storage **or real costs** when duly justified (pt b)
- **administrative, transport and storage costs borne by beneficiaries: flat rate of 5%** on purchase costs (point c)
- **cost of collection, transport, storage and distribution of food donations (point d)**
- **cost of accompanying measures: flat rate of 5%** on purchase costs (point e)

## **Ineligible Costs:**

- interest on debt
- provision of infrastructure
- costs of second-hand goods.

# Indicators (Annex II of ESF + Regulation)

## Changes to the indicator system

- Input indicators now covered in the Common Provisions regulation
- Output indicators: only total quantities of food distributed
- Use of informed estimates kept for result indicators

## Structured surveys of end recipients

- In 2024 and 2027 (to be defined in implementing act)

**Evaluations:** covered by CPR (Impact evaluation by June 2029; mid-term and retrospective by EC)



# ESF+ support for addressing material deprivation

The Regulation proposal provides for full flexibility

ESF + support to address material deprivation can take two forms:

- Specific objective is part of comprehensive ESF + programme
- Specific programme exclusively addressing material deprivation

NB: Only the first option will benefit from the full flexibility, and linking social integration with activation.



# **Part III: Common provisions for the ESF+ direct and indirect management strands**



# EaSI strand - operational objectives

- Develop high-quality comparative analytical knowledge
- Facilitate information-sharing, mutual learning, peer reviews and dialogue
- Support social experimentations and build up the stakeholders' capacity to transfer and upscale social policy innovations
- Support services to employers and job-seekers
- Develop the market eco-system related to microfinance
- Support EU-level networking among relevant stakeholders
- Develop social enterprises and a social investment market
- Provide guidance for the development of social infrastructure
- Support transnational cooperation to facilitate the upscaling of innovative solutions
- Support the implementation of international social and labour standards



## EaSI strand – eligible actions

- **Analytical activities:** e.g. surveys, studies, statistics, social experimentations, monitoring/assessment of the transposition and application of Union law.
- **Policy implementation:** e.g. cross-border partnerships, labour targeted mobility scheme, blending operations, development of social infrastructure and skills, transnational cooperation and partnerships.
- **Capacity building:** e.g. of EU-level networks, national contact points, participating countries administrations, social security institutions, employment services responsible, microfinance institutions, stakeholders involved in transnational cooperation.
- **Communication and dissemination:** e.g. mutual learning, peer reviews, benchmarking, guides, reports, informative material and media coverage, information systems, Presidency events, conferences and seminars.



## EaSI strand – geographical scope

- EU Member States
- Associate countries or third countries (in accordance with specific agreements):
  - EEA members
  - Acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates
  - Other third countries
- International organizations



# Health Strand - Specific and Operational objectives

- Specific objectives
  - Support health Promotion and disease prevention
  - Contribute to effectiveness, accessibility and resilience of health systems,
  - Make healthcare safer,
  - Reduce health inequalities,
  - Protect citizens from cross-border health threats
  - Support EU health legislation
- Operational objectives
  - Strengthen crisis preparedness, management and response
  - Empower health systems (disease prevention, digitalization, health information system, knowledge transfer, etc)
  - Support Union legislation
  - Support integrated work, e.g. networks





## Health strand – eligible actions

- **Analytical activities:** e.g. surveys, studies, statistics, monitoring/assessment of the transposition and application of Union law.
- **Policy implementation:** e.g. cross-border partnerships, transnational cooperation and partnerships, health crisis preparedness exercises.
- **Capacity building:** e.g. of EU-level networks, national contact points, stakeholders.
- **Communication and dissemination:** e.g. mutual learning, peer reviews, benchmarking, guides, reports, informative material and media coverage, information systems, Presidency events, conferences and seminars.



# Health strand – geographical scope

- EU Member States
- Associate countries or third countries (in accordance with specific agreements):
  - EEA members
  - Acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates
  - Other third countries
  - Neighborhood countries
- International organizations



# Health strand - implementation

## **Commission assisted by Health Authorities of Member States**

- Main interlocutor: Steering Group for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Upstream and more interactive/productive consultations compared to current arrangements



# Common provisions for the EaSI and Health strands - Art. 30-37

In addition to the rules specific for each programme, some common rules are also established concerning:

- Participation of associated third countries
- Forms of funding and methods of implementation: under the FR
- Work programme and coordination
- Monitoring and reporting, evaluation
- Protection of the financial interests of the Union
- Audit
- Information, communication and publicity

# Part IV: Final provisions





## Final provisions - Art. 38-43

- **The comitology committee** for the ESF+ shared management strand is the one established by the future CPR
- **ESF+ committee under Art. 163 TFEU** for all ESF+ strands (incl. working groups for the different strands)



# THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

“

*Our social funds are indispensable bricks in the new architecture of the EU budget, to empower people, make sure they can make the best out of our changing world of work, and accompany those who need it most.*

*Marianne Thyssen*

#EUBudget