



INTEGRATING REFUGEES INTO THE LABOUR MARKET: the role of EU funding

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ESF, FEAD and ESF+ support

What is the ESF+? – A Brief Reminder

- EU's main instrument for investing in people
- Aims to support
 - tackle the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic
 - achieve high employment levels and fair social protection
 - foster a skilled and resilient workforce that is ready for the transition to a green and digital economy
- Budget 2021-2027: EUR 99.3bn (*current prices*)
- The ESF+ finances the implementation of the principles of the [European Pillar for Social Rights](#) through actions in the area of employment, education & skills, and social inclusion
- The Fund is governed by the [Common Provisions Regulation \(CPR\)](#)



How does it work under shared management?

Shared management

National or regional level



Currently ongoing

programming
agreeing on priorities, setting budgets, defining actions (7-year cycle)

monitoring implementation
reimbursing expenditure
accountable for the budget

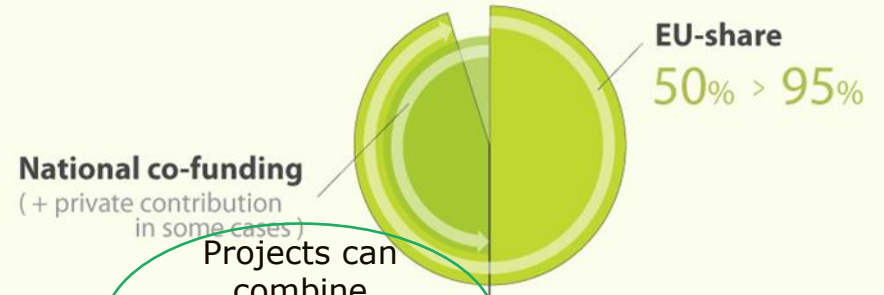
delivery of planned actions
selection of concrete projects
payments to project organisers

European Semester Country Reports & CSRs
EU-level policy initiatives

Partnership



Co-financing



Projects can combine public and private investment

How to get involved?

- Calls for proposals and project selection – in the hands of your regional or national authorities -> get in touch:
 - <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45&langId=en>
- The resources and programmes from period 2014-2020 (ESF, FEAD) still available and ongoing
- Programming of new priorities on period 2021-2027 (ESF+) ongoing now -> new programmes start 2021-2022
- 0.25% earmarking for capacity building of social partners, civil society and NGOs
- Liaise with Social partners' representatives at EU-level, members of the ESF/ESF+ Committee.

ESF+ support: an overview

both direct support to people and reforms

EMPLOYMENT

- (a) Access to employment of all jobseekers
- (b) Modernising labour market institutions and services
- (c) Gender-balanced labour market participation, work/life balance
- (d) adaptation of workers & enterprises, well-adapted working environment, active & healthy ageing

EDUCATION TRAINING

- (e) Improving the quality, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems
- (f) Promoting equal access to and completion of, quality and inclusive education
- (g) Lifelong learning, re- and up-skilling, anticipating change and new skills requirements

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- (h) Active inclusion
- (i) Promoting socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants
- (j) promoting socio-economic integration of marginalised communities such as the Roma
- (k) Equal and timely access to services; social protection, healthcare systems and long term care
- (l) Social integration of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- (m) Addressing material deprivation, including accompanying measures

→ Same type of support to third-country nat. as 2014-2020
→ Measures formerly under FEAD now included: basic assistance, food, hygiene...

CARE – Cohesion Action for Refugees in Europe

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- **Objective:** greater flexibility to use remaining 2014-2020 resources to address challenges created by arrival of ppl from Ukraine.
- Two steps:
 1. [CARE regulation \(9 April\)](#) amends the 2014-2020 CPR and FEAD Regulations; Concerns REACT-EU as well.
 2. [Additional amendments](#) to CPR and FEAD regulation (14 April)
- **Main changes:**
 - Use of ERDF/ESF interchangeably
 - MS can apply for 100% EU co-financing rate (accounting year 21-22 ending 30 June 2022)
 - Programme 2022 tranche of REACT-EU to address challenges
 - From 2021 REACT-EU: additional pre-financing (benefits esp. MS with high numbers of arrivals)
 - New unit cost to contribute to basic needs, based on number of refugees in the MS...

ESF support to integration

- “Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees” (recital 6 ESF reg.) may receive support that facilitates their social inclusion and integration in the labour market
- ESF support provided they legally have **access to the labour market**
- **Access to the labour market** as per directive 2013/33/EU & temporary protection directive – **all people fleeing UA have temporary protection as of day 1 in the EU**
- **A mainstream approach:** third-country nat. to access any ESF measure
- **Education for all children**
- **Vocational Education and Training (VET)**
- Type of support depends on **needs and thematic objectives**
- **Targeted** measures for migrants are possible

ESF: Examples of measures – 2014-2020

Employment

- Counselling, mentoring in relation to the labour market (information about training opportunities, help with CV writing, recognition of competences, activation measures)
- Hiring of teachers
- Hiring of staff working at the borders to welcome refugees
- Work placements, training, language courses in relation to work
- Measures to overcome segregation, prejudice and discrimination against third-country nationals, in particular in the labour market
- Support to training and employment institutions (adapt programmes and offer to needs; drafting recommendations on competences and skills)
- Prevention of undeclared work, support to social economy

Social inclusion

Inclusion

- “one-stop-shops” and integrated services and counselling (psychosocial, housing, employment...)
- Anti-discrimination programmes and measures (education, labour market) incl. prevention
- Social care and assistance
- Child care and foster care
- Community-based care for people with disabilities, children and older people notably

Education

- Guidance and mentoring
- Apprenticeships, traineeships
- Inclusive education
- Creation of additional school places; language courses for children and parents
- Assessment of children’s needs (language courses, extra support...)
- Extracurricular activities, meals, transport, school equipment
- Hiring and training of teachers and staff

FEAD: Examples of measures – 2014-2020

1) Food and/or basic material assistance

- food support (e.g. food packages or meals);
- basic material assistance (e.g. clothing, footwear, hygiene, school material, sleeping bags).
- Accompanying measures (e.g. psychological support, reorientation to social services)

2) Social inclusion

- Determined by MS in line with their definitions.
- Bringing recipients to other existing services
- Basic language courses
- Civic orientation
- health promotion activities

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

ERDF: Examples of measures – 2014-2020 & 2021-2027 (1/2)

ERDF can support the integration of people with a migrant background through accessible **infrastructure** development, (related) **equipment** and **access to quality mainstream services** in:

EMPLOYMENT

- **infrastructure** and **equipment** in:
 - labour market institutions
 - Public Employment Services (PES) buildings/offices
 - vocational and adult training facilities
 - one stop shops for services to job seekers, etc.including **refurbishment, extension of** existing mainstream training facilities and equipment.
- **modern equipment** using state-of-the-art technologies to support interoperability of labor markets
- Business incubators and support for self-employment
- + **measures to improve equal access for marginalised groups (e.g. bus transport)**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **infrastructure** and **equipment**
- ECEC, primary, secondary, vocational, tertiary education facilities and services including **refurbishment, extension of** existing mainstream educational facilities and equipment.
- access to **internet**, purchase of **digital equipment and e-learning applications** → in particular for marginalised students
- Measures to **build inclusive quality education** at all levels (e.g. school bus for facilitating access to non-segregated schooling, extending the capacity of non-segregated mainstream schools etc.).

- ❖ NB! Should **not lead to further segregation/isolation** of marginalised groups and **building parallel services**.
- ❖ **ERDF & ESF (+) complementarity!**

ERDF: Examples of measures – 2014-2020 & 2021-2027 (2/2)

ERDF can support **the integration of people with a migrant background** through accessible **infrastructure development, (related) equipment and access to quality mainstream services** in:

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- ❖ Measures should be connected across thematic areas, including, **education, employment, social housing, health-, social- and child- care, anti-discrimination etc.**
- ❖ **Refurbishment/building of social housing** in the mainstream community / non-segregated areas (also in the scope of desegregation measures); **rental fees**
- ❖ **Extension/building of capacities of mainstream non-segregated** kindergartens, schools, afternoon schooling, VET, labour market institutions, health-, social- and child- care facilities etc.; **IT equipment** to support access to distant and online education; **bus transport** to facilitate access
- ❖ Building **family- and community-based services** for persons with disabilities, children deprived of parental care, older people; individual social housing – individual apartments, equipment, accessible transport etc.)

HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE

- **infrastructure developments + (related) equipment in non-segregated mainstream:**
 - **Primary** healthcare (e.g. facilities for general practitioners, nurses), secondary healthcare (e.g. facilities for specialists, outpatient clinic), etc., including measures to foster resilience of healthcare including **refurbishment, extension of** existing mainstream health facilities and equipment (e-health; medical devices etc.);
- special focus on **moving away from a hospital-centred model** to more person-centred approaches facilitating **access to primary health care; family- and community-based care services**
- **improving outreach** (e.g. mobile service units); developing **integrated centers comprising social and health services.**

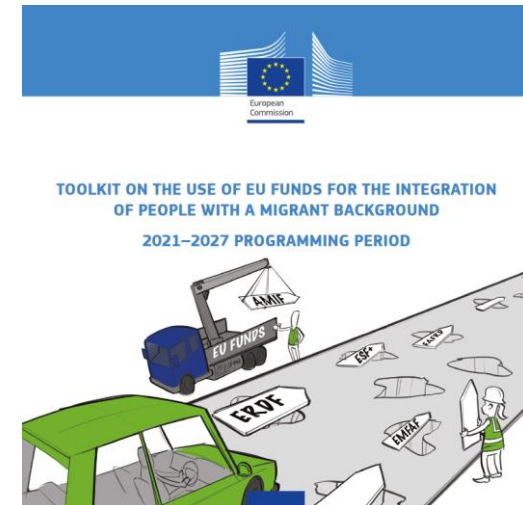
Toolkit on the use of EU funds for the integration of people with a migrant background (ERDF, ESF+, AMIF) – 2014-2020 ([link](#)) & 2021-2027 ([link](#))

Structure of the Toolkit:

1. Introduction
2. Objectives, scope and structure
3. **First lessons learned in the 2014-2020 period (new)**
4. Reinforcing synergies between EU funds
5. Integration pathways:
 - a) Education - Ensuring access to inclusive and non-segregated education
 - b) Housing – Ensuring access to adequate and non-segregated housing
 - c) Employment – Addressing current and future challenges of the labour market
 - d) **Social care and healthcare - Ensuring access to high-quality social care and healthcare (new)**
 - e) Reception - Ensuring integration from day 1
 - f) Basic mainstream services - Ensuring access to basic mainstream services for particularly vulnerable groups
 - g) **Fighting discrimination and misrepresentation (new)**
6. **The role of local authorities in integration (new)**

For each scenario:

- Scene-setter
- Challenges
- Measures (and how funds can contribute)



AMIF - Integration Measures

The Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund (“AMIF”) contributes to its Specific Objective for ‘Legal Migration, Integration & Social Inclusion’ by the following measures:

*....(d) “promoting integration measures for the social and economic inclusion of third-country nationals, **protection measures for vulnerable persons** in the context of integration measures, **facilitating family reunification**, preparing their active **participation in** and their acceptance by **the receiving society**, with the involvement of national and, in particular, regional or local authorities and civil society organisations, including refugees and migrant-led organisations and social partners.”*

(Annex II, Point 2 (d))



Complementarity of EU Funding

*“ The [AMIF] Fund should support measures tailored to the needs of third-country nationals that **are generally implemented in the early stages of integration,** and horizontal actions supporting Member States’ capacities in the field of integration, **whereas interventions for third-country nationals with a longer-term impact should be financed under the ERDF and ESF+.**”*

(Recital 15, AMIF)



AMIF support for persons displaced by violence in Ukraine

- AMIF's strength lies in its ability to target **immediate support during first reception phase.**
- **AMIF support for persons displaced from Ukraine:**
 - Provision of material aid to address basic needs of persons (e.g. clothes, food, health care, reception needs etc.);
 - Asylum processing activities;
 - Identification and processing of persons with special procedural or reception needs;
 - Family tracing, legal and translation assistance, psycho-social and other specialised services;
 - Reception accommodation, including addressing the needs of families with minors;
 - **Early** integration measures.

Early Integration Measures under AMIF

- Training of staff of Member State authorities (e.g. to help reception staff identify and assist persons requiring specialised assistance);
- Training of TCNs (e.g. introductory language training, civic orientation courses);
- Services for TCNs (information sessions, one-stop integration shops etc.);
- Assistance with family tracing, reunification and legal status;
- Early identification of victims of violence or human trafficking and their referral to specialised services and mentoring etc;
- Providing information and facilitating access to available psycho-social and educational services.



EU funds supporting integration, 2021-2027

**ASYLUM, MIGRATION
AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)**

SUPPORT FOR
EARLY
INTEGRATION

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
INITIATIVE (YEI)

FUND FOR EUROPEAN AID
TO THE MOST DEPRIVED (FEAD)

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL
INNOVATION (EASI)

EU HEALTH PROGRAMME

**EUROPEAN
SOCIAL FUND
PLUS
(ESF+)**

SUPPORT FOR
MEDIUM
& LONG-TERM
INTEGRATION

EUROPEAN
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FUND (ERDF)

ERASMUS +

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL
FUND FOR RURAL
DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)

Useful links

- [Ukraine: €3.4 billion REACT-EU pre-financing \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [ESF+ website: Cohesion funding to support people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#)
- 2021-2027 ESF+ regulation: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN>
- ESF+ website (includes [project](#) examples): <https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en>
- How does the ESF+ work? <https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en/shared-management>
- ESF/ESF+ publications: <https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en/publications> >
See eg. [How the ESF can advance migrant integration](#)
- Marianne.DOYEN@ec.europa.eu