





Basic information	
2024/2077(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The European Social Fund Plus post-2027 Subject 4.10.15 European Social Fund (ESF), Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Employment and Social Affairs		MAIJ Marit (S&D)	03/10/2024
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Regional Development		FUNCHION Kathleen (The Left)	22/10/2024
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion		MÎNZATU Roxana	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/11/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2025	Vote in committee		
21/02/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0014/2025	
10/03/2025	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0027/2025	Summary
11/03/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2024/2077(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/10/00965

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE765.062	24/10/2024	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE766.605	19/11/2024	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE768.059	30/01/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0014/2025	21/02/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0027/2025	11/03/2025	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2025)05	13/05/2025	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
MAIJ Marit	Rapporteur	EMPL	05/12/2024	Tussenvoorziening Leger des Heils FEANTSA
MAIJ Marit	Rapporteur	EMPL	07/11/2024	EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
MAIJ Marit	Rapporteur	EMPL	23/10/2024	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
MAIJ Marit	Rapporteur	EMPL	16/10/2024	DGB
MAIJ Marit	Rapporteur	EMPL	14/10/2024	Caritas Europa EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION Eurodiaconia European Anti Poverty Network European Association for the Education of Adults European Disability Forum International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Save the Children Europe DGB

Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives
DAHL Henrik	16/01/2025	Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening

The European Social Fund Plus post-2027

2024/2077(INI) - 11/03/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 432 votes to 155, with 82 abstentions, a resolution on the European Social Fund Plus post-2027.

Principles of the ESF+ post-2027

Parliament insisted that the ESF+ must continue to be the key and primary instrument for supporting the Member States, regions, local communities and people in strengthening the social dimension of the Union and in pursuing socio-economic development that leaves no one behind.

According to Members, the objectives of the ESF+ should be to:

- address **social challenges** such as the consequences of climate change and digitalisation, contribute to tackling and adapting to these challenges, while combating issues like rising living costs and wage pressures;
- promote **long-term investment and growth** with a focus on social and territorial cohesion;
- enhance **upward social convergence**, especially for the most deprived people, and invest in human capital, employment, skills development and social inclusion, while boosting entrepreneurship and social innovation, investing in children, addressing the digital and green transition, demographic challenges and regions impacted by crises, among others Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
- improve **employment opportunities**, facilitate fair labour mobility, promote quality job creation, ensure decent working conditions, and increase employment participation rates, especially for women, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups;
- achieve **social inclusion**, high employment levels with sustainable quality jobs, adequate wages, decent working conditions, fair social security systems, and access to education, vocational training, and lifelong learning for all;
- continue operating under the **shared management governance** model;
- invest in tackling **persistent social challenges** and primarily address structural social and economic issues.

Parliament advocated a **robust, strengthened, and independent ESF+**, with significantly increased public support for instruments in Member States. It emphasised that achieving ESF+ objectives post-2027 will require a substantial and justified increase in the ESF+ budget within the 2028-2034 financial framework.

The Commission is urged to:

- provide increased, specific, and properly allocated funding to achieve ESF+ objectives and those of the European Pillar of Social Rights;
- protect the budget allocation of the ESF+ so that it can be used for its main objectives and beneficiaries and to propose a **financial reserve instrument** that enables the EU to respond rapidly and in a flexible manner to social emergencies and crisis situations.

Objectives, priorities and budget

Parliament underlined that horizontal principles, such as gender equality, anti-discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, nationality, or racial or ethnic origin, and freedom of movement, should be integral to the ESF+.

The ESF+ should target **disadvantaged people** in our societies and invest in projects targeting women's employment and the social and economic inclusion of **women**. Members called on the Commission to include in the specific objectives of the ESF+ the promotion of the just transition, ending homelessness, the promotion of social enterprises in the social economy and the socio-economic integration of people in vulnerable situations, including migrants, young people, older people and those living in areas impacted by demographic decline and persons with disabilities or chronic diseases, as well as those coming back to the labour market after a longer absence.

Parliament insisted, furthermore, that all the Member States should allocate **at least 5 %** of their ESF+ resources to **tackling child poverty** and those Member States with a rate of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion above the EU average should allocate a higher amount to tackle the problem more effectively.

The Commission is urged to raise the earmarking for social inclusion beyond the current 25 % and the earmarking for food aid and basic material assistance for the most deprived persons to **5 %**, in response to rising **living and food costs**. Members also called for the strengthening of efforts to

support the implementation of the Youth Guarantee: the Commission is urged to propose an increased earmarking beyond the current 12.5 % of their ESF+ resources for all Member States to support the targeted actions and structural reforms to support quality **youth employment**, vocational education and training, in particular traineeships and apprenticeships.

The ESF+ should also aim to: (i) provide a healthy and well-adapted working environment in order to respond to health risks related to changing forms of work, and the needs of the ageing workforce; (ii) promote the effective implementation of the **European care strategy** in all Member States by investing in quality community-based and home care services and infrastructure. The Commission is further encouraged to allocate sufficient financial resources to capacity building, enabling social partners to play a relevant role in their areas of expertise.

Functioning of the Fund

Parliament called on the Member States to ensure coordination between regional and local authorities and organisations and their involvement in projects financed from national budgets. It insisted on the need to maintain the partnership approach of the current ESF+.

Members called for the **reduction of the administrative burden** and bureaucracy, notably by simplifying the application processes for accessing funds and leveraging digitalisation. They advocate that the rules governing the ESF+ should allow public money to be allocated only to those employers that respect workers' rights and the applicable rules on working conditions.

Lastly, increased efforts should be made to ensure that organisations and citizens are aware of all the opportunities the ESF+ can provide.