

EN
ANNEX

2022 annual work programme for grants and procurement in the framework of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and in particular its Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand

Contents

Part 1 – General Overview	2
Part 2 – Grants, Procurements, Indirect Management and other actions	8
1. Introduction	8
1.1. Budget breakdown	8
1.2. Type of actions to be financed	8
2. Grants	8
2.1. Direct grants	9
2.1.1. Events organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU (2022)	9
2.1.2. Direct Grant to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)	9
2.1.3. Direct grant to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs Programme	10
2.1.4. Direct grant to OECD: Monitoring the adequacy of social protection in long term care (LTC)	11
2.1.5. Labour Force Survey (LFS)	11
2.1.6. Euronews Real Economy Magazine	12
2.2. Calls for proposals	13
2.2.1. Annual operating grants to support EU level Social NGO Networks	13
2.2.2. Support networks active in the area of social enterprise finance / microfinance support	14
2.2.3. Transaction costs to support social finance intermediaries	15
2.2.4. Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information	15
2.2.5. EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme	17
2.2.6. National Contact Points for EaSI	19
2.2.7. Social innovations for a fair green and digital transition	20
3. Prizes N/A	22
4. Procurement	22
4.1. Employment and skills	23
4.2. Social protection and inclusion	23
4.3. Labour markets and labour mobility	23
4.4. Safe and fair working conditions	24
4.5. Cross-cutting issues	24
5. Actions implemented under indirect management	25
5.1. Transnational cooperation initiative for social innovation	25

5.2. Contribution agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE): Romact 9	26
5.3. Contribution agreement with the International Labour Organization (ILO): Follow up on the Decent Work Communication	26
5.4. Contribution agreement with ILO: Provide technical assistance to Western Balkan countries for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	27
5.5. Contribution agreement with ILO: Vision Zero Fund (VZF) on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Global Supply Chains (GSC)	27
5.6. Contribution agreement with ILO: Strengthen the occupational safety and health (OSH) and notably the labour inspections in the Mediterranean Region	28
5.7. Contribution agreement with ILO: Designing and assessing Just Transition policies - joint research, new evidence & good practices	29
5.8. Contribution agreement with WHO: International Programme on Chemical Safety	30
5.9. Contribution agreement with OECD: Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis	30
5.10. Contribution agreement with OECD: Tax Burdens, Benefit Adequacy and Work Incentives	31
5.11. Contribution agreement with OECD: Indicators on collective bargaining (ICTWSS database)	32
5.12. Contribution agreement with OECD: Global Deal to promote their capacity building for social dialogue and collective bargaining in third countries	33
5.13. Contribution agreement with OECD: support OECD survey on housing	33
5.14. Contribution agreement with OECD: Inclusive and Social entrepreneurship	34
5.15. Contribution agreement with OECD: Monitoring the adequacy of pensions	35
6. Contributions to trust funds N/A	36
7. Financial instruments N/A	36
8. Contributions to blending facilities N/A	36
9. Other actions or expenditure	36
9.1. Various meetings of standing, ad-hoc committees and other events	36
9.2 Scientific support for evaluation of chemicals at work	36
9.3. Support for data collection and management, analysis, studies and evaluations	37
9.4. Publications	37

Part 1 – General Overview

1. Overall socio-economic context

The activities in the 2022 Annual Work Programme of the EaSI strand of ESF+ will *contribute* to the recovery from the **ongoing COVID-19 crisis**. Its overwhelming **economic, labour and societal impacts** have changed our ways of working and living, with some sectors, regions and population groups more affected than others.

The reactions by national authorities, social partners and the EU have been extensive in order to **safeguard citizens' health and to avoid unemployment and social crisis**. A number of initiatives at EU level¹ have been adopted to **cushion the impact and to ease the necessary labour market transitions, develop the necessary skills in the rapid shift towards a climate-neutral, more digital and job-rich Europe, notably through vocational education and training and to support youth in finding their entry into the labour market**.

To implement these policies, Member States (MS) have been offered exceptional financial flexibility and support through the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiatives (CRII and CRII+), SURE, the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and then Next Generation EU. These measures will assist MS both in mitigating the effects of the crisis and in strengthening the resilience of vital socio-economic systems, while preserving high social protection and social inclusion standards. The EU is determined to **prevent long-term and potential structural damage** that unequal health risks and widened socio-economic divides may inflict on European society.

The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and its 20 key principles and rights will lead the way in achieving fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems. **The EPSR Action Plan**, adopted by the Commission in March 2021, turns the Principles into concrete actions to benefit citizens and proposes headline targets, such as new ambitious employment, skills and social targets for the EU to reach by 2030. It sets out an extensive policy agenda to reach these targets, by implementing the various Pillar principles, strengthening the social dimension of the EU's recovery and resilience efforts and promoting socially just, green and digital transitions. Implementing the EPSR is **crucial in ensuring that the recovery is fair and inclusive**.

At the **Social Summit in Porto on 7-8 May 2021**, EU leaders, institutions, social partners and other key stakeholders endorsed the EPSR Action Plan and welcomed the headline targets and updated social scoreboard, which will help monitor progress towards the implementation of Pillar principles as part of the European Semester policy coordination². The European Council of 24 and 25 June reconfirmed this position and welcomed ambitious headline targets for 2030 stemming from the European Pillar Action Plan³. By 2030, the EU commits to ensure the following:

¹ The European Skills Agenda and the Pact for Skills, the Council Recommendations on Vocational Education and Training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience and on the reinforced Youth Guarantee, the European Child Guarantee, the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the consultation on platform work, the European Commission Recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE)

² The Porto Declaration, European Council, 8 May 2021:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/05/08/the-porto-declaration/>

³ European Council Conclusions of 24-25 June 2021:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50763/2425-06-21-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

1. At least 78% of people aged 20 to 64 should be in employment,
2. At least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year,
3. The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million, including at least 5 million children.

Employment

The EU headline target of at least 78% of the population aged 20-64 in employment by 2030 reaffirms the commitment to an inclusive high employment rate. Unfortunately, the crisis has put a halt on a six-year positive employment progress, with an **employment rate** (population aged 20-64) of 72.4% in 2020, 0.7 percentage points less than in 2019.

The EU **unemployment rate** was 7.3% in May 2021, forecast to decline to around 7% in 2022. The labour market outlook depends not only on the speed of the economic recovery but also on the timing of policy support withdrawal and the pace at which workers are reallocated across sectors and companies.⁴

The **gender employment gap** slightly declined in 2020, as the employment rate declined less for women than for men.⁵ Nevertheless, women's over-representation in lower paid sectors, occupations, and part-time employment, makes them more vulnerable in the labour markets affected by the crisis. It is also likely to have a disproportionate **impact on non-EU migrants**, resulting in additional efforts needed to ensure their labour market integration.

The **labour markets in the EU are undergoing significant transformation**, which has a significant impact to employment. Globalisation has increased automation, international division of labour and thus labour mobility across EU regions, as well as competition. Prior to the pandemic, **intra-EU mobility** continued on an upward trend. The pandemic shed light on the critical importance of intra-EU mobility of workers for the proper functioning of the Single Market.

Temporary and uncoordinated closures of internal borders and quarantine requirements imposed by MS have hampered intra-EU mobility despite a strong legal framework guaranteeing the **free movement of workers** and a clear economic need in receiving countries. Many mobile workers perform functions that are essential to the EU economy such as keeping hospitals in border regions operational, harvesting agricultural products, and ensuring the transport of goods across borders. **Cross-border workers** and short-term mobile workers such as seasonal workers and posted workers have been among the most affected.⁶

Aiming at quality job creation, the **adaptation of working conditions** will remain crucial during the recovery phase, requiring reasonable investment in the workplace and reforms to improve the availability of flexible working arrangements. Innovative organisation of workplaces, work-life balance and active labour market policies will be vital to support labour market modifications following the crisis and support the unemployed and inactive people to enter or re-enter the labour market. Public and private employment services have to adapt and strongly support job transition as well as upskilling and reskilling.

Telework played an important role during the crisis, enabling business continuity and thus reducing the risk of job disruption. Employment increased in critical teleworkable

⁴ Spring 2021 Economic Forecast: Rolling up sleeves
https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-forecasts/spring-2021-economic-forecast_en#executive-summary

⁵ Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) – Annual Review 2021

⁶ *ibid*

occupations but decreased in all non-teleworkable ones. The decrease was less strong in critical non-teleworkable occupations such as healthcare and personal care workers.

The Employment and Social Development in Europe (ESDE) report⁷ indicates that European labour market improvements came to a halt with the COVID-19 pandemic as the EU and global economies contracted in 2020. The **impact of the crisis has been uneven** across MS, and this also applies to specific disadvantaged groups: older people, youth, women, migrants, persons with disabilities, workers with low skills or temporary contracts or in other non-standard forms of employment as well as the self-employed have all been heavily affected. Most affected sectors also have a high number of workers in non-standard forms of work and relatively low wages and lacking adequate and effective social protection coverage.

Skills

The EU headline target on skills indicates that at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year before 2030, to improve employability, boost innovation, ensure social fairness and close the digital skills gap. This is particularly crucial with industrial, economical and societal structures are changing in response to climate change and natural disasters. Climate change related investments and reforms give a boost to employment in green sectors, while some jobs in traditionally non-green industries are lost. The new European Climate Adaptation Strategy, published in February 2021, recognises these climate-social linkages and calls for a climate resilience that is just and fair. This will also affect the skills and measures needed to support the green transition and the European Green Deal⁸.

Also taking into account the benefits of innovation, stronger cooperation and partnership between all actors in research, education and training and the labour market can support upskilling.

Upskilling and reskilling are the main priorities to foster an inclusive recovery and support the digital and green transitions. A particular focus is needed on the low-qualified, further implementing the Upskilling Pathways initiatives. The crisis has highlighted the importance of strengthening in particular **digital skills**, still not sufficient among a large part of the EU population. Most jobs require these skills and the crisis has proven the importance of adequate digital skills for the continuity of business, education and training activities; it also empowers citizens to access information and services. Also more generally, skills gaps and skills mismatches are re-appearing in industrial sectors.

Poverty

Poverty and social exclusion have declined in the EU in the last decade: in 2019, around 91 million persons were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, close to 12 million less than in 2008. The COVID-19 crisis threatens to reverse this trend, therefore the **ambitious target in Porto declaration to reduce number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion** by at least 15 million, including at least 5 million children, is of key importance.

The current situation increases the challenges for the social protection systems, specifically in relation to sustainability, ensuring adequate incomes and providing quality services, in particular for those who need them the most, such as those in vulnerable situations referred to above and living in regions lagging behind such as the most remote regions of the EU, the outermost regions. Against the overall improvements, certain groups like families with children, persons living with disabilities, people with a migrant background, marginalised

⁷ Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) – Annual Review 2021

⁸ Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2020

communities such as Roma people, as well as non-standard workers remained more exposed to this risk and significant regional disparities remained, while joint actions of discretionary measures and automatic stabilisers may have managed to counter the increase in market income inequality.⁹

The discussion linked to the recent increase in energy prices and its distributional impact shows the significance of enabling access to essential services such as energy and transport for tackling social exclusion and poverty, including energy poverty, access to housing and sustainable ways of transport, with a focus on vulnerable groups and regions.

The COVID-19 crisis highlighted also **structural weaknesses in the long-term care systems**, including staff shortages, limited investments and quality issues. In light of demographic trends linked to ageing, changed family structures and increased participation in the labour market, the provision of formal long-term care services must be reinforced to cater for the growing needs of an ageing population, thus creating new job opportunities and growth.

In 2022, **COVID-19 will remain a public health concern**, despite the high share of vaccinated people. The extent to which the EU can benefit from the improved external environment, the continuation of suitable policy support, the response of households and companies and the long-term economic impact of the crisis will all shape the recovery.

2. Overall priorities for the EaSI strand in 2022

For 2022, the overall political priority is to implement the EPSR in line with its Action Plan. The overall budget for the EaSI strand in 2022 is set at 102 million EUR.

In 2022, the priorities for the EaSI strand themes:

1. *Strengthen employment and skills:*

- Continue to support **public employment services** through capacity building, networking and mutual learning;
- Advice and assist **social enterprise finance providers**, improve the quality of their operations to scale up and become sustainable, facilitate the access to the financial instruments under InvestEU and boost their capacity to make small size investments.
- Support **networks in the area of microfinance and social enterprise finance**, notably to increase the number and quality of outreach activities, mutual learning among members, research activities and input for policy design;
- Support the implementation of the **Action Plan for the social economy**, including detailed analysis of related topics, guidance and support to stakeholders, communication and awareness raising;
- Improve the knowledge-building on **inclusive and social entrepreneurship**, in co-operation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- Support **multilingual classification of European skills, competences, qualifications and occupations** (ESCO), help Europeans to present their skills and achievements in a clear and unified way using the **Europass**²;
- Prepare for the realities of the **future of work, support youth employment** (including in the context of the European Year of Youth) and relevant activities to ensure a **Just**

⁹ Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) – Annual Review 2021

Transition, including for assessment and monitoring of employment, social and distributional impacts and by supporting socially innovative practices;

- Analyse employment and social developments, monitor and collect data to **support the European Semester process and evidence-based decision-making**.

2. *Help improve social protection and inclusion:*

- Support **networks in the area of social inclusion**, notably to foster outreach activities, mutual learning among members, research activities and input for policy design;
- Help institutions across the EU **exchange information on social security electronically**, faster, more accurately and securely;
- Pilot a system to allow the **verification of social security coverage** in real time;
- Analyse issues related to **closing gaps in access to adequate and effective social protection**, as well as **pensions**, facilitate networking, mutual learning and information sharing in this field, support MS' work on social policy reforms, access to healthcare and social services, in particular for vulnerable groups, and support the forthcoming initiative on long term care;
- Continue to further develop the **involvement of civil society** in the implementation of the Commission's priorities and set-up the platform on combating homelessness;
- Monitor, collect data and analyse various cross-sections in the field of **social protection and inclusion**, in particular vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, minorities, homeless, people at risk of poverty etc.
- Support the European Semester process and the just transition aspects of the Energy Union and Climate Action governance towards a socially fair climate transition also thanks to behavioural studies.

3. *Improve labour markets and ensure fair labour mobility:*

- Continue to develop an **integrated EU labour market** with the help of Targeted Mobility Scheme to facilitate the filling of "difficult to fill" vacancies, covering the provision of direct services to jobseekers and employers;
- Analyse the **protection of posted workers** and ensure their access to information.

4. *Foster safe and fair working conditions:*

- Analyse the **risks to health and safety of workers**, namely in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, and throughout the global value chain and promote international standards;
- Support the European centre of expertise in the field of **labour law**
- Focus on **health and safety at work**, maintain the network of Senior Labour Inspectors Committee to promote effective and equivalent enforcement of EU-OSH directives. Support the tripartite Advisory Committee on Safety and Health in preparing, implementing and evaluating activities in the field of health and safety at work and facilitate cooperation between national administrations, trade unions and employers' organisations.
- Collect data through surveys to carry out analysis on **labour standards**;
- Support capacity-building for social partners and innovative practices, through a new visiting scheme and prize, under the social dialogue initiative, as well as in the Western Balkans;

- Evaluation of existing **legislation on working conditions** and follow-up on the **initiative on platform work**.

Cross-cutting activities such as communication and dissemination help achieve the EaSI strand priorities and are crucial for its visibility. The Commission will organise activities for mutual learning such as exchange of good practices, or other events and support studies, reports, informative material and media coverage. The cross-cutting **evaluation of Eurofound**, the European Union information agency for occupational safety and health (**EU-OSHA**), the European Union information agency for occupational safety and health (**ETF**) and, the European Union information agency for occupational safety and health (**CEDEFOP**) **agencies**, contributing to the objectives of the EaSI Strand, will be funded jointly with the Erasmus+ programme.

The Commission will continue to support the creation and operation of **National Contact Points** within the EU MS and other participating countries, and support exchanges of best practices between them, in order to promote the EaSI strand and its results.

Also, using the dedicated allocation from shared managed budget under the ESF+ provisions, the Commission will set up a **transnational cooperation** scheme with a view to transferring and upscaling **social innovation**.

Part 2 – Grants, Procurements, Indirect Management and other actions

1. Introduction

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

1.1. Budget breakdown

Budget Line	Amount
07.020100.05 - ESF+ shared management strand - Operational expenditure (Transnational cooperation)	EUR 13 530 402
07.020400- ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand	EUR 107 013 305
TOTAL	EUR 120 543 707

LEGAL BASIS

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

1.2. Type of actions to be financed

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2): EUR 48 010 000
- for prizes (implemented under direct management) (point 3): N/A
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 4): EUR 48 718 305
- for actions implemented under indirect management (point 5): EUR 22 310 402
- for contributions to trust funds (point 6): N/A
- for financial instruments (point 7): N/A
- for contributions to blending facilities (point 8): N/A
- for other actions or expenditure (point 9): EUR 1 505 000

2. Grants

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme amounts to EUR 48 010 000.

Budget line 07.020100.05: N/A

Budget line 07.020400: EUR 48 010 000

BUDGET LINE

07.020400- ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand

2.1. Direct grants

2.1.1. Events organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU (2022)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The EaSI strand will support the deepening of the EU employment and social agenda during the two terms of the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU with a series of events to be organised by presidencies. The topics are agreed to contribute to defining and raising awareness on our policy priorities and they are defined by the Presidency in agreement with the Commission.

Description of the activities to be funded

The Commission will co-fund conferences to provide a platform for MS and relevant stakeholders to exchange information and good practices notably in the field of social economy; the child guarantee; occupational safety and health (OSH); Public Employment Services (PES); Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC).

Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant

These events will fall in two main categories: a) Presidency conferences and b) meetings of permanent EU networks and Committees under the Presidency auspices. The MS holding the Council Presidency is the beneficiary of the grant to be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(c) of Financial Regulation. These events, which are highly political in nature and which need representation at the highest level both from national authorities and European representatives, are to be organised exclusively by the MS holding the Presidency. Given the unique role of the Presidency in the framework of EU activities, the MS responsible for the organisation of the event is considered as a de jure monopoly.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL throughout the year

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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This activity targets principle 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection, of the EPSR. Workers have the right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work as well as a working environment adapted to their professional needs and which enables them to prolong their participation in the labour market. Providing information and updated scientific information to maintain Directive 2013/35/EU adapted to the scientific developments.

Description of the activities to be funded

Dissemination of information and advice on the potential health hazards of exposure to non-ionising radiation: ICNIRP's activities will provide information and updated scientific evidence in the area of NIR relevant to EU actions fostering protection of safety and health of workers.

Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant

According to Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The ICNIRP, an independent research organization, provides unique scientific advice and guidance on the health effects of non-ionizing radiation (NIR) to protect people, including workers, from detrimental non-ionising radiation (NIR) exposure. The work and independency of ICNIRP are recognised worldwide and meet the criteria of expertise expected from them within the limits of available scientific knowledge and evidence. ICNIRP develops and publishes Guidelines, Statements, and reviews which are used by national and international bodies, such as the European Commission (for Electromagnetic Fields Directive 2013/35/EU, for example) and the World Health Organization.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.1.3. Direct grant to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs Programme

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This activity targets principle 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection, of the EPSR. Workers have the right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work as well as a working environment adapted to their professional needs and which enables them to prolong their participation in the labour market. The International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC)'s activities will provide information and updated scientific evidence relevant to EU actions fostering protection of safety and health of workers. Support IARC) in order to continue to provide authoritative, up-to-date evaluations of environmental and occupational exposures that may present carcinogenic hazards to human beings, and to disseminate the results world-wide as printed books and in electronic form by online internet access.

Description of the activities to be funded

Provide and distribute authoritative, up-to-date evaluations of environmental and occupational exposure that may present hazards to human health, and to disseminate the results world-wide as printed books and in electronic form by online internet access. The IARC Monographs are of high value to the work of the Commission and its associated scientific committees, by providing updated and reliable scientific evaluations on risks derived from exposure to carcinogenic substances. The scientific committees then produce recommendations and opinions on limit values for chemicals based on IARC Monographs (among other relevant literature). The action supports better working conditions by providing the evidence base and expert advice on human carcinogenic hazards. This should ultimately lead to improvements in health by providing the scientific support for limiting or eliminating exposure to carcinogens in the environment and the workplace

Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant

According to Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call

for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The IARC, an independent and world-wide recognised research organization under the WHO, provides unique scientific advice on environmental and occupational exposure that may present hazards to human health.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.1.4. Direct grant to OECD: Monitoring the adequacy of social protection in long term care (LTC)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The principal aim of this action is to produce indicators of effective social protection for older people with long-term care (LTC) needs in EU MS. To do so, the action will build on previous work measuring effective social protection for LTC in defined typical cases of need.

The action addresses the following principles of the EPSR; 12. Social protection, 16. Health care, 18. Long-term care, and 20. Access to essential services.

Description of the activities to be funded

Continuation of the project "Social Protection in LTC" - update of the analysis and extension to new MS, and requests supporting the preparation and implementation of the LTC initiative.

Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant

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

The OECD has been selected for implementing this project because of its unique competence for this type of project in terms of expertise on both long-term care and statistical modelling as demonstrated by its past collaboration with EU MS in the area of long-term care.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.1.5. Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

European statistics are needed for the programming and implementation of EU policies in the area of employment, skills, social affairs and labour mobility. The priorities in 2022 will include the continued cooperation with ESTAT to further develop the analytical capacity for quality statistics allowing monitoring of developments and trends in the EU in the following areas: employment and labour markets, skills and training, and social protection. In this context, timeliness of the data, as well as availability of data on dynamic aspects of labour

markets is of particular importance. The data collected provide input to the European Semester, the Social Scoreboard and the work of European Employment Committee (EMCO) and Social Protection Committee (SPC), and the collection of labour market policy statistics and expansion of the data collection cover new arising needs.

This action will contribute to the monitoring of EPSR principles, notably 3. Equal opportunities, 4. Active support to employment, 5. Secure and adaptable employment, and 12. Social protection.

Description of the activities to be funded

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is an important source of information on the situation and trends in the EU labour market. The LFS eight-yearly module and ad hoc modules aim to provide users with statistics on a specific detailed topic or subject concerning the labour market by adding each year a set of variables to supplement the core EU-LFS. The project will support LFS by financing grants to the MS for projects aiming at implementing specific modules and pilot studies. In 2022, it concerns the eight-yearly module on pensions and labor market participation to be collected in 2023.

Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be National Statistical Institutes (NSI) and other National Authorities as designated by the MS members and being members of the European Statistical System.
- be properly constituted and registered in one of the EU MS or EEA countries, in accordance with Article 29 of the ESF+ Regulation.

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

The individual award decisions substantiating the specific characteristics of the activities and the particular technical competence, high degree of specialisation or administrative power of the beneficiaries will be adopted at a later stage by ESTAT.

Implementation

Through a co-delegation to ESTAT

2.1.6. Euronews Real Economy Magazine

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The dissemination activities concern all principles of the EPSR, raising awareness and reaching out to EU citizens.

Description of the activities to be funded

It is envisaged to award a direct grant to Euronews for reporting on employment and social affairs related issues via Real Economy Magazine. 3 episodes on EMPL related topics to be broadcast on TV and disseminated via web and social media.

Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant

It is envisaged to award a direct grant to Euronews, in accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, to cover the production of episodes for the “Real Economy” magazine. Those episodes will illustrate a series of topical issues and the impact of EU policies and funding on employment and social affairs. Euronews has a specific competence and recognised experience in communication and broadcasting on European affairs. The justification for selecting Euronews, in view of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation in relation to the objective pursued, will be elaborated in the award decision.

Implementation

Through a co-delegation to ECFIN

2.2. Calls for proposals

2.2.1. Annual operating grants to support EU level Social NGO Networks

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty by providing financial support to EU-level networks of civil society organisations active in this area at local, regional, national and transnational level. It will thereby contribute to the implementation of the EPSR and its Action Plan, ensuring just transitions, protecting livelihoods, boosting employment, reducing poverty and inequalities and creating opportunities for all.

They particularly focus on principles aiming at ensuring access to adequate social protection throughout the life cycle – from tackling child poverty, to active age population, and rights for adequate old age income support (principles 11-16) – and tackling barriers to social inclusion of certain particularly disadvantaged groups such as Inclusion of people with disabilities (principle 17) and Housing and assistance for the homeless (principle 19). NGOs networks are also involved in DG EMPL’s files related to education, gender equality, equal opportunities, work life balance, social protection, long-term care etc. and thus to the related principles of the EPSR.

In terms of results, the Commission expects:

- Improved awareness about EU policies and funding among the network’s members;
- Increased awareness of EU and national authorities about the needs and potential of organisations represented by the networks;
- Increased capacity of the networks and their members to support policy making in their respective areas;
- Enhanced research and availability of data about the fields in which the networks operate.

Description of the activities to be funded

The call aims at awarding the annual operating grant for 2023 based on a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) with networks active in the area of social inclusion for the period 2022-2025. The activities to be funded include, among others: analytical activities, training and capacity building activities, mutual learning and exchange of good practices, awareness raising, information and dissemination activities with EU added value.

Types of applicants targeted by the call

Restricted to networks that have signed a framework partnership agreement with the Commission for the period 2022-2025.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.2.2. Support networks active in the area of social enterprise finance / microfinance support

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Social enterprises and microenterprises are instrumental in the implementation of many of the principles expressed in the EPSR. In particular they play a key role in delivering the following principles: 3. Equal opportunities, 4. Active support to employment, 5. Secure and adaptable employment, 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities, 18. Long-term care and 20. Access to essential services. To support the development in this field, the Commission cooperates with EU level networks in its outreach activities at EU, national and local level. EU level networks are also key partners in the consultation and implementation of the upcoming Action Plan for Social Economy, as well as on a number of other policy files such as long-term care, green transition and social innovation.

This partnership will enhance the capacities of these networks to contribute actively to the development and implementation of the EU policies in this area.

The Commission expects:

- to benefit from the networks' expertise as regards the challenges (and ways to tackle them) that social enterprises, microenterprises and their support organisations/intermediaries face in the various MS and;
- to be supported in its outreach activities at EU, national and local level with the aim of ensuring awareness, contribution to and implementation of EU level policies and initiatives in the areas of social enterprise and microenterprise finance.

Description of the activities to be funded

The action aims to provide specific operating grants to the organisations that have signed a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreement, i.e. networks in the areas of microfinance and social enterprise support. The activities to be funded contain, among others, outreach activities, mutual learning among members, research activities and input for policy design.

Types of applicants targeted by the call

Restricted to networks that have signed a framework partnership agreement with the Commission for the period 2022-2025.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.2.3. Transaction costs to support social finance intermediaries

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Social enterprises play a key role in implementing many principles expressed in the EPSR, in particular: 3. Equal opportunities, 3. Active support to employment, 5. Secure and adaptable employment, 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities, 18. Long-term care and 20. Access to essential services.

This call aims 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.

The envisaged activities are based on the fact that the most important funding gap for social enterprises is below EUR 500 000. However, the transaction costs for such small tickets can be high which gives an incentive to social impact fund managers to focus on higher amounts in order to preserve the fund's sustainability. This can lead to a mismatch between needed and sustainable ticket sizes.

Description of the activities to be funded

The call for proposals is aimed to support financial intermediaries that undertake long term risk capital investments in ticket sizes of less than EUR 500 000 in social enterprises. It will serve to lower the transaction costs, such as travel cost, lawyers' fees, costs for carrying out the due diligence and business development support e.g. to coach enterprises if they need help with business plan support, etc. for these small investment tickets and thus help overcome a market failure in the social investment market.

Types of applicants targeted by the call

To be eligible, main applicants; co-applicant and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU MS (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - Non EU countries: EEA countries, candidate countries and potential candidates ((P)CC) in accordance with Article 29 of the ESF+ Regulation
- be an investment fund, a Fund-of-Funds, a special purpose vehicle, in any form, established or to be established or a (co-) investment scheme in any form established or to be established.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.2.4. Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This call for proposals supports implementation, application and enforcement of the Directive 96/71/EC and Directive (EU) 2018/957 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of provision of services and its Enforcement Directive 2014/67/EU.

The EPSR has set out key principles and rights for a renewed process of upward convergence towards i.e. fair working conditions in particular in the areas of secure and adaptable employment, wages, information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals, social dialogue and involvement of workers, etc.

The general objective of this call for proposals is therefore contributing to the implementation of the key principles of the pillar in the area of posting of workers. The specific objectives are the following: a) To promote transnational cooperation among public authorities and stakeholders, including the promotion of the use of the Internal Market Information System (IMI) and sharing experiences and best practices in this respect; b) To increase the accessibility, transparency and quality of the information concerning the terms and conditions of employment to be respected and the existing practices in the MS to monitor and enforce the provisions of the Posting of Workers Directive; c) To promote the evidence basis through the collection and evaluation of original data, and the analysis specific to the posting process and posted workers' working conditions, including through the collaboration between universities across various disciplines, research centres and institutes and stakeholders, in particular social partners.

This call will contribute to the EPSR principles; 3. Equal opportunities, 5. Secure and adaptable employment, 6. Wages, 7. Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals, 8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers, 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection, 12. Social protection and 20. Access to essential services.

Description of the activities to be funded

The call for proposals will fund transnational cooperation initiatives aiming at developing initiatives by relevant stakeholders involved in the context of posting with a significant and lasting impact on workers, companies and administrations. Activities aim at supporting competent authorities in MS and social partners in administrative cooperation, in increasing access to essential information for posted workers, to promote the evidence basis through the collection and evaluation of original data and analysis.

Types of applicants targeted by the call

To be eligible, the **applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities)** must:

- for **coordinators**
 - be legal entities (public or private bodies)
 - be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU MS (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries: EEA countries, according to Article 29 of the ESF+ Regulation.
- for **other applicants**:
 - be legal entities (public or private bodies)
 - be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU MS (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries: EEA countries, candidate countries and potential candidates ((P)CC) in accordance with Article 29 of the ESF+ Regulation.

- **Coordinators, other applicants and affiliated entities** must fall in one of the following categories:

- public authorities;
- international organisations (with registered headquarters both inside and outside of eligible countries of the call);
- non-profit organisations (private or public);
- research centres/institutes;
- higher education establishments (private and public);
- civil society organisations; or
- social partner organisations at European, national or regional level (in application of Article 197(2)(c) of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met)

Only consortia are eligible. They must be composed of a minimum of three entities established and registered in at least three different EU MS.

Affiliated entities can take part in the consortium. They must satisfy the eligibility criteria as all applicants.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions.

Associated partners must be established in one of the eligible countries indicated in the call.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.2.5. EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The overall objective of this call for proposals is to ensure around 4 000 placements over the duration of the action in economic sectors with hard to fill vacancies.

The action being strongly result-oriented, it may contribute to:

- a) enhance the service catalogue of the EURES organisations;
- b) foster public-private partnerships within EURES and,
- c) address labour market needs;
- d) improve the conditions for jobseekers and workers to exercise their right of freedom of movement across the EU and to address labour markets' imbalances and skills shortages.

The action, as direct expression of the principle 2. Active support to employment, under the chapter I: Equal opportunities and access to the labour market, of the EPSR, aims at reaching jobseekers in the EU and EEA countries, in compliance with the ESF+ Regulation. Notably,

EURES TMS aims 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.

This call will contribute to the EPRS principles 3. Equal opportunities and 4. Active support to employment.

Description of the activities to be funded

The EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme (TMS) constitutes a European labour market activation measure, combining tailor-made recruitment, matching, training and placement services with financial incentives. The support measures may vary according to labour market needs but should at least include provisions for interviews in another MS, relocation, linguistic training as well as work and country integration support. The end beneficiaries will be jobseekers and job changers, trainees and apprentices as well recruiting enterprises, including SMEs. Both individuals and enterprises (SMEs) may receive direct financial support in the form of targeted allowances.

The action targets the filling of hard-to-fill vacancies as identified in national/EU labour market studies or other data sources. The overall objective of this call for proposals is to ensure around 4 000 placements, in particular of young people.

The activities will cover the provision of direct services to jobseekers and employers, notably:

- information, recruitment, matching and placement;
- pre- and post-placement support to customers (e. g. profiling and pre-selection of candidates, language training or other training needs, mentoring support for trainees and apprentices);
- direct financial support to candidates and SMEs (interview and relocation trip costs, language trainings, recognition of qualifications, induction training programmes by SMEs).

Types of applicants targeted by the call

To be eligible, the **coordinators (lead applicants)** must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU MS (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
- be EURES National Coordination Offices, EURES members or EURES partners which are placed in organisations whose main mission is to ensure the provision of employment and placement services to jobseekers, job changers, trainee/apprentice candidates and employers covering jobs and/or work-based trainings. Those services must include information, recruitment, matching and pre- and post-placement support.

In order to be eligible, **other applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities)** must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU MS (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries: EEA countries in accordance with Article 29 of the ESF+ Regulation.
- be EURES member organisations (i.e. National Coordination Offices, EURES Members and

Partners),

- be public or private labour market actors (including the third sector) providing the same services as lead applicants and/or complementary customer-oriented services in other expertise fields, such as information, training, education, career guidance, mentoring, legal advice, integration support or other equivalent.

Affiliated entities can take part in the consortium, and they must satisfy the eligibility criteria as all applicants.

Only consortia are eligible.

They must be composed of a minimum of two EURES Member/Partner organisations established in at least two different EU MS.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners. Associated partners must be established in one of the eligible countries.

The consortium must demonstrate that the proposed activities are fully carried out in at least five EU MS or EEA countries, in accordance with art 29 of the ESF+ Regulation.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.2.6. National Contact Points for EaSI

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Creation and operation of National Contact Points in EaSI participating countries not covered following the 1st call for proposals under the 2021 work programme to promote the EaSI strand and its projects/results. Thus, this call will support all activities under EaSI and indirectly the implementation of all ESPR principles.

Description of the activities to be funded

Support to the creation and operation of contact points within the EU MS and other participating countries not covered by the 1st call for proposals to:

- a) Provide information material
- b) Assist in sharing EaSI results
- c) Promote results for upscaling/mainstreaming
- d) Provide first line assistance to applicants
- e) Forward complex questions to the EC, translate and forward the EC replies to stakeholders
- f) Create/update national EaSI webpage
- g) Run and take part in information sessions/ workshops/ annual conference
- h) optional: run or take part in jobshadowing and/or translations.

Types of applicants targeted by the call

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)

- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU MS (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries: EEA countries or acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, in accordance with Article 29 of the ESF+ Regulation.
- be a public authority or an entity (private or public), endorsed to act as a National Contact Point by the ministry responsible for the EaSI strand or for European funds or by another ministry responsible in the fields of labour and social affairs.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

2.2.7. Social innovations for a fair green and digital transition

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

As set out in the EPSR Action Plan, including notably in relation to principles 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 17 and 20, deep transformations such as climate change, environmental challenges and digitalisation are fast changing our daily lives and are putting Europe's social fabric to a test. Improving and adapting the EU's 'social rulebook' is at the heart of Europe's response to these changes, in accordance with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Digital Agenda. This includes fostering an economy that works for people; investing in education and training, enhancing skills and equipping people for new green and digital jobs; promoting social progress and strengthening social protection; and promoting just transitions and ensuring solidarity between generations, leaving no one behind and providing access to essential services for all. Social innovation and social acceptance are key elements of a successful transformation

The call aims to develop and test integrated and inclusive social innovation approaches – in schools or training centres, at work or in local communities, or other relevant environments - to foster just green and digital transitions, by:

- identifying and addressing (re-/up-)skilling and (re-)training needs stemming from new, green or digital products, services or technologies;
- fostering social acceptance and/or behavioural changes for more sustainable business models, consumption patterns and/or modes of transport;
- developing sustainability pathways and transformation tools for social economy actors;
- tailor solutions to the particular contexts starting from general models, such as the City Doughnut or macro level climate adaptation solutions, to other, business or local environments;
- promoting the implementation of the EPSR principle 20. Essential services, including energy, mobility and digital communications, in the context of the green and digital transitions.

The main objective is to enable and step up a fair green and digital transition by promoting and disseminating inclusive social innovation approaches in the areas above.

The foreseen results include:

- Greater uptake of new green and digital technologies
- New trainings to endow European citizens to make the most out the green and digital transitions
- Increase social acceptance and ownership for fairer and more sustainable business models
- Develop transformation tools for social economy actors
- Engage with local, regional, national authorities, as well as social partners and civil society at large to maximise the impact

Description of the activities to be funded

The call aims 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, by pursuing and implementing one or several of the following activities:

- a) identifying and addressing (re-/up-)skilling and (re-)training needs stemming from new, green or digital products, services or technologies;
- b) fostering social acceptance and/or behavioural changes for more sustainable business models, including in the social economy, consumption patters and/or modes of transport;
- c) developing sustainability pathways and transformation tools for social economy actors;
- d) promoting the implementation of the EPSR principle 20. Access to essential services, including energy, mobility and digital communications, in the context of the green and digital transitions.

Types of applicants targeted by the call

Coordinator and other beneficiaries

To be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU MS (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries: EEA countries or acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, in accordance with Article 29 of the ESF+ Regulation

The coordinator and the other applicants must be a public body at central, regional or local level, or a body governed by public law, training institutions, social partner organisations, non-governmental organisations or other civil society organisations, as well as (social and not for profit) enterprises.

In application of Article 197(2) (c) of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met.

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 2 applicants from 2 different eligible countries.

Applicants may participate with affiliated entities. The latter must satisfy the eligibility criteria as all applicants.

Other entities may participate in other roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc.

Associated partners must be established in one of the eligible countries.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

3. Prizes

N/A

4. Procurement

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme amounts to EUR 48 718 305.

Budget line 07.020100.05: N/A

Budget line 07.020400: EUR 48 718 305

The Commission intends to launch an open procedure for one Framework Contract (FWC) for the provision of services related to the technical assistance such as workshops, tailored trainings, study visits and peer exchanges on topics relevant for the social economy and for the actions that will be announced in the Action plan for the social economy. Such topics would include assistance with the development of different aspects of the social economy ecosystem such as regulatory and policy networks, access to and awareness about funding, state-aid. The aim will be to provide this kind of assistance to a wide range of social economy actors such as public authorities at different levels, network organisations, support organisations and potential intermediaries of finance (not covered by the InvestEU Advisory hub) (EUR 3 000 000).

The Commission also intends to launch an open procedure for one Framework Contract (FWC) for provision of technical support services for measures to enhance cooperation between Public Employment Services (PES) in line with Decision No 573/2014/EU amended by Decision 2020/1782, in particular by supporting the implementation of Union-wide, evidence-based benchlearning among PES to compare, with appropriate methodology, the performance of their activities in the areas of PES responsibility, such as reducing unemployment for all age, gender and vulnerable groups; addressing long-term and structural unemployment, as well as social exclusion; filling of vacancies (including through voluntary labour mobility) and customer satisfaction with PES services. This activity will be complemented by technical support to provision of mutual assistance, either in the form of peer-to-peer or group activities, through cooperation, exchanges of information, experiences and staff between the members of the PES Network, thus contributing to the modernisation and strengthening of PES in key areas, in view of the Union's employment and social policies (EUR 10 600 000).

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged

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

4.1. Employment and skills

The actions in this policy area have as objective to support analytical activities, mutual-learning, exchange of good practices, evaluation of policy initiatives, advisory services and technical assistance, meetings (including a proposed visiting programme for young future leaders of national employers and trade union organisations), awareness raising on employment policy related issues, IT, translation, communication, dissemination and capacity-building activities in relation with the implementation of the employment and skills related objectives outlined in the EPSR Action Plan.

The actions will cover notably the areas of youth employment, long-term unemployment, undeclared work, platform work, job creation, entrepreneurship, microfinance and social enterprise finance, social economy, future of work (including climate and energy transition), skills (such as European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) or EUROPASS) and their development, including mutual recognition and transparency of competences, occupations and qualifications expert networks, Public Employment Services. Activities are expected to provide data, information, statistics and reports to strengthen and better target employment policies.

Type of contracts

Service

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegation to DIGIT

4.2. Social protection and inclusion

Actions in this policy area aim to support analytical activities (research, policy advice), mutual learning, exchange of good practices (such as European Social Policy Network – ESPN), promoting dialogue with civil society and stakeholders, exchange of social security information, IT, awareness raising, meetings and events, dissemination and capacity-building activities, in relation with the social protection and inclusion objectives in the EPSR Action Plan.

The expected results include an improvement and alignment of the social protection and pension systems responding to challenges of the new forms of works in MS and the implementation of the European Pillar on Social Rights as regards social inclusion. It will notably cover the inclusive employment and growth, alleviation of poverty, homelessness and social impact monitoring, modernisation and reforms of social protection systems including pension (adequacy and sustainability of pensions) and long-term care systems as well as social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Type of contracts

Service

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

4.3. Labour markets and labour mobility

The actions in this policy area have the objective to support exchange of good practices between competent authorities, meetings and conferences, technical assistance, use of external

expert evaluators for calls of proposals and IT services in the area of labour markets and labour mobility (including posting of workers and seasonal workers).

The expected results include the availability of data, development and maintenance of the EURES portal (including translations), contribution to improved labour markets and labour mobility and improving legislation on working conditions in the MS.

Type of contracts

Service

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegation to DIGIT

4.4. Safe and fair working conditions

The actions in this policy area have the objective to support analytical activities (including evaluation, statistics and surveys), mutual-learning, exchange of good practices between competent authorities, data collection and availability, communication, as well as meetings, dissemination and capacity-building activities in relation to safe and fair working conditions (including occupational diseases), Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) and international labour standards.

The expected results include the availability of data, statistics, contribution to better working conditions in the EU and refining and improving legislation on working conditions in the MS.

Type of contracts

Service

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegation to ESTAT

4.5. Cross-cutting issues

The actions in this section have the objective to support cooperation with key international partners (such as the International Labour Organization (ILO)), analytical activities, mutual-learning, exchange of good practices with third countries, cross-cutting analysis, DG EMPL communication activities, evaluation of DG EMPL agencies, horizontal and cross-cutting IT, audits, contribution to corporate IT and communication.

The expected results include improved cooperation with partner countries, international organisations and stakeholders, enhanced IT processes, better regulation and wider and high-quality outreach to the European citizens and beyond.

Type of contracts

Service

Implementation

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

5. *Actions implemented under indirect management*

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for actions implemented under indirect management in 2022 amounts to EUR 22 310 402.

Budget line 07.020100.05: EUR 13 530 402

Budget line 07.020400: EUR 8 780 000

BUDGET LINE

07.020100.05 - ESF+ shared management strand - Operational expenditure (Transnational cooperation)

5.1. Transnational cooperation initiative for social innovation

Implementing entity

The implementing entity has been chosen under the 2021 work programme to manage the ESF Social Innovation+ initiative and will remain the same during the whole programming period 2021-2027.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The initiative aims at developing conducive ecosystems for social innovation. This will help societies to benefit from proven innovative solutions in implementing the EPSR with regards to employment, skills and social policies, notably vis-à-vis youth; this initiative will notably support the new ALMA initiative. Due to the transversal nature of social innovation, this action covers multiple principles in all three chapters of the EPSR.

Description of the activities to be funded

The transitions to a low-carbon and digital economy, demographic changes, the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences and migration related issues are transforming the world of work, education, training and social services. In this context social innovation is becoming crucial, because it opens up new inclusive and participatory ways of facing the challenges in the interest and for the benefit of European citizens.

Against this background, the ESF+ Regulation provides a budget of 175 million EUR in 2018 prices for transnational cooperation for social innovation. The purpose of this activity is thus to support dissemination and up-scaling of social innovations in the EU, in complementarity to the activities under the ESF+ in shared management and direct management. The tasks of the entrusted entity will include:

- Prepare and implement EU wide transnational calls for proposals.
- Support the capacity building of stakeholders, in cooperation with the national competence centres for social innovation
- Validate and showcase innovative solutions, including through the EU social innovation database
- Implement and further develop EU level thematic cooperation and mutual learning involving ESF managing authorities and a broad range of social innovation stakeholders (building on the current Communities of practice).

BUDGET LINE

07.020400- ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand

5.2. Contribution agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE): Romact 9

Implementing entity

The Council of Europe has a unique know how in this area and therefore is the only organisation which could implement the action. According to Article 156 FR, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the United Nations (UN), and its specialised agencies and offices).

Objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to improve the capacity of local authorities to successfully include the Roma population in the society. It will in particular contribute to the implementation of principle 3. Equal opportunities, of the EPSR.

Description of the activities to be funded

ROMACT9 will pursue the ROMACT Programme, which builds the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement plans and projects for the socio-economic inclusion of Roma. The support provided consists of capacity building measures at municipal level for better planning and use of resources with the aim of improving the living conditions of disadvantaged communities, including the Roma. Evidence from the ground is brought further from this process (through survey reports, policy analysis etc.) to inform policy development at national level. This can include assessment of the needs and priorities, expert support to municipalities and other relevant stakeholders, capacity building in the form of training and coaching, support for development of institutional partnerships and provisions of small grants to municipalities and their partners.

5.3. Contribution agreement with the International Labour Organization (ILO): Follow up on the Decent Work Communication

Implementing entity

The tasks will be entrusted to ILO by the Commission. According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the United Nations (UN), and its specialised agencies and offices). ILO is an international organisation that passed the EU pillar assessment (Article 154 (3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

The project will provide a concrete follow-up to the Communication on decent work for all, inter alia by monitoring its impact along global supply chains, categories and sectors most affected by decent work deficits. It will give particular attention to the contribution of the promotion of decent work to an inclusive and green recovery from COVID-19. The

Communication on decent work for all is an action identified in the European Social Pillar Action Plan.

Objectives pursued and expected results

Objective is to support the implementation of the actions envisaged in the Decent Work Communication, especially as regards decent work in global supply chains, inclusive and green recovery from COVID-19 through joint activities, workshops and monitoring. This action is supporting the principles of the EPSR and in particular principles 1-13, 17, 18, 20.

5.4. Contribution agreement with ILO: Provide technical assistance to Western Balkan countries for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Implementing entity

The tasks will be entrusted to ILO by the Commission. According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the United Nations (UN), and its specialised agencies and offices). ILO is an international organisation that passed the EU pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

As part of the Economic Reform Programme process that emulates European Semester, candidate countries and potential candidates from Western Balkans have been recommended to set-up inter-ministerial task forces to draft Youth Guarantee implementation plans with a goal to progressively deploy Youth Guarantee schemes based on the model of the EU Youth Guarantee. The funding will include tailor-made assistance from ILO to support Western Balkan countries with the progressive set-up of Youth Guarantee schemes. The activities that will be implemented are: policy reviews and policy advice; technical reports and guidance tools; learning packages; peer-learning and regional/country policy exchanges.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to support Western Balkan countries to progressively set up Youth Guarantee schemes. High share of young people not in employment, education or training (from 15% in Serbia to 33% in Kosovo) is a challenge that requires measures to be taken to help their labour market integration. Western Balkan countries are on their way towards EU accession and a progressive deployment of Youth Guarantee will help them further approximate to EU acquis and to put in place policies similar to those in the EU. By doing this, further spillover effects will be achieved in terms of improved capacity of public employment services and their increased collaboration between education providers, social services, NGOs, social partners. This action is supporting the principles of the EPSR and in particular principles 1-3, 5, 7-10, 13, 16-18, 20.

5.5. Contribution agreement with ILO: Vision Zero Fund (VZF) on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Global Supply Chains (GSC)

Implementing entity

The tasks will be entrusted to ILO by the Commission. According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through

international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the United Nations (UN), and its specialised agencies and offices). ILO is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

The activities will cover new initiatives decided by the Vision Zero Fund (VZF) steering committee where the Commission is a full member. This could include research, identification and development of good practices, advice to legislators, implementing authorities, social partners and private sector actors, information and training manuals, outreach, training and capacity building.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The VZF has been established by the G7 and it is managed by the International Labour Office (ILO). The European Commission is part of the steering committee. The Vision Zero Fund (VZF) helps the EU achieve objectives to promote a level playing field and to address decent work deficits across global supply chains as established by the Council conclusions on 12 May 2016 the 2015 Commission Communication "Trade for All: Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy" and the Commission reflection Paper on Harnessing Globalisation of 10 May 2017. It is also in line with commitments the EU undertook in G7 (2015) and G20 (2017) contexts. In addition, the VZF helps the Commission "to address, notably jointly with the ILO, OSH deficits in the global supply chain and contribute to G20 initiatives on safer workplaces in this regard". This action is supporting the principles of the EPSR and in particular principles 1-3 and 6-18.

5.6. Contribution agreement with ILO: Strengthen the occupational safety and health (OSH) and notably the labour inspections in the Mediterranean Region

Implementing entity

The tasks will be entrusted to ILO by the Commission. According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the United Nations (UN), and its specialised agencies and offices). ILO is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

The action will include several components: organization of joint conferences and workshops; research on common challenges (ex: impact of COVID-19, migrant work, informal economy); campaign for ratification of Convention 129 on Labour Inspections in agriculture (8 countries did not ratify); harmonization of labour inspection statistics; expanded use of ILO expertise and knowledge of comparative practice on labour inspections.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to address OSH challenges in the Mediterranean region and notably to strengthen the labour inspections, especially in the post-COVID-19 recovery. It is in line with the international dimension of the new EU OSH Strategic Framework (2021-2027), as well as with the EC Joint Communication on the renewed Partnership with the Southern

neighbourhood - A new Agenda for the Mediterranean. This action is supporting the principles of the EPSR and in particular principles 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 16.

5.7. Contribution agreement with ILO: Designing and assessing Just Transition policies - joint research, new evidence & good practices

Implementing entity

The tasks will be entrusted to ILO by DG EMPL. According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the United Nations (UN), and its specialised agencies and offices). ILO is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

The activity will support, in accordance with the conclusions of the EU-ILO High-Level Meeting of October 2020, joint research and exchange of best practices to promote just transition policies, including within the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative. It will trigger complementary action at national level, in particular in emerging and developing economies, and joint analysis to keep advancing a positive narrative on the employment and social effects of ambitious action against climate change. It will also design and implement cooperation regarding capacity building on just transition, sharing of country experiences, and international collaboration in the field of just transition.

Objectives pursued and expected results

Main objectives and project deliverables are:

- a) Contributions to the new Global Forum on Just Transition and the planned Just Transition Innovation Facility, which aim to build a platform and repository for evidence and exchange of good practices among countries, social partners, present new evidence and research outcomes and prepare joint training and communication tools for use in international cooperation, including the ILO Training Centre in Torino.
- b) Joint analysis and action-oriented research in areas of common interest, strengthening the evidence basis for just transition policies and developing and sharing appropriate methodologies and guidance e.g. on:
 - quantification and modelling of investment needs for skills development and re-/upskilling related to the green transition;
 - quantification and modelling of investment needs for modernising and adapting social protection systems in the light of new risks and challenges from climate change and climate adaptation;
 - assessment of incentive structures and their role for mobilising private and social finance in support of the green transition.
- c) Joint analysis of effective social dialogue practices to promote and implement just transition policies at sector and company level.
- d) Joint design and testing of a new Just Transition Helpdesk which provides demand-led support to social partners, businesses and SMEs, local, regional or national authorities, media

and other stakeholders, information, advice and guidance on just transition and just resilience solutions and best practices.

e) Joint development of guidance and recommendations for just transition policies, provide demand-led support to social partners, businesses and SMEs, local, regional or national authorities, media and other stakeholders for information, advice and guidance on just transition and just resilience solutions and best practices and further inform programming and exchange with interested EU Delegations and other DGs under relevant programmes and instruments.

The action addresses the following principles of the EPSR; 1. Education, training and life-long learning, 2. Gender equality, 3. Equal opportunities, 5. Secure and adaptable employment, 8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers, 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection, 12. Social protection, 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities, and 20. Access to essential services.

5.8. Contribution agreement with WHO: International Programme on Chemical Safety

Implementing entity

According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the United Nations (UN), and its specialised agencies and offices). WHO is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

Development of authoritative risk assessment documents, in particular:

- International Chemical Safety Cards (IPCS)
- Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)
- Running the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network.

Objectives pursued and expected results

Support the International Chemical Safety Programme of the WHO in order to continue to provide authoritative, up-to-date evaluations of environmental and occupational exposures to hazardous chemicals, and to disseminate the results world-wide. These may be used as appropriate by the Commission for developing evidence based policy in the field of workers' health protection against chemical risks. This initiative supports the goals set out in the EU-OSH strategy (COM(2014)332). This initiative develops and updates information relevant to prevent occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals.

5.9. Contribution agreement with OECD: Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis

Implementing entity

According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such

organisations (e.g. the OECD, and its special bodies). OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

- An analytical publication and a policy brief for each of the work packages (2 out of 4) with underlying programming codes and data tables / extractions used to provide the evidence.
- EU/OECD technical workshops with stakeholders to discuss conceptual challenges and findings from the Work Package.

Objectives pursued and expected results

Deepen the analysis of inequality trends and drivers along several key dimensions, focusing on two out of the potential four following dimensions:

- 1) different access to services (childcare, health, public employment services) across different regions / areas and its impact on incomes;
- 2) income inequality during the COVID-19 crisis: administrative income data to complement survey-based estimates;
- 3) perceived inequality of opportunities and beliefs about social policies, to support the design and implementation of inclusive and sustainable policy answers to the COVID-19 crisis;
- 4) analysis of intergenerational wealth transmission

The action addresses the following principles of the EPSR; 3. Equal opportunities, 6. Wages, 12. Social protection, and 20 Access to essential services.

5.10. Contribution agreement with OECD: Tax Burdens, Benefit Adequacy and Work Incentives

Implementing entity

According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the OECD, and its special bodies). OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

This project will provide a full update of the regular core outputs, as well as analysis of selected policy reforms, analytical outputs, software development and access to the model, and knowledge sharing/training activities. The regular core outputs include: a) Net household income and individual income components for selected family types and labour market circumstances, b) Headline policy indicators of tax burdens, benefit generosity, work incentives, c) Detailed annual reports describing the tax and benefit systems of each country, d) Comparable information on the distribution of earnings by gender and on the annual statutory minimum wages of full-time workers.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The main objectives and results of the project are: regular core outputs, analysis of selected policy reforms, analytical outputs, software development and knowledge sharing/training activities.

The output schedule for core indicators will remain as in the previous agreement. In particular, the OECD will provide preliminary tax-benefit and tax-burden core indicators for year t in October of year t. As the OECD will release these indicators while some validation is still ongoing, and because these preliminary indicators are calculated using preliminary estimates of wages in year t, they are not for public release and cannot be published. The OECD will provide a second, publishable, release of the same indicators in February t+1.

Both the February and the October data release will include as needed updates and revisions for previous years as well as a summary of major changes between the releases. The analysis of selected policy reforms regards assessments of past/hypothetical/proposed/planned tax-benefit policy changes as selected and specified by the Commission. The analysis of selected policy reforms will also be accompanied by a “policy reform tracker” summarizing for each country the changes implemented in the Tax-Benefit model as part of the annual update process. The analytical outputs will include a database on net childcare costs and a database on activity-related eligibility criteria for unemployment benefits, both accompanied by methodological and interpretative notes.

The action addresses the following principles of the EPSR; 3. Equal opportunities, 4. Active support to employment, 5. Secure and adaptable employment, 6. Wages, 11. Childcare and support to children, 12. Social protection, 13. Unemployment benefits, and 14. Minimum income.

5.11. Contribution agreement with OECD: Indicators on collective bargaining (ICTWSS database)

Implementing entity

According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the OECD, and its special bodies). OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

The project will cover 4 years starting from 2022 to 2025. A first deliverable with an update of a subset of variables (including bargaining coverage and density) is foreseen in 2023. The full update of the database will be delivered by 2025. Every update will cover all years between 2021 and 2025. The country notes will be updated as needed. The project foresees to improve the methodological framework, in particular the sources, needed to build some key variables.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The database on Institutional Characteristics of Trade Unions, Wage Setting, State Intervention and Social Pacts (ICTWSS) provides comprehensive and comparable information on the evolving nature and scope of collective bargaining in the EU and the Balkan countries. The continuation of the financing of this project will contribute to the monitoring of the compliance with the Minimum Wage directive and will serve to feed the scoreboard for the purpose of monitoring EPSR principle 8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers.

The ICTWSS database includes information on membership to trade unions and employers' associations, collective bargaining coverage, organisation of collective bargaining and wage co-ordination, social pacts, extension mechanisms. In 2021, the OECD reviewed the existing databases on collective bargaining and social dialogue and, based on a scoping paper and an in-depth methodological note, provided an up-to-date database on collective bargaining and social dialogue. The methodological note benefitted from discussions with an expert group composed of social partners' representatives, Eurofound and academics. The database comes with a Glossary, a Codebook and a note on definition and source and a Methodological note on measurement issues. Country profiles describe the main characteristics of the key elements of collective bargaining.

5.12. Contribution agreement with OECD: Global Deal to promote their capacity building for social dialogue and collective bargaining in third countries

Implementing entity

According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the OECD, and its special bodies). OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

The Global Deal will support regional events to promote social dialogue and collective bargaining, research on social dialogue and capacity building in third countries.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to support the development of healthy social dialogue and collective bargaining in third countries, especially countries with which the EU has a free trade agreement or which benefit from Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP). This will contribute to the development of consultation practices that will ultimately lead to the levelling of the playing field. The Global Deal brings together various stakeholders to promote joint solutions while still representing their different interests. Effective social dialogue requires mutual respect and trust to create favourable conditions for collaboration between employers, workers and governments. This can lead to peace in the labour market, promote competition and enhance economic stability and shared prosperity.

The action addresses the following principles of the EPSR; 1. Education, training and life-long learning; 2. Gender equality, 3. Equal opportunities, 4. Active support to employment, 5. Secure and adaptable employment, 7. Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals, 8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers, 9. Work-life balance, and 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection.

5.13. Contribution agreement with OECD: support OECD survey on housing

Implementing entity

According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such

organisations (e.g. the OECD, and its special bodies). OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

The Affordable Housing Database (AHD) contains a series of indicators monitoring access to good quality, affordable housing, as well as the issues of homelessness and housing exclusion in OECD and EU MS. The indicators are grouped under three main themes:

- housing market context;
- housing conditions (affordability, quality and housing exclusion);
- public policies for affordable housing.

The project also includes the delivery of policy papers (4-8 pages each) on affordable housing.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The action will provide indicators monitoring access to good quality, affordable housing, as well as the issues of homelessness and housing exclusion in EU MS. The indicators will cover the housing market context, housing conditions (affordability, quality and housing exclusion) and public policies for affordable housing. The action will in particular contribute to the implementation of principle 19. Housing and assistance for the homeless of the EPSR, and support the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness.

5.14. Contribution agreement with OECD: Inclusive and Social entrepreneurship

Implementing entity

According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the OECD, and its special bodies). OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

The direct grant will cover : (i) Policies and programmes to stimulate self-employment and new business creation by population groups that are under-represented or disadvantaged in entrepreneurship activity: women, youth, migrants, unemployed, people with disabilities and senior (i.e. “inclusive entrepreneurship policies”); and (ii) Policies and programmes to support social entrepreneurship and namely social enterprise ecosystems, to foster social enterprise creation and development (i.e. “social entrepreneurship policies”).

In addition, the EU and the OECD intend to create the Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy that will improve youth labour market outcomes in the aftermath of the COVID-19 shock through more widespread and better-designed youth entrepreneurship policy measures. The initiative will include specific focuses on supporting entrepreneurship among young women and establishing social entrepreneurship as one of the professional pathways. A specific feature of the Young Entrepreneurship Policy Academy is to directly associate existing young entrepreneurs’ networks in MS and thereby help them to strengthen, develop and extend their reach.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The EPSR underlines the necessity of promoting entrepreneurship (see principle 5 “Entrepreneurship and self-employment shall be encouraged”). Entrepreneurship is key for job creation and has unused potential for developing more inclusive economy, notably through social and inclusive entrepreneurship. It is important to improve the evidence base at EU level and provide policy guidance to MS on enabling framework conditions in this field. This can include both thematic as well as country specific analyses which generate useful evidence for the national level and can also feed in to the European Semester process. This activity is of great importance in the context of a post-COVID recovery and will support the Commission in the implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan. Indeed, the crisis has hit harder the population groups identified here above and inclusive entrepreneurship policies are part of the solution. Furthermore, social entrepreneurship is seen as a sustainable way of doing business, able to absorb current and future shocks.

The action addresses the following principles of the EPSR; 4. Active support to employment; and 5. Secure and adaptable employment.

5.15. Contribution agreement with OECD: Monitoring the adequacy of pensions

Implementing entity

According to Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may implement the budget indirectly through international public-sector organisations set up by international agreements (international organisation) and through specialised agencies set up by such organisations (e.g. the OECD, and its special bodies). OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

Description of the activities to be funded

Calculation of the Theoretical Replacement Rates and related analytical work to ensure comparable indicators of pension adequacy in the EU, feeding into the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report.

Objectives pursued and expected results

The main indicator for the measurement of pension adequacy is the Theoretical Replacement Rate (TRR) that shows the pension level expressed as a percentage of previous earnings. The OECD will develop the Guidelines for the calculations of the TRRs taking into account the decision on TRRs' cases made by the Social Protection Committee (SPC) Indicators' subgroup (ISG). The OECD will provide detailed instructions and templates Guidelines for the calculation of current and future TRRs that will be used by the MS and the OECD to calculate the TRRs.

The action addresses the following principles of the EPSR; 12. Social protection; 15. Old age income and pensions, and 20. Access to essential services.

6. Contributions to trust funds

N/A

7. Financial instruments

N/A

8. Contributions to blending facilities

N/A

9. Other actions or expenditure

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for other actions or expenditure under this work programme amounts to EUR 1 505 000.

Budget line 07.020100.05: N/A

Budget line 07.020400: EUR 1 505 000

BUDGET LINE

07.020400- ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand
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9.1. Various meetings of standing, ad-hoc committees and other events

Amount

EUR 1 035 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

To support events and meetings organised by DG EMPL in particular in the field of safety and health at work, labour inspections, labour mobility, labour law, long-term care, pensions and public employment services.
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Implementation

Co-delegation to PMO

9.2 Scientific support for evaluation of chemicals at work

Amount

EUR 120 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

Opinions to prepare future updates of Directives 98/24/EC and 2004/37/EC, to provide the appropriate administrative, technical and scientific support by the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) which carries out the evaluations of the occupational exposure limits for hazardous chemicals with the intent to develop proposals to establish the appropriate Occupational Exposure Limits (OEL) at European Union level.
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Implementation

Service level agreements with ECHA

9.3. Support for data collection and management, analysis, studies and evaluations

Amount

EUR 300 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

The actions will include, in cooperation with JRC-Sevilla, just resilience aspects in the context of the Climate Adaptation Strategy. This includes analysis of how climate change and climate adaptation affect livelihoods, socio-economic vulnerabilities, labour productivity, working conditions, work patterns and demographics across different occupational groups and regions. It will also evaluate related costs and (economic) losses and analyse the effectiveness of mitigating and adaptation measures, as well as the role of digitalisation, automation and new technologies in adaptation and mitigation.

Implementation

Service level agreements with JRC

9.4. Publications

Amount

EUR 50 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

Conception, printing, storage and distribution of DG EMPL publications in various areas.

Implementation

Co-delegation to OP