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EI European Region

Information on
EU Funding opportunities for teacher unions
for education and training under the
European Social Fund
2014-2020





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Foreword

The purpose of this Report is to inform ETUCE member organisations of the funding opportunities for education and training from the European Social Fund (ESF) for 2014-2020. EU member states have negotiated their priorities and objectives with the European Commission. Such funds are available through national Operational Programmes of the ESF.

In each country section, the Report gives information on:

- Priorities for education and training of Member States;
- The amount of funds available to finance the Operational Programmes for 2014-2020;
- Links to Operational Programmes in national languages
- The contact details of the national Managing Authority responsible for the development of the Programme and projects.

Trade unions, as social partners, are welcome to participate in the implementation of projects and the use of funds. They may apply for project funding. **Trade unions may also contribute to projects** through the promotion of action in a number of sectors, including education.

The Managing Authority at national level is the point of contact for information on the conditions for use of funds (e.g. projects for which trade unions are eligible to apply, dedicated budgets, application deadlines, any partnership requirements, etc.). It is responsible for facilitating the appropriate use of the funds.

National trade union confederations are often involved in negotiations concerning implementation of ESF. **They are also points of contact concerning trade union participation in projects.**

The structural policies of the European Union, supported by ESF, are intended to reduce disparities between regions and to promote inclusive societies. **Education is central to the achievement of those goals. ESF supports investment, particularly for education and training. Its funds help education systems, teachers and students.**

The ETUCE Secretariat has also published a brochure, *“Project opportunities for Central and Eastern European countries”*, which can be downloaded from the [publications section of the ETUCE website](#). It describes funding opportunities provided by European institutions and other sources for Central and Eastern European countries, whether or not they are EU members. The funding, amongst other things, seeks to contribute to quality education, professional development of teachers, gender equality, social inclusion, capacity building, youth employment, protection of human rights, the improvement of employment conditions and poverty reduction.

We encourage all ETUCE member organisations to engage in the implementation and use of ESF education and training-related funds. Such programmes can support quality education throughout education systems as well as providing an opportunity for ETUCE affiliated organisations to involve their members as well as learners in this process. Participation of education unions also helps to ensure that resources are deployed wisely and in the public interest.

Preface

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the EU's main funding instrument to support the achievement of the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy. ESF will contribute €10 billion per year for that purpose. Priorities for the strategy and for the use of those resources are set, together, by the European Commission and EU member countries. 'Better education' is one of the four main priorities. A wide range of projects designed for different "targets" can be financed at national, regional and local levels. There are projects targeting **education systems, teachers and students**.

Each EU Member State, in cooperation with the European Commission, agrees on one or more Operational Programmes. The Operational Programmes determine the allocation of ESF funding at national level according to national objectives and priorities. The Operational Programmes, which describe funding objectives and priorities, are for seven years (2014-2020).

Following the adoption of the Operational Programme, the EU distributes the related ESF funding to Member States and regions. Funded projects can be run by public or private organisations, considered to be "**beneficiaries**". They include **public administrations, trade unions, employers' organisations, NGOs, enterprises and individuals**. National trade union confederations are important actors in the management of the funds and may be beneficiaries.

In 2007, social partners (trade unions and employers' organisations) were recognised as playing a crucial role in the promotion of projects financed by the ESF.

Information on the ESF is available at this link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=525&langId=en>

The table below summarises education-related objectives in every recently adopted Operational Programme¹, and the resources provided by the EU to co-finance them. **Projects affecting education policy and reforms are country specific and may vary according to needs and the results of EU-Member State negotiations**. Education-related targets are consistent with the Country Specific Recommendations of the European Semester on education and training. They may be related to all levels of education (early childhood education, primary, primary, secondary, higher education and VET, adult learning) and/or to teachers' initial education and professional development. They may also be connected with student educational achievement.

¹ AT, BE, BG, HR,CY,CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, EI, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LUX, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, SE, UK.



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AUSTRIA

Operational Programme “[Employment Austria 2014-2020](#)”

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This programme outlines the priorities and objectives to spend **EUR 876 million** (of which **EUR 442 million from the EU budget**) contributing to creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion in Austria.

The programme addresses the main challenges of the Austrian labour market: increase of the employment rate of older workers, enhancement of equal opportunities and participation of women in the labour market and **improvement of education outcomes of vulnerable young people** including those with a migrant background.

Among others, investment will focus on the following priority regarding education:

- 48% of funding is dedicated to measures **enhancing educational and qualification levels**. Over the funding period, some 87000 young persons including migrants will receive support for a better start in life allowing them to improve their qualifications and to **master the transition from school to work**. More than 60 000 persons lacking **basic qualifications** needed on the labour market will benefit from **lifelong learning measures**.

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PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Operationelles Programm Beschäftigung Österreich 2014- 2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 875,739,295.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 442,087,353.00 €

Relevant thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority



BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ARBEIT, SOZIALES UND KONSUMENTENSCHUTZ

STUBENRING 1

A-1011 WIEN

(43-1) 71100-0

<http://www.esf.at>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014AT05SFOP001

BELGIUM

! Please note that for Belgium ESF funds related to the thematic priority 'education and training' are defined at regional level:

By clicking on links below, you will also find the competent Managing Authority at regional level

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN BELGIUM:

- ESF Operationnal Programme Wallonie-Bruxelles 2020.eu [\[EN\]](#) [\[FR\]](#) [\[DE\]](#) [\[NL\]](#)
- European Social Fund 2014-2020 – German Speaking Community of Belgium [\[EN\]](#) [\[FR\]](#) [\[NL\]](#) [\[DE\]](#)
- Operational Programme ESF Flanders 2014-2020 [\[EN\]](#) [\[NL\]](#) [\[FR\]](#) [\[DE\]](#)

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BULGARIA

1) Operational Programme [Science and Education for Smart Growth](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Bulgarian Operational Programme "Science and Education for Smart Growth" (SESG) for the implementation of the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to invest over **€673 million** (of which €596 million from the EU budget) to help strengthen **research and innovation, general and higher education, and vocational training in Bulgaria**. This is the only Operational Programme in Bulgaria to be co-funded by both the ESF (nearly €353 million) and the ERDF (over €243 million) in the period 2014-2020.

The programme has two overall **goals**: **strengthening research and innovation** and **enhancing education and social inclusion at all educational levels**.

Investments will focus on the following priorities:

Up to **€243 million** will be invested in developing **centres of excellence and centres of competence, as hubs of high-quality research and innovation** in the areas defined in the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation. Funding will be dedicated to



research infrastructure of regional and national significance, as well as to support the specialisation of researchers and their involvement in the European Research Area.

Investment in education (around **€220 million**) will aim at improving key competences of students and children, including **through innovative teaching methods**. It will promote the **quality of higher education** with a view of obtaining **better outcomes on the labour market**, as well as the **modernisation of vocational education and life-long learning**. Significant focus is put on measures **investing in the qualifications of researchers, teachers, lecturers improving their mobility and career opportunities.**

A dedicated funding of **€110 million** will finance the **integration of children at risk of exclusion from education**, on account of belonging to marginalised ethnic groups or to groups with specific educational needs. The programme will thus be a key instrument for **reducing the share of early school leavers**.

Over the funding period, the programme is expected to create 11 new centres of excellence and competence, support 20 regional laboratories and pilot centres and involve **over 1 500 researchers in activities under the programme**. The programme will give 1 500 schools and 160 000 students the opportunity to develop specific knowledge, skills and competencies. Some 30 000 students will receive scholarships while 850 students will be involved in mobility programmes. Thousands of students will be included in practical training in real work environment, including career guidance activities. Students and childcare institutions for children with special educational needs will receive targeted supported under the programme.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Оперативна програма Наука и образование за интелигентен растеж 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operarional Programme budget:** 701,177,274.00
- **ERDF budget:** 243,381,138.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 352,619,543.00 €

Relevant thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO1** - Research and innovation
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority



Ministry of Science and Education - General Directorate Structural Funds and International Educational Programmes

Tsarigradsko Chausee 125 bl 5/1

Sofia 1113

+359 2 46 76 100

<http://www.sf.mon.bg>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014BG05M2OP001

2) Operational Programme [Human Resources Development](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The ESF in Bulgaria is looking to generate more jobs and inclusiveness while reducing poverty, in order to reach its employment and social goals for 2020.

Bulgaria's Human Resources Development (HRD) operational programme (OP) has two overall goals: boosting employment and reducing social exclusion; and reducing poverty levels. The total ESF investment is over **EUR 1 billion**, including funding from the Youth Employment Initiative.

The OP has several broad priorities, including job creation, mobility and education, as well as training.

Investment will focus on the following:

- **Employment** will be boosted by projects targeting better access to jobs and helping long-term unemployed and young people, particularly those not in employment, education or training up to 29 years of age. Improvements to public employment services will play a key role, and more such services will be established. Self-employment and the capacity to adapt quickly to change will be encouraged. In addition, **lifelong learning opportunities** will be offered to all groups and age levels. Workers and jobseekers will thus receive help in obtaining new skills and qualifications in order to improve their career opportunities.
- Around EUR 286 million is dedicated to **social inclusion** measures. These will target groups such as the young and older members of society, those with disabilities, and minorities such as Roma. Social entrepreneurship and **access to vocational training** will be promoted, as will better access to health and social care services.
- Over the funding period, the Operational Programme is expected to boost the qualifications of some 100 000 people, give 28 000 jobseekers a work placement and help a further 17 000 young people with employment and training measures. Some 160 000 people will benefit from lifelong learning opportunities.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:



PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 1,092,248,077.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 828,287,825.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 110,377,490.00 €

Relevant thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO11** - Better public administration
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

<http://www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/index.asp>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014BG05M9OP001

CROATIA

Operational Programme [Efficient Human Resources 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This programme aims to contribute to creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion in Croatia. Its total volume is EUR 1.849 billion of which **EUR 1.582 billion from the EU budget** including EUR 66 million from the Youth Employment Initiative.

Among others, ESF investment will focus on the following priority regarding education:

Around 28% of the budget will be invested to ensure an adequate match between the skills of the workforce with the labour market needs. **Tertiary education, vocational education and lifelong learning will be reformed** and stimulated to ensure that people get the right skills. Actions will improve the **quality and efficiency of tertiary and equivalent education**, enhance **access to lifelong learning (LLL)** and improve the **labour market relevance of education and training systems**.



PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Operativni program Učinkoviti ljudski potencijali](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 1,849,745,469.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 1,449,855,929.00 €
- **YEI budget :** 132,354,288.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO11** - Better public administration
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Ministry of Labour and Pension System
Petračićeva 4
HR - 10 000 Zagreb
+385 1 36 96 464
<http://www.mrms.hr>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014HR05M9OP001

CYPRUS

Operational Programme [Employment, Human Capital and Social Cohesion](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Investments will help Cyprus address challenges like high unemployment, in particular among youth, and social exclusion.

The Cypriot Operational Programme "*Employment, Human Resources and Social Cohesion*" for the implementation of the ESF in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to invest more than €163 million (of which over €140 million from the EU-budget, including €11.5 million from the [Youth Employment Initiative](#)) to promote employment, skills, social inclusion and the modernisation of the public administration.



Among others, investment will focus on the following priority regarding education:

- Improving the **vocational and technical education system (20% of the budget)**, in particular to make it more oriented towards the skills needed in the labour market;
- The programme will improve job prospects and offer better chances to thousands of citizens, thus contributing to the national targets for employment and poverty reduction as part of the [Europe 2020 strategy](#).

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[OP “Employment, Human Resources and Social Cohesion” 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 163,323,737.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 117,416,786.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 23,144,202.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO11** - Better public administration
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

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<http://www.dgepcd.gov.cy>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014CY05M9OP001

CZECH REPUBLIC

Operational Programme [Research, Development and Education](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION



ESF and ERDF investments to support national efforts to strengthen the **education system as contribution to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**

The Czech Operational Programme "Research, Development and Education" for the implementation of the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the period 2014-2020 aims to invest **over 2.76 billion euro from the EU budget** - over 1.2 billion from the ESF and 1.5 billion from the ERDF - to **address key challenges in research and education**. The funding will also support social inclusion, in particular **the integration of marginalised Roma children into mainstream education**.

The majority of EU funding will be used with objective to promote **inclusive education** at all levels, **facilitating an equal access to high-quality pre-school, elementary and secondary school**. Supported actions will seek to **improve students' results in key competencies** such as foreign languages, maths, science or IT, to mention only a few. This priority will also pursue the **relevance of education and training for the needs of employers**, as well as the **reinforcement of training for future and novice teachers, among others**. **Around 47 000 education professionals will receive a targeted training.**

The programme will also support the **development of universities and human resources**, so to improve **their infrastructure** but also **the quality of education** and its **relevance to the labour market**, to bring more students with special needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds into university studies, and to **enhance lifelong learning**, among other aims. **Investments in this area will benefit more than 14 000 researchers and academic workers and 130 000 students.**

Another important area of support will cover the measures to help **Czech research** achieve international excellence. This includes improving **research infrastructure, training of future researchers**, promoting **international co-operation of research teams** including multi-disciplinary aspects, enhancing the **quality of research management** and supporting co-operation between public and private sectors. About **50 research centres and higher education institutions** will be modernised.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 3,438,493,187.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 1,518,174,825.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 1,249,887,285.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO1** - Research and innovation



- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Karmelitská 7
118 12 Praha 1
+420234811111
<http://www.msmt.cz>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014CZ05M2OP001

DENMARK

Operational Programme: [Educational and Entrepreneurial Growth](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Danish national Operational Programme for the implementation of the ESF in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to spend 400 million euros (of which over 200 from EU budget) contributing to strengthening economic growth in all Danish regions.

The total ESF allocation will be distributed among the following four priorities:

- Entrepreneurship and job creation: 144.7 million euros will be devoted to actions aiming at increasing self-employment and jobs in ESF-supported enterprises;
- Cross-border mobility: 5.6 million euros will fund actions to enhance transnational labour mobility;
- **Inclusion through education and employment: 80.1 million** euros will help those on the margins of the labour market to find a job. This amount represents the 20% that must be reserved for Social Inclusion;
- **Vocational training and higher education: 150.3 million** euros will be devoted to increase the number of vocational education participants, among both young and adult people.

There will be a strong regional approach, since the use of ESF will be tailored to the specific needs of the different Danish regions. The Regional Growth Forums will decide the actual projects to be supported, according to the above priorities.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:



[ESF Operational Program 2014-2020 \(in Danish\)](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 399,225,121.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 206,615,841.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

Erhvervsstyrelsen

Vejlsøvej 29

8600 Silkeborg

35 29 10 00

<http://www.regionalt.dk>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014DK05SFOP001

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ESTONIA

Operational Programme for [Cohesion Policy Funding 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Operational Programme (OP) for Cohesion Policy Funds is a multifund programme, bringing together **investments from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund** and aimed at contributing to the delivery of the European Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Funding priorities: The Operational Programme, with a total budget of EUR 4,891,748,878, invests in 11 thematic objectives. The **total EU contribution is of EUR 3,534,560,285**. These EU funds will be allocated according to several priorities, among which:

- **18.2% is dedicated to research, technological development and innovation** to increase investments in R&D to 3% of GDP in 2020, to enhance R&D and innovation in

the private sector, and to **strengthen the international competitiveness** of Estonia's R&D and **higher education system**.

- **11.7%** will be invested in **reforming the general education network and improving access to high-quality education**. An important aim is to **reduce early school leaving** rates by improving **career guidance** and by producing **innovative study materials**.
- 11.2% is allocated to boosting the employment rate to 76% by reforming the working ability assessment, by assisting people in finding jobs, and **offering education, training and rehabilitation services**. Regions' competitiveness of regions will be strengthened on the basis of county competitiveness plans.

Some of the expected results (by 2023)

- Increase of **private sector R&D expenditure** to 2% of GDP (2012 1.26%)
- 75% rate of successfully completing **apprenticeships** (2013 50%)

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=576&langId=en>

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 4,891,748,878.00 €
- **CF budget:** 1,073,321,882.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 1,874,261,393.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 586,977,010.00 €

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Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO1** - Research and innovation
- **TO10** - Education and training

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

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Tallinn 15006
+372 611 3558
<http://www.struktuurifondid.ee/en/>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014EE16M3OP001

FINLAND

Operational Programme [Entrepreneurship and skills, Åland Structural Fund Programme 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Finland's autonomous region of Åland is investing ESF funds in **education, job skills and social inclusion to boost youth employment, equality and economic diversity.**

The autonomous region of Åland in Finland will use its multi-fund Operational Programme (OP) for 2014-2020 to help workers learn new skills and competencies for a more diverse, modern economy, and to increase employment, productivity and innovation. Efforts will focus on young people, in line with Europe 2020 recommendations for Finland. Building on the themes of its previous OP, the region will develop education and social integration measures that complement its employment goals.

Funded by the ESF and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Operational Programme is worth **EUR 10 million.**

Among others, ESF investment will focus on the following priority regarding education:

- **Over half of the available funds will be used to boost education, vocational training and job-related skills.** Young people are a key target for this investment, although measures will also **promote lifelong learning.** Education and training will be geared to equipping young people and other jobseekers for the needs of the labour market.

ERDF priorities:

- The programme **will help cooperation between research institutions and SMEs.** Some 70 enterprises will be supported to enhance their competitiveness and to diversify the economic structure of Åland. These investments provide a unique opportunity in Åland to start to create and **improve the research and innovation competencies** of enterprises which at the moment are in very early phases of development.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Ålands strukturfondsprogram, Entreprenörskap och kompetens 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 9,991,000.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 2,322,538.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 2,672,962.00 €



Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO1** - Research and innovation
- **TO10** - Education and training

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Department of Trade and Industry, Åland Government
Självstyrelsegården / P.O. Box 1060
AX-22111 Mariehamn, Åland
+358 (0)18 25 000
<http://www.regeringen.ax>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014FI05M2OP001

2) Operational Programme Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 - Structural Funds Programme of Finland

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Main objectives:

The Finnish Operational Programme "Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 – Finland's structural funds programme" (OP) receives a **combined amount of EUR 1,299,461,095** from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) under the Investment Package for growth and jobs in Finland. The OP will contribute to Finland reaching the key EU and national development priorities along with the "Europe2020" objectives.

Funding priorities:

- Around **24% of programme investments will promote research and innovation activities**. The main aim is to boost investments that will strengthen the innovation activity, especially in growth companies and start-ups in chosen smart specialisation fields. Finland aims to improve the application of Research & Innovation results into commercial products.
- About **12% of the OP resources are dedicated to investment in education** to ensure the availability of a skilled workforce, **reinforcing the professional knowledge, innovative abilities and creative skills of the workforce, improving services during transitional periods, promoting educational equality, using the needs of employers as the basis for training and education, developing the availability and quality of supplementary training and advisory services and ensuring the provision of entrepreneurial skills.**



PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Suomen Rakennerahasto-Ohjelma Kestävää kasvua ja työtä 2014 – 2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 2,598,922,190.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 786,776,918.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 512,684,177.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- TA - Technical Assistance
- TO1 - Research and innovation
- TO10 - Education and training
- TO3 - SMEs competitiveness
- TO4 - Low-carbon economy
- TO8 - Employment and labour market
- TO9 - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

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Head of unit
CCI number: 2014FI16M2OP001

FRANCE

National Operational Programme [Employment and Social Inclusion 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Under the national Operational Programme for the implementation of the ESF in mainland France in the period 2014-2020 **France will receive EUR 2.893 billion from the ESF to support employment, vocational training and social inclusion and reduce early school-leaving.** This national programme will be supplemented by **22 regional programmes in metropolitan**



France and eight in the overseas departments and regions, to which the ESF will contribute EUR 2.883 billion.

ESF funding for France comes to a total of EUR 6.027 billion, including the EUR 620 million from the ESF to co-finance the [Youth Employment Initiative](#) programme and the national technical assistance programme. The ESF accounts for 41.7 % of the total cohesion policy funding awarded to France.

The ESF allocation for metropolitan France will be distributed among the following three priorities (excluding technical assistance):

- **EUR 454 million** will be spent on **unemployed and inactive persons**, including young people in unemployment and those young people who are most disconnected from the labour market ('NEETs'), and also on **supporting professional mobility, developing entrepreneurship and preventing early school-leaving**.
- EUR 707 million will be spent on **anticipating change and securing career pathways** by means of forward planning of jobs and skills, training for low-skilled workers, women and older people, **training for workers made redundant**, and encouraging businesses to commit to equal pay and opportunities.
- EUR 1.634 million, or more than half of the ESF's allocation under the Operational Programme, will be spent on **reducing poverty and promoting inclusion**. These funds will be used mainly by local authorities, in particular departments and inter-municipality structures.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Programme opérationnel national FSE pour l'Emploi et l'inclusion en Métropole](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 5,470,501,224.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 2,893,824,983.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority



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Head of unit

CCI number: 2014FR05SFOP001

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN FRANCE:

- Operational Programme ERDF-ESF Guadeloupe et St Martin Etat 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- National Operational Programme ESF Employment and Social Inclusion 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Operational Programme ERDF-ESF ile-de-France et Seine 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Operational Programme ESF Alsace 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Operational Programme ESF Guyane Etat 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Operational Programme ESF Martinique Etat 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Operational Programme ESF Réunion Etat 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Aquitaine 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Auvergne 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Basse-Normandie 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Bourgogne 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Bretagne 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Centre 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Champagne-Ardenne 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Corse 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Franche-Comté et Jura 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Guadeloupe Conseil Régional 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Guyane Conseil Régional 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Haute-Normandie 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Languedoc-Roussillon 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Limousin 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Lorraine et Vosges 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Martinique Conseil Régional 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Mayotte 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Midi-Pyrénées et Garonne 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Nord-Pas de Calais 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Pays de la Loire 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Picardie 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Poitou Charentes 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]
- Regional programme Rhône Alpes 2014-2020 [EN] [FR]

GERMANY

Operational Programme [ESF Federal Germany 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The German federal Operational Programme for the implementation of the ESF in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to spend over €4.8 billion (of which over **€2.6 billion from the ESF**), contributing to creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion across Germany.

This national programme will be supplemented by 16 regional programmes that will address specific challenges in the Länder.

The main objectives of the German ESF Operational Programme at federal level are the promotion of employment, social inclusion and education. Among other priorities, the programme will contribute to the following priorities:

- 38% of total funding will be dedicated to **promoting social inclusion and combatting poverty** with a focus on the sustainable labour market integration of the long-term unemployed, the sustainable **placement of migrants into employment or vocational and educational training**, and improved access of disadvantaged young people to employment, training and education (including through implementation of the [Youth Guarantee](#)). Approximately 73,000 long-term unemployed, 150,000 migrants and 100,000 disadvantaged young people are due to be supported through these measures.
- **33% of the funds will be invested in education, skills and lifelong learning.** Expected results include the **improvement of skills and qualification levels and widening access to education systems, supporting the transition from school into employment, including through implementation of the [Youth Guarantee](#)**, and strengthening the capacities of SMEs in the field of vocational education. Approximately 100,000 young people and 71,000 employed people are due to be supported through these measures.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Operationelles Programm ESF Bund Deutschland 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 4,829,738,810.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 2,689,319,893.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:



- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales
Rochusstraße 1
D - 53123 Bonn
+49 (0) 30 221 911 007
<http://www.esf.de>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014DE05SFOP002

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN GERMANY:

- OP Niedersachsen ERDF/ESF 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- OP Schleswig-Holstein ESF 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Baden-Württemberg 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Bayern 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Berlin 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Brandenburg 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Bremen 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Federal Germany 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Hamburg 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Hessen 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Nordrhein-Westfalen 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Rheinland-Pfalz 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Saarland 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Sachsen 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Sachsen-Anhalt 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]
- Operational Programme ESF Thüringen 2014-2020 [EN] [DE]

GREECE

Operational Programme: [Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

ESF investments in Greece will address the **impact of the prolonged recession**, particularly in employment, as well as **education, skills and life-long learning**

The operational programme "Human Resources Development, Education and Life Lifelong Learning" for the implementation of the European Social Fund and the [Youth Employment Initiative](#) (YEI) in Greece aims to tackle unemployment, focusing on **creating quality education opportunities, skills upgrading** and sustainable employment for all and with a view to enhance social cohesion. Its total volume is **EUR 2.104 billion** of which EUR 1.933 billion from the ESF budget and EUR 171 million from the Youth Employment Initiative.

The programme will contribute directly or indirectly to the national objectives for employment, education and combating poverty as part of the development strategy of the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#) which in particular aims to increase the employment rate to 70%, reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 450000, **reducing early school leaving to 9.7% and achieve a tertiary attainment rate of 32%**.

More specifically, the programme promotes employment and supports labour mobility (53% of total funding), **invests in education, skills and life-long learning (43%)**, and marginally promotes social inclusion and combating poverty (3%) since such actions will be covered by the 13 Regional operational programmes and finally technical assistance (1.7%).

Main beneficiaries of the planned actions include youth not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs) from 15-24 and from 25-29 years old, long-term unemployed, women, unemployed with low qualifications and unemployed 30-44 years, **pupils and students in all levels of education, teachers and researchers**.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΒΑΣΕΙ ΤΟΥ ΣΤΟΧΟΥ «ΕΠΕΝΔΥΣΕΙΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΑΠΑΣΧΟΛΗΣΗ»](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 2,667,494,916.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 1,761,892,480.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 343,034,058.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:



Managing Authority
Managing Authority of the OP Human Resources Development
4, Korai Str.
10564 Athens
+30 210 5201200
<http://www.epanad.gov.gr/>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014GR05M9OP001

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN GREECE:

- ATTICA OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- CONTINENTAL GREECE OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- CRETE OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- EASTERN MACEDONIA-THRACE OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- IONIAN ISLANDS OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- NORTH AEGEAN OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- PELOPONNESUS OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- SOUTH AEGEAN OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- THESSALY OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- WESTERN GREECE OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- WESTERN MACEDONIA OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- CENTRAL MACEDONIA OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- COMPETITIVENESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)
- EPIRUS OP [\[EN\]](#) [\[EL\]](#)

HUNGARY

Operational Programme: [Human Resources Development](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Investment programme will increase the human capital and improve the social environment in Hungary.

Representing over 11% of all EU financial support for Hungary in 2014-2020, the Human Resource Development Operational Programme (OP) will implement 2.6 billion euros of EU funding, 65.4 % from the European Social Fund (ESF) and 34.6 % from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In the field of human capital, Hungary faces one of the biggest backlogs regarding long-term effect structural development factors. This OP has therefore been designed for contributing to address social and demographic challenges. The main interventions cover social inclusion,



strengthening social cohesion and the role of the family, health promotion and prevention, improving the **quality of public education**, increasing the number of people who have **tertiary education** and strengthening the staff of social institutions.

Some of the expected impacts from the national Human Resource Development OP of Hungary include:

- **60,000 students and 40,000 teachers will participate in various training and retraining programmes** linked to reducing and preventing **early school leaving** and promoting equal access to **good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education**;
- **280 public education institutes will be subject to development investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning.**

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Emberi Erőforrás Fejlesztési Operatív Program](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 3,069,636,241.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 1,707,972,503.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 904,816,497.00 €

26

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

Ministry of Human Capacities

<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014HU05M2OP001

IRELAND



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Investments will focus on getting people back into jobs and on creating opportunities for young people and disadvantaged groups

The Irish Operational Programme "Employability, Inclusion and Learning" for the implementation of the ESF in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to invest over €1.15 billion (of **which €610 million from the EU budget**, including €68 million from the [Youth Employment Initiative](#)), to promote employment, social inclusion and skills.

The programme is strongly focused on helping the unemployed to return to the labour market, with particular attention to youth and long-term unemployed people. Investments will be focused on four main areas:

- Access to employment
- Social inclusion, by improving employability and promoting equal opportunities
- **Education, including initiatives for very low skilled people and for disadvantaged and disabled students**
- Implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative
- The programme aims at supporting 167 000 participants through up- and re-skilling actions, 79 000 beneficiaries of social inclusion measures, and up to 712 000 very low skilled people and disadvantaged and disabled students.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

27

[ESF Programme for Employability Inclusion and Learning Operational Programme 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 1,153,018,541.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 474,291,142.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 136,290,838.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Department of Education and Skills
Block 2, Floor 2, Marlborough Street



Dublin 1

01 889 2155

<http://www.esf.ie>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014IE05M9OP001

ITALY

National Operational Programme on [Education](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Over EUR 3 billion are invested in education as a key element for growth and jobs

The Italian Operational Programme "Education" (*Per la Scuola – competenze e ambienti per l'apprendimento*) for the implementation of the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to spend EUR 3.019 billion (of which **EUR 1.615 billion from the EU budget**) contributing to an **improved education system, better qualifications of students, and better school buildings and equipment.**

The Operational Programme, building on the experience of the period 2007-2013, will pursue the fight to **reduce early school leaving** and **increase quality of education**, while **fostering safety, quality and energy-efficiency in school infrastructure.**

Investments will be focused on these areas:

- Some **65% of the Operational Programme** allocation is earmarked for concrete actions to fight **early school leaving** and improve the **labour market relevance of education and training systems**. More than **2.8 million students** should benefit from measures in this area, making sure they get the right skills that improve their employment prospects. To strengthen the skills base of the workforce, **equal access to lifelong learning** will be enhanced for all age groups.
- Through the ERDF component of the programme, the **safety and accessibility of school buildings** will be improved and **modern equipment provided**. For instance, more than **20.000 school labs** will be equipped to allow state-of-the-art education in scientific fields.
- Almost **80.000 public employees** will be concerned by **investments in the efficiency of public administrations and public services**. This includes actions to improve access to and interoperability of public data on education, as well as to define and develop **quality standards and quality management systems and to strengthen the national system of evaluation in the education sector.**

[PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:](#)



PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 3,019,300,000.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 460,532,952.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 1,154,692,048.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO11** - Better public administration

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

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<http://hubmiur.pubblica.istruzione.it/web/istruzione/pon>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014IT05M2OP001

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN ITALY:

National Operational Programme On Systems For Active Employment Policies: [EN] [IT]

- POR Abruzzo ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Basilicata ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Emilia Romagna ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Friuli Venezia Giulia ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Lazio ESF [EN]
- POR Liguria ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Lombardia ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Marche ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Piemonte ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Sardegna ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Sicilia ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Toscana ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Umbria ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Valle d'Aosta ESF [EN] [IT]
- POR Veneto ESF [EN] [IT]
- ROP PA Trento ESF [EN] [IT]

LATVIA

Operational Programme [Growth and Employment](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Latvian single multi-fund Operational Programme "Growth and Employment" (OP) aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the "Europe 2020" objectives. By combining support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), the OP will provide a significant support to the economic growth and employment, with a particular focus on the competitiveness of Latvia's economy.

Among others, ESF investment will focus on the following priority regarding education:

- **11.68 % of the Operational Programme** resources will be **allocated to investments in education, skills and lifelong learning** (priority axis 8). ESIF investment will be instrumental for **reforms in the higher education** through supporting establishment of an internationally recognised accreditation agency, elaborating new joint doctoral study programmes and programmes in EU languages and implementation of result-based governance. ESIF will promote **vocational education and training**, with focus on work-based learning, support comprehensive career guidance system and a **new lifelong learning implementation model** (through regions).

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PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=576&langId=en>

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 5,192,801,939.00 €
- **CF budget:** 1,349,414,695.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 2,401,252,452.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 609,544,789.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 58,021,278.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO1** - Research and innovation
- **TO10** - Education and training

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:



PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

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<http://www.fm.gov.lv/>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014LV16MAOP001

LITHUANIA

Operational Programme for [EU Structural Funds Investments for 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Lithuanian multi-fund Operational Programme (OP) brings together several key EU investment funds aimed at helping Lithuania's economic development as well as tackling social exclusion, unemployment and vital issues like energy security. It reflects the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy with a clear emphasis on **boosting research and innovation**, SME competitiveness, the shift to a low-carbon economy, the **promotion of human capital**, especially of young people, and the fight against poverty.

Funding priorities

Among others, ESF investment will focus on the following priority regarding education:

- 9.89 % of funds will be **invested in the educational system** with the objectives of **improving pupils' achievement in general education**, the quality and labour market relevance of **higher education, vocational education and training** as well as improving **researchers' abilities** (priority axis 9).

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[2014–2020 metų Europos Sąjungos fondų investicijų veiksmų programa](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 7,887,798,520.00 €
- **CF budget:** 2,048,917,626.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 3,501,411,767.00 €



- **ESF budget:** 1,095,501,471.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 63,565,266.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO1** - Research and innovation
- **TO10** - Education and training

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

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Head of unit

CCI number: 2014LT16MAOP001

LUXEMBURG

32

Operational Programme [ESF 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The ESF invests in education, training and vocational training and aims to reduce overall unemployment rates, and particularly youth unemployment rates

The programme defines the priorities and objectives for the allocation of EUR 40 million (of which **EUR 20 million comes from the EU budget**), which will contribute to creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion in Luxembourg.

Among others, ESF investment will focus on the following priority regarding education:

- **Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills acquisition and life-long learning.** The activities in this area aim to **increase workers' skills and knowledge**, particularly for those aged over 45, to increase employment rates for women and older people, and to improve the suitability of jobseekers' qualifications, including migrants.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Programme opérationnel FSE Luxembourg 2014-2020](#)



PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 40,112,446.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 20,056,223.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

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26, rue Sainte-Zithe

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<http://www.mte.public.lu>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014LU05SFOP001

33

MALTA

Operational Programme [Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This programme outlines the priorities and objectives to invest over € 132 million, of which **€ 105 million from the EU budget**.

Investments will be focused on the following priorities – among others:

- **Education, with € 47.4 million** euros to fund actions in order to reduce **early school leaving**, to get more **students in tertiary education** and to **increase the participation in lifelong learning**. Interventions to **strengthen vocation education and training** systems are also supported. Up to **12 000 students** may benefit from digital technology courses and **8 000 people from lifelong learning or re-skilling and up-skilling**.



- Public administration, with € 11 million euros to help improve its administrative capacity and efficiency, in order to better deliver services to citizens. The target here is to train 4 000 people. Interventions focusing on **strengthening the capacity of stakeholders delivering education** (including lifelong learning and training), employment and social policies are also supported, with a target of 500 persons within stakeholder organisations.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Operational Programme II: Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 132,366,810.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 105,893,448.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO11** - Better public administration
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

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Triq il-Kukkanja

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Head of unit

CCI number: 2014MT05SFOP001

NETHERLANDS

No specific use of ESF is foreseen in the area of education and training!

Operational Programme [ESF 2014-2020](#)



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The programme outlines the priorities and objectives to spend **over 1 billion euros (of which over 500 million** from the EU budget) contributing to **strengthening economic growth and jobs** in all Dutch regions.

The total ESF allocation will be distributed among three priorities, one of which is related to education, as follows:

- **Inclusion through education and employment:** over **70 % of the total budget (€720 million)** will be invested **to integrate excluded groups into the labour market**. Labour integration pathways, **(re)-training, and individual coaching** will be the **most prominent tools** used by the Dutch municipalities, who are best placed to develop tailor-made solutions.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Operationeel programma ESF 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 1,024,782,821.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 507,318,228.00 €

35

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Managing Authority

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Head of unit

CCI number: 2014NL05SFOP001

www.odpm.gov.mt

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014MT05SFOP001

POLAND

Operational Programme [Knowledge Education Growth](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The operational programme **Knowledge Education Development for the implementation of the European Social Fund** and the [Youth Employment Initiative](#) (YEI) in Poland aims to contribute to addressing key challenges which Poland faces in the fields of employment, social inclusion, health, **education** and public administration. Its total volume is EUR 4.689 billion of which EUR **4.436 billion from the EU budget** including EUR 252 million from the Youth Employment Initiative.

This operational programme will support measures in line with the priorities of the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#) to ensure smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Furthermore, it will directly **support interventions addressing the challenges outlined in the [Country-Specific Recommendations](#)**. This ensures investments in particular in the integration in the labour market of young people, a focus on **vocational education and training** and on participation of women on the labour market.

Investments will cover the following main areas:

- Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility;
- Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- **[Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning and](#)**
- Enhancing institutional capacity and efficient public administration.
- **Main beneficiaries of the planned actions** include central government bodies, territorial self-government bodies and municipalities, courts and judiciary institutions, **[social partners](#)** and relevant civil sector organisations.

The OP will focus on systemic measures at national level and will be complemented by regional Operational Programmes (see list of Regional Programmes following).

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Program operacyjny Wiedza Edukacja Rozwój](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 5,429,614,480.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 4,184,394,211.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 504,875,644.00 €



Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO11** - Better public administration
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

Ministerstwo obsługujące ministra ds. rozwoju regionalnego

Wspólna 2/4

00-926 Warsaw

+ 48 22 273 70 00

<http://www.mir.gov.pl/>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014PL05M9OP001

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN POLAND:

- ROP 1 Regional Operational Programme for Dolnośląskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 10 Regional Operational Programme for Podlaskie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 11 Regional Operational Programme for Pomorskie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 12 Regional Operational Programme for Śląskie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 13 Regional Operational Programme for Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 14 Regional Operational Programme for Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 15 Regional Operational Programme for Wielkopolskie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 16 Regional Operational Programme for Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 2 Regional Operational Programme for Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 3 Regional Operational Programme for Lubelskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 4 Regional Operational Programme for Lubuskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 5 Regional Operational Programme for Łódzkie Voivodeship 2014-2020 [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 6 Regional Operational Programme for Małopolskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 7 Regional Operational Programme for Mazowieckie Voivodeship 2014-2020 [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)

- ROP 8 Regional Operational Programme for Opolskie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)
- ROP 9 Regional Operational Programme for Podkarpackie Voivodeship [\[EN\]](#) [\[PL\]](#)

PORTUGAL

Operational Programme [Human Capital](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Education, training and qualifications are the focus of the ESF operational programme for human capital in Portugal, driving growth and social inclusion.

The ESF Human Capital operational programme (OP) in Portugal **will invest in education and vocational training** to give young students and workers the qualifications and skills the economy needs to grow and to promote social inclusion. Further **investment in higher education** will finance more **equal access to tertiary education by students with limited resources**.

With nearly 85% of its funding coming from the EU budget the OP – worth EUR **3.642 billion** – has the following priorities:

- To **improve the quality of school education**. A target to **reduce early school leaving** rates to 10% and **support for secondary vocational courses** will better prepare young people to find work. Further measures will give **marginalised groups better access to good quality education** at **pre-school, primary and secondary levels**, reducing their risk of social exclusion.
- To support **higher education**, particularly for people currently excluded from this. Grants for 124 000 diploma-level students and 4300 PhD students will increase access to studies, while new short professional courses will open up higher education to 23 000 students.
- To **improve the educational level of workers and jobseekers**. Adults will receive support to complete educational programmes and improve their level of qualification, with around 30 000 expected to complete training courses that lead to certified skills. **Vocational education, apprenticeships** and specialised artistic education for young people will give them the opportunity to earn qualifications that make it easier for them to find jobs.

Further innovative measures are expected to improve the **quality** of Portugal's **education and training systems**. The country intends its targeted investment to increase the **skills level and qualifications of its workforce overall and support economic development**.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Programa Operacional do Capital Humano](#)



PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 3,642,155,414.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 3,095,832,100.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

Agência para o Desenvolvimento e Coesão

Avenida 5 de Outubro, n° 153

1050-053 LISBOA

00351 218 814 000

<http://www.adcoesao.pt/index.html>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014PT05SFOP001

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN PORTUGAL:

- Regional OP Alentejo [\[EN\]](#) [\[PT\]](#)
- Regional OP Algarve [\[EN\]](#) [\[PT\]](#)
- Regional OP Azores (Autonomous Region) [\[EN\]](#) [\[PT\]](#)
- Regional OP Centro [\[EN\]](#) [\[PT\]](#)
- Regional OP Lisboa [\[EN\]](#) [\[PT\]](#)
- Regional OP Madeira (Autonomous Region) [\[EN\]](#) [\[PT\]](#)
- Regional OP Norte [\[EN\]](#) [\[PT\]](#)

ROMANIA

Operational Programme [Human Capital](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The new programme represents an important source of investment in employment, **education**, the fight against poverty and support for social services

The Romanian Operational Programme (OP) "Human Capital" for the implementation of the ESF in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to invest around €5 billion (of which **€4.3 billion from the EU budget**) helping Romanians, including youngsters, **find a**



job, improve their education and skills, reducing poverty and social exclusion, supporting better social services and labour market institutions. Specific attention is given to youth, Roma and rural population.

The programme has seven priorities. Priority 6 will foresee the EU budget allocation on education and skills, as follows:

- **Priority 6, education and skills, will invest €1.2 billion** to support second chance education for young NEETs, reduce **early school leaving**, improve access and quality of **tertiary education**, support **apprenticeships, traineeships and lifelong learning, improve teachers' skills**, support entrepreneurship education, as well as vocational education and training in general, always aiming at increasing their **relevance to the demands of the labour market**. Particular attention is given to disadvantaged people, such as Roma or persons from rural areas or with low skills, for instance through scholarships

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Program Operational Capital Uman](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 5,059,455,367.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 4,114,850,114.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 211,988,630.00 €

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Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Ministerul Fondurilor Europene
Bd. Carol I, nr. 34-36, sector 2
Bucuresti
021 315 02 14/118
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014RO05M9OP001

SLOVENIA

Operational Programme for the [Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the period 2014 – 2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Programme will play a decisive role in encouraging economic development and ensuring prosperity for all citizens in Slovenia while taking into account the specific characteristics of the two less developed regions - Western Slovenia and Eastern Slovenia. It will significantly contribute to the achievement of the national and Europe 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It aims to strengthen efforts particularly in the area of **research and development**, boost the innovation potentials of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), promote resource efficiency and reduce environmental pressures, further develop the transport sector, boost the growth of employment rates and reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The **EU funding of EUR 3.011 billion** from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) is targeted according to development needs, existing disparities and growth potentials of Slovenia.

Among others, ESF investment will focus on the following priorities regarding education:

- Improving the **infrastructure for research and innovation** while strengthening its links with enterprises and the **higher education** sector.
- **Improving the responsiveness of the education and training systems to the needs of the labour market and ensuring equal access to education, trainings and lifelong learning for all groups.**
- Increasing the institutional capacities and the efficiency of the public sector.

Expected results: 42.900 participants involved in programmes will acquire competencies and to raise their level of education.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Operativni program za izvajanje Evropske kohezijske politike v obdobju 2014-2020](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 3,756,236,661.00 €
- **CF budget:** 895,370,363.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 1,390,392,899.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 707,713,434.00 €



- **YEI budget:** 18,423,072.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO1** - Research and innovation
- **TO10** - Education and training

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority

Republic of Slovenia Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy

Kotnikova 5

SI-1000 Ljubljana

+386 1 400 36 80

gp.svrk@gov.si

<http://www.svrk.gov.si>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014SI16MAOP001

SLOVAKIA

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Operational Programme [Human Resources](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Slovakian Operational Programme "Human Resources" for the implementation of the European Social Fund (ESF), the Youth Unemployment Initiative (YEI) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to spend EUR 2.629 billion (of which **EUR 2.205 billion from the EU budget**) contributing to creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion in Slovakia.

Investing in human capital and helping people to enter the labour market will top priorities under this programme, which will be instrumental in **helping Slovakia to respond to the Europe 2020 priorities and country specific recommendations for policy reforms under the European Semester in education, employment and social inclusion.**

Among others, ESF investment will focus on the following priorities regarding education:

- A strong emphasis is placed on **combating youth unemployment**. The funds will finance initiatives to improve education and training systems and ensure young people get the right skills that improve their employment prospects. **Quality early childhood education** and care to reconcile parents' work-life balance and support children's development as well as **vocational education** to reinforce the provision of



work-based learning in companies are further areas for investment. About 80 000 young people should benefit from the Youth Employment Initiative. In addition, more than 100 000 pupils and students at all educational levels will participate in the programme's activities.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Operačný program Ľudské zdroje](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 2,628,533,420.00 €
- **ERDF budget:** 243,662,462.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 1,766,970,537.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 194,350,518.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Špitálska 4, 6, 8
816 43 Bratislava
02/ 2046 0000
<http://www.esf.gov.sk/>
Head of unit
CCI number: 2014SK05M00P001

SPAIN

Operational Programme for [Youth employment](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION



Under the national Operational Programme for the implementation of the [Youth Employment Initiative](#) (YEI), Spain will mobilise **€2.8 billion** from various sources, including **€2.4 billion from the European budget** (Youth Employment Initiative and the **European Social Fund**), to help young people to find a job. Spain is the largest recipient of Youth Employment Initiative funds, which will be spent in all Spanish regions under the coordination of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security.

The Operational Programme will mainly contribute to implementation of the Youth Guarantee, the ambitious EU-wide reform aiming to **ensure that every young person up to 25 years is presented with a good quality offer of employment, education, apprenticeship or traineeship** within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. For disabled persons, Spain has chosen to extend these interventions to people aged up to 29.

The **actions for young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)** are grouped along four specific objectives: a better activation, enhanced employability and skills, increased entrepreneurship and increased indefinite hiring.

- Beneficiaries will be offered a personalised integrated pathway through measures that will include: second chance programmes, **dual vocational training programmes, trainings to obtain a professional certificate**, national and transnational mobility programmes, entrepreneurship support measures, **traineeships or hiring subsidies** to increase indefinite contracts.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Programa Operativo de empleo juvenil](#)

PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 2,786,943,900.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 473,625,187.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 1,886,992,630.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Ministry of Employment and Social Security - Unidad Administradora del Fondo Social Europeo (UAFSE)
C/Pío Baroja, 6
E-28009 MADRID



+34 -91 / 363 - 18 00

<http://www.empleo.gob.es/uafse/>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014ES05M9OP001

! Please note that for Spain **ESF funds related to education and training** is defined at regional level:

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN SPAIN:

- OP ESF 2014 CIUDAD A. DE MELILLA [EN]
- OP ESF 2014 REGION DE MURCIA [EN] [ES]

SWEDEN

Operational Programme for [investments in growth and employment 2014 – 2020](#)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Swedish Operational Programme for the implementation of the European Social Fund (ESF) in the period 2014-2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to spend EUR 1.576 billion (of which **EUR 810 million from the EU budget**, including EUR 44 million from the [Youth Employment Initiative](#)) contributing to creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion in Sweden. It will have a direct impact on the professional and social life of at least 300 000 citizens and residents.

With a focus on providing possibilities for **obtaining more and better skills, matched to the requirements of the jobs market**, the programme aims to strengthen the skills base of workers and improve the qualifications and job opportunities of the unemployed, the inactive and those far from the labour market. Special efforts are foreseen to support young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

Among others, ESF investment will focus on the following priorities regarding education:

- The **Youth Employment Initiative** component of the programme, with more than 10% of funding, aims to **increase employment and participation in education among young people** aged 15 – 24 in the three regions hardest hit by youth unemployment: Sydsverige, Norra Mellansverige and Mellersta Norrland.
- 25% of the investment is foreseen for measures to **enhance skills levels and qualifications**. Projects will target mainly employed persons, but also those far from the labour market when relevant in the specific projects. They will be addressing the development of individual competencies as well as a better interaction and **stronger links between education, employment and work-based learning**.

PROGRAMME TEXT ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

[Nationellt socialfondsprogram för investering för tillväxt och sysselsättning 2014-2020](#)



PROGRAMME FUNDS

Financial information:

- **Total Operational Programme budget:** 1,576,175,872.00 €
- **ESF budget:** 721,843,292.00 €
- **YEI budget:** 88,326,192.00 €

Relevant Thematic priorities:

- **TA** - Technical Assistance
- **TO10** - Education and training
- **TO8** - Employment and labour market
- **TO9** - Social inclusion

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PLEASE ASK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Managing Authority
Svenska ESF-rådet
Liljeholmsvägen 30, 3 tr
117 61 Stockholm
+47 020-33 33 90
<http://www.esf.se/>

Head of unit

CCI number: 2014SE05M9OP001

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UNITED KINGDOM

! Please note that for the United Kingdom **ESF funds related to the thematic priority 'education and training' are defined at State/regional level:**

By clicking on links below, you will also find the competent Managing Authority at State/regional level:

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE USE OF ESF IN UNITED KINGDOM:

- ESF Northern Ireland [\[EN\]](#)
- ESF Scotland (incl. YEI) [\[EN\]](#)
- United Kingdom - ESF East Wales [\[EN\]](#)
- United Kingdom - ESF West Wales and the Valleys [\[EN\]](#)



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