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UPDATE OF THE REPORT

“Selected funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention”

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Summary

A Report entitled “Selected EU Funding Opportunities for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention” was prepared in 2009 in the framework of the Working Programme of the European Landscape Convention by Mr Burkardt KOLBMULLER, as Consultant Expert of the Council of Europe (CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 8E).

This updated version of the Report was also prepared in the framework of the Working Programme of the Council of Europe by Mr Dirk GOTZMANN, Director of Civilscape, as Consultant Expert of the Council of Europe, with the support of Mr Diego Fernández DE PRADO, Mr Dmytro PROSVIETIN and Mr Johannes OBERHOFER.

The 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention:

- took note of the Report “*Selection of Funding Opportunities to Support the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention*”, presented for information [Cf. Document CEP-CDCPP (2017) 11E rev.].

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAL JP	Active and Assisted Living Joint Programme
BONUS	Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CF	Cohesion Fund
CLLD	Community-led Local Development
CoE	Council of Europe
CORDIS	Community Research and Development Information Service
COSME	Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs
CPR	Common Provision Regulation
DAE	Digital Agenda for Europe
EaSI	EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EaSI	EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation
EDF	European Development Fund
EEA	European Economic Area
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
EGF	European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
EIP-SCC	European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities
ELENA	European Local Energy Assistance
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
EU	European Union
EURES	European Employment Services
EUSF	European Union Solidarity Fund
FEAD	Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived
FLAG	Fisheries Local Action Groups
GNI	Gross national income
HERA	Humanities in the European Research Area
IPA II	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
JASPERS	Joint Assistance in Supporting Projects in European Regions
JESSICA	Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale
MF/SE	Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship Facility
MFF	Multi-annual Financial Framework
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NUTS	Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics
PI	Partnership Instrument
PROGRESS	Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity
SIMAP	EU Information System for Public Procurement
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
YEI	Youth Employment Initiative

INTRODUCTION

Objectives

This report follows five key objectives:

- it identifies funding schemes which are eligible to finance landscape-related projects and actions;
- it gives on one hand some ideas on how to use these funding schemes for landscape projects and actions on the ground;
- on the other hand it marks funding schemes which might be adapted by the EU-member States depending on their landscape strategies and policies in order to use these funding schemes for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- it gives the different landscape stakeholders, namely from the public and private sector, non-profit organisations (such as non-governmental and civil society organisations), academic institutions and research centres, an insight into the functioning of the huge variety of EU funds that can be used for landscape projects;
- it looks especially to young people because since 2014 some funding schemes provide special offers and access to young people. The report points out how they can directly benefit from Europe by taking part in one of the numerous EU programmes for their landscape-related projects and actions.

The report looks at certain aspects of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention following the text of the Convention and looks how EU and other funding could be used in this context.

Where possible the analysis of the different funding schemes was done regarding these different aspects and how these can be financed according to the objectives and requirements of each funding scheme.

The European Union (EU) allocates considerable financial resources to projects and actions that are related to EU policies and their implementation. At the end of 2013, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union came to an agreement on the financial framework for the EU for 2014-2020. A huge part of this financial plan, with a total amount of €60 billion, is used for EU funding instruments, programmes and initiatives. This money is used for investments in a broad spectrum of areas, such as sustainable economic development and social cohesion, research and innovation, education and culture, health and environmental protection. Parallel to the negotiations on the multi-annual budget planning 2014-2020, the EU's investment programmes and funding instruments have also been redesigned.

1. European Union Funds

The EU funds can roughly be divided into three types: structural and investment funds; programmes and initiatives; and third country funds. Whilst the first two types are allocated internally within the EU, the other particularly addresses actions outside the EU. This report focuses on selected funding schemes of all three types which are managed and operated under the recent Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020.

Actions and projects funded by the European Commission are set yearly in the annual budget, grouped under broad spending categories (known as headings)¹. Therefore the MFF 2014-20 is divided into six categories of expense ('headings' or EU policy areas) corresponding to different areas of EU activities:

- *Smart and Inclusive Growth*: Competitiveness for Growth and Jobs includes research and

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/introduction/index_en.cfm

innovation; education and training; trans-European networks in energy, transport and telecommunications; social policy; development of enterprises, etc.; and Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion covers regional policy which aims to help the least developed EU countries and regions to catch up with the rest, strengthening all regions' competitiveness and developing inter-regional co-operation;

- *Sustainable Growth*: Natural Resources include the common agricultural policy, common fisheries policy, rural development and environmental measures;

- *Security and Citizenship* includes justice and home affairs, border protection, immigration and asylum policy, public health, consumer protection, culture, youth, information and dialogue with citizens;

- *Global Europe* covers all external action (“foreign policy”) by the EU such as development assistance or humanitarian aid with the exception of the European Development Fund (EDF);

- *Administration* covers the administrative expenditure of all the European institutions, pensions and European Schools;

- *Compensations* are one-off payments.

This report focuses on the first four headings because only these contain funding schemes related to landscape. Also excluded is the European Development Fund (EDF) which provides aid for development co-operation with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, as well as overseas countries and territories. The European Development Fund (EDF) is not funded from the EU budget instead it is financed by direct contributions from EU Member States. Therefore the EDF does not fall under the MFF. Beside the EDF these programmes are also not subjects of the MFF: Emergency aid reserve; European Globalisation Adjustment Fund; European Union Solidarity Fund; and Flexibility instrument. From these, only the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund can be partly used for landscape-related projects.

The MFF lays down the maximum annual amounts (‘ceilings’) which the EU may spend in these six policy areas and overall over the 2014-20 period. The figures about the budget of each programme come from the MFF within the budget lines defined by the expenditure ceilings. There are two types of expenditure ceilings: an annual ceiling for each heading, expressed in commitment appropriations (legally binding promises to spend money which will not necessarily be paid out in the same year but may be disbursed over several financial years); and an overall annual ceiling: for commitment appropriations corresponding to the sum of each heading ceilings; and for payment appropriations: the actual amounts authorised for disbursement in a given year. As a rule, budgeted amounts correspond to the sum of payments scheduled for each category. The annual payment appropriations must be covered entirely by total annual revenue. The overall ceiling is also expressed as a percentage of the EU’s estimated GNI. This percentage is updated every year on the basis of the latest available GNI forecasts in order to check that the EU’s total estimated level of payments does not exceed the maximum amount of resources which the EU may raise during a year (1.23% of the EU’s GNI). In this way the budget figures in this report follow the corridor set by the ceilings.

The MFF is not the budget of the EU for seven years. It provides a framework for financial programming and budgetary discipline by ensuring that EU spending is predictable and stays within the agreed limits. Furthermore the MFF 2014-20 was reviewed by the Commission in 2016 taking full account of the economic situation at the time, as well as the latest macroeconomic projections. In this context the MFF might be adapted, if necessary.

Based on the Multi-annual Financial Framework Regulation in force and the budget guidelines for the coming year, the European Commission prepares the draft budget and submits it by 1 September to the Council and the European Parliament. The Council first adopts its position on the draft budget by 1 October (including amendments). The position of the Parliament follows within 42 days. After the budget is adopted, the ultimate responsibility for implementing the budget lies with the European Commission. However, in practice some 76% of the budget is spent under what is known as ‘shared management’, with individual EU countries actually distributing funds and managing expenditure. For

several programmes the Common Provision Regulations are applied in the new Multi-annual Financial Framework, with the aim of easing the management and operation of these programmes.

The Common Provision Regulation (CPR) made several programmes subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring. With the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council in 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund; and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006.

In addition, the types of financing from the EU budget can vary. EU funds are mostly allocated through grants awarded on the basis of calls for proposals, in which different actors compete for the support of the EU. Two types of grants can be distinguished: ‘action grants’ for projects with a limited lifetime during which proposed specific activities are implemented and ‘operating grants’, providing financial support for the regular work and activities of an organisation. The main focus in this report is on project grants which comprise the majority of grants, and also provide in terms of amount the greater proportion of the funding.

Furthermore, EU institutions award public contracts, which are awarded through calls for tenders in order to buy services, goods or works for the different EU institutions and their programmes. Eventually, several other types of financing by EU funds exist, such as direct subsidies or indirect funding through intermediary bodies in the form of loans, risk capital, seed funding, subsidies, etc. The report will make some remarks on some of these types financing which might be relevant for the different stakeholder groups that are involved in the implementation of the European Landscape Convention or in landscape activities in general.

2. Non-EU countries

European Union funding opportunities are primarily designed for institutions and/or individuals from EU countries. A few programmes restrict funding opportunities to a selection of these EU countries – for example, in case of the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) or the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). However, in many other cases partners from non-EU countries may also participate in EU funded projects.

Participating countries are usually divided into two groups: Programme Countries and Partner Countries. Programme Countries include the 28 Member States, the European Free Trading Association Countries/European Economic Area – EFTA/ EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) and Candidate Countries under an Association Agreement. Partner Countries include third countries that are contributing financially to the programmes’ budget and have in this respect signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Moreover, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) is available for EU candidate and potential candidate countries, with which the EU continues to offer its support during the period 2014-2020 with regard to the technical and financial assistance that is necessary for improving the situation and developing sustainability with the emphasis on political, institutional, legal, administrative, social, and economic reforms that will align their practices to EU standards. Sometimes these countries are also named Enlargement countries (Montenegro, Turkey, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo² (under UNSC Resolution 1244/1999)).

² All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Kosovo³ does not have, for the time being, the necessary legal basis to participate in EU programmes.

Neighbouring Partner Countries may also participate in certain programmes, as defined in the Annual Work Programmes, subject to certain conditions. These include the following:

- *South East Europe*: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo⁴;
- *Eastern Europe and Caucasus*: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine;
- *Mediterranean Partner Countries*: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Tunisia.

Finally, wider co-operation with other non-European third countries will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of the activities contemplated.

The report aims to identify the geographical coverage for each funding scheme. This can change through the corresponding Memorandum of Understanding or other bi-lateral or multi-lateral agreements between EU and non-EU countries. Furthermore the financial assistance of the Cohesion Fund, for example, can be suspended by a Council decision if a Member State shows excessive public deficit and if it has not resolved the situation, or has not taken the appropriate action to do so.

Concerning the participation of partners from non-EU countries in European Union funded projects, there are different kinds and different levels of involvement depending on the respective programmes and activities. Where possible the geographic scope for each funding scheme is noted in Chapters C, D and E. With regard to the programmes described below the following cases are possible:

- The funding programme allows the full participation of partners from non-EU countries, including the use of EU funds. In some cases, the programme requires special negotiations or additional guarantees. Mostly participation is restricted to special regions or special kinds of countries. Generally, partners from non-EU countries may not act as a lead partner of a project. However, with regard to practical activities there are no (or only slight) differences between partners from the European Union and from non-EU countries. This holds true e.g. for the programmes INTERREG IVB and INTERREG IVC, LIFE+, HORIZON 2020, CULTURE and ERASMUS+B and INTERREG;
- Partners from non-EU countries may participate in an EU project as “non-financing partners”, e.g. by signing “letters of intent” or special declarations. They do not receive own EU funds, but may participate in all project activities, e.g. seminars, workshops and conferences. In many cases it is possible to finance at least the travel and accommodation costs of participants from countries outside the EU. This kind of partnership is offered e.g. by the programmes INTERREG IV IVC, LIFE+, HORIZON 2020 and CULTURE;
- Partners from non-EU countries may participate in an EU project as “observers” or associated partners. In this case, no contract or letter of intent is normally required. The programmes LIFE+ and HORIZON 2020 may serve as examples for this level of involvement.

Even if interested parties from non-EU countries may not directly receive EU funds, the participation in common projects is worthwhile in any case: mostly the partners from non-EU countries may directly benefit from the project results (e.g. studies, methods, know-how). Furthermore, the participation in conferences, seminars and workshops will broaden the knowledge and encourage new activities in their own country. Finally, the co-operation with EU partners will intensify the contacts and strengthen the transnational networks. Thus, the participation in EU projects definitely makes sense, even if without direct financial effects.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

CHAPTER I. EUROPEAN FUNDING BY TARGET GROUP

This chapter gives an overview of EU funding by target groups. Each target group receives a short description and afterwards the most important funding tools are synthesised per target group.

1. Public sector

Local, regional and national stakeholders of the public sector are important actors for change. For bodies and entities of the public sector, it is easier to fulfil the financial capacity criteria and to provide the administrative ability to handle European projects.

The **HERA – Joint Research Programme** offers public sector stakeholders the opportunity to join a research project. As non-academic associated partners, they will get reimbursement for accommodation and travel costs related to project events like workshops and conferences. Non-academic associated partners will not receive any further funding, for example, for staff or other costs. The recent setting of EU funding opportunities offers ample opportunity for public actors at local and regional level to initiate and implement projects and actions on the local level. Support may include, in general, measures such as capacity building, funding of programmes for decent work, social inclusion and anti-discrimination, the establishment of local sustainable development initiatives, or investments into local infrastructures. In order to apply for landscape related projects, it is necessary to focus on links between these measures and landscape planning and management.

Ahead of project development, it is of strategic importance to use the **Partnership Principle**, a new element of ESI-Funds. This ensures that regional and local authorities, beside other stakeholders, are actively involved in the strategic planning and decision-making for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funding programmes. This provides a clear opportunity to embed landscape planning, management and protection issues in the programming of the different funding schemes.

The **EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)** offer the most important funding opportunities for local and regional stakeholders of the public sector. These funds share a common catalogue of principles for their implementation (Common Provisions Regulation) and the scope of actions in every region (and Member State) are specified in operational programmes. For actors applying for landscape projects on regional and local level, it is essential to take a closer look at the operational programmes and to search systematically for landscape-related issues. In many cases landscape is not mention in an explicit way, but the territorial dimension of the above-mentioned measures like social inclusion and anti-discrimination (for example in planning processes), the establishment of local sustainable development initiatives, or investments into local infrastructures can be used successfully to promote landscape related projects.

Erasmus+ is a new framework programme for EU funding in the areas of education and training, youth and sport. Erasmus+ is intended to provide support to over four million Europeans for their studies, training, work experience or volunteer work abroad in the next seven years.

The **Horizon 2020** programme for investments in research and innovation promotes closer participation of stakeholders from the public sector. The most important funding opportunities for local and regional authorities can be found under the sub-programmes “Societal Challenges” and “Science in and for Society”.

A central aim of the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** is the promotion of sustainable growth, reinforcing economic, social and territorial cohesion. It offers funding in a broad spectrum of fields, for example investments in local infrastructures and development of strategies in the field of sustainable urban development. Landscape projects on management and planning can be easily linked to these mentioned examples.

The field of **European Territorial Co-operation** offers support for co-operation amongst municipalities. It creates opportunities for the exchange of good practices and the development of initiatives in a variety of fields, such as culture, sustainable tourism, or sustainable urban mobility. Territorial management and planning projects that factor in exchange between municipalities in various countries can apply for this funding scheme. This can include cross-border and transnational projects with municipalities as project partners.

For the first time, Member States are obliged to invest 5% of the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** in sustainable urban development, and in this way it can be expected that European cities and municipalities will receive financial support to meet social, economic, ecological, demographic and climate challenges. In this context of urban landscapes it is important to take note of the results of the public consultation on the EU Urban Agenda which was unveiled by the European Commission in June 2015. The EU Commission is proposing the following approach:

- focusing on specific priorities able to deliver and show results, such as smart cities; in particular when it comes to the low-carbon economy, climate-resilient cities and social inclusion;
- applying better regulation tools effectively, with reinforced urban impact assessment and stronger stakeholder involvement;
- better coherence and co-ordination of EU policies relating to cities, such as [the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities](#) (EIP-SCC), the [Urban Innovative Actions](#) or [the European Climate Adaptation Platform](#) (Climate ADAPT); assessing, revisiting, simplifying, streamlining and better focusing existing initiatives, making them more user-friendly, more efficient and with more synergies between them;
- improved urban intelligence, benchmarking and monitoring: this means developing new data while also continuing to consolidate and harmonise the knowledge base of existing data sources, making them more complementary and more readily available.

Several operational programmes have followed this approach which has many obvious links to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention. How far the implementation can use the EU funding opportunities is highly dependent upon the level to which landscape policies and measures are included in the operational programmes. While in some Member States and regions these cities are already pre-defined in the operational programmes of the European Regional Development Fund, others organise competitions for sustainable urban development projects.

Landscape is not a central aspect in the **European Social Fund (ESF)** when it is promoting the modernisation of public services and the strengthening of institutional capacities. But it also funds projects for equal access to education and the fight against youth unemployment – both can be linked to landscape-related training and employment initiatives which might focus on local landscape-related knowledge, skills and the creation of new jobs.

The **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** and the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** offer support to rural and coastal communities to meet their economic, social and environmental challenges. Without any doubt, this support could be used for projects and activities related to landscape management, planning and protection. Public bodies can become beneficiaries for EAFRD or EMFF investments in order to implement measures for poverty reduction, social inclusion and advisory services for farmers/fishers and entrepreneurs in the area. Using landscape as a resource and the activation of landscape related skills and local knowledge could be used for reduction measures on poverty, but also for innovative business models. Landscape planning and management processes that involve different stakeholders can foster and include social inclusion.

The **Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)** mechanism gives local stakeholders in rural, coastal or urban areas the possibility to engage more actively with local stakeholders. This involvement mechanism can be used in landscape management, planning and, partly, protection. The approach is known from the LEADER instrument and is now applicable to coastal and urban areas,

too. The instrument offers support for the establishment of comprehensive local development strategies in bottom-up approaches and provides financial assistance for the implementation of planned projects. The strategy development and the later implementation could easily be linked to landscape planning, management activities and projects.

The **Civil Protection Mechanism** is an instrument to promote more effective systems for preventing and responding to natural and man-made disasters. Since the Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks (Text with EEA relevance), the links between landscape management and planning are obvious. EU member states must implement the Directive 2007/60/EC. For local and regional authorities the Civil Protection Mechanism is interesting as it regards measures for preparedness and prevention of disaster.

The **Europe for Citizens Programme** supports town twinning projects and networks of towns and municipalities, in order to promote the democratic engagement and civic participation in EU policy-making. The implementation of the European Landscape Convention asks for citizen participation on all administrative levels. These projects and networks can easily be linked to landscape management, planning and protection. The funding scheme is also open to network organisations of towns and municipalities, which could focus on certain measures of the European Landscape Convention implementation that are linked to the local and regional level. Actors from the Private Sector can participate in exchange activities which are organised and managed by the involved towns and municipalities, but are not eligible to be a project partner.

LIFE, the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action, can support municipalities, towns and regions in the implementation of projects for environmental protection, climate action and related issues, such as reduction of noise (link to soundscapes). Additionally, LIFE offers the opportunity to support the co-operation of public authorities on prevention measures as so-called integrated projects.

2. Academic institutions and research centres

Most academic institutions and research centres have access to potential funding schemes through their own specialist units or external contact points. Compared with the other stakeholders from the public and private sector, their search for funding is most efficiently organised. Some universities have specialist application writers and an administration that is familiar with the different funding scheme requirements. In addition, existing academic networks provide a good background for gathering different partners for a project consortium.

It is easier for academic institutions and research centres (compared with NGOs and SMEs) to fulfil the financial capacity criteria and to provide the administrative ability to handle European projects. A new challenge might be to deal with new partners from the other sectors and to be aware of their special needs and capacities. Several funding schemes stress the need for a tighter collaboration with NGOs and SMEs for product development and the dissemination of project results to a specific target group or the wider public.

The **European Co-operation in Science and Technology (COST)** enables European engineers and scholars to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all fields of science and technology through a trans-European networking of nationally funded research activities. It is a means for them to jointly develop their ideas and new initiatives across all fields in science and technology, including social sciences and humanities, through pan-European networking of nationally funded research activities. Participating in a COST action is a good way for researchers to develop a European network.

While the **EEA and Norway Grants** with the sub-programme “Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness” is directly addressing academic institutions and research centres, most of the other

programme areas are open to these stakeholders, too.

The **HERA – Joint Research Programme** is mainly addressing research institutions to join a research project. As academic partners, they will get funding for all eligible project costs.

Erasmus+ is a new framework programme for EU funding in the areas of education and training, youth and sport. Erasmus+ is intended to provide support to over four million Europeans for their studies, training, work experience or volunteer work abroad in the next seven years. NGOs can use this funding scheme to join strategic partnership project to develop new educational methods and formats, for example for schools and adult education, but also for vocational training. It is easy to imagine, that this funding scheme can be used to apply for projects tailored to the specific measures of the European Landscape Convention: increased awareness among the civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them; training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations; multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors and for associations concerned; school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning.

The **Horizon 2020** programme for investments in research and innovation integrates a closer participation of citizens, end-users, civil society organisations. Main target group for the calls are research institutions. For a successful consortium, it is becoming increasingly important to add NGOs and SMEs to the consortium. Therefore it becomes an important competence to involve these partners and to form heterogeneous platforms for project development. The most important funding opportunities for landscape projects can be found under the programme strands “Societal Challenges” and “Science in and for Society”. Research members to a project consortium will receive 100% funding.

Interreg calls mainly target public bodies and institutions. Academic institutions and research centres can be invited to join a project consortium as an advisory partner. Advisory partners need to co-finance 25% of their budget and have to pre-finance the entire expenses before they can apply for a reimbursement every 6 months. All spending has to be audited by an external auditor in a first level control process before the reimbursement can be claimed. Most universities have their own auditors or have contracted an external one, who can perform the first level control.

3. Private sector

3.1 Non-governmental Organisations

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is an organisation that is neither a part of a government nor a conventional for-profit business. The EU commission provides their definition of NGOs: “NGOs are not created to generate profit (although they may have paid employees and engage in revenue-generating activities, they do not distribute profits to members); NGOs are voluntary; NGOs must have some degree of formal or institutional existence (e.g. statutes or other governing documents setting out their mission, objectives and scope) as they are accountable to their members and donors; NGOs are independent, in particular of government, public authorities, political parties or commercial organisations; NGOs are not self-serving in aims and related values: their aim is to serve the public as a whole or specific groups of people.” (European Commission, 2012: Beginner’s Guide to EU funding, p. 12).

NGOs are active in almost all fields of society and accordingly involve in most of the areas that are covered by European funding activities. Therefore, NGOs are eligible to a vast part of European funding instruments, of which only the most important tools will be highlighted in this section. NGOs can play a more prominent role in the EU funding period 2014-2020, because more funding

programmes include NGOs as beneficiaries.

In recent years the criteria for the eligibility of NGOs as potential project partners have been simplified, but still an NGO needs to be aware that there are a number of criteria which have to be fulfilled. For some funding schemes, NGOs may have to fulfil the financial capacity criteria depending on the amount of funding they are applying for. NGOs have also to be aware that they will need the administrative ability to handle European projects. On the other hand, NGOs are for the first time explicitly included as potential beneficiaries of technical assistance, which aims at the development of the necessary institutional capacity for the implementation of the programmes.

In general, NGOs are eligible for two different types of EU funding which are action grants and operational grants. Operational grants are included in several funding schemes. NGOs applying for this kind of grant need to be active in a number (variation from scheme to scheme) of EU countries. Furthermore the recent activities have to fit in the scope of the funding scheme.

Actions grants are related to certain actions in a project. Therefore the NGO has to join a project consortium with several partners. Normally these are defined in work packages.

The **European Co-operation in Science and Technology (COST)** (see Chapter 1, item 2).

While the programme area No 15 “Civil Society” of the **EEA and Norway Grants** obviously targets NGOs, most of the other programme areas are open to NGOs. The reports list the different programme areas to which landscape projects could apply.

The **HERA – Joint Research Programme** offers NGOs the opportunity to join a research project. As non-academic associated partners, they will get reimbursement for accommodation and travel costs related to project events like workshops and conferences. NGOs will not receive any further funding for example for staff or other costs.

Erasmus+ (see Chapter 1, item 2)

The **Horizon 2020** programme for investments in research and innovation integrates a closer participation of citizens, end-users and civil society organisations. The most important funding opportunities for NGOs can be found under the programme strands “Societal Challenges” and “Science in and for Society”. NGO members of a project consortium will receive 100% funding.

Ahead of project development, it is of strategic importance to use the **Partnership Principle**, which is a new element of the ESI-Funds. This ensures that NGOs, beside other stakeholders, are actively involved in the strategic planning and decision-making for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funding programmes. This provides a clear chance to embed landscape planning, management and protection issues in the programming of the different funding schemes.

The **European Social Fund** offers the most attractive funding opportunities of all European Structural and Investment Funds for the support of NGOs. Simplified funding procedures will make it easier for small NGOs to apply for project support.

The **Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)** mechanism gives NGOs in rural, coastal or urban areas the possibility to engage more actively with other local and regional stakeholders. This involvement mechanism can be used in landscape management, planning and partly in protection. The approach is known from the LEADER instrument and is now applicable to coastal and urban areas, too. This instrument offers support for the establishment of comprehensive local development strategies in bottom-up approaches and provides financial assistance for the implementation of planned projects. The strategy development and the later implementation could be easily linked to landscape planning, management activities and projects.

Interreg calls mainly target public bodies and institutions. NGOs can be invited to join a project consortium as advisory partners. Advisory partners need to co-finance 25% of their budget and have to pre-finance the complete expenses before they can apply for a reimbursement every 6 months. All spending has to be audited by an external auditor in a first level control process before the reimbursement can be claimed.

The **LIFE Programme** is another important funding tool for Landscape NGOs. It offers in its sub-programmes “Environment” and “Climate Action” which provide operational as well as action grants. A central EU instrument for support of NGOs is the **Europe for Citizens** programme. It provides operating grants for NGOs that are active in the fields of European remembrance and citizens’ participation in the democratic life of the EU. Furthermore, Europe for Citizens helps NGOs realise projects for a broad spectrum of EU-related activities that gather citizens and empower them for participation in the EU policy-making process.

Creative Europe with its sub-programme Culture supports NGOs which are active at the European level in the field of culture, and promotes special actions designed to stimulate inter-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding in the EU. These actions could be used for cross-border and transnational landscape projects.

3.2. For-profit business

Funding schemes have been widely opened to SMEs in recent years. In general the cycle from the concept to the finished product or service should be time-limited. Therefore for-profit businesses are involved in most funding schemes.

A clear obstacle is the formal requirements (including proofing the economic potential, as well as the individual economic performance of the economic stakeholder).

The **European Co-operation in Science and Technology (COST)** mainly addresses researchers, engineers and scholars to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all fields of science and technology through trans-European networking of nationally funded research activities. Such an initiative can be used for their own innovation strategies and access to scientists in a field of interest. Furthermore participating in a COST action is a good way to involve SMEs in a European network as a basis for a Horizon 2020 application.

The **EEA and Norway Grants** sub-programme: Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness with the Programme areas Nos. 1 and 3 explicitly address entrepreneurs, especially SMEs. Furthermore the Programme area No. 14 (Culture, Civil Society, Good Governance, and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms) offers some opportunities for SMEs for cultural entrepreneurship. Several other Programme areas, listed in the report, are open to SMEs.

The **HERA Joint Research Programme** offers stakeholders from creative industries the opportunity to join a research project. As non-academic associated partners, they will receive reimbursement for accommodation and travel costs related to project events such as workshops and conferences. But non-academic associated partners will not receive any further funding, for example, for staffing or other costs.

Erasmus+ is a new framework programme for EU funding in the areas of education and training, youth and sport. SMEs can use this funding scheme to join strategic partnership projects to develop new educational methods and formats for different educational formats. It is easy to imagine that this funding scheme can be used to apply for projects tailored to the specific measures of the European Landscape Convention: increased awareness among the civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them; training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations; multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy,

protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors and for associations concerned; school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning. SMEs can also use such strategic partnerships to develop educational tools and solutions.

The **Horizon 2020** programme for investments in research and innovation integrates a closer participation of SMEs and other stakeholders. The most important funding opportunities regarding landscape projects can be found under the programme strands “Societal Challenges” and “Science in and for Society”. SMEs have to show that it is a legal entity registered in one of the EU countries and is operating for a minimum of three years. SME members to a project consortium will normally receive 70% funding.

Ahead of project development, it is of strategic importance to use the Partnership Principle, which is a new element of the ESI-Funds which ensures that SMEs, other for-profit businesses and their networks (beside other stakeholders) are actively involved in the strategic planning and decision-making for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funding programmes. This provides a clear chance to embed landscape planning, management and protection issues in the programming of the different funding schemes.

CHAPTER II EU FUNDING INSTRUMENTS BY POLICY FIELDS

EU policies are implemented through a wide range of programmes and funds. The programmes of the 2014-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework, the amounts allocated to each of them and their legal bases (when adopted) are listed beneath following the headings.

1. Smart and inclusive growth

1.1. Competitiveness for growth and jobs

Competitiveness for Growth and Jobs includes research and innovation; education and training; trans-European networks in energy, transport and telecommunications; social policy; development of enterprises etc.

1.1.1. Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

Key information

Total Budget: €21.94 billion

Aims: The Connecting Europe Facility supports the development of high-performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the field of energy, telecommunications and transport; building missing cross-border links and removing bottlenecks along main trans-European transport corridors. The Connecting Europe Facility will allow the construction of projects that would not be taken up by the market otherwise. In addition, a centrally managed infrastructure fund will minimise the administrative burden and decrease the costs for the EU budget by promoting synergies.

Geographical coverage: EU countries.

Thematic categories: Transport, Energy, Telecommunications

Beneficiaries: Public sector, non-profit organisations, academic institutions and research centres

Programme details

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is the new funding mechanism for infrastructure projects of common interest for trans-European transport, energy and telecoms networks. CEF will support the development of high performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services. CEF shall enable the preparation and implementation of projects of common interest within the framework of the trans-European networks (TEN) policy in the sectors of energy, transport and telecommunications. In particular the Connecting Europe Facility shall support the implementation of projects aimed at the development and construction of new or upgrading existing infrastructure in the field of transport, energy and telecommunications.

Supported actions

Transport

- Removing bottlenecks and bridging missing links, to be measured by the number of new and improved cross-border connections and removed bottlenecks on transport routes which have benefitted from CEF.
- Ensuring sustainable and efficient transport in the long run, to be measured by the length of the conventional railway network in the EU-27 and the length of a high-speed railway network in the EU-

27.

– Optimise the integration and interconnection of transport modes and enhancing interoperability of transport services. The achievement of this objective will be measured by the number of ports and airports connected to the railway network.

Energy

– Promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders, including by ensuring that no Member State is isolated from the European network, to be measured by the number of projects effectively interconnecting Member States' networks and removing internal bottlenecks.

– Enhancing Union security of supply, to be measured by the evolution of system resilience and the security of system operations, as well as the number of projects allowing diversification of supply sources, supplying counterparts and routes.

– Contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment, notably by fostering the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and developing carbon dioxide networks, to be measured by the transmission of renewable energy from generation to major consumption centres and storage sites, and the sum of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions prevented by the construction of the projects which benefitted from CEF.

Telecommunications

– Accelerating the deployment of fast and ultra-fast broadband networks and their uptake, including by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to be measured by the level of broadband and ultra-fast broadband coverage and the number of households having subscribed to broadband connections for above 100 Mbps (megabits per second).

– Promoting the interconnection and interoperability of national public services online, as well as access to such networks, to be measured by the percentage of citizens and businesses using public services on-line and the availability of such services across borders.

Level of financing

Transport

– Grants for studies, 50% of the eligible costs.

– Grants for works: for railway networks, and road networks in the case of Member States with no railway network established in their territory or in the case of a Member State, or part thereof, with an isolated network without long-distance rail freight transport: 20% of the eligible costs. The funding rate may be increased to a maximum of 30% for actions addressing bottlenecks and to 40% for actions concerning cross-border sections and actions enhancing rail interoperability. For inland waterways: 20% of the eligible costs. The funding rate may be increased to a maximum of 40% for actions addressing bottlenecks and to a maximum of 40% for actions concerning cross-border sections. For inland transport, connections to and the development of multimodal logistics platforms including connections to inland and maritime ports and airports, as well as the development of ports: 20% of the eligible costs. For actions to reduce rail freight noise including by retrofitting existing rolling stock: 20% of the eligible costs up to a combined ceiling of 1% of the budgetary resources referred to in point (a) of Article 5(1). For better accessibility to transport infrastructure for disabled persons: 30% of the eligible cost of adaptation works, not exceeding in any case 10% of the total eligible cost of works. For actions supporting new technologies and innovation for all modes of transport: 20% of the eligible costs. For actions to support cross-border road sections: 10% of the eligible costs;

– Grants for telematic applications systems and services (20%-50%).

Energy

- 50% of the eligible cost of studies and/or works. May be increased to 75% for actions with a high degree of regional or Union-wide security of supply, that strengthen the solidarity of the Union or comprise highly innovative solutions.

Telecommunications

- Actions in the field of generic services: 75% of the eligible costs.
- Horizontal actions including infrastructure mapping, twinning and technical assistance: 75% of the eligible costs.

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1316/2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1315/2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 283/2014 on guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure](#)

More information

- [Mobility and Transport website](#)
- [Energy website](#)
- [Digital Agenda for Europe website](#)

Contact persons at the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA):
E-mail: inea@ec.europa.eu

1.1.2. Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME)

Key information

Total Budget: €2.3 billion

Aims: The Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) programme supports the competitiveness, growth and sustainability of EU's enterprises (in particular SMEs) and promotes entrepreneurship. To reach these goals, the programme eases SME's access to finance by providing loan guarantees and risk-capital. It facilitates access to new markets inside and outside the EU and reduces the administrative burden on SMEs.

Geographical coverage: EU countries; furthermore the participation of the European neighbourhood policies is possible only if specific agreements are signed between the respective countries and the EU

Beneficiaries: Private Sector, Public Sector, SMEs

Programme details

The programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) aims to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises. With small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), current and potential entrepreneurs and business support organisations as its main targets, the programme provides better access to finance, delivers business support services and promotes entrepreneurship. It largely continues the activities started under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) and also

ensures continuity with initiatives and actions already undertaken under the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), such as the Enterprise Europe Network.

The programme addresses problems of a transnational nature which (by means of economies of scale or their demonstration effect) can be more effectively addressed at the European level, such as: overcoming market fragmentation in the Single Market; and facilitating the adoption of best practice across all Member States.

Supported actions

- Access to finance for SMEs through dedicated financial instruments. The financial instruments target companies in different phases of their life-cycle: creation, expansion and business transfer. An Equity Facility for Growth will provide venture capital to enterprises, in particular in their growth phase.⁵
- Enterprise Europe Network: a network of business service centres. The Enterprise Europe Network is a “one-stop shop” for the business needs of SMEs in the EU and beyond.
- Entrepreneurship. Support will be given to encourage transnational networks, to exchange good practice and identify scope for expanding business activities.
- Improving framework conditions for the competitiveness of enterprises and policy development. Analytical work will be undertaken to facilitate evidence-based policy-making by national and regional policy-makers.
- Internationalisation of SMEs. The COSME programme will provide SMEs with support to facilitate business expansion in the EU Single Market and in markets outside the EU. International business co-operation will be fostered, in particular, to reduce the differences in regulatory and business environments, between the EU and its main trading partners.

Level of financing

EU co-financing rate varies between 40%-60%

Implementation

COSME supports, complements and co-ordinates actions by Member States

Legal basis

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1287/2013 establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises \(COSME\)](#)

1.1.3. Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

Key information

Total Budget: €19.47 million

Aims: The Employment and Social Innovation Programme supports employment and social policies across the EU. The programme supports Member States’ efforts in the design and implementation of employment and social reforms at European, national as well as regional and local level by means of policy co-ordination and the identification, analysis and sharing of best practices.

Geographical coverage: EU countries

⁵ [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/495870/IPOL-EGI_ET\(2013\)495870_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/495870/IPOL-EGI_ET(2013)495870_EN.pdf)

Thematic categories: Social Affairs and Human Rights, Labour Market, Entrepreneurship
Beneficiaries: Private sector, academic institutions and research centres, non-profit organisations.

Programme details

EaSI brings together three EU programmes managed separately in the previous programming period 2007-2013: PROGRESS, EURES and Progress Microfinance. The main objectives of EaSI are the following:

- to strengthen ownership of EU objectives and co-ordination of action at EU and national level in the areas of employment, social affairs and inclusion;
- to support the development of adequate social protection systems;
- to promote geographical mobility and boost employment opportunities by developing an open labour market;
- to increase the availability and accessibility of micro-finance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises, and increase access to finance for social enterprises.

Supported actions

- The modernisation of employment and social policies with the PROGRESS axis.
- Job mobility with the EURES axis.
- Access to micro-finance and social entrepreneurship with the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis (21% of the total budget).

Sub-programme: Employment & Social Solidarity (PROGRESS)

The Progress axis shall support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Union instruments and policies and promote evidence-based policy-making, social innovation and social progress, in partnership with the social partners, civil society organisations and public and private bodies.

Supported actions

- Analytical activities: gathering of data and statistics; surveys, studies, analyses and reports; qualitative and quantitative evaluations and impact assessments; monitoring and assessment of the transposition and application of Union law; preparation and implementation of social policy experimentation; dissemination of the results of those analytical activities;
- Mutual-learning, awareness and dissemination activities: exchanges and dissemination of good practice, innovative approaches and experience, peer reviews, benchmarking and mutual learning at European level; Council Presidency events, conferences and seminars; training of legal and policy practitioners; drafting and publication of guides, reports and educational material and measures relating to information, communication and media coverage of initiatives supported by the Programme; information and communication activities; development and maintenance of information systems in order to exchange and disseminate information on Union policy and legislation and on the labour market.
- Support with regard to: the operating costs of key Union-level networks the activities which relate to and contribute to the objectives of the Progress axis; capacity-building of national administrations and specialist services; organisation of working groups of national officials; networking and co-operation among specialist bodies and other relevant stakeholders; funding of European-level observatories, including key thematic sections; exchange of personnel between national administrations.

Budget

The PROGRESS axis will receive 61% of the total budget. The total proposed budget for Progress is

around €500 million. The following minimum percentages will be respected: employment, in particular to fight youth unemployment, 20%; social protection, social inclusion and the reduction and prevention of poverty, 50%; and working conditions, 10%. From the overall allocation for the Progress axis and within its different thematic sections: 15% to 20%.

Level of financing

The EU co-financing rate is 80%

Sub-programme: European Employment Services (EURES)

EURES, which is the European network of employment services, should promote the better functioning of the labour markets by facilitating the voluntary transnational cross-border geographical mobility of workers, providing greater transparency on the labour market, ensuring the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment and supporting activities in the areas of placement, recruitment, advice and guidance services at national and cross-border level. Member States should be encouraged to integrate EURES services, making them available in a “one-stop shop”, where appropriate.

Supported actions

- Development and activities of EURES cross-border partnerships where requested by services territorially responsible for border regions;
- Provision of information, counselling, placement and recruitment services for cross-border workers;
- Development of the multilingual digital platform for the clearance of job vacancies and applications;
- Development of targeted mobility schemes, following calls for proposals, to fill job vacancies where labour market shortcomings have been identified, and/or to help workers with a propensity to be mobile, where a clear economic need has been identified;
- Mutual learning among EURES actors and training of EURES advisors, including EURES cross-border partnership advisors;
- Information and communication activities to raise awareness of the benefits of geographical and occupational mobility, in general, and of the activities and services provided by EURES.

Budget

18% of the total budget of EaSI is reserved for the EURES axis. This makes the overall EURES budget around €20 million per year. The following minimum percentages will be respected: transparency of job vacancies, applications and any related information for applicants and employers: 32%; development of services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment through the clearance of job vacancies and applications at Union level, in particular targeted mobility schemes: 30%; and cross-border partnerships: 18%. Any remaining amount shall be allocated to one or more of the thematic sections referred to in the previous points, or a combination of them.

Level of financing

The EU co-financing rate is 95%

Sub-programme: Micro-finance & Social Entrepreneurship Facility (MF/SE)

The Micro-finance and Social Entrepreneurship axis shall increase the access to, and the availability of, financing for legal and physical persons.

Supported actions

- Extend the support given to microcredit providers under the current European Progress Micro-finance Facility (launched in 2010).
- Provide funding for capacity-building of micro-finance institutions.
- Support the development of the market for socially responsible investment and facilitate access to finance for social enterprises.

Budget

The total proposed budget for the micro-finance and social entrepreneurship axis is around €171.15 million for the period 2014-2020. The following minimum percentages will be respected: micro-finance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises: 45%; and social entrepreneurship: 45%.

Level of financing

The EU co-financing rate allocated to the Micro-finance and Social Entrepreneurship axis shall cover the full cost of the actions implemented through financial instruments, with the exception of joint actions.

Legal basis

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1296/2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation and establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion](#)

More information

- [Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion website](#)
- EURES – The European Job Mobility Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en>

1.1.4. Erasmus+**Key information**

Total budget: €14.8 billion.

Aims: Erasmus+ aims to boost skills and employability. The programme will increase the quality and relevance of Europe's education systems by providing funding for the professional development of education and training staff, as well as youth workers and for co-operation between universities, colleges, schools, enterprises and NGOs.

Geographical coverage: EU countries

Thematic categories: Education and Training, Youth, Sport

Beneficiaries: Public sector, private sector: NGOs, SMEs and youth, academic institutions and research centres. It is highly recommended to consult with the National Contact Point prior to submission of a proposal to ask for a confirmation that each partner is eligible.

Programme details

Erasmus+ is the new EU Programme for education, training, youth and sport for 2014-2020. It combines the previous Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth in Action and five international co-

operation programmes. It also includes sport now.

Overall, the programme aims support the development of actions, co-operation and tools linked to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives.

Erasmus+ is designed to support Member States' efforts to efficiently use the potential of Europe's human capital that remains underexploited, while confirming the principle of lifelong learning by linking support to formal, non-formal and informal learning throughout the education, training and youth fields. In addition to providing grants for individuals, Erasmus+ will support transnational partnerships among Education, Training and Youth institutions and organisations to foster co-operation and bridge the worlds of Education and work, in order to tackle the skills gaps we are facing in Europe. It will also support national efforts to modernise Education, Training and Youth systems.

Sub-programme: Learning mobility of individuals⁶

Projects under this Key Action 1 promote transnational mobility activities targeting learners (students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers), and staff (professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, and people working in organisations active in the education, training and youth fields).

Supported actions:

- Mobility of learners and staff: opportunities for students, trainees, young people and volunteers, as well as for professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, staff of education institutions and civil society organisations;
- to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country;
- Joint Master Degrees: high-level integrated international study programmes delivered by consortia of higher education institutions that award full degree scholarships to the best master students worldwide.
- Master Student Loan Guarantee: higher education students can get a loan backed up by the Programme to go abroad for a full Master's Degree. Students should refer to national banks or student loan agencies.

Budget: At least 63% of the total Erasmus+ budget for Key Action 1 as a whole and of which: at least 77.5% for the Education and Training field, and at least 10% for the Youth field.

Level of financing

The EU co-financing rate for mobility activities apply the following lump sums: for students: €700 per month; for staff: €70-€140 per day; and for vocational education and training learners: €24-€96 per day.

Sub-programme: Co-operation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

The actions under Key Action 2 make it possible for organisations from different participating countries to work together, to develop, share and transfer best practices and innovative approaches in the fields of education, training and youth. More specifically, the following types of co-operation are supported:

- *Strategic Partnerships* aim to support the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European level;
- *Knowledge Alliances* aim to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity and foster innovation in higher education, business and the broader socio-economic environment;
- *Sector Skills Alliances* aim at tackling skill gaps, enhancing the responsiveness of initial and

⁶ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/home/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals_en

continuing Vocational, Education and Training (VET) systems to sector-specific labour market needs and demand for new skills with regard to one or more occupational profiles. The sectors that will be eligible under this Action are those which have constituted a European Sector Skills Council (Textile/Clothing/Leather, Commerce) and those with skills imbalances to which current Commission policies respond (Advanced Manufacturing);

– *Capacity Building* projects are transnational co-operation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth in Programme and Partner Countries. They can also involve organisations from the fields of education and training, as well as from other socio-economic sectors.

Supported actions

Transnational Strategic partnerships aimed to develop initiatives addressing one or more fields of education training and youth to promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project.

Knowledge Alliances support the following activities:

- Boosting innovation in higher education, business and the broader socio-economic environment;
- Developing entrepreneurship mind-set and skills;
- Stimulating the flow and exchange of knowledge between higher education and enterprises;
- Information and Communication Technologies;
- Environmental Technologies (Eco-Innovation);
- Cultural and Creative sectors.

Sector Skills Alliances support the following activities:

- Defining skills and training provision needs, in a given specific economic sector;
- Designing joint curricula;
- Delivering joint curricula.

Capacity Building projects support the following activities:

- promote strategic co-operation between youth organisations on the one hand and public authorities in Partner Countries on the other hand;
- promote the co-operation between youth organisations and organisations in the education and training fields, as well as with representatives of business and the labour market;
- raise the capacities of youth councils, youth platforms and local, regional and national authorities dealing with youth in Partner Countries;
- enhance the management, governance, innovation capacity and internationalisation of youth organisations in Partner Countries;
- launch, test and implement youth work practices, such as new forms of practical training schemes and simulation of real life cases in society; new forms of youth work, notably strategic use of open and flexible learning, virtual mobility, open educational resources (OER) and better exploitation of the ICT potential;
- co-operation, networking and peer-learning activities fostering efficient management, internationalisation and leadership of youth work organisations.

Budget: At least 28% of total Erasmus+ budget for KA2 as a whole and of which: at least 77.5% for the Education and Training field, and at least 10% for the Youth field.

The EU co-financing rate differs for the different application types:

- *Strategic Partnerships*: Maximum grant: €150,000 per year (i.e. €12,500 per month);
- *Knowledge Alliances & Sector Skills Alliances*: Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 2-year KA €700,000 maximum EU contribution awarded for a 3-year KA €1 million;
- *Capacity building* in the field of youth: Maximum (grant awarded €150,000).

Sub-programme: Support for Policy Reform

Structured Dialogue promotes the active participation of young people in democratic life and fosters debate around topics centred on the themes and priorities set by the Structured Dialogue and the renewed political framework in the youth field. Structured Dialogue projects can take the form of meetings, conferences, consultations and events. These events promote the active participation of young people in democratic life in Europe and their interaction with decision-makers. As a concrete result of these events, young people are able to make their voice heard (through the formulation of positions, proposals and recommendations) on how youth policies should be shaped and implemented in Europe.

Supported actions:

- National meetings and transnational seminars that offer space for information, debate;
- Active participation of young people – in dialogue with youth decision-makers – on issues which are relevant to Structured Dialogue or to the EU Youth Strategy;
- National meetings and transnational seminars that prepare the ground for the official Youth Conferences organised during each semester by the Member State holding the turn of Presidency of the European Union;
- Events that promote debates and information on youth policy themes linked to the activities organised during the European Youth Week;
- Consultation with young people, with a view to finding out their needs on matters relating to participation in democratic life (online consultations, opinion polls, etc.).
- Meetings and seminars, information events or debates between young people and decision-makers/youth experts, around the theme of participation in democratic life.
- Events simulating the functioning of the democratic institutions and the roles of decision-makers within these institutions.

Budget: At least 4.2% of total Erasmus+ budget, of which at least 10% for the Youth field

Level of financing

The EU co-financing rate for Structured Dialogue Meeting is limited to a maximum grant awarded of €0,000.

Sub-programme: Jean Monnet Activities

The Jean Monnet Actions aim to promote excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide. These Actions also aim to foster the dialogue between the academic world and policy-makers, in particular with the aim of enhancing governance of EU policies.

- *Jean Monnet Module*: short teaching programme in the field of European Union studies, at a higher education institution.
- *Jean Monnet Chair*: a teaching post with a specialisation in European Union studies for university professors or senior lecturers.
- *Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence*: a focal point of competence and knowledge on European Union subjects.
- *Jean Monnet Projects support innovation*, cross-fertilisation and the spread of European Union content.
- *Jean Monnet Support to Institutions* that enhance teaching and training activities on European Union subjects at the postgraduate level and/or for other relevant stakeholders and Associations that have as their explicit purpose to contribute to the study of the European integration process.
- *Jean Monnet Networks* foster the creation and development of consortia of international players in the area of European Union studies.

Legal basis

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1288/2013 establishing "Erasmus +": the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport](#)

More information

- [Erasmus+ website](#)

1.1.5. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs**Key information**

Geographical Coverage: EU countries

Beneficiaries: Entrepreneurs from SMEs

Programme details

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a cross-border exchange programme which gives new or aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to learn from experienced entrepreneurs running small businesses in other Participating Countries. The exchange of experience takes place during a stay with the experienced entrepreneur, which helps the new entrepreneur acquire the skills needed to run a small firm.

Supported actions: Cross-border exchange between entrepreneurs: new entrepreneurs, firmly planning to set up their own business or have already started one within the last three years; and experienced entrepreneurs who own or manage a Small or Medium-Sized Enterprise in one of the Participating Countries.

Level of financing

The financial support to new entrepreneurs contributes to travel and subsistence costs during the visit. The grant is paid by the local contact point chosen by the new entrepreneur (registered in the online application). The new entrepreneur and his/her local contact point sign an agreement which determines the funding granted during his/her stay, and how it will be paid in practice (e.g. partial payment at the beginning of the stay, monthly payment, etc). The financial support is calculated monthly and reflects the overall living costs of the country of stay.

Implementation

The local contact points provide all relevant information and receive the application: [list of the local contact points](#) participating in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Programme.

1.1.6. Horizon 2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**Key information**

Total budget: €77.03 billion

Aims: The Horizon 2020 programme aims to secure Europe's global competitiveness, strengthening its position in science and its industrial leadership in innovation by providing major investment in key technologies, greater access to capital and support for SMEs. The programme aims to tackle societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market. Horizon 2020 is designed to be a different kind of EU research programme – funding the entire value creation chain from

fundamental research through to market innovation, and with significantly less red tape.

Geographical coverage: EU countries

Thematic categories: Energy, Environment, Health, Industry, Information and Communication Technologies, Justice, Security, Social Affairs and Human Rights, Space, Telecommunications, Transport, Youth, Economic growth and competitiveness

Beneficiaries: Private sector, public sector bodies, non-profit organisations, academic institutions and research centres

Programme details

The general objective of Horizon 2020 (H2020) is to contribute to build a society and an economy based on knowledge and innovation across the Union by leveraging additional research, development and innovation funding and by contributing to attaining research and development targets, including the target of 3% of GDP for research and development across the Union by 2020. It shall thereby support the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and other Union policies, as well as the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area (ERA).

This general objective shall be pursued through three mutually reinforcing priorities: Excellent science; Industrial leadership; and Societal challenges.

The general objective shall also be pursued through the specific objectives “Spreading excellence and widening participation” and “Science with and for society”. The Joint Research Centre shall contribute to the general objective and the H2020 priorities by providing scientific and technical support to Union policies in collaboration with relevant national and regional research stakeholders, where appropriate, for example on the development of smart specialisation strategies.

Supported actions:

- Research and innovation actions primarily consisting of activities that aim to establish new knowledge and/or explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment. Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near to operational environment;
- Innovative actions primarily consisting of activities directly aimed at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication;
- Co-ordination and Support Actions consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, co-ordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and co-ordination between programmes in different countries.

Sub-programme: Societal challenges

A challenge-based approach will bring together resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies and disciplines, including social sciences and the humanities. This will cover activities from research to market with a new focus on innovation-related activities, such as piloting, demonstration, test-beds, and support for public procurement and market uptake. It will include establishing links with the activities of the European Innovation Partnerships (EIP). Funding will focus on the following challenges:

- health, demographic change and well-being;
- food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy;
- secure, clean and efficient energy;
- smart, green and integrated transport;
- climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials;
- Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies;
- secure societies – protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens.

Total budget: €29.68 billion

Level of financing

The EU co-financing rate differs for: ERA-NET (Co-fund): 33%; Co-ordination and Support actions: 100%; Research and Innovation actions: 100%; and Innovation actions: 70% (except for non-profit legal entities: 100%).

Sub-programme: Science with and for Society

The aim is to build effective co-operation between science and society, to recruit new talent for science and to pair scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility.

The Partnership Principle, underlined by a legally binding European Code of Conduct on Partnership, is a new element of the ESI-Funds. This ensures that regional and local authorities, social and economic partners, as well as civil society and NGOs are actively involved in the strategic planning and decision-making for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funding programmes.

The focus of activities shall be to:

- make scientific and technological careers attractive to young students, and foster sustainable interaction between schools, research institutions, industry and civil society organisations;
- promote gender equality in particular by supporting structural changes in the organisation of research institutions and in the content and design of research activities;
- integrate society in science and innovation issues, policies and activities in order to integrate citizens' interests and values and to increase the quality, relevance, social acceptability and sustainability of research and innovation outcomes in various fields of activity from social innovation to areas such as biotechnology and nanotechnology;
- encourage citizens to engage in science through formal and informal science education, and promote the diffusion of science-based activities, namely in science centres and through other appropriate channels;
- develop the accessibility and the use of the results of publicly-funded research;
- develop the governance for the advancement of responsible research and innovation by all stakeholders (researchers, public authorities, industry and civil society organisations), which is sensitive to society needs and demands, and promote an ethics framework for research and innovation;
- take due and proportional precautions in research and innovation activities by anticipating and assessing potential environmental, health and safety impacts;
- improve knowledge on science communication in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of interactions between scientists, general media and the public.

Total budget: €462 million

Level of financing: The EU co-financing rate differs for: Co-ordination and Support actions: 100%;

Research and Innovation actions: 100%; and Innovation actions 70% (except for non-profit legal entities: 100%).

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1291/2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation \(2014-2020\)](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1290/2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020](#)
- [Decision establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1292/2013 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#)
- [Decision No 1312/2013/EU on the strategic innovation agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\): the contribution of the EIT to a more innovative Europe](#)

More information

- [Horizon 2020 website](#)

1.2. Economic, social and territorial cohesion

Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion covers regional policy which aims to help the least developed EU countries and regions to catch up with the rest, strengthening all regions' competitiveness and developing inter-regional co-operation.

The European structural and investment funds (ESIF) are:

- Cohesion fund (CF);
- European regional development fund (ERDF);
- European social fund (ESF);
- European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD);
- European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF).

Over half of EU funding is channelled through these five European structural and investment funds (ESIF). They are jointly managed by the European Commission and the EU countries. The purpose of all these funds is to invest in job creation and a sustainable and healthy European economy.

The Partnership Principle, underlined by a legally binding European Code of Conduct on Partnership, is a new element of the ESI-Funds. This ensures that regional and local authorities, social and economic partners, as well as civil society and NGOs are actively involved in the strategic planning and decision-making for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funding programmes.

1.2.1. Cohesion Fund (CF)

Key information

The Cohesion Fund is now subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring as the ERDF and ESF through the Common Provisions Regulation.

Total budget: €74,928.36 million

Aims: The Cohesion fund aims to reduce economic and social shortfall, as well as stabilising the economy of Member States whose gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average.

Geographical coverage: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

Programme details

This fund is now subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring as the ERDF and ESF through the Common Provisions Regulation.

Supported actions

The Cohesion Fund is funding activities under the following categories:

- trans-European transport networks, notably priority projects of European interest as identified by the EU. The Cohesion Fund will support infrastructure projects under the Connecting Europe Facility;
- environment: here, the Cohesion Fund can also support projects related to energy or transport, as long as they clearly benefit the environment in terms of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodality, strengthening public transport, etc.

Implementation

The EU has bundled its structural funds and main investment instruments in one regulatory framework: the Common Provisions Regulation. This framework sets common rules for the Union's largest funds, the Cohesion Policy investments in growth and jobs and the regional development tools of the agricultural and fisheries funds, in order to better co-ordinate the use of funds, increase synergies and simplify their implementation.

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1303/2013 laying down common provisions for the funds covered by the Common Strategic Framework](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1300/2013 on the Cohesion Fund](#)

More information

- [Regional policy website](#)

1.2.2. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Key information

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is now subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring as the Cohesion Fund and ESF through the Common Provisions Regulation.

Geographical coverage: EU countries

Implementation

EU has bundled its structural funds and main investment instruments in one regulatory framework: the Common Provisions Regulation. This framework sets common rules for the Union's largest funds, the Cohesion Policy investments in growth and jobs and the regional development tools of the agricultural and fisheries funds, in order to better co-ordinate the use of funds, increase synergies and simplify their implementation.

1.2.3. European Territorial Co-operation (ETC)

Key information

Total budget: €10.23 billion

Aims: The European territorial co-operation scheme helps regions across Europe to work together to address shared problems. Funding is made available through the European Regional Development Fund.

Geographical coverage: EU countries

1.2.4. Sustainable Urban Development

Implementation

EU has bundled its structural funds and main investment instruments in one regulatory framework: the Common Provisions Regulation. This framework sets common rules for the Union's largest funds, the Cohesion Policy investments in growth and jobs and the regional development tools of the agricultural and fisheries funds, in order to better co-ordinate the use of funds, increase synergies and simplify their implementation.

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1303/2013 laying down common provisions for the funds covered by the Common Strategic Framework](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1299/2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1302/2013 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation \(EGTC\) as regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment and functioning of such groupings](#)

More information

- [Regional policy website](#)

1.2.5. European Social Fund (ESF)

Key information

The European Social Fund (ESF) is now subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring as the ERDF and Cohesion Fund through the Common Provisions Regulation.

The ESF is Europe's main instrument for supporting jobs, helping people get better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens. It works by investing in Europe's human capital – its workers, its young people and all those seeking a job. ESF financing of EUR 10 billion a year is improving job prospects for millions of Europeans, in particular those who find it difficult to get work.

Geographical coverage: EU countries

Programme details

The European Commission and the EU countries together set the ESF's priorities and how it spends its considerable resources. There are projects to boost the adaptability of workers and enterprises with

training for new skills and new ways of working. Others focus on improving access to employment:

- by helping young people in their transition from school to work or training less-skilled job-seekers to improve their job prospects;
- vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities to equip people with new skills forms a large part of many ESF projects.

Level of financing

In 2014-2020, ESF allocations amount to 24.8% of the Structural Funds budget. The minimum share that has been introduced for the first time as from 2014 is effectively putting an end to the gradual decrease of the ESF share in the past 25 years. 18 Member States have decided to allocate additional funds to the ESF beyond the minimum share.

Implementation

EU has bundled its structural funds and main investment instruments in one regulatory framework: the Common Provisions Regulation. This framework sets common rules for the Union's largest funds, the Cohesion Policy investments in growth and jobs and the regional development tools of the agricultural and fisheries funds, in order to better co-ordinate the use of funds, increase synergies and simplify their implementation.

1.2.6. Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)

Key information

Total budget: €3.2 billion

Aims: The Youth employment initiative supports young people not in education, employment or training in the Union's regions with a youth unemployment rate in 2012 at above 25%. The initiative focuses on integrating these young people into the labour market. Of the funding, €3 billion come from a dedicated Youth Employment budget line complemented by €3 billion more from the European Social Fund.

Geographical coverage: EU countries

Programme details

It exclusively supports young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), including long-term unemployed youngsters or those not registered as job-seekers. This ensures that in parts of Europe where the challenges are most acute, young persons can receive targeted support.

Under the Youth Guarantee, Member States should put in place measures to ensure that young people up to the age of 25 receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of leaving school or becoming unemployed.

Supported actions

The YEI typically supports the provision of: apprenticeships, traineeships, job placements and further education leading to a qualification.

Legal basis

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1304/2013 on the ESF](#)

More information

– [Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion website](#)

2. Sustainable growth

Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources include the common agricultural policy, common fisheries policy, rural development and environmental measures.

2.1. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Key information

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is now subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring as the ESF, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) through the Common Provisions Regulation.

Total budget: €5.58 billion

Aims: Helping to improve competitiveness for farming and forestry, protect the environment and the countryside, improve the quality of life and diversification of the rural economy and support locally based approaches to rural development.

Geographical coverage: EU countries

Programme details

The agricultural expenditure is financed by two funds which form part of the EU's general budget: the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) which primarily finances direct payments to farmers and measures to regulate agricultural markets, and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) which co-finances the rural development programmes of the Member States.

Under the 2014-2020 rural development policy, the EU will contribute over €95 billion to investments in Member States which aim to:

- foster the competitiveness of agriculture;
- ensure the sustainable management of natural resources;
- combat climate change; and
- achieve a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment.

Supported actions

Axis 1: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector.

Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside. Regarding land management, the support is to contribute to sustainable development by encouraging farmers and forest holders to employ methods of land use compatible with the need to preserve the natural environment and landscape and protect and improve natural resources. The main aspects to take into account include biodiversity, the management of [NATURA 2000 sites](#), water and soil protection and climate change mitigation. Against this backdrop, the Regulation provides, in particular, for support for mountain regions with natural handicaps and other disadvantaged areas (defined by the Member States on the basis of common objective criteria) and for agri-environmental or forest-environmental payments, which only cover commitments that go beyond the corresponding obligatory standards. Assistance also covers

support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri or forest-environmental commitments or the achievement of other agri-environmental objectives, as well as measures aimed at improving forestry resources with an environmental objective (support for the first afforestation of agricultural land, establishment of agroforestry systems or restoring forestry potential and preventing natural disasters). All beneficiaries receiving aid in the name of improving the environment and the countryside are required, throughout the whole of the holding, to comply with the regulatory obligations on management (in the areas of health, the environment and animal welfare) and the good agricultural and environmental conditions laid down in the [Regulation on the single payment \(Regulation No 73/2009\)](#).

Axis 3: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy. Regarding the diversification of the rural economy, the Regulation contains measures on:

- diversification towards non-agricultural activities, support for the establishment and development of micro-businesses, promotion of tourism and the protection, development and management of the natural heritage that contributes to sustainable economic development;
- improving the quality of life in rural areas, with particular focus on renovating and developing villages preserving and making the best use of the rural heritage; and
- acquiring skills and running activities in order to prepare and implement the local development strategy.

Axis 4: The aid allocated under this LEADER axis relates to:

- the implementation of local development strategies through public-private partnerships called “local action groups”. The strategies applied to clearly designated rural territories must achieve the objectives of at least one of the three preceding axes;
- the local action groups also have the option to implement inter-territorial or transnational co-operation projects.

2.2. Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

Implementation

EU has bundled its structural funds and main investment instruments into one regulatory framework: the Common Provisions Regulation. This framework sets common rules for the Union’s largest funds, the Cohesion Policy investments in growth and jobs and the regional development tools of the agricultural and fisheries funds, in order to better co-ordinate the use of funds, increase synergies and simplify their implementation.

The EAGF and EAFRD are implemented in shared management between the Member States and the Union. This means that the Commission does not make payments directly to the beneficiaries of aid; this task is delegated to the Member States.

Funds for rural development are disbursed through programmes run by national governments: the government appoints the Managing Authority whose task it is to inform potential beneficiaries of the support that is available, the rules that apply and the level of the EU contribution.

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1303/2013 laying down common provisions for the funds covered by the Common Strategic Framework](#)

2.3. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Key information

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is now subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring as the ESF, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) through the Common Provisions Regulation.

Total budget: €6.3 billion

Aims: The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is a set of rules for managing European fishing fleets and for conserving fish stocks. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund supports the implementation of the CFP with the necessary financial resources. The fund focuses on funding projects which promote a sustainable future for the European fishing industry and coastal communities with particular focus on the rebuilding of fish stocks, reducing the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, and the progressive elimination of wasteful discarding practices.

Geographical coverage: EU countries with coastal access

Implementation

EU has bundled its structural funds and main investment instruments in one regulatory framework: the Common Provisions Regulation. This framework sets common rules for the Union's largest funds, the Cohesion Policy investments in growth and jobs and the regional development tools of the agricultural and fisheries funds, in order to better co-ordinate the use of funds, increase synergies and simplify their implementation.

Legal bases

- [Regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1379/2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy](#)

More information

- [Fisheries website](#)

2.4. Life – Programme for the Environment and Climate Action

Key information

Total budget: €3.45 billion

Aims: The Life Programme aims to improve the implementation of EU environment and climate policy and legislation. The programme will contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

Geographical coverage: EU countries.

Thematic categories: Environment

Beneficiaries: Private sector, public sector, non-profit organisations, academic institutions and research centres

Programme details

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment aims to:

- contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss;
- improve the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation, and to catalyse and promote integration, mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies and public and private sector practice, including by increasing their capacity;
- support better environmental and climate governance at all levels.

The programme funds the following types of projects:

- traditional projects: best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects.
- integrated projects: projects aimed at the implementation on large-scale territorial plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- preparatory projects: projects identified by the Commission to support specific needs for the implementation and development of EU environmental or climate policy and legislation.
- capacity building projects: financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE.

Sub-programme: Environment

Supported actions

Environment and Resource Efficiency

- To develop, test and demonstrate policy or management approaches, best practice and solutions to environmental challenges, suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed, including with respect to the link between environment and health, and in support of resource efficiency-related policy and legislation, including the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe.
- To support the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of plans and programmes pursuant to Union environmental policy and legislation, primarily in the areas of water, waste and air.
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union environmental policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the environment within and outside the Union.

Nature and biodiversity

- To contribute to the implementation of Union policy and legislation in the area of biodiversity, including the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, in particular by applying, developing, testing and demonstrating approaches, best practice and solutions.
- To support the further development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network set up, and particularly the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of the Prioritised Action Frameworks.
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union biodiversity policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the biodiversity within and beyond the Union.

Environmental Governance and Information

- To promote awareness-raising of environmental matters, including generating public and stakeholder support to Union policy-making in the field of the environment, and to promote education for sustainable development.
- To support communication, management and dissemination of information in the field of the environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including by developing co-operation platforms between stakeholders and trainers.
- To promote and contribute to a more effective compliance with, and enforcement of, Union environmental legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practice and policy approaches.
- To promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in both policy consultation and implementation.

Budget

The budget allocation for environment is €2.59 billion

Level of financing

EU co-financing rate varies between 50%-75%.

Sub-programme: Climate Action

Supported actions

Climate Change Mitigation

- To contribute to the implementation and development of Union policy and legislation on mitigation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practice and solutions for climate change mitigation.
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective mitigation actions and measures and
- To enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice.
- To facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for mitigation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level.
- To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative mitigation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

Climate Change Adaptation

- To contribute to the development and implementation of Union policy and legislation on adaptation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices, and solutions, for climate change adaptation.
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective adaptation actions and measures, and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice.
- To facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for adaptation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level.
- To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative adaptation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

Climate Governance and Information

- Stakeholders support to Union policy-making in the field of climate, and to promote education for sustainable development.
- To support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of climate and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful climate solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training.
- To promote and contribute to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union climate legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches.
- To promote better climate governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation.

Budget

The budget allocation for environment is €864 million.

Level of financing

The EU co-financing rate is between 50%-75%.

Legal basis

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1293/2013 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action \(LIFE Programme\)](#)

More information

- [Environment website](#)

2.5. Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS)

Key information

Total budget: €100 million for the years 2010-2016.

Geographical coverage: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden.

Thematic categories: Environment

Beneficiaries: Private sector, public sector

Programme details

The Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS) is an initiative under Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. BONUS is a joint Baltic Sea research programme producing knowledge to support development and implementation of regulations, policies and management practices, specifically tailored for the Baltic Sea region. It issues calls for competitive proposals and funds projects of high excellence and relevance, based on its strategic research agenda. BONUS is supported by national research funding institutions in the eight EU member States around the Baltic Sea and the European Commission's Research Framework Programme. BONUS vision is "Economically and ecologically prosperous Baltic Sea region where resources and goods are used sustainably and where the long-term management of the region is based on sound knowledge derived from multi-disciplinary research".

The strategic objectives of BONUS (2010-2016) are to:

- Understand the Baltic Sea ecosystem structure and function;
- Meet the multifaceted challenges in linking the Baltic Sea with its coast and catchment;
- Enhance sustainable use of coastal and marine goods and services of the Baltic Sea;
- Improve the capabilities of society to respond to current and future challenges directed to the Baltic Sea region.
- Develop improved and innovative observation and data management systems, tools and methodologies for marine information needs in the Baltic Sea region, enhancing sustainable use of coastal and marine goods and services of the Baltic Sea.

BONUS brings together the research communities of Earth systems research in marine, maritime, coastal terrestrial, economic and societal fields, to address the major challenges faced by the Baltic Sea region. The main aim of BONUS is to generate and disseminate knowledge and provide necessary know-how, in order to resolve challenges impeding sustainable use of the Baltic Sea ecosystem goods and services in the coming decade and beyond.

Supported actions

- Facilitation of researchers' collaboration, networking, human capacity building and joint use of research infrastructures.
- Support to European, regional and national coastal and marine environmental policies and plans, in particular the HELCOM's (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission) Baltic Sea Action Plan.
- The calls will include research, innovation, training and dissemination activities.

Level of financing

The level of financing depends on the theme called but, indicatively, it may range between €2 million - €3 million per project.

More information

[Bonus Secretariat](#) (EEIG).

3. Security and citizenship

Security and Citizenship include justice and home affairs, border protection, immigration and asylum policy, public health, consumer protection, culture, youth, information and dialogue with citizens.

3.1. Asylum and Migration Fund

Key information

Total budget: €3,137.42 million

Aims: The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund focuses on people flows and the integrated management of migration. The fund supports actions addressing all aspects of migration, including asylum, legal migration, integration and the return of irregularly staying non-EU nationals.

Geographical coverage: EU countries except Denmark

Beneficiaries: Federal authorities, local public bodies, non-governmental organisations, humanitarian organisations, private and public law companies and education and research organisations.

Programme details

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) will promote the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common EU approach to asylum and immigration. This Fund will contribute to the achievement of four specific objectives:

- *Asylum*: strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System by ensuring that EU legislation in this field is efficiently and uniformly applied;
- *Legal migration and integration*: supporting legal migration to EU States in line with the labour market needs and promoting the effective integration of non-EU nationals;
- *Return*: enhancing fair and effective return strategies, which contribute to combating irregular migration, with an emphasis on sustainability and effectiveness of the return process;
- *Solidarity*: making sure that EU States which are most affected by migration and asylum flows can count on solidarity from other EU States.

Landscape issue touched mainly by promoting the effective integration of non-EU nationals.

Level of financing

Around 11% of the funding under shared management will be allocated for Specific Actions (implemented under the national programmes of EU States, but responding to specific Union priorities) and to support the Union Resettlement Programme.

The remaining 12% of the total amount will be divided between Union actions and Emergency assistance, to be implemented through direct management, in the framework of annual work programmes.

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 516/2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 514/2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management](#)

More information

- [Home Affairs website](#)

3.2. Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Key information

Total budget: €223.78 million

Aims: The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) co-ordinates the EU's response to natural and man-made disasters within and beyond the Union.

Geographical coverage: any country in the world

Beneficiaries: EU countries, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Programme details

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism is intended to support and complement Member States' action at national, regional and local level in risk prevention, in preparedness and in responding to natural or man-made disasters. When disasters strike a country, within the European Union or beyond, the Mechanism allows for the necessary operational resources to be mobilised to assist and provide a prompt response. In this context each year the EU publishes two calls for proposals to fund activities aimed at closer co-operation in prevention and preparedness in civil protection and marine pollution (2017 budget 8.6 million EUR) and Union Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises (2017 budget 4.9 million EUR).

Legal basis

– [Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism](#)

More information

– [Humanitarian aid and Civil protection website](#)

3.3. Creative Europe

Key information

Total budget: €1, 46 billion

Aims: The Creative Europe programme supports the European cinema, cultural and creative sector. It supports tens of thousands of artists, cultural professionals and cultural organisations in the performing arts, fine arts, publishing, film, TV, music, interdisciplinary arts, heritage, and the video games industry, allowing them to operate across Europe, to reach new audiences and to develop the skills that are needed in the digital age. By helping European cultural works to reach new audiences in other countries, the programme contributes to safeguarding and promoting Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity.

Geographical coverage: EU countries, EFTA/EEA Countries: Iceland and Norway; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo⁷, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine (territory recognised by International Law).

Thematic categories: Culture, Media and Audiovisual Sector

Beneficiaries: Private sector, public sector, non-profit organisations, academic institutions and research centres.

Programme details

Creative Europe has replaced the MEDIA, MEDIA Mundus and Culture programmes of the previous programming period 2007-2013. Creative Europe helps the cultural and creative sectors to seize the opportunities of the 'digital age' and globalisation and it enables the sectors to reach their potential so that they can contribute to the Europe 2020 goals for sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion. Moreover, it opens up new international opportunities, markets and audiences and builds on the success of the MEDIA and Culture programmes.

⁷ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

The programme:

- safeguards and promotes European cultural and linguistic diversity, and fosters Europe’s cultural richness;
- contributes to Europe’s goals for smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
- helps the cultural and creative sectors to adapt to the digital age and globalisation;
- opens up new international opportunities, markets and audiences;
- builds on the success of the MEDIA, MEDIA Mundus and Culture programmes.

Supported actions

- Cross-border co-operation projects between cultural and creative organisations within the EU and beyond.
- Networks helping the cultural and creative sectors to operate transnationally and to strengthen their competitiveness.
- Translation and promotion of literary works across EU markets.
- Platforms of cultural operators promoting emerging artists and stimulating a truly European programming of cultural and artistic works.
- Capacity building and professional training for audiovisual professionals.
- Development of fiction, animations, creative documentaries and video games for European cinema, television markets and other platforms.
- Distribution and sales of audiovisual works in and beyond Europe.
- Film festivals that promote European films.
- Funds for the international co-production of films.
- Audience development to foster film literacy and to raise interest in Europe’s films through a wide range of events.
- The European Capitals of Culture and the European Heritage Label.

Sub-programme: Media

The MEDIA sub-programme of Creative Europe supports the EU film and audiovisual industries financially in the development, distribution and promotion of their work. It helps launch projects with a European dimension and nurtures new technologies; it enables European films and audiovisual works to find markets beyond national and European borders; it funds training and development schemes. The training and market access schemes have a new “Mundus” dimension.

Supported actions:

- The development of European audiovisual works in particular films and television works, such as fiction, documentaries, children’s and animated films, as well as interactive works, such as video games and multimedia, with enhanced cross-border circulation potential.
- Initiatives presenting and promoting a diversity of European audiovisual works, including short films, such as festivals and other promotional events and activities aimed at promoting film literacy and at increasing audiences’ knowledge of, and interest in, European audiovisual works, including the audiovisual and cinematographic heritage, in particular among young audiences.
- Activities helping European and international co-production partners to meet and/or provide indirect support for audiovisual works co-produced by supporting international co-production funds based in a country participating in the Programme.
- The development of a comprehensive range of training measures promoting the acquisition and improvement of skills and competences by audiovisual professionals, knowledge sharing and networking initiatives, including the integration of digital technologies.
- Facilitating access to professional audiovisual trade events and markets and the use of online business tools inside and outside the Union and facilitate circulation of European films worldwide and of international films in the Union on all distribution platforms, via international cooperation projects in the audiovisual sector.
- Supporting a European cinema operators’ network screening a significant proportion of non-national

European films.

- The establishment of support systems for the distribution of non-national European films through theatrical distribution and on all other platforms as well as for international sales activities, in particular the subtitling, dubbing and audio-description of audiovisual works.
- Activities aiming at supporting European audiovisual production companies, in particular independent production companies, with a view to facilitating European and international co-productions of audiovisual works including television works.

Budget: At least 56% of the total Creative Europe budget

Level of financing: The EU co-financing rate is 50%-80%

Sub-programme: Culture

The Culture sub-programme of Creative Europe supports cultural and creative organisations with a view to helping them operate transnationally and promoting cross-border circulation of works of culture and mobility of cultural players. It helps launch projects with a European dimension and to share cultural content across national, and European, borders; it enables cultural and creative players to work internationally and to internationalise their careers and activities in the EU and beyond; it funds co-operation projects, literary translations, networks and platforms.

Supported actions:

- Transnational co-operation projects bringing together cultural and creative organisations from different countries to undertake sectoral or cross-sectoral activities.
- Activities by European networks of cultural and creative organisations from different countries.
- Activities by organisations with a European vocation fostering the development of emerging talent and stimulating the transnational mobility of cultural and creative players and circulation of works, with the potential to exert a broad influence on cultural and creative sectors and to provide for lasting effects.
- Literary translation and the further promotion of translated works.

Budget: At least 31% of the total Creative Europe budget

Level of financing: The EU co-financing rate is 50%-80%

Sub-programme: Cross-sectoral

The cross-sectoral Strand will include the Guarantee Fund, the support for Creative Europe Desks which will replace MEDIA Desks and Cultural Contact points from 2014, as well as the support for transnational policy co-operation. The cross-sectoral strand will also provide support for studies, analysis and better data collection, to improve the evidence-base for policy-making, funding for experimental projects to encourage co-operation between the audiovisual and other cultural and creative sectors, and funding for the Creative Europe Desks which provide assistance to applicants.

Supported actions:

- Support to Creative Europe Desks;
- Support to EU Presidency conferences;
- Policy development activities;
- Studies and evaluations;
- Communication and valorisation activities;
- Financial guarantee facility (as of 2016).

Budget: Maximum 13% of the total Creative Europe budget

Level of financing: The EU co-financing rate is 50%-80%

Legal basis

– [Regulation \(EU\) No 1295/2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme](#)

More information

– [Creative Europe website](#)

3.4. Europe for Citizens

Key information

Total budget: €185.7 million

Aims: The Europe for Citizens programme supports activities to increase awareness and citizens' understanding of the EU, its values and history. The programme will also help people become more engaged in civic and democratic activities through debates and discussions on EU-related issues.

Geographical coverage: EU countries.

The Programme can also be opened to other countries, namely the EFTA countries which are parties to the EEA Agreement, the acceding country, candidate countries and potential candidate, provided that certain legal and financial obligations are fulfilled.

Thematic categories: European Citizenship, Democracy and Civic Participation

Beneficiaries: Public sector, private sector: NGOs, academic institutions, research centres and think tanks

Programme details

Europe for Citizens aims to promote active European citizenship with the main scope of bridging the gap between citizens and the European Union, through financial instruments that promote active European citizenship. It intends to encourage co-operation between citizens and organisations from different countries and facilitate the development of a sense of belonging to common European ideals and to promote the process of European integration. The programme shall consist of the following two strands:

– *Remembrance and European citizenship* seeks to support organisations to promote debate and activities on European integration and history at a transnational level or when a clear European dimension is addressed. It will support activities that invite reflection on common values in the broadest sense, taking into account diversity. Funds may be available for initiatives reflecting the causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history (especially but not exclusively Nazism and Stalinism) and to commemorate their victims;

– *Democratic engagement and civic participation* seek to develop citizens' understanding and capacity to participate in the Union policy making process and to develop opportunities for solidarity, societal engagement & volunteering. It will support activities that cover civic participation in the broadest sense, with particular focus on structuring methods for long-term sustainability.

Supported actions:

– Citizens' meetings, town-twinning;

- Creation and operations of transnational partnerships and networks;
- Support for organisations of a general European interest;
- Community building and debates on citizenship issues, based on the use of ICT and/or social media;
- Union level events;
- Debates, studies and interventions on defining moments in European history, in particular to keep the memory alive of the crimes committed under Nazism and Stalinism;
- Reflection/debates on common values;
- Initiatives to raise awareness on the EU;
- Institutions and their functioning;
- Actions that exploit and further valorise the results of the supported initiatives;
- Studies on issues related to citizenship and civic participation;
- Support of programme information and advice structures in Member States.

Level of financing: The annual Work Programmes provide details related to the supported actions, the priorities of the calls for proposals and all other important elements.

More information

– [Citizenship website](#)

– Europe for Citizens Contact Points (ECPs): In order to bring the information on the Europe for Citizens Programme closer to the Programme stakeholders, and provide them with guidance and support, the European Commission established the Europe for Citizens Contact Points. These national structures are responsible for ensuring targeted, effective grass-roots dissemination of practical information on the Programme implementation, its activities and funding opportunities.

The applicants are encouraged to contact the ECPs in their respective countries.

The contact details of ECPs are available at the following address:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.php

Legal basis

– [Council regulation \(EU\) No 390/2014 establishing the ‘Europe for Citizens’ programme for the period 2014-2020](#)

3.5. Health Programme

Key information

Total budget: €49.4 million.

Aims: The EU Health Programme is about fostering health in Europe by encouraging co-operation between Member States to improve the health policies that benefit their citizens. The programme aims to complement the health policies of EU Member States to promote health, reduce health inequalities, protect people from serious cross-border health threats, encourage innovation in health and increase the sustainability of their health systems.

Geographical coverage: EU countries, some EEA/EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Thematic categories: Health.

Beneficiaries: Non-profit organisations, academic institutions and research centres.

Programme details

The Health for Growth Programme is the third action supporting the objectives of the EU's Health strategy. The general objectives of the Health for Growth Programme shall be to work with Member States to encourage innovation in healthcare and increase the sustainability of health systems, to improve the health of EU citizens and protect them from cross-border health threats. The Programme provides possibilities to build and strengthen co-operation mechanisms and co-ordination processes between Member States, with a view to identifying best practice and common tools that create synergies, bring EU added value and lead to economies of scale, thus supporting reform under challenging circumstances.

It focuses on four specific objectives with a strong potential for economic growth through better health:

- Objective 1: To contribute to the creation of innovative and sustainable health systems (48% of the budget);
- Objective 2: To increase access to better and safer healthcare for all EU citizens (22% of the budget);
- Objective 3: To promote good health and prevent diseases by addressing the key risk factors of most diseases, namely smoking, alcohol abuse and obesity (21% of the budget);
- Objective 4: To protect people from cross-border health threats (9% of the budget).

Supported actions:

- Contributing to innovative and sustainable health systems;
- Increasing access to better and safer healthcare for citizens;
- Promoting good health and preventing diseases;
- Protecting citizens from cross border health threats.

Level of financing

The EU co-financing rate is in general 60%, but can cover up to 80% in exceptional cases, such as for Member States with a low Gross National Income participating in joint actions.

Legal basis

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 282/2014 on the establishment of a third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health \(2014-2020\)](#)

More information

- [Public Health website](#)

3.6. Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme

Key information

Total budget: €439.47 million

Aims: The programme will help to make people's rights and freedoms effective in practice by making them better known and more consistently applied across the EU. It will also promote the rights of the child, the principles of non-discrimination (racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation) and gender equality (including projects to combat violence against women and children).

Geographical coverage: EU countries, some EEA/EFTA countries: Iceland (all specific objectives) and Liechtenstein (only for non-discrimination, racism, xenophobia, rights of persons with disabilities and equality between women and men).

Programme details

This programme shall contribute to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons, as enshrined in the Treaty, the Charter and international human rights conventions, are promoted and protected. Its nine specific objectives are to:

- promote non-discrimination;
- combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance;
- promote rights of persons with disabilities;
- promote equality between women and men and gender mainstreaming;
- prevent violence against children, young people, women and other groups at risk (Daphne);
- promote the rights of the child;
- ensure the highest level of data protection;
- promote the rights deriving from Union citizenship;
- enforce consumer rights.

Supported actions:

- Training activities (staff exchanges, workshops, development of training modules);
- Mutual learning, co-operation activities, exchange of good practices, peer reviews, development of ICT tools;
- Awareness-raising activities, dissemination, conferences;
- Support for main actors (key European NGOs and networks, Member States' authorities implementing Union law);
- Analytical activities (studies, data collection, development of common methodologies, indicators, surveys, preparation of guides).

Legal basis

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1381/2013 establishing a Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014 to 2020](#)

More information

- [Justice website](#)

4. Global Europe

Global Europe covers all external action ('foreign policy') by the EU such as development assistance or humanitarian aid.

4.1. European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

Key information

Total budget: €15.43 billion

Aims: The European Neighbourhood Instrument promotes enhanced political co-operation and progressive economic integration between the Union and its neighbouring countries.

Geographical coverage: The 16 ENI Partner Countries are:

- ENI South: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya Morocco, Palestine, Syria*, Tunisia *;
- ENI East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia* .

Russia is only eligible for ENI regional and Cross-Border Co-operation programmes, for which it co-finances projects. Actually there are no projects with Syria but in general the programme can be opened under changed circumstances.

Beneficiaries: Public sector, NGOs

Programme details

Neighbourhood-wide measures will be implemented across all countries of the Neighbourhood, and aim to support partner countries' reform efforts, as well as respond to these countries' needs on the basis of their level of development.

The programming priorities have been developed in close co-operation with the national authorities of partner countries concerned, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, and in co-ordination with EU Member States, with Action plans and other jointly agreed documents as a key point of reference. They were also subject of a Strategic Dialogue on programming with the European Parliament.

Supported actions

Under the ENI, four types of programme are supported:

- bilateral programmes for the Neighbourhood countries;
- regional programmes for the East and the South;
- a European Neighbourhood Policy-wide programme mainly funding Erasmus for All, the Neighbourhood Investment Facility and the Umbrella programmes;
- cross-border co-operation programmes between Member States and Neighbourhood countries.

Level of financing

- Umbrella programmes of up to 10% of the ENI budget to be allocated to the partner countries based on their progress in deep and sustainable democracy; progress in implementing agreed reform objectives contributing to that goal should also be taken into account. ENP Progress Reports should serve as the key source of reference for the assessment of partner countries.
- The ability to vary multi-annual bilateral allocations within a range of not more than 20%.

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 232/2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 236/2014 establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action](#)

4.2. Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

Key information

Total budget: €1.7 billion

Aims: The Instrument for Pre-Accession provides financial support to the enlargement countries in their preparations for EU accession. The IPA is the funding instrument for the countries next in line to become EU member states, and for potential future candidates, in accordance with the EU's

enlargement policy.

Geographical coverage: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the “former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Kosovo⁸, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey.

Programme details

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is the means by which the EU supports reforms in the ‘enlargement countries’ with financial and technical help. The IPA funds build up the capacities of the countries throughout the accession process, resulting in progressive, positive developments in the region.

EU pre-accession funds are a sound investment into the future of both the enlargement countries and the EU itself. They help the beneficiaries make political and economic reforms, preparing them for the rights and obligations that come with EU membership. Those reforms should provide their citizens with better opportunities and allow for development of standards equal to the ones we enjoy as citizens of the EU. The pre-accession funds also help the EU reach its own objectives regarding a sustainable economic recovery, energy supply, transport, the environment and climate change, etc.

Supported actions

- Public administration reform (eg. territorial participation)
- Rule of law
- Sustainable economy
- People
- Agriculture and rural development (eg. landscape planning and management)

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 231/2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance \(IPA II\)](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 236/2014 establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union’s instruments for external action](#)

4.3. Partnership Instrument (PI)

Key information

Total budget: €54.76 million

Aims: the overall objective of the Partnership Instrument is to advance and promote EU interests by supporting the external dimension of internal policies (e.g. competitiveness, research and innovation, migration) and to address major global challenges (e.g. energy security, climate change and environment).

Geographical coverage: any non-EU countries

Programme details

The PI is one of the funding instruments that enable the EU to take part in shaping global change and promote its core values. It is one of several instruments included in the EU’s budget for 2014-2020 as a means of financing the Union’s external action.

⁸ Ibid.

Supported actions

The PI will finance activities in a number of areas of key interest to the Union. This funding will support the external dimension of EU internal policies – in areas such as competitiveness, research and innovation, as well as migration – and help address major global challenges such as energy security, climate change and environmental protection. As one of its main orientations, it will contribute to the external projection of the [Europe 2020](#) Strategy. It can fund activities in any non-EU country, with an emphasis on partner countries of strategic interest to the EU.

Legal bases

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 234/2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for co-operation with third countries](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 236/2014 establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action](#)

More information

- [Service for Foreign Policy Instruments](#)

CHAPTER 3. EUROPEAN FUNDS OTHER THAN EU FUNDS

1. European Co-operation in Science and Technology (COST)

Key information

Total budget: 300 million (drawn from two Horizon 2020 work programmes).

Aims: COST aims to enable breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts and products. It thereby contributes to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities. COST wants to engage the next generation of young researchers.

Geographical coverage: Scientists and researchers from the 36 COST Member Countries (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the Co-operating State (Israel) can participate in science and technology networks. COST Actions are also open to international co-operation, by allowing the participation of researchers from Near Neighbour Countries and International Partner Countries on the basis of mutual benefit.

Thematic categories: science and technology, including social sciences and humanities

Beneficiaries: open to all researchers, stakeholders, engineers and scholars from both public and private sector (universities, public and private research institutions, as well as NGOs, industry and SMEs), from all 36 COST Member Countries and its Co-operating State; irrespective of gender, field or career stage; with any original, innovative idea.

Programme details

COST is the longest-running European framework supporting trans-national co-operation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe. COST Actions allow European researchers to jointly develop their own ideas in any science and technology field. COST does not fund research itself, but provides support for networking activities carried out within COST Actions. COST Actions are bottom-up science and technology networks open to researchers and stakeholders, with a four-year duration and a minimum participation of five COST Countries.

The COST Association was established in September 2013 by the COST Member Countries as an international not-for-profit association under Belgian law. The COST Association integrates governance, management and implementation functions into a single structure, thus ensuring the intergovernmental nature of COST and its pan-European dimension. The 36 COST Member Countries are full members of the COST Association.

Supported actions

COST supports high-risk, innovative and emerging research themes. COST does not set any research priorities.

Budget

The average COST Action budget depends on the number of COST Countries participating in the Action. The funding is provided via a yearly grant agreement. The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 funds COST.

Level of financing

COST Actions are bottom-up science and technology networks, open to researchers and stakeholders, with a duration of four years. The funding covers networking activities, such as meetings, workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs), and dissemination activities. COST does not fund research itself.

Implementation

Every COST Action has an objective, defined goals and clear deliverables. These are described in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that provides the formal basis for COST Action. The proposal for a new Action must fulfil certain formal and qualitative criteria, and if the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) approves the MoU, the COST countries wishing to take part in the Action can agree to it. A COST Action is launched when at least five COST Member Countries have agreed the MoU and starts with the first Management Committee (MC) meeting of the Action. A COST Action runs for an average of four years.

During FP7 (2007-2013), all COST Actions followed the Domain structure. COST Actions funded under the new COST Open Call will no longer follow this structure.

Further information and contacts

COST Association, Avenue Louise, 149 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 2 533 38 00 Fax: +32 2 533 38 90 E-mail: office@cost.eu

More information

– http://www.cost.eu/about_cost

2. EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS**Key information**

Total budget: €2.8 billion (2009-2014: €1.789 billion)

Aims: The EEA and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reduce economic and social disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with 15 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics.

They also share common values and responsibility with other European countries to promote equality of opportunity, tolerance, security, environmental sustainability and a decent standard of living for all. The support provided through the Grants reflects the priorities set out in the 'Europe 2020' strategy – the European Union's ten-year growth strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – and the eleven EU cohesion policy objectives. The Grants aim to contribute to growth and jobs, tackling climate change and energy dependence, and reducing poverty and social exclusion. They also promote bilateral and international co-operation.

Research within the EEA and Norway Grants has a strong bilateral character. The 2014-2021 funding shall build on bilateral relations developed in 2004-2014 and further expand bilateral co-operation in this area for the future.

Geographical coverage: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

Thematic categories: democracy, tolerance and the rule of law

Beneficiaries: National and local authorities, NGOs and civil society organisations, private and public enterprises, and public-private partnerships, educational and research institutions, students and educational staff. Only registered organisations in one of the beneficiary countries; however, there are exceptions.

Programme details

The EEA and Norway Grants contribute to strengthening contact and co-operation between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the 15 beneficiary countries. Bilateral partnerships between public and private institutions, NGOs and research institutions in the donor and beneficiary countries are widely encouraged. All programmes have funds set aside to facilitate such co-operation.

The funding is provided over a number of consecutive funding periods, the latest of which – for the period 2014-2021 – has been launched.

The content of the five priority sectors and 23 programme areas eligible for funding in this period are finalised following a period of public consultation. These are brought together in the ‘Blue Book’ (see link below).

The priority sectors are:

- Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness;
- Social Inclusion, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction;
- Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy;
- Culture, Civil Society, Good Governance, and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms;
- Justice and Home Affairs.

These five priority sectors (here sub-programmes) have in total 23 programme areas. All supported projects need to contribute to achieving a set of clearly defined development results. The relevant programme areas for landscape projects are listed in each sub-programme.

Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness

The programme areas in the priority sector Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness contribute to growth by supporting the further development of the knowledge economy. Sustainable growth is promoted through funding to strengthen the link between education and training systems and employment, and to support a socially inclusive labour market through combating youth unemployment, facilitating the participation of women and promoting social dialogue.

The added value of the funding under this priority sector lies in the opportunities it offers for strategic piloting and testing of innovative approaches and for international co-operation and the exchange of knowledge and experiences leading to accelerated learning.

Programme area No 1: Business Development, Innovation and SMEs

Objective: Increased value creation and sustainable growth

Supported actions:

- Innovative technologies, processes and services;
- Sustainable business development;
- Greening of existing businesses and processes;
- Development and implementation of innovative products and services.

Programme area No 2: Research

Objective: Enhanced research-based knowledge development

Supported actions:

- Research co-operation between donor and beneficiary countries;
- Research within the priority sectors and/or programme areas of the EEA and Norway Grants or in other agreed areas;
- Application of research results;
- Capacity building in research, including supporting the careers of female researchers and early stage researchers;
- Participation and co-operation of beneficiary countries in the European Research Area (ERA).

Programme area No 3: Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship

Objective: Enhanced human capital and knowledge base.

Supported actions:

- Institutional co-operation at all levels of education between donor and beneficiary countries;
- Enhancing the quality and relevance of education and training in the beneficiary countries at all levels of education;
- Co-operation and partnerships between education, research and the world of work;
- Traineeships, apprenticeships and work placements;
- Youth entrepreneurship;
- Improving adult participation in lifelong learning;
- Professional development of teachers;
- Higher education student learning mobility and staff mobility between donor and beneficiary countries.

Social Inclusion, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction

The European Economic Area is not just about economic co-operation, it is also about empowering people to play their role in society. Sustainable inclusive growth and future prosperity rely on finding a balance between economic progress and social advancement.

In line with the EU's cohesion policy, the programme areas in the priority sector Social Inclusion, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction promote well-functioning societies by supporting social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups, equal access to education, employment and health care, and capable and responsible institutions. The added value of this priority sector is its contribution to breaking the cycle of disadvantage by supporting early interventions, by investing in prevention and boosting systemic change, and by encouraging pilot projects in the area of social innovation.

Programme area No 7: Roma Inclusion and Empowerment

Objective: Enhanced inclusion and empowerment of Roma

Supported actions:

- Implementation of European national, regional and local strategies relevant for Roma inclusion, and investments for systemic changes.
- Integrated measures at local level in the areas of education, employment, health and housing.
- Innovative approaches to enhancing the inclusiveness of public institutions and policies.
- Empowerment of Roma.
- Combating all forms of discrimination, including stereotyping of Roma.
- Systems for data collection and analysis, monitoring and evaluation.

- Collecting knowledge, and synthesising expertise on different Roma groups, languages, cultures, histories and identities in Europe

Programme area No 9: Youth Participation in the Labour Market

Objective: Increased number of young people aged 15-30 in employment

Supported actions:

- Vocational education and training systems and work-based learning;
- Assisting the transition from education and unemployment to the world of work;
- Reshaping labour market policy and institutions to facilitate access to employment and tackle social exclusion;
- Social protection mechanisms providing adequate income support.

Programme area No 10: Local Development and Poverty Reduction

Objective: Strengthened social and economic cohesion

Supported actions:

- Social and economic development in specific geographic areas;
- Anti-discriminatory activities focusing on groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion;
- Interventions to increase job prospects;
- Interventions to increase job capacity, especially among the most vulnerable;
- Quality of and access to social/welfare services;
- Networking and policy exchanges between municipalities.

Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy

Resource-efficient and sustainable use of our natural capital, reduced vulnerability to climate change and a push towards a less carbon intensive and more energy secure economy are key factors for economic and social cohesion in Europe. In line with the EU's cohesion policy, the programme areas in the priority sector Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy aim to ensure good environmental status of our ecosystems, adequate and timely climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, and increased use of renewable energy. Given the great degree of interconnectivity between the three programme areas under the priority sector, measures and activities will seek to exploit co-beneficial outcomes.

Programme area No 11: Environment and Ecosystems

Objective: Improved environmental status in ecosystems and reduced adverse effects of pollution and other human activities

Supported actions:

- Environmental strategies, management plans, action plans and/or protection plans;
- Environmental monitoring and modelling;
- Systems for the sharing and the dissemination of environmental information;
- Management and control of hazardous substances;
- Compliance with environmental legislation.

Programme area No 12: Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security

Objective: Less carbon intensive energy and increased security of supply

Supported actions:

- Energy efficiency in production, distribution and/or use;
- Renewable energy production and/or distribution;
- Recovery of energy from waste or hazardous waste;
- Energy security;
- Renewable energy policies in all relevant sectors;
- Energy markets.

Programme area No 13: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Objective: Climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced

Supported actions:

- Strategies, action plans and/or contingency plans;
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Climate change adaptation measures;
- Climate change-related extreme weather preparedness and risk management;
- Carbon capture and storage

Culture, Civil Society, Good Governance and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

The promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms lies at the core of the European Union's aim to advance its population and safeguard individual dignity. In line with the EU's cohesion objectives, the programme areas in the priority sector Culture, Civil Society, Good Governance and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms contribute to upholding fundamental rights and democratic freedoms and facilitating individuals' co-operation to achieve common aims. This is achieved through strengthening active citizenship, empowering vulnerable groups and enhancing the role of civil society.

This aim is reinforced by support for activities aimed at cultural dialogue and awareness of diversity.

Programme area No 14: Cultural Entrepreneurship, Cultural Heritage and Cultural Co-operation

Objective: Social and economic development strengthened through cultural co-operation, cultural entrepreneurship and cultural heritage management

Supported actions:

- Cultural heritage management, preservation and conservation related to national, regional and local development;
- Documentation and accessibility of culture and cultural heritage;
- Capacity development of cultural players;
- Cultural entrepreneurship;
- Cultural, creative and artistic activities contributing to sustainable development and social cohesion;
- Audience development, including people in the diversity of culture, outreach and educational activities;
- Networking and international cultural co-operation/exchange

Programme area No 15: Civil Society

Objective: Civil society and active citizenship strengthened and vulnerable groups empowered

Supported actions:

- Democracy, active citizenship, good governance and transparency;
- Human rights and equal treatment through combating any discrimination on the grounds of racial or

ethnic origin, religion or belief, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity;

- Social justice and inclusion of vulnerable groups;
- Gender equality and gender-based violence;
- Environment and climate change

Programme area No 16: Good Governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency

Objective: Integrity and accountability of public administration improved

Supported actions:

- Institutional capacity-building;
- Public administration reform;
- Delivery, accessibility and quality of public services;
- Accountable, inclusive and transparent government;
- Economic and financial governance;
- Co-operation between government and civil society.

Justice and Home Affairs

The priority sector Justice and Home Affairs aims to strengthen European citizens' confidence in their governments' ability to ensure civil rights, equal treatment and protection, all which are crucial to the Europe 2020 strategy for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Lack of public trust in the judiciary is widespread mainly due to corruption, excessive length of proceedings and chronic non-enforcement of judicial decisions. Furthermore, crime stretches across European borders with increased complexity, the influx of irregular migrants remains a challenge for Europe, and weak immigration systems risk breaching human rights and international law. Domestic and gender-based violence remain endemic throughout Europe to huge economic and social cost.

Man-made and natural disasters are increasing both in frequency and intensity, and investments in disaster risk reduction can reduce or prevent loss of life and property, and reap vast economic benefits.

Programme area No 23: Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Objective: Improved disaster resilience

Supported actions:

- Risk and vulnerability competence and capacity;
- Prevention and reduction of existing and new risks and vulnerability;
- Disaster and crisis risk resilience at all levels and in all sectors of society.

Budget

EEA Grants: €1.5 billion financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

Norway Grants: €1.3 billion financed by Norway

The EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 build on the successes of the 2009-2014 period and reinforce the results-based approach. The EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, who contribute according to their size and economic wealth. Of the €993 million set aside for the 2009-14 period, Norway provides 95.8%, Iceland 3.0% and Liechtenstein 1.2%.

The Norway Grants are financed by Norway alone and amount to approximately €804 million in this period.

Level of financing

Level of financing depends on each call. Programmes will not necessarily fund the entirety of the project costs and some level of co-financing may be required.

Implementation

The funding in the form of grants is normally allocated through the publication of calls for proposals. Project proposals have to be submitted to the relevant programme operator by a certain deadline and comply with the clearly defined outcome of the call. It is not possible to apply to the EEA and Norway Grants programmes for assistance spontaneously.

The National Focal Point is the main partner of the donor countries in each beneficiary country. It has the overall responsibility for ensuring that all programmes in that country contribute to the objectives of the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, it serves as a contact point and is responsible and accountable for the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). The specific priorities in each beneficiary country will be set in the memoranda of understanding.

An International Partner Organisation (IPO) is an international organisation or agency thereof involved in the implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021. Partnerships with organisations such as the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) can bring expertise and added value to programme implementation.

Further information and contacts

- EEA Grants – Norway Grants. Financial Mechanism Office.
Postal address: 12-16 Rue Joseph II, 1000 Brussels, Belgium,
Visiting address: 47-48, Boulevard du Régent 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0) 2 286 1701
– info-fmo@efta.int
– <http://eeagrants.org/Who-we-are>; <http://eeagrants.org/layout/set/bluebook>

3. HERA – Joint Research Programme**Key information**

Total budget: 2012 total budget of €18 million

Aims: Increase awareness of social sciences and humanities research and its application to societal challenges and needs

Geographical coverage: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Thematic categories: 2012 “Cultural Dynamics: Inheritance and Identity” and “Humanities as a Source of Creativity and Innovation”; 2009 “Cultural Encounters”.

Beneficiaries: Research institutions and research centres, NGOs

Programme details

The HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) partnership consists of 24 European research

funding organisations from 23 countries, which are committed to the continued growth and development of collaborative and transnational humanities research across Europe. These organisations are from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Supported actions

With support from the HERA, NORFACE and T-AP research programmes, researchers develop knowledge that helps to understand and address pressing societal challenges like radicalisation, migration and rising inequality within societies. However, stakeholders who can use this knowledge are often unaware of it, and policymakers and researchers are not yet sufficiently connected to reap the maximum benefits from knowledge exchange. HERA, NORFACE, and T-AP's collaborative effort aims not only to encourage more inclusive research, but also to bridge the gap between research outcomes and wider society, by making contributions from the social sciences and humanities more visible and accessible outside the academic research environment.

The actual HERA – Joint Research Programme “Uses of the Past” started with a public call for applications. The deadline was October 2015 and the grant decision was published in April 2016. The programme calls for Collaborative Research Projects (CRP) which comprise at least four eligible Principal Investigators (PI), each based in an eligible university or research institute in a different HERA JRP UP country. Beside the academic partners the project can invite a number of Non-academic Associated Partners as stakeholders (for example from the cultural, heritage or educational sector, media, or creative industries), who may provide significant added value and valuable insights to the CRP from the user's perspective. They can be included in the proposal in an advisory and collaborative capacity to help explore the knowledge transfer/exchange potential of the proposed research.

Level of financing

Academic research partners: 100%. Non-academic Associated Partners: accommodation and travel costs, no staff or other costs

Implementation

The European Commission provides top-up funding via an ERA-NET Cofund grant to the HERA joint research programmes.

The Irish Research Council is the Handling Agency for the management of the Uses of the Past programme.

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) managed the application and selection process.

Further information and contacts

<http://heranet.info/wEuropeanLandscapeConventionome-hera-humanities-the-european-research-area>

CHAPTER IV. FLEXIBILITY AND SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS

1. Active and Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP)

Key information

Total budget: €700 million

Geographical coverage: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

Thematic categories: Health, Information Technology

Beneficiaries: Private Sector: SMEs and NGOs, academic institutions and research centres. Applicants are recommended to consult with the National Contact Point prior to submission of a proposal to confirm that each partner is eligible.

Programme details

The Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) is an initiative under Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. AAL JP is a funding activity that aims to create better living conditions for older adults and to strengthen the industrial opportunities in Europe through the use of information and communication technology (ICT). It carries out its mandate through the funding of cross-national projects that involve small and medium enterprises (SME), research bodies and user organisations (representing the older adults). It aims to:

- give older adults access to more and better products and services for ageing well. These will help them to continue living independently in their own homes and to participate in the economy and society for more longer;
- create a larger market for industry, and especially SMEs, at European level and improve EU competitiveness in ICT based products and services for ageing well;
- make researchers benefit from collaboration with other experts at the European scale;
- help governments gain cost efficiencies and increased sustainability of health and social care, while tackling the societal challenge of demographic ageing.

Supported actions

The AAL JP aims to combine social, technological and business aspects to deliver:

- new models of service delivery and care that contribute to greater self-reliance for older adults and greater support for informal carers;
- adapted living spaces that can improve the quality of their everyday lives;
- new ways for older people to remain active, including contributing as volunteers or providing mutual support;
- new ways of mobilising active and trusted networks, both formal and informal, professional and in kind, to provide all types of support.

Level of financing

Maximum funding from the AAL Joint Programme: €3 million. Total budgets for projects should range between €1 million - €7 million.

2. European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

Key information

Total budget: €2.21 billion

Geographical coverage: EU countries

Beneficiaries: individual workers

Programme details

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund provides support to people losing their jobs as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, e.g. when a large company shuts down or production is moved outside the EU, or as a result of the global economic and financial crisis.

As a general rule, the EGF can be used only where over 500 workers are made redundant by a single company (including its suppliers and downstream producers), or if a large number of workers are laid off in a particular sector in one or more neighbouring regions.

Supported actions

The EGF can co-finance projects including measures such as:

- help with looking for a job;
- careers advice;
- education, training and re-training;
- mentoring and coaching;
- entrepreneurship and business creation.

It can also provide training allowances, mobility/relocation allowances, subsistence allowances or similar support.

Level of financing

60% of the cost of projects designed to help workers made redundant find another job or set up their own business.

Further information

1. Contact points

There are several contact points of which some are focused on a certain programme or policy fields while others work on different fields. The contact points related to a certain funding scheme are listed there. Please visit the mentioned web sides for further information.

– The Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of local and regional representatives. It offers on its web page further information on EU activities in the regions and contact information to your regional representatives. Please visit for further information: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx>

– The Covenant of Mayors is a Europe-wide association of local and regional authorities voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories: http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html

- Eurodesk is the main provider of information on European policies and opportunities for young people and those who work with them: <http://www.eurodesk.org/edesk/>
- The European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities is a platform for the development and exchange of innovative solutions to the major environmental, societal and health challenges facing European cities today. Please visit for further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/>
- The European Youth Portal offers all information on offers and opportunities for young people across Europe. Please visit for further information: http://europa.eu/youth/splash_en
- PREPARE – Partnership for Rural Europe is an organisation active as a European network for rural actors. They offer a publication on territorial development initiative: (“Community Spirit Wins - How civil society sustains rural Europe). Please visit for further information: <http://www.preparenetwork.org/about-prepare>

2. Information on EU calls for proposals and tenders

The SIMAP portal provides access to most important information about European public procurement. Please visit: http://simap.ted.europa.eu/index_en.htm

The most important source for EU calls for proposals is the Tenders Electronic Daily which is part of the SIMAP portal. It presents information about every EU procurement document, is updated on a daily basis with public procurement notices from the European Union and allows one to search for procurement by sector, country and region. TED (Tenders Electronic Daily) is the online version of the ‘Supplement to the Official Journal’ of the EU, dedicated to European public procurement. <http://ted.europa.eu/TED/misc/chooseLanguage.do>

Furthermore, the official websites of the Programmes or the responsible Directorate General’s website publish information on their planned, on-going and closed procurements. The Commission has one central website, which provides you with a list of links to the different thematic fields: http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/grants_en.htm

The Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) offers practical guidance to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation. CORDIS is the European Commission’s primary public repository and portal to disseminate information on all EU-funded research projects and their results in the broadest sense: http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html

Tips for potential contractors are provided in the Commission’s publication “Doing business with the European Commission” – it can be downloaded here: <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/doing-business-with-the-european-commission-pbKV8108537/?CatalogCategoryID=yIMKABstfr0AAAEjypAY4e5L>

3. Partner-finding tools

Most of the Official websites of the EU funding programmes offer a partner-finding tool. For example for its programmes in the field of education (Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens), the Directorate General for Education and Culture offers a project partner search: http://ilp.teamwork.fr/partner_search/partner_search.php

Otlas is a partner-finding tool for international youth projects, developed and maintained by the SALTO Information Resource Centre, financed by the European Commission. The service is organised by SALTO-YOUTH which is a network of eight Resource Centres working on European priority areas within the youth field. These are financed by the European Union. SALTO Information

Resource Centre, which runs Otlas, is hosted by Ungdomsstyrelsen (the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs), which also hosts the Swedish National Agency for Youth in Action programme. Organisations can register their contact details and areas of interest in Otlas, and also create partner requests for project ideas. This online partner finding has served 3,991 projects and has 8,121 registered potential partners. Please find further information on the web side: <http://www.otlas.eu>

There are also social media pages and web sides that help potential partners to find each other, for example:

– *Linkedin EU Projects Partner Search*: The group has actually 31,001 members in Linkedin. You can make your announcements and requests of collaboration in this Linkedin group.

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2842114/profile>

– *Facebook Partner Search for EU & International Projects*: The facebook group is a closed group with 1,181 registered members. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Partnersearch/?fref=ts>

– *Partner Search Tool for ICT-related projects in Horizon 2020*: The NCP Network for ICT NCPs (Ideal-ist Partner Search Service) offers a partner search service for topics related to Information and Communication Technologies in different parts of Horizon 2020:

<http://www.ideal-ist.eu/partner-search/pssearch>

– *Partner Search Tool for Health-related projects in Horizon 2020*: The project "Fit for Health 2.0" offers the partnering tool "euMatch 2.0": <http://mm.fitforhealth.eu/>

– *Partnering Tool for Societal Challenge 5 "Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials"*: an international partner search service, administered by the German National Contact Point Environment: <http://partnersearch.ncps-care.eu/>

– *Partnering Tool for Societal Challenge 6 "Europe in a changing world: Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies"*: Net4Society is the international network of National Contact Points for the Societal Challenge 6 ("Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies") in Horizon 2020. National Contact Points (NCPs) are set up to guide researchers in their quest for securing EU funding: <http://net4society.eu/public/pss.php>

4. Personal grant opportunities

1. *Marie Curie Fellowships* are European research grants available to researchers regardless of their nationality or field of research.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/funded-projects/how-to-manage/index_en.htm

2. *European Research Council (ERC)* grants support individual researchers of any nationality and age who wish to pursue frontier research. <http://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants>

3. *Joint Research Centre - External Staff Recruitment Application (ESRA)* is a Directorate-General of the European Commission and comprises seven institutes. Its activities range from the risk assessment of chemicals to the forecasting of natural disasters; from evaluating product safety standards to providing assistance to humanitarian crises. <http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

4. *The Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE)* aims to reboot Europe's economy and help Europe's citizens and businesses to get the most out of digital technologies. It is the first of seven flagship initiatives under Europe 2020, the EU's strategy to deliver smart sustainable and inclusive growth. <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/newsroom>

5. *European University Institute - Max Weber Programme for Postdoctoral Studies*: Max Weber Fellows are offered training to develop professional skills such as teaching, academic writing and publishing, and job market presentation.

<http://www.eui.eu/ProgrammesandFellowships/MaxWeberProgramme/Index.aspx>

6. *The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)* is responsible for the management of certain parts of the EU's programmes for education, culture and audiovisual. These doctoral-level training and research programmes offer fellowships covering up to three years of doctoral activities.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_1_joint_dOC_Torates_en.php

7. *Bilateral EU Co-operation in Science (BILAT)* website is dedicated to research funding opportunities worldwide, and to projects supporting EU policy dialogue with those countries that have a science and technology agreement with the European Union.

<http://www.bilat.eu/235.php>