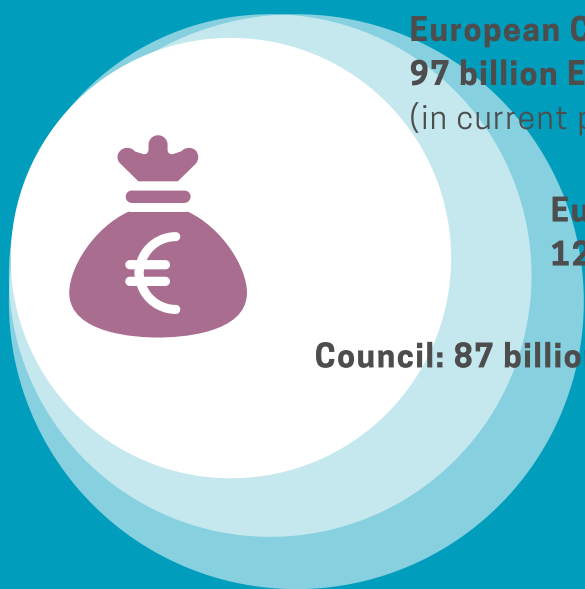


INFO NOTE

ESF+ UPDATE

ESF+ IN THE EU-BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS BUDGET 2021-2027

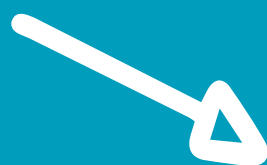


European Commission:
97 billion Euro
(in current prices)

European Parliament:
120 billion Euro

Council: 87 billion Euro

The Council, European Commission and European Parliament propose different budget volumes for the future ESF+ programme.



Current budget (2014 to 2020): 80 billion Euro
HOWEVER: The new ESF+ programmes integrates other programmes that were previously funded through other sources, so the proposed stagnation of the budget could be an effective cut.

TIMELINE



WHAT IS NEW IN THE PROGRAMME?

For the ESF+ programme, **several programmes will be merged**: the European Social Fund (ESF), the Fund for European Aid for the Most Deprived (FEAD), the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), and the European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). The management of most programmes will be shared between the European Union and the Member States; however, EaSI will be managed directly by the European Union.



Originally, the EU had also planned to include the EU4Health programme in the new ESF+, but as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the financial resources for the EU4Health programme were drastically increased. For this reason, the EU4Health programme was taken out of the ESF+ and will become a separate programme.



THEMATIC FOCAL POINTS



Support to youth employment

NEW: from 10% to **15%** of the ESF+ shared management resources of the Member States with high NEET (young persons not in education, employment, or training) rates go to youth employment and the Youth Guarantee



Tackling child poverty

NEW: Member States have to allocate at **least 5%** of the ESF+ resources under shared management to tackling child poverty, through actions directly supporting children (early childcare, education, access to services, healthcare and decent housing) - this applies to ALL Member States!



Increased emphasis on key policy areas:

- Green & digital transitions
- Gender equality



Temporary measures for the use of the ESF+ in response to exceptional & unusual circumstances

(as a result of the COVID-19 crisis)

Empowerment for the European Commission to

- extend the ESF+ scope
- ease thematic concentration requirements

EAEA'S DEMANDS

1

We want a **higher budget for ESF+** in the future programme period. A higher budget will enable more adult learning and education providers to offer high-quality programmes to adult learners from key target groups.

2

While there is a definite need to combat youth unemployment and child poverty in the EU, we believe that a holistic approach to education and social affairs is needed. This includes **promoting non-formal adult learning and education**. Family learning can play a key role in helping families, children and young people out of precarious socio-economic situations, and it can help to foster community development and social inclusion.

3

We want an **inclusive ESF+ programme** that allows adult learning and education providers of various sizes to participate in projects. Smaller organisations and providers can reach out to those furthest away from learning and training and enable them to access learning and training opportunities.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Contact your national or regional ministries for social

affairs to raise awareness of the importance of ESF funding for providing high-quality learning and social inclusion offers to disadvantaged groups. Through the council, they determine the outcome of the budget negotiations for the future programme period. You can use EAEA's statement and advocacy materials for your lobbying work.



Contact your Members of the European Parliament

to show that there is a real need for a higher overall budget for ESF+, but also for a higher budget for adult education and training. The European Parliament is committed to increasing the budget and any support and insight that MEPs receive from organisations working with the ESF(+) is very valuable to them!