EU-Funding Opportunities 2021-2027

A practical Guide

V. 6a - Dezember 2021

EU-Learning Project

developed by:
Building Bridges (ESP)
EFMC (EE)
European Projects Association (EU)
EUFRAK-EuroConsults Berlin GmbH (DE)
EuroVienna (AT)
Informo (HR)
Instituto Pedro Nunes (PT)
Prodos Consulting (IT)

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Foreword

The ninth funding phase of the European Union lasting for the next 7 years, began in January 2021. The budget of this funding phase amounts up to 2.018 Trillion Euro and is administered in more than 350 individual funding instruments.

These funding possibilities and the access to these possibilities can occur quite complex and deterrent in the beginning. Additionally, the access to information in the beginning of a funding phase can be time consuming and difficult, especially but not exclusively in case one is not familiar with the structures.

On top of the already complex appearing structures of EU funding, the COVID-19 pandemic, which hit the world and the Member States of the European Union in 2020 (and ongoing) presents the European Union with unprecedented challenges. These challenges lead the European Union to a completely new budgetary situation and an increased and diversified number of funding programmes.

To support organisations to understand and access the main funding possibilities and to offer some hints and tips, this handbook was developed. The handbook was developed by a consortium of 8 European educational organisations in the frame of the EU-Learning project, cofounded by the European Union.

While the main focus of this handbook lies on the new EU funding period 2021-2027, a short introduction will be given to the project EU-Learning and its consortium. Following this introduction an overview is given over the new European Multi Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. The handbook then provides an overview of the main funding programmes offered by the European Union. Each programme will be portrayed and introduced within two to three pages. Within these view pages general information will be shared, such as the programme structure, the thematic priorities, or eligible applicants. In a second section, the budget of the programme will be introduced with its overall amount, an indication of its complexity, as well as tips for applicants. Lastly, programme specific tips for applicants and lessons learnt from the funding period 2014-2020 will shared with the reader.

A special thank you goes to the initiator of the project, Michael Seidler. He has been working with European funding since 1991, has created many European projects since then, and is an evaluator for several European funding instruments. In 2002, he put the first interactive database on European funding on the internet, the EU-FundsNavigator.

A second thank you goes to the committed fellow campaigners, especially to the project coordinators Tamara Hinz, Luca Driussi, Maximilian Weinhold, Gonçalo J. F. Brásio, Morena Rizzo, Manuela Marchioni, Fátima Matias, Jose Maria Imbert, Michael Gansch, Jordi Faris, Mihaela Jovic, and Marco Liviantoni.

With the EU-Learning project, he succeeded for the first time in bringing together the few educational institutions spread across Europe that teach on the topics of European funding and European project management in one project, in establishing a joint European network and in compiling this handbook. He provided us with technical support for this handbook.

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1. Introduction

1.1. The project

1.1.1. A Quick Overview

Project Title	**Exchange of good practices and network creation in adult education and e-learning in the field of EU funding**
Project Acronym	**EU-Learning**
Project Number	2019-1-DE02-KA204-006527
Start Date	01.10.2019
End Date	31.07.2021
Total Duration	22 Month
Beneficiary Organisation	EUFRAK-EuroConsults Berlin GmbH (EUFRAK | DE)
Project Partners	Building Bridges (ESP) European Fund Management Consulting (efmc | EE) European Project Association (epa | BE) EuroVienna EU-consulting & –management GmbH (AT) Informo (HR) Instituto Pedro Nunes (IPN | PT) Prodos Consulting (IT)
Deliverables	**Handbook:** Information on the EU 2021-2027 Funding Programs **Network: PROFUND** – Cluster for European Fundraising Training
Activities	Transnational Project Meetings LTTA: Training of Trainers Activities
Target Group	• **Training organizations and professionals** active in the field EU funding and EU project management • **Organizations and professionals** aiming at applying for EU funding and implementing EU projects • **- Participants of trainings** in the field of EU funding and project management
Website	www.eu-learning.net
Contact	**Project Manager:** Tamara Hinz (EUFRAK) **eMail:** tamara.hinz@euroconsults.eu **Telephone:** +49 30 53216-763

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Agreement No: 2019-1-DE02-KA204-006527

Nationale Agentur beim Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung NABiBB BILDUNG FÜR EUROPA

EULEARNING

WHAT WE DO

Within the frame of the Strategic Partnership, we create a **European network** to discuss good practices and innovations. Further, we **get ready for the new funding period** through developing a handbook with particularities on the EU 2021-2027 funding period.

IMPACT

Project Partners:
- Expansion of knowledge and expertise
- Improved and/or new trainings & methodological approaches (especially eLearning)
- Expanded (international) partner network

Training Organizations and Professionals (in general):
- Firsthand information on the new funding period (with the handbook)
- Possibility to exchange knowledge, experiences & ideas
- Find trusted partners for new joint training activities or new projects in the field of EU funding and project management
- Possibility to jointly develop European standards for trainings on EU funding

Organizations aiming to apply for EU funding:
- Improved knowledge on EU funding possibilities
- Improved support when applying for EU funds
- Improved support in managing EU funds

Participants of Trainings:
- Better and more pertinent educational offers
- Experience new way of learnings (e.g. eLearning)
- Improved project planning
- Improved proposal writing skills
- Improved management skills for EU projects

PARTNERS

8 organizations active in the educational field of EU funding and project management:

- EUFRAK-EuroConsults Berlin GmbH
- Building Bridges Cultural Association
- European Fund Management Consulting
- European Project Association
- EuroVienna EU-consulting & -management GmbH
- Informo
- Instituto Pedro Nunes
- Prodos Consulting

PRODUCTS

1. **Handbook:** Information on the EU 2021-2027 Funding Programs
2. **Network:** "Network of Institutions Active in the Field of Education in EU Funding"

TARGET GROUP

1. **Training organizations and professionals** active in the field EU funding and EU project management
2. **Organizations and professionals** aiming at applying for EU funding and implementing EU projects
3. **Participants of trainings** in the field of EU funding and project management

CONTACT PERSON

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Project Manager
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1.1.2. short description of the project

WHAT DID WE DO?

The consortium worked together within the Erasmus+ (KA2) project "EU-Learning". The project followed two aims, the creation of a European wide *network* of training institutions active in the field of European funding and project management and secondly, to establish this *handbook* on the new European funding phase 2021-2027.

EU-Learning planned to create a European *network* to discuss good practices and innovations in the trainings that each organisation offers with a specific focus on eLearning. Through the exchange of good practices e.g. new trainings, new methodological approaches and new opportunities will be developed. The objective is to provide better and more pertinent educational offers to our common target group: the EU projects stakeholders. In this frame the network **PROFUND – Cluster for European Fundraising Training** was founded. The consortium believes in challenging the status quo through a networking space where opportunities may rise and see the day, where new collaborations are set out in the short, medium, and long term!

<u>The specific objectives of the Cluster are:</u>

- To be a platform for professionals and organisations active in the field of EU Funding education, where they can exchange knowledge and best practices.
- To constitute a pool of experts in the field of education on EU Funding and EU Project Management.
- To be a partner platform and allow organisations in the field of EU Funding education to quickly form consortiums and other new corporations in common projects and training.
- To develop European standards for education in the field of EU Funding in the long term.
- To strengthen European collaboration of institutions active in the field of education in EU funding

The reason for the development of this *handbook* was to get ready for the new funding period through a constant exchange of information and materials between all project partners. Further, this handbook portrays a great resource for organisations and individual professional trainers offering education in the field of EU funding and EU project management, offering first-hand information on the new funding period that can be integrated in their trainings. It also offers a first insight and a good starting point for organisations who would like to apply for European funding.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

You can either get in touch with either of the project partners individually or join PROFUND. At PROFUND you can actively participate and contribute via:

- Posting information on trainings and events relevant to the field of EU-funding
- Requesting and/or offering collaborations with other network members
- Initiating trainings and common projects in the field of EU Funding education

1.1.3. **The Partners**

The consortium consists of **8 organisations active in the field of EU funding**. Some of the partners have a specific focus on the educational sector, while others focus more on the field of consulting. However, all partners cover a wide range of different topics, all related to EU funding and its educational sector. In the following the consortium is presented more in detail.

Building Bridges Cultural Association was founded in 2008 with the aim of promoting European mobilities and funding opportunities as a way of fostering EU values and cultural awareness among youth and young professionals interested in expanding their reach. At a local level, Building Bridges is presented as a tool to assist and support the implementation of non-formal education courses and improving knowledge of European labour system practices.

Our organisation gathers professionals and volunteers with different backgrounds and experience. Our managing team is in charge of the management, monitoring and implementation of the EU projects, specially KA1 and KA2 projects under Erasmus+. Our team is integrated by staff who gained Leonardo, Erasmus, EVS
and European Social Fund grants. We also have experienced staff in the Eurodesk network as National Coordinator and Team Europe network.

We work with organisations in the fields of employment, youth information, culture, education and youth Through the years, this has given us the opportunity of building a considerable database
to pull from, including, but not limited to, youth, young professionals, organizations (both local and throughout europe), educational institutions (at various level from VET to Universities),
community and senior centers, and local and regional governments.

European Fund Management Consulting (EFMC) is one of the leading organisations in Europe specialised in the financial management of European Union Research & Innovation projects (FP7 & H2020). Established in January 2014, EFMC has its headquarters in Tallinn, Estonia and back office in Paris, France. Our organisation supports beneficiaries of European Grants in all financial issues concerning European projects. The main specialization is research grants such as FP7 and H2020.

Our clientele include SMEs, Universities, laboratories, private and public companies, NGOs and research centres from all over Europe and our partners are mainly Financial and Project Managers who are in charge of EU research projects (mainly FP7 & H2020).

The **European Projects Association (epa)** is a non-profit organization focusing on research and development, innovation, and internationalization. It was established in Brussels in 2008 as a network of dedicated and experienced professionals driven by the common aim of creating a unique resource centre for individuals and organizations involved in EU funded projects.

Making the best use of information and communication technologies it acts as a cooperation network that facilitates interaction between project partners, organizations, stakeholders, and institutions. The European Projects Accelerator developed by EPA members provides training courses on effective and efficient use of EU funds.

MORE INFO

https://europeanprojects.org/

EUFRAK-EuroConsults Berlin GmbH (EUFRAK) is one of the leading companies for training and consulting in the field of European funding and project management in Germany.

SECTORS

◆ education ◆ culture ◆ research & innovation ◆ asylum and migration ◆ social inclusion ◆ environment ◆ health ◆ research & innovation

EDUCATION

We offer defined sets of training, ranging from 9 to 19 weeks duration, varying in intensity and foci within EU funding and project management. Training tailored to our clients' needs range from 1-5 days and target organisations/companies, both in the governmental and non-governmental sector.

EUFRAK puts great emphasis on new learning and teaching methods and all trainings vary from the classical face to face approach to eLearning and/or a combination of both, blended learning.

CONSULTING

Besides training we also offer consulting on the entire project life cycle: elaboration, proposal submission, management (project and financial management) and evaluation. The range of our customers and thus topics is remarkably diverse ranging from universities, NGOs, associations, cultural centres, public institutions, research centres etc.

EU-PROJECTS

Lastly, we also participated in and lead several EU funded projects during the past years mainly via Erasmus+, but also HEU or EUKI.

MORE INFO

www.eufrak-euroconsults.eu

EuroVienna EU-consulting & -management GmbH is the main service centre for EU projects in Austria. EuroVienna offers support in developing and implementing EU projects from start to finish - we will be by your side from the application to the certification. Our services include project development, project management, financial management as well as employee leasing for your projects. As part of our management programme, we administer your funds professionally.

Our training programme "EuroAccess Training" will allow you and your co-workers to successfully apply for EU funds and to correctly do the accounting for your EU-funded projects. Our experts are internationally renowned experts, sharing their expertise on both levels: academic and non- academic.

Our clients include the European Commission, City of Vienna, Danube Region Strategy, municipalities in the Danube Region and the western Balkans.

MORE INFO

www.eurovienna.at
www.euro-access.eu

INFORMO is a civil society non-profit organization particularly focusing on education. The main activities are addressed to impact territorial, business, professional and personal development. Since its establishment in 2004, Informo gained a valuable experience in organizing and performing trainings and workshops, as well as in contributing to the development and internationalization of local, regional and national projects, through the participation in European and international partnerships.

Informo's challenge is to produce an effective contribution to the social development through educational programs that produce visible changes. Applying innovative learning and working methodologies we are helping people and organizations to do what they love and love what they do. The engagement of young enthusiasts, volunteers, members and supporters is multiplying the effect of the knowledge transfer activities.

Informo has 12 years of experience implementing the Professional Improvement Program as the Croatian National Contact Point of the European Projects Association from Belgium.

MORE INFO

https://informo.hr/

Created in 1991 through a University of Coimbra initiative, Instituto Pedro Nunes (IPN) is a private non-profit organisation which promotes innovation and the transfer of technology, establishing the connection between the scientific and technological environment and the production sector.

Our mission is to leverage a strong university - enterprise relationship for the promotion of innovation, rigor, quality and entrepreneurship in private and public sector organisations by acting in three complementary areas:

- Research and technological development, consultancy, and specialised services. IPN's technological infrastructure includes a set of six laboratories in diversified technological areas.
- Incubation and acceleration of businesses and ideas. Promotes the creation and development of innovative and technology-based companies.
- Highly specialised training and promotion of science and technology. Provides high level continuous training with special emphasis on in-company action-training financed programmes.

MORE INFO

Website: www.ipn.pt

Prodos Consulting is an Italian-based consultancy that provides technical assistance and customized trainings to public and private entities within the field of EU project design and management.

SECTORS

◆ human rights, ◆ justice; ◆ asylum and migration; ◆ social inclusion; ◆ environment; ◆ culture; ◆ health; ◆ research & innovation

ACTIVITIES

- Call for proposal SCOUTING – **Obiettivo Europa**
- EU project PLANNING and DESIGN
- EU project MANAGEMENT and REPORTING
- EU project MONITORING and EVALUATION
- EU project COMMUNICATION
- Online and offline TRAINING – **Prodos Academy**

MORE INFO

- **Prodos Consulting**
- **Prodos Academy**
- **Obiettivo Europa**

2. The European Funding Phase 2021 – 2027

The following chapter offers an introduction to the new Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union for the years 2021-2027. It will start with a general overview, including the COVID-19 additions as well as the different types of European Funding Instruments. It will be followed by the main funding programmes of the MFF and details on their focus, eligibility criteria and budget.

2.1. The Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 (MFF)

The new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the additional EU Recovery Plan were adopted in December 2020, just in time for the start of the new **ninth EU funding phase 2021-2027**.

However, the MFF is not to the same as the entire EU budget. Rather, it sets the priorities for the EU financial programming. In other words, the MFF specifies in which areas the EU will invest how much over a period of seven years. It is first and foremost an expression of **political priorities**.

For the first time in the history of the European Union, the previous eighth EU budget 2014-2020 had a smaller volume than its predecessor. The EU budget of 2014-2020 had specifically only 960 billion euros, instead of the previous impressive 975 billion euros for the period 2007-2013. Thus, when planning the current EU budget, all experts assumed, at the latest since the announcement of the Brexit and the associated loss of one of the largest net contributors to the EU budget, that no more than 950 billion euros would be available for the EU budget phase 2021-2027.

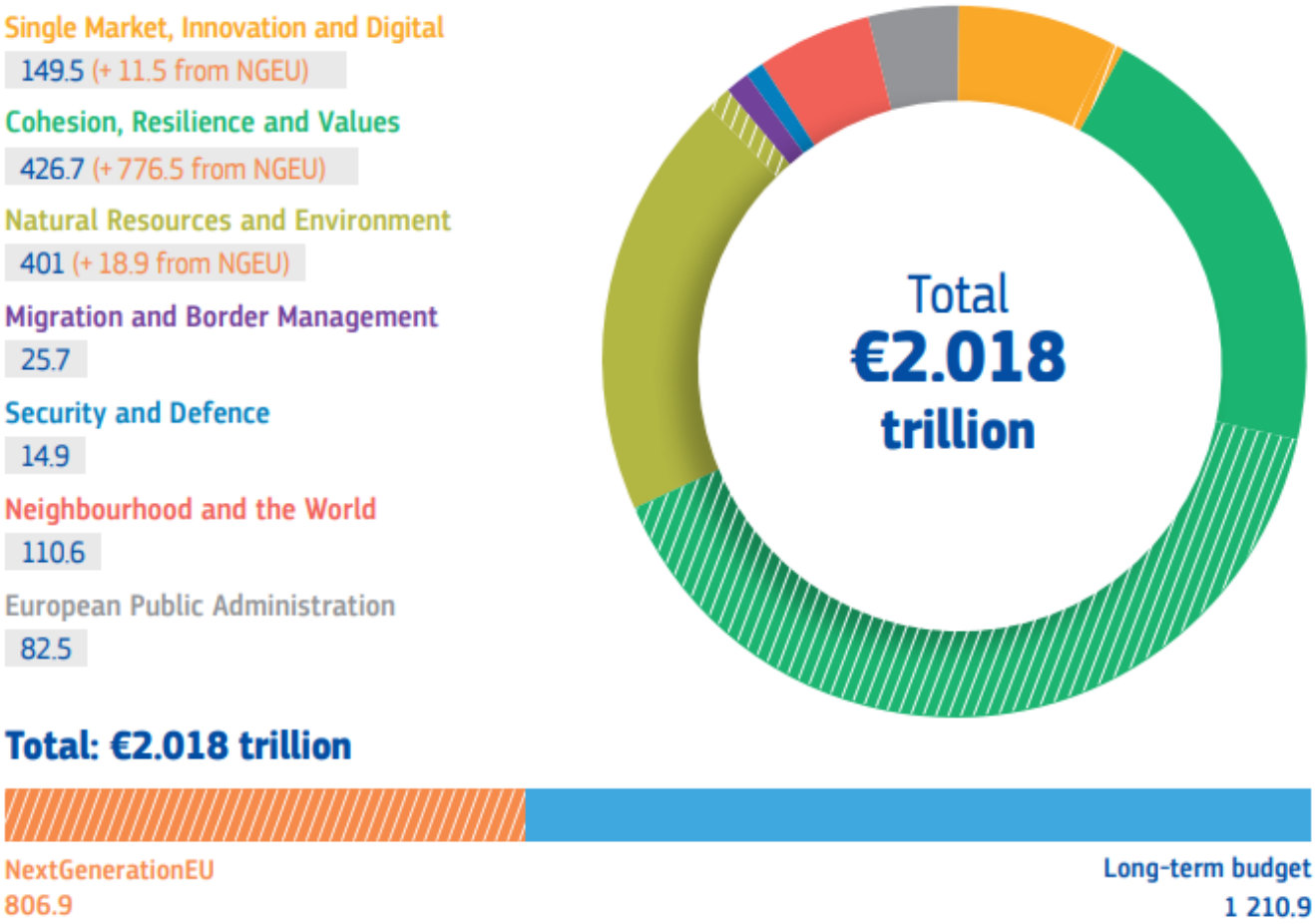
Between the end of May and mid-June 2018, the European Commission then published its first proposals for the funding programs of the multi-annual period 2021-2027, first exceeding the one trillion-euro limit. In response to the pandemic and the crisis, the Commission presented a revised budget proposal in April 2020, which then also included the new post-COVID reconstruction plan **NextGenerationEU**.

The EU budget 2021-2027 includes significant reprioritization in the areas of **climate adaptation** and **digitalization**. To weather Brexit and the Corona crisis, the seven-year EU budget is now significantly increased, to a total of **€1,279.4 billion**.

With the additional stimulus package on top, adding an extra **€750 billion** to existing EU funding instruments, it represents an excellent opportunity for all interested parties to boost the economy across Europe in the coming years.

The **general trends** of the new MFF and its programs are:

- Greater European cohesion with a larger budget
- Creation of synergies and unification of redundant programs under uniform regulations.
- More efficient and more targeted use of EU funds
- Strong focus on the topics of sustainability, environment & climate, and digitization
- More money for the thematic working flagship programs (APs). Less money for infrastructure and cohesion (ESIF)



(Source: European Commission)

In the following the complete budget of the Commission is portrayed again in figures:

(EUR million – 2018 prices)

Commitment appropriations	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2021-2027
1. Single Market, Innovation and Digital	**19 712**	**19 666**	**19 133**	**18 633**	**18 518**	**18 646**	**18 473**	**132 781**
2. Cohesion, Resilience and Values	**49 741**	**51 101**	**52 194**	**53 954**	**55 182**	**56 787**	**58 809**	**377 768**
2a. Economic, social and territorial cohesion	45 411	45 951	46 493	47 130	47 770	48 414	49 066	330 235
2b. Resilience and values	4 330	5 150	5 701	6 824	7 412	8 373	9 743	47 533
3. Natural Resources and Environment	**55 242**	**52 214**	**51 489**	**50 617**	**49 719**	**48 932**	**48 161**	**356 374**
of which: Market related expenditure and direct payments	38 564	38 115	37 604	36 983	36 373	35 772	35 183	258 594
4. Migration and Border Management	**2 324**	**2 811**	**3 164**	**3 282**	**3 672**	**3 682**	**3 736**	**22 671**
5. Security and Defence	**1 700**	**1 725**	**1 737**	**1 754**	**1 928**	**2 078**	**2 263**	**13 185**
6. Neighbourhood and the World	**15 309**	**15 522**	**14 789**	**14 056**	**13 323**	**12 592**	**12 828**	**98 419**
7. European Public Administration	**10 021**	**10 215**	**10 342**	**10 454**	**10 554**	**10 673**	**10 843**	**73 102**
of which: Administrative expenditure of the institutions	7 742	7 878	7 945	7 997	8 025	8 077	8 188	55 852
TOTAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	**154 049**	**153 254**	**152 848**	**152 750**	**152 896**	**153 390**	**155 113**	**1 074 300**
TOTAL PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS	**156 557**	**154 822**	**149 936**	**149 936**	**149 936**	**149 936**	**149 936**	**1 061 058**

(Source: European Commission)

2.2. The COVID19-addition of € 750 billions

To provide sustained support to those most in need, to promote investments and reforms and not only to strengthen the EU economies, but to lift them out of the crisis, the European Commission launched the so-called **EU Recovery Plan**. With about **€750 billion**, this is the largest stimulus package that has ever been financed from the EU budget.

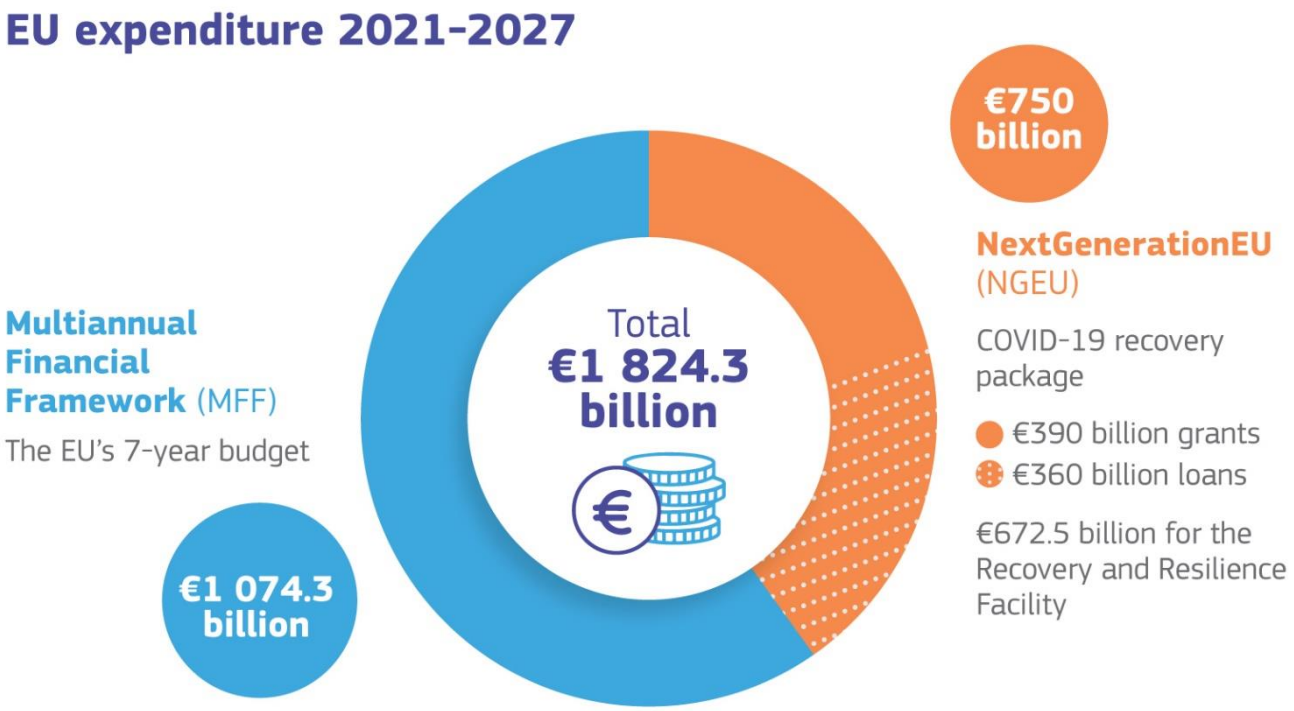
The first part of the Recovery Plan is the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2021-2027, with the amount of **€1,279.5 billion.**

The second part of the development plan is the **Next Generation EU Fund** (NextGenEU), with a budget of **€750 billion**. This is a **temporary development plan for the years 2021-2022**, which is intended to cushion the effects of the corona pandemic on the European society and economy by supporting reforms and investments. Nevertheless, it also focuses on overarching thematic priorities such as the **Green Deal**, **digitization,** and the **resilience of the EU**.

To finance this fund, which was not included in the budget, and which was also legally decided by the Council around Parliament and thus the budget, the Commission is for the very first-time taking loans of up to EUR 750 billion on behalf of the Union on the financial markets. The money brought in in this way must then be repaid from future EU budgets that start after 2027, but no later than 2058.

The President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, summarized the NextGenEU economic instrument with its three pillars as follows:

- Focus on the areas where there is the greatest need and the greatest potential
- Short-term and a further focus on the important first years of the upswing up to 2022
- Combination of **grants** and **loans**
- Possibility to advance part of the investments in 2020



(Source: European Commission)

2.3. European Funding structured by their goals and strategies

Why a separate section on European strategies in a funding overview?

Grants exist for one reason: they are intended to implement the goals of the funding body through financial incentives to the grant recipients. In other words, with grants, the grant recipients are encouraged to voluntarily (but paid) support the funding body, the European Union, to achieve their EU goals.

If the funding recipient(s) are also able to realise their own goals through the funded project, the EU funding body has no objection, as long as the direction towards the EU goals remains the same and the achievement of the EU goals is not jeopardised.

How does the funding body, in this case the European Union, define its goals? With **strategies**, which it then underpins more and more:[1] The European Union has a multitude of strategies, sub-strategies, priorities, political goals or even directives, organised by countries & regions, specialist sectors, funding instruments or even annual slices. There are strategies that are overarching across thematic sectors and funding instruments, such as the EU's **Gender Mainstreaming Strategy**, which must be taken into consideration in all funded activities and in every EU funding instrument.

Similarly, there are EU strategies that apply only to a specific region of Europe and only to one EU funding instrument. One example is the **EU Strategy for Danube Region** (EUSDR), which applies to a very limited extent to the *INTERREG B funding instrument Danube Region* and the narrow geographical corridor along the Danube, between Donaueschingen and the Romanian Danube Delta on the Black Sea, but not beyond.

Other EU strategies refer to only one sector, such as the **EU Biodiversity Strategy** in the field of **nature conservation** or the **EU Bologna Strategy** in the field of **higher education**.

We do not provide you with an overview of the many individual strategies and priorities that relate to individual subject sectors or funding instruments. Below we would though like to briefly outline the major strategies that subdivide the funding instruments.

In section 3.1.2 of this handbook, we go into detail about individual strategies of the European Union and structure them once again.

In section 2.5.6 we have sorted the European funding instruments according to individual thematic areas and added concrete individual strategies for the thematic areas. In this way, you should be able to quickly identify the respective sectoral strategies of the European Union that need to be considered and develop a basic understanding of the respective EU funding instrument.

[1] *How decisive knowledge on these EU strategies is for the success of a funding application, can be read in Chapter 3 of this handbook.*

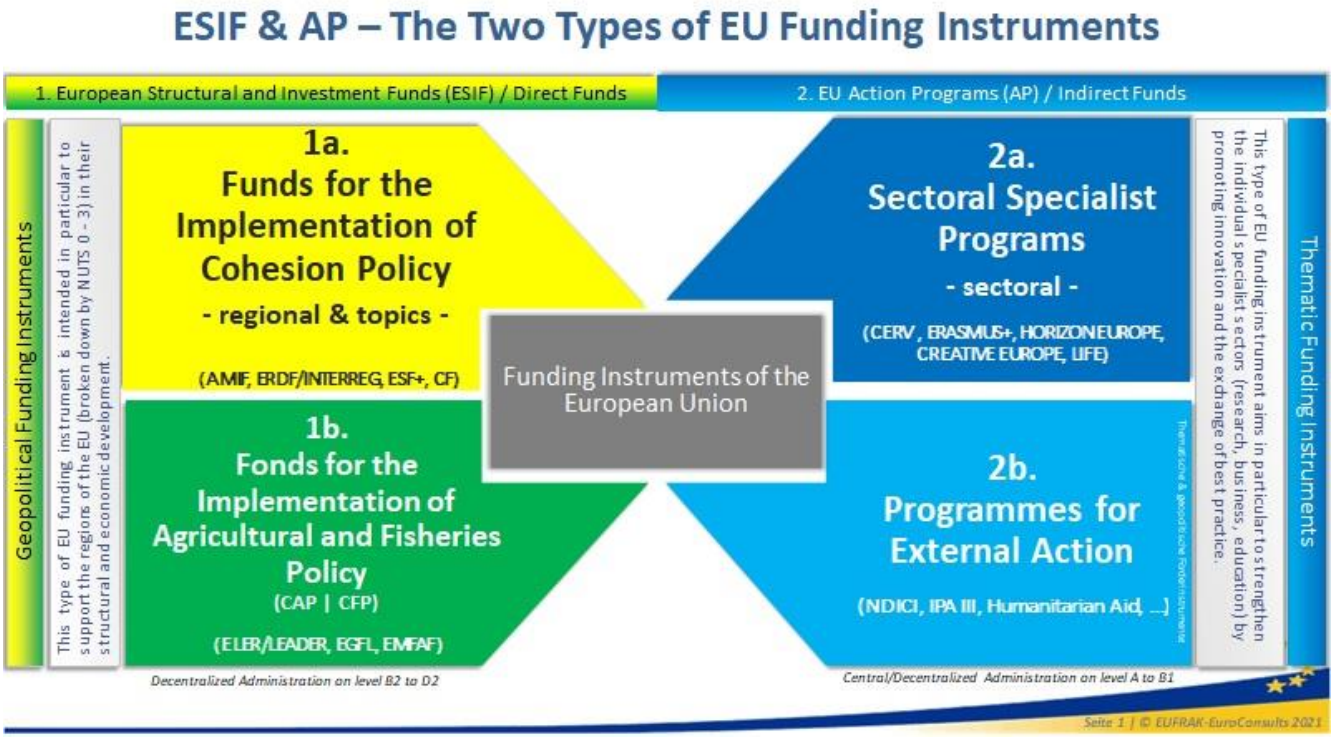
2.4. Types of European Funding Instruments

The EU funding instruments are classically divided into two opposing groups. The **"European Structural and Investment Funds" (ESIF)** (also called indirect managed funds) and **the "Action Programs" (AP)** (also called direct managed funds).

The ESIF/direct funds are often *subdivided into "**Funds for the implementation of cohesion policy**" and "**funds for the implementation of agricultural and fisheries policy**".*

*The **APs/direct managed funds** are divided into "**sectoral specialist programs**" and "**programs for external action**". The "sectoral specialist programs" have an internal impact and operate for the EU27. They are mainly used by the member states of the EU. The "programs for external action" have an impact outside of the EU and are meant to implement the **EU foreign policy**.*

This general classification is primarily based on differences in administration, goals, and regional focus of the funding instruments.



2.4.1. Typical characteristics of the ESIF/indirect managed Funds

The ESIF are funds for predominantly national and regional projects, with or without local partners, to promote the structural adjustment of specific sectors, regions, or combinations thereof. **Management and administration are decentralised** and the responsibility of the individual Member States or regions. The management and administration are not centralised at the EU or its institutions in Brussels, as these funds are also primarily intended to have an impact on the ground and at national and regional level.

In the case of the funds implementing **cohesion policy** (ESF+, ERDF, Cohesion Fund, INTERREG), funding is distributed according to a regional key, with more money going to the less developed regions (in relation to the respective national GDP). In this way, the level of development of all EU member states and regions is to be gradually equalised through investments in the regions, infrastructure, economy, and population.

The **agricultural and fisheries policies**, on the other hand, are represented by their own funds (EAFRD/LEADER, EAGF, EMFAF) and represent a complicated system of subsidies for these two branches. However, to a small extent, projects dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the spaces surrounding these sectors (the EU's rural areas and waters) are also supported.

2.4.2. Typical characteristics of the Action Programmes/direct managed Funds

The EU Action Programmes fund projects that support the EU's common interests and values and contribute to the implementation of the European Union's objectives regarding **innovation**, **jobs**, and **growth**. They are oriented towards individual subject sectors, such as **education**, **research**, **culture**, **media** or **environment**.

The EU Commission supports European cooperation projects in various thematic areas such as research and innovation, entrepreneurship, culture, education, and the environment, each with its own funding programmes. These programmes are managed either directly by the various **General Directorates (GD) of the European Commission** (specialised departments) or centrally in Brussels and Luxembourg through **Executive Agencies** (EA) mandated by the Commission. In addition, **National Agencies** (NA) have been established in some subject sectors at the level of the nation states, which advise and in some action programmes also receive money from Brussels and administer it decentral at the national level (e.g. ERASMUS+).

External actions is a set of European funds almost exclusively for countries outside the European Union (EU-external), mostly in the EU's immediate neighbourhood or in Africa, Asia and South America.

The EU has put the fight for the goals of **enlargement**, **peace and security**, **political stability**, and **economic relations** at the heart of its cooperation- and development policy. This is especially regarding the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) and the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).

European institutions can apply for these funds too, but the activities must be carried out outside the European Union (with a few exceptions). Most of these funds are earmarked for cooperation and development projects, but projects promoting **political dialogue**, **good governance** and respect for **human rights** can also be implemented.

Funds for internal EU projects are rarely found in the external assistance programmes, which is why they will not play a role in the following chapters.

2.4.3. Summary

Below the main characteristics of both, the ESIF and AP are portrayed.

ESIF – European Structural and Investment Funds / Direct Funds	AP – EU Action Programs (AP) / Indirect Funds
1. Are only **managed decentrally in the regions**	1. Are **managed centrally and nationally**
2. **Objective:** implement **European cohesion policy, CAP & CFP**	2. **Objective:** Implement **sectoral strategies**
3. **Operate** in only one **clearly delimited region** (LAG, Land, Member State, EuroRegions)	3. Are effective **throughout the EU** (+candidate countries) and even **globally** in the field of external aid
4. **Allow investments** on a larger scale	4. **Hardly allow investments**
5. Often **larger funding volumes** per project	5. Often **smaller funding volumes** per project
6. Mostly **no transnational partners** needed (exception INTERREG)	6. Mostly **transnational partners** are needed
7. **Applications** mostly **more complex**	7. **Applications** mostly **simplified**
8. **Budget mostly** still as **detailed budget**	8. **Budget** increasingly based on **lump-sum**
9. **Target groups: All**, but **especially public bodies**	9. **Target groups: All, especially non-governmental organisations**, public bodies less
10. **Application language** almost always the **national language** (exception INTERREG, UIA, ...)	10. **Application language often English**, but **national languages** often possible (except for the summary)

2.5. The EU Funding Instruments in Detail

2.5.1. Quick Overview of EU funding instruments structured by strategies

In the following quick overview, EU funding instruments are sorted according to their type, the underlying basic strategies of the EU and the previously explained fourfold division. The highlighted programmes will be portrayed in detail in the following of this guide.

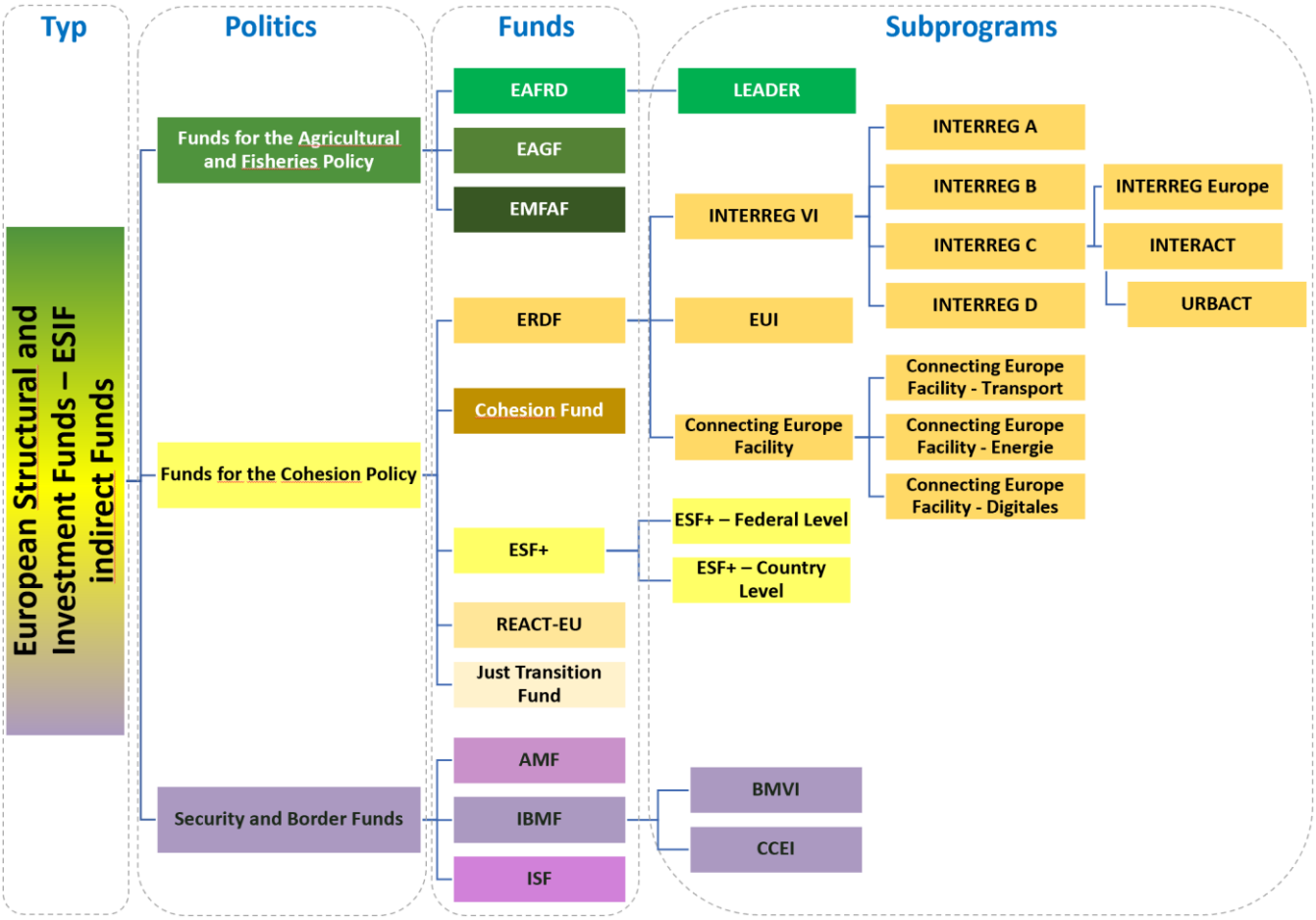
As can be seen, the greatest variety and number of EU funding instruments are to be found in the EU action programmes.

Please note that at the time of the first online submission (the completion of the EU-funded project) not all funding instruments with all data were fully known. The document will therefore continue to be developed even after the end of the EU funding and may already be available for free download in a more up-to-date version on the internet. Therefore, please look for a more up-to-date version or contact us at handbook@eu-learning.net

ESIF - European Structure and Investigation Funds *(indirect managed)*	**EU-Action Programmes** *(direct managed)*
for the implementation of the cohesion policy	**sectoral specialist programs within the EU27 member states**
AMIF, CEF, CF, ERDF, EGF, ESF+, EUI**, IBMF,** INTERACT**, INTERREG, ISF, JTF,** REACT-EU, URBACT	**CERV, CREA, COST,** CUSTOMS**, DEP, EDF, ERA+, EYE, ESC,** EDIDF**, ESP, EU4HEALTH,** EUAF**,** FISCALIS**, HEU,** IF**, InvestEU,** IIII**,** IMCAP**,** JASPER**, JUSTICE, LIFE, PERICLES IV,** PPPA**,** REFM**,** RFCS**, SMP,** TSI**,** UCPM
for the implementation of agricultural and fisheries policy	**programs for external action (outside the EU)**
AGRIP, EAGF, **EGFL**, EARFD, **EMFAF**, **LEADER**	EDF, **HA**, **IPA III**, **NDICI**

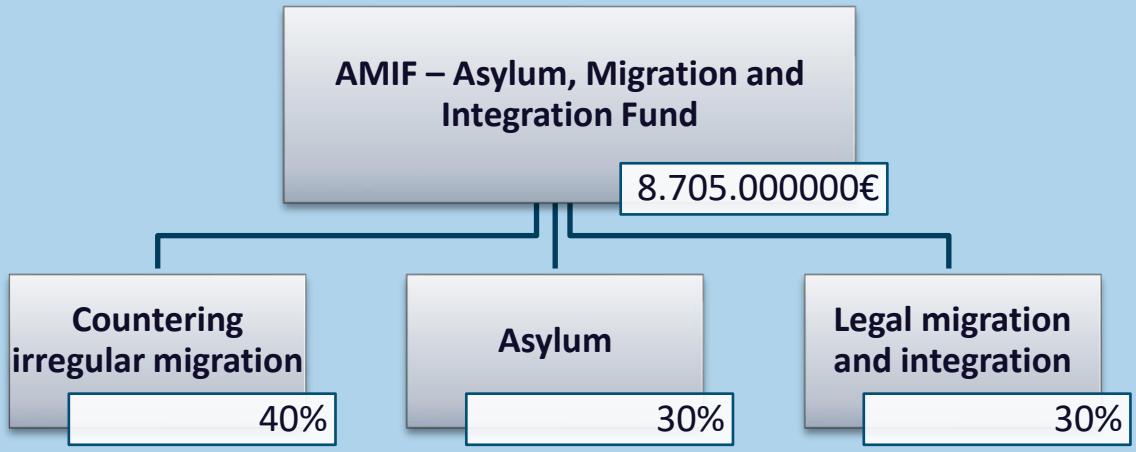
2.5.2. The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) – Cohesion Policy in Detail

This quick reference shows you the European Structural and Investment Funds in a complete overview. The first level shows the policies, the second level the main funds and the subsequent levels their sub-programmes.



2.5.2.1. AMIF – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Acronym:	AMIF	Former Name:	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
Name	**AMIF - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure	The dedicated budget is shared among 3 priorities as follows:		



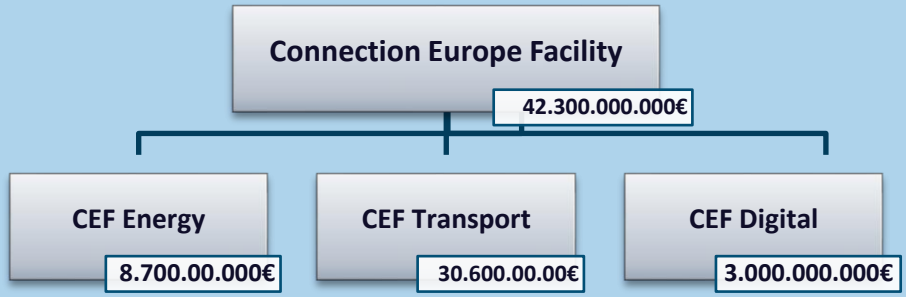
	DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) supports Member States' work to • provide reception to asylum seekers and integration measures • develop a common asylum and migration policy for the effective management of external migration • ensure synergies with cohesion policy (to support socio-economic integration), with external policy (to address the external dimension, including the root causes of migration) and with third countries.
Introduction	General objective: contribute to the effective management of migration flows and development of the common policy on immigration Specific objectives: The Fund will address the continuing needs in the areas of asylum, early integration and return. The objectives of the Fund are: • ASYLUM: to strengthen and develop all aspects of the common European asylum system, including its external dimension • INTEGRATION. to support legal migration to the Member States, including to contribute to the integration of third-country nationals • RETURN: to contribute to countering irregular migration and ensuring effectiveness of return and readmission in third countries. The Fund creates a flexible framework: Member States receive financial resources under their specific NATIONAL AMIF PROGRAMMES while a part of the Fund is for the promotion of cross-border cooperation in the light of the general and specific objectives of the Fund.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	Eligible Actions: • Integration measures implemented by local and regional authorities and civil-society organisations; • Actions to develop and implement effective alternatives to detention; • Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes and related-activities; • Measures targeting vulnerable persons and applicants for international protection with special reception and/or procedural needs, including measures to ensure effective protection of children in migration, in particular those unaccompanied
Thematic Priorities	☒ Social and economic inclusion ☒ Integration ☒ Migration
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 (NO DK) ☒ Third country listed in the work programme ☒ Third country associated to the Fund
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Private Companies ☒ Universities

	☒ Public Bodies and Authorities ☒ Non-profit organizations ☒ International Organizations ☒ Research Institutes 1. Legal entities established in a third country are eligible to participate where this is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the project 2. Legal entities participating in consortia of at least two independent entities, established in different Member States or overseas countries or territories linked to those states or in third countries are eligible.
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ Beneficiaries of international protection or needing it ☒ Applicants with special reception needs (Unaccompanied minor, victims of human trafficking) ☒ Staff of local and regional authorities and civil-society organizations dealing with migration ☒ Persons residing without authorization *(for the purposes of 'removal and repatriation')* ☒ Third-country nationals legally residing in a MS ☒ Displaced persons requiring temporary protection

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	EUR **3,14 billion** distributed as follows: • EUR **2,75 billion** for NATIONAL programmes • EUR **385 million** for EU actions		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	EUR **8,705 billion** distributed as follows: • EUR **5,5 billion** to the national programmes (shared management) • EUR **3,18 billion** to the thematic facility		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**Increase of 30%**		
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***
	75% of total eligible project costs 90% for projects implemented under the following actions: Integration by local authorities & society organisations; Actions to implement alternatives to detention; Assisted Voluntary Return & Reintegration programmes; Measures targeting vulnerable persons; 100% for operating support to NGOs and emergency assistance	EUR **200.000** according to the specific call	EUR **1.5 million** according to the specific call
Complexity of budget	***From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → 4***		

Criteria for the complexity of budget	The proposal template requires detailed description of activities and costs Each work package defines clearly outputs, deliverables, tasks, dedicated partner and allocated effort (person months) Travel, subcontracting and equipment costs
Tips for applicants on budgeting	Guidelines for applicants provide useful tips on how to complete the proposal and with regard to eligible costs FAQ are available on participant portal (call page)
Program Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	A multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach is required Associate partners demonstrate project feasibility Organizations representing the target group are key in the co-design of proposals Each outcome must be: linked to the project's objective and measurable through indicators with baseline values and target values Proposal preparation: 3 months for experienced project designers
Programme Specific Practical Information	Winning projects usually demonstrate a high degree of replicability Consortia usually include from 6 to 10 partners Writing a good proposal and involving the right partners are time consuming activities, so start the work at least 4/5 months before the deadline
Positive Aspects	Good guidance for the proposal writing The call text is usually clear and detailed The FAQ section is very useful Clear rules for budgeting
Negative Aspects	Bureaucratic burden The template is quite complex for new applicants Highly competitive calls AMIF focus on integration only includes third country nationals with regular residence
Related Links	AMIF a detailed Overview with all Details AMIF AMIF - REGULATION (Proposal) AMIF - ANNEXES TO REGULATION (Proposal) AMIF - LEGISLATIVE TRAIN SCHEDULE AMIF - LEGISLATIVE OBSERVATORY AMIF - COUNCIL CONCLUSION
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Include stakeholders' organizations in your partnership Engage your target groups during the design phase Foresee practical outputs and measurable outcomes
DON'Ts	Don't include a vague, standard dissemination strategy Don't limit the partnership to the minimum requirements Don't subcontract core activities

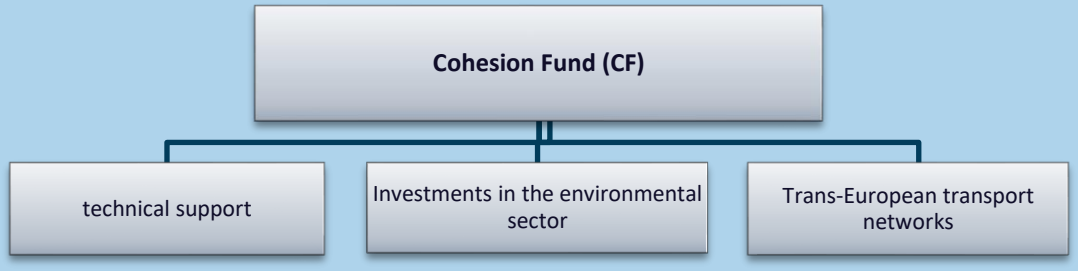
2.5.2.2. CEF – Connection Europe Facility

Acronym	CF	former Name:	Connection Europe Facility
Name	**Connection Europe Facility (CEF)**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The Connecting Europe Facility is program set up by the EU to support the development of highly efficient, sustainable and interconnected trans-European networks in the areas of transport, energy and digital infrastructure. For every of those areas there is separated subprogram.		
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**CEF ENERGY** will contribute to the completion of the Energy Union and support Europe's transition to clean energy following the "Clean Energy for All Europeans" package to: • Make the EU's energy systems better connected and more resilient than before, reduce supply disruptions, and become smarter and more digitalized. • Promote cooperation between Member States on cross-border renewable energy with technology projects and support a guarantee of lower renewable energy integration costs and an enabling strategic deployment of renewable energy technologies. • Resetting key trans-European energy network infrastructures, further integrating the internal energy market, promoting the interoperability of cross-border and cross-sector networks, and promoting decarbonization overall our economy. **CEF TRANSPORT** will be focused on decarbonisation, and making transport connected, sustainable, inclusive, safe and secure, particularly: • Advance work on the European transport network while promoting the EU transition towards connected, sustainable, inclusive, safe and secure mobility. • Decarbonize transport, e.g. by creating a European charging network & alternative fuel infrastructure and prioritizing green transport modes. • Invest in high added value transport projects in cohesion countries with an earmarked budget of EUR 11.3 billion. • Adapt sections of the transport network for civil-military dual use (for example in terms of technical requirements for dimensions and capacity) with a dedicated budget of 6.5 billion euros under the European Defense Initiative (EDF). **CEF DIGITAL** finances digital connectivity infrastructure such as: • the deployment of very high capacity broadband networks, necessary as		

	physical infrastructure to enable the provision of digital services and, more generally, the Digital Transformation of society and the economy. • Supporting key projects aligned with the 2016 Gigabit Society Strategy and focused on the success of the Digital Single Market, providing gigabit connectivity to socio-economic drivers such as hospitals, medical centers, schools and research centers, or 5G networks along major transport routes. • Providing very high quality wireless connectivity to local communities, such as municipalities, and making an important contribution to connecting communities and all households across the EU with very high capacity networks.
Thematic Priorities	☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Digitalisation ☒ Networks & Infrastructure ☒ Energy
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☐ IPA ☐ ACP ☐ ASEAN ☐ ☐
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Research Institutes ☒ Social Enterprises ☐ ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ SMEs ☒ Universities ☐ Public administration ☒ NGOs ☒ Entrepreneurs ☐
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 29,9 billion**
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 42,3 billion** **(CEF Transport – EUR 30,6 billion)** **(CEF Energy – EUR 8,7 billion)** **(CEF Digital – EUR 3 billion)**
Increase/Decrease in %	**+35 %**
Budget per project	***Average*** / ***Min.*** / ***Max.*** -- / -- / --
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)* → ***5***
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--
Programm Specific Tips for Applicants	

lessons learnt in 2014-2020	CEF Transport will continue the successful work of its 2014-2020 predecessor, with a focus on new priority actions CEF Digital will depart from the 2014-2020 CEF Telecom by being fully dedicated to support the deployment of high performance digital communication infrastructures. While building on the experience gained with the previous programme, CEF Digital will represent a step change as regards the scope, volume and intensity of the proposed EU support.
Programme Specific Practical Information	--
Positive Aspects	--
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	*CEF a detailed Overview with all Details*
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.2.3. CF – Cohesionfunds

Acronym	CF	Name:	Cohesion Fund
Former Programme Name (2014-2020)	**Cohesion Fund (CF)**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The Cohesion Fund (CF) is one of the main financial instruments of the EU's cohesion policy. Its purpose is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of development of European regions by reducing the backwardness of the least favoured regions. Support will only be granted to EU 27 Member States with a gross national income (GNI) per capita below 90% EU-27 average. Cohesion funding will strongly focus on objectives 1 (Smarter Europe) and 2 (Greener, carbon free Europe) of the five main objectives for 2021 – 2027 by supporting infrastructure projects, in particular the development of basic		

	infrastructures, as well as Trans-European Transport Networks and environmental protection.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	• mainly infrastructure projects • smart growth • green economy • connectivity and transport • specifically NOT supported: direct support to large enterprises, airport infrastructure and some waste management operations (e.g. landfill) Environmental Sector Support: The Cohesion Fund can also support energy or transport projects if they have clear environmental benefits in terms of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, development of rail transport, support for intermodality, strengthening public transport, etc. Trans-European transport networks: The Cohesion Fund supports infrastructure projects under the Connecting Europe Facility, in particular priority projects of European interest identified by the EU.
Thematic Priorities	☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☐ IPA ☐ ACP ☐ ASEAN ☐ ☐
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Research Institutes ☒ Social Enterprises ☐ ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ SMEs ☒ Universities ☐ Public administration ☒ NGOs ☒ Entrepreneurs ☐

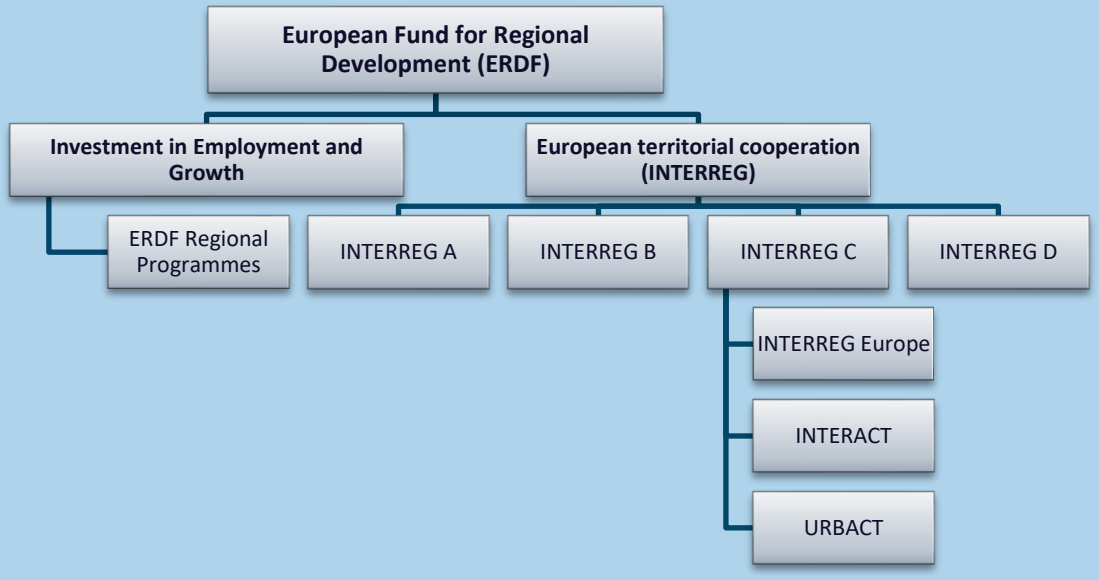
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 63,4 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 48,3 billion**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**-31 %**		
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***

Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) →* ***3***		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The support documentation is not very complex; There is a lot of information to research and assimilate regarding the implementations and the financial management of the Project.		

Tips for applicants on budgeting	SCO - Simplified Cost Options; Framework will be shared between all 7 CPR funds through a single rulebook; A specific EU co-financing rate of 80%, increased to 85% for outermost regions, agreed upon in the Common Provisions Regulation
Programm Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Over 80 criteria for simplification have been added. LINK CF and ERDF regulation will share a common, shorter regulation New criteria for allocation will be added (youth unemployment, low education level, climate change, and the reception and integration of migrants) to better reflect the reality on the ground. level of the minimum national co-financing rate, which is currently at 15% might have to increase
Programme Specific Practical Information	37% of the overall financial allocation of the Cohesion Fund are expected to contribute to climate objectives (compared to 25% for MMF overall)
Positive Aspects	--
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	Cohesion Funds a detailed Overview with all Details https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/cohesion-fund/ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1058&from=EN
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Close a strong consortium as soon as posible; Hire a specialist consultant if you don't have previous experience; Read the call thoroughly
DON'Ts	--

2.5.2.4. ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

Acronym	ERDF	Name:	European Regional Development Fund
Former Programme Name (2014-2020)	**European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**		
General Information			

Organigramm/ Structure	
Introduction	The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is one of the main financial instruments of the EU's **cohesion policy**. Its purpose is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of development of European regions and to reduce the backwardness of the least favoured regions. Particular attention is paid to regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, such as the northernmost regions with very low population density as well as island, cross-border and mountain regions. Regional development investments will strongly focus on objectives 1 (Smarter Europe) and 2 (Greener, carbon free Europe) of the five main objectives for 2021 - 2027. 65% to 85% of ERDF resources will be allocated to these priorities, depending on Member States' relative wealth.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	mainly infrastructure projects smart growth green economy connectivity, social issues and local development specifically NOT supported: direct support to large enterprises, airport infrastructure (except in the outermost regions) and some waste management operations (e.g. landfill).
Thematic Priorities	☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
Participating Countries	☒ EU27
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Health Institution ☒ Research Institutes ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Care Institutions ☒ Social Enterprises
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ SMEs ☒ Universities ☒ Public administration ☒ NGOs ☒ Entrepreneurs

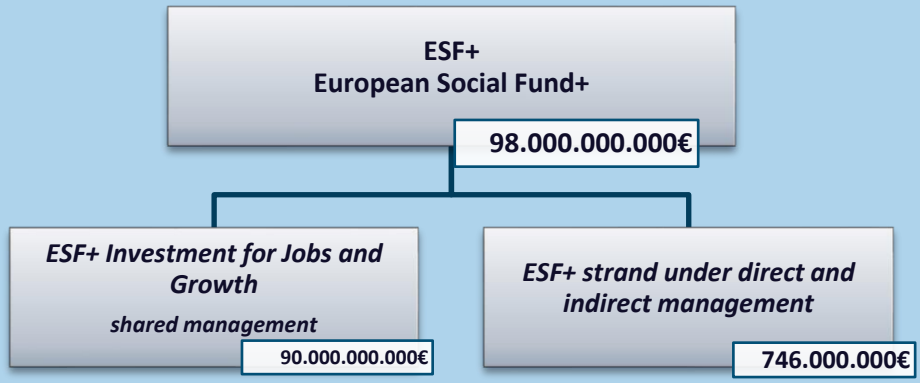
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 223,8 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 274,3 billion**		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**+22,5 %**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	---	--	--
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → 3*		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The support documentation is not very complex; There is a lot of information to research and assimilate regarding the implementations and the financial management of the Project.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	SCO - Simplified Cost Options; Framework will be shared between all 7 CPR funds through a single rulebook; A specific EU co-financing rate of 80%, increased to 85% for outermost regions, agreed upon in the Common Provisions Regulation		
Programm Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Over 80 criteria for simplification have been added. LINK CF and ERDF regulation will share a common, shorter regulation New criteria for allocation will be added (youth unemployment, low education level, climate change, and the reception and integration of migrants) to better reflect the reality on the ground. long term social and professional integration of migrants will shift from AMIF to ERDF + CF		
Programme Specific Practical Information	At least 30% of financial envelope is expected to contribute to climate measures (compared to 25% for MMF overall) At least 5% of the ERDF allocation for each Member State has to be earmarked for integrated actions for sustainable urban development Cohesion Policy investing in all regions, on the basis of 3 categories (less-developed; transition; more-developed), with different funding rates.		
Positive Aspects	✔ up to 85% financing from ERDF in less developed regions		
Negative Aspects	✘ *only up* to 40% financing from ERDF in highly developed regions		
Related Links	ERDF a detailed Overview with all Details https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf / https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625141/EPRS_BRI(2018)625141_EN.pdf		
General DOs and DON'Ts			
DOs	--		
DON'Ts	--		

2.5.2.5. EGF – European Global Adjustment Fund

Acronym	EGF	Former Name:	EUROPEAN GLOBAL ADJUSTMENT FUND
Name	**EUROPEAN GLOBAL ADJUSTMENT FUND (EGF)**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure	--		
Introduction	**Programme aims:** The EGF is designed to contribute to a fairer distribution of benefits from globalisation and technological improvements among workers made redundant and to help them cope with structural changes. The fund further commits to implement principles established under the EU pillar of Social Rights by improving social and economic cohesion among EU regions and Member States. **Specific objectives include:** • support to displaced workers and self-employed persons due to transformation or restructuring incidents • help most disadvantaged groups to cope with globalisation related changes (e.g. financial crises, transition to low-carbon economy and trade disputes)		
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	• job search assistance • careers advice • education, training and professional development, with focus on information and communication skills to cope with digitalisation • mentoring and coaching activities • entrepreneurship and business creation/start-ups		
Thematic Priorities	☒ **Employment** ☒ **Emergency Assistance** ☒ **Digitalisation**	☒ **Education and Training** ☒ **Globalization** ☒ **Labour Market**	
Participating Countries	**EU27**		
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** **EU national and public authorities** **Specific characteristics:** The initiative for an application may come from stakeholders, i.e. from the affected locality or region, or from the social partners involved, or the workers involved - but the application has to be submitted by the Member State and signed by a person authorized to represent the Member State.		
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ **Self-employees** ☒ **Workers made redundant**	☒ **Fixed-term workers** ☒ **Education and Training Institutions**	☒ **Unemployed youth**

	Specific characteristics: --
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 150 billion**
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 200 billion**
Increase/Decrease in %	**+ 33 %**
Budget per project	***Average*** / ***Min.*** / ***Max.*** -- / -- / --
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)* → ***4***
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	--
Programme Specific Practical Information	The programme pays special attention to disadvantaged, older and young unemployed people
Positive Aspects	15 % annual budget ceiling for "exceptional circumstances", allowing for unexpected costs und new project ideas.
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	EGF a detailed Overview with all Details https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2018)628246 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2d7caa06-63e7-11e8-ab9c-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

2.5.2.6. ESF+ – European Social Fund Plus

Acronym	**ESF+**	Former Programme Name:	**European Social Fund+**
Name	**European Social Fund Plus**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			

Introduction

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. The ESF has legal basis in the Treaty as one of the EU Structural Funds aiming to strengthen the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce disparities between regions. Its goal is to "improve work opportunities and contribute to raising the standard of living".

For 60 years now, the ESF has been promoting employment, improving skills and fostering social inclusion. It is estimated that the Fund helps 10 million people every year to get (back) into work, improve their skills or get out of poverty and social exclusion to fully participate in society. The ESF funded tens of thousands of local, regional and national employment-related projects throughout Europe: from small projects run by neighbourhood charities to help local people find suitable work, to nationwide projects that promote vocational training among the whole population. There are projects aimed at education systems, teachers and schoolchildren; at young and older job-seekers; and at potential entrepreneurs from all backgrounds.

Creating more and better jobs and a socially inclusive society are the goals at the core of the Europe 2020 strategy for generating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU. The ESF is playing an important role in mitigating the consequences of the economic crisis – the rise in unemployment and poverty levels. Priorities are to boost the adaptability of workers with new skills, and enterprises with new ways of working; to improve the access to employment by helping young people make the transition from school to work, or training less-skilled job-seekers to improve their job prospects; and to help disadvantaged groups to get jobs. This is part of enhancing 'social inclusion', helping people integrate better into society and everyday life.

The ESF+ is the new simpler (in terms of reducing administrative burden on national authorities or organisations benefiting from ESF+ measures) but stronger version of the ESF.
It is the result of a merging of the ESF, the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), the Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).

It will be a key financial instrument to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR - the 20 principles that will guide the actions under ESF+), within the 3 main fields:

1. equal opportunities and equal access to the labour market
2. fair work conditions
3. social protection and inclusion.

It will support Member States to invest in reforms in line with the country-specific recommendations (CSRs) and employment guidelines. Under the political

	agreement, the ESF + will: Invest in young people, who have been particularly hard hit by the socio-economic crisis following the coronavirus outbreak. Especially Member States which are above the EU average rate of young people not in employment, education or training (the "NEETs", aged between 15-29 years) should devote at least 12.5% of their ESF + resources to help young people find a qualification, or a good quality job. Support the most vulnerable suffering from job losses and income reductions: at least 25% of the ESF+ resources devote to promote social inclusion. Provide food and basic material assistance to the most deprived, by integrating in the ESF+ the current FEAD: at least 3% of the ESF+ resources. Invest in children who have suffered the effects of the crisis. Especially Member States with a level of child poverty above the EU average should use at least 5% of the ESF + resources to address this issue. Directly support social innovation, social entrepreneurship and cross border labour mobility, through the new EaSI strand. <u>Specific objectives under the proposed common provisions regulation policy:</u> 1. education & training systems 2. better access to employment 3. modernise labour market systems 4. better work-life balance, access to childcare, active healthy ageing 5. lifelong learning, up- and re-skilling 6. active inclusion, equal opportunities 7. integration of migrants and Roma 8. equal access to affordable services 9. access to quality and inclusive education and training 10. social integration of people at risk 11. food and material assistance Some topics are not new but are more prominent than before: social economy, skills forecasting, digital skills, early childhood education and care. To help repair the economic and social damage brought by the coronavirus pandemic, the EC proposed on 26 May 2020 a major recovery plan for Europe based on harnessing the full potential of the EU budget, amending the original ESF + proposal. The ESF+ will support Member States in tackling the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and achieving high employment levels, fair social protection and a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the transition to a green and digital economy.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	• *education* • *employment* • *social inclusion & care*

Thematic Priorities	☐ Research & innovation ☐ Development & Cooperation ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Consumer & Public Health ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion	☐ Environment ☐ Climate Action ☐ Justice ☐ Sports ☐	☒ Education ☒ Youth ☐ Migration ☐ Culture & Media ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☐ ASEAN	☐ IPA ☐	☐ ACP ☐
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Local and Regional Authorities	☒ Private Companies ☐ Natural Entities ☒ Social Partners	☒ Research Institutes ☐ ☐
	Specific characteristics: Europe with a more pronounced social component: • improving access to employment for all jobseekers and anticipating skills needs; • improving the quality, efficiency and relevance of education and training for the labour market; • encouraging active involvement in order to promote equal opportunities and address material scarcity; • Improving the availability, efficiency and stability of health and long-term care services.		
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☒ NGOs	☒ Universities ☒ Students	☐ Migrants ☒ Civil Society
	Specific characteristics: • Education systems, teachers, students and schoolchildren; • adult education staff; • young and older job-seekers; • potential entrepreneurs from all backgrounds; • persons with disabilities; • migrants; • socially excluded and vulnerable groups; • Roma; • minorities; • elderly persons; • less employable persons; • children and youth; • social partners and civil society organisations		
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 84,6 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 99,3 billion**		
Increase/Decrea	**increase of 18,86%**		

se in %			
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***
	€ 500.000	€ 100.000	€ 1.000.000 *(more often € 650.000)*
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **5**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The budget, i.e. the Financial Annex submitted with the Full Application for an ESF project is usually rather complex and detailed. When creating a budget to submit with an application, an applicant needs to divide all costs between direct and indirect costs. The minimum information an applicant needs to provide for the project budget is Total Project Costs, Total Project Yearly Breakdown, Yearly Breakdown For Each Delivery Partner (if there are any) and Staff Costs Master List (with the hourly rate information where applicable). Both match funding and ESF should be included in the budget. At Project level, the yearly total and project total figures for ESF Direct Staff Costs, ESF Other Direct Costs (if applicable) and Flat Rate Indirect Costs (if applicable) should match the same figures in the Financial Annex submitted with the Full Application. The Financial Annex is detailed presentation of the Total Project Costs broken into separate budget headings and budget lines for each budget item. Direct costs are the costs directly related to the running of the project. A beneficiary will have to provide evidence for all of these items if he/she wishes to claim back the money. **<u>This will include:</u>** • Staff salaries for the hours directly spent on the project • Recruitment costs • Staff training • Staff/volunteer expenses • Participant costs/incentives • Room/venue hire • Training delivery costs • Marketing and promotion • Communications materials • Equipment purchase • Equipment hire Indirect costs are the costs that cover the overheads and office costs that cannot be directly related to the ESF+ project. The total amount of money to be spent on indirect costs will usually be 15% of the direct staff costs and will form part of the total project costs. A beneficiary doesn't need to provide evidence for items that are included in indirect costs. **<u>These items include costs such as:</u>** • Copier • Printing • Stationary • Office rent (unless solely used for ESF related activity) • Utilities • Telephone • Insurance		

- Central staff costs (HR/management)
- IT Support

All ESF+ funded programmes will need to use the Simplified Cost Option (SCO) when working out their direct and indirect costs. When using the SCO one must use either the 15% Flat Rate Indirect Costs or the 40% Flat Rate Indirect Costs.

Both options cannot be used in one budget. If using the 15% Flat Rate Indirect Costs, the applicant must ensure to include all applicable costs in Other Direct Costs in addition to Staff Costs. If using the 40% Flat Rate Indirect Costs, the applicant must ensure that the only other costs in the granular budget are Staff Costs.

This method is useful if most of the project expenditure is staffing costs and there are not many other direct project costs associated with the project. It will allow a beneficiary to cover more of the indirect costs than the 15% option, but he/she will have limited funds to cover other direct project costs. Where staff roles are to be recruited in future, estimated costs must be realistic and aligned with the relevant Job Description/Recruitment Advert.
The job roles must match those within the project organogram. Volunteer Staff Costs must be calculated as per the wage rates set out in the ESF Eligibility Rules. If an individual will be working 100% of their working time on the project, the applicant claims for their whole salary and add on costs.

If an individual works part of their working time on the project, the applicant will need to use the hourly rate calculator to work out the amount that can be claimed for their time on the project. In that case, the staff will also need to produce detailed timesheets of what hours they have spent on the project and what activities they were completing.

Staff Costs for individuals working part of their time on the project must be calculated using the 1720 hourly rate calculation set out in the ESF Programme Guidance and ESF National Eligibility Rules, i.e. the hourly rate is calculated by dividing the gross pay of an individual's salary by 1720. When entering information in the All Project Staff Costs List the staff cost methodology must also be entered.

If using the "Other" selection at any point in the Granular Budget, it's necessary to provide a narrative explanation in the Full Application as to what these 'other' costs are and why the applicant considers these to be eligible under the ESF Eligibility Rules. The costs in individual years should equal the total budget overview and the financial annex (if applicable).

If descriptors are required for costs, the applicant uses the blank cells under the different costs the descriptor is related to.

Tips for applicants on budgeting	Provide clear information on how you have arrived at the overall and component elements of the costs, e.g. travel costs. Be as realistic as possible about the real expenditures. Conduct a preliminary market research during the application phase and collect preliminary offers that will be needed during the full application submission and/or budget clearing once the project proposal is

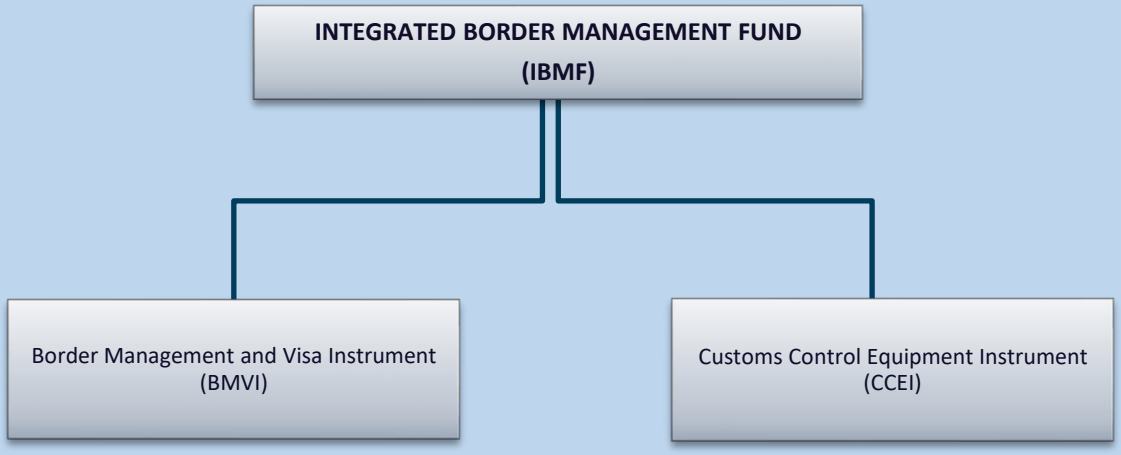
	accepted. That way the project implementation and public procurement, which is quite complex in terms of administration needed, will also be easier. Provide sufficient rationale for delivery model and unit cost assumptions. It is not sufficient to simply reply on the call to provide the unit cost; there must be a clear statement on how the cost has been produced. Be as realistic as possible about when expenditure will occur and be defrayed– ESF operates on the basis of defrayed expenditure i.e. when a payment leaves the projects bank account, not when an invoice or cheque has been written/sent. The submitted Financial Annexe must not have cost headings which are not relevant to the project. All projects should use only the following headings – ESF Direct Staff Costs, ESF Other Direct Costs and ESF Flat Rate Intervention Cost. 'Flat' financial profiles are usually unrealistic – this type of approach risks leading to further questioning from the Appraiser about the effort, realism and research you have put into your financial planning for your project. When selecting either the 15% or 40% FRIC option, be sure to use the correct calculation to produce the relevant cost. When elaborating the budget, include the cost of implementing activities that contribute to horizontal priorities such as gender equality, equal opportunities, sustainable development, etc. (material adjustments, sign language interpreter, etc.). If these activities have been stated in the description of the horizontal themes, but their costs are not included in the budget, the intermediate body may request that the mentioned costs be covered from your own resources.
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Lower administrative burdens and simplification of processes, also in order to reduce payment delays, are strongly advocated to support access and participation in ESF+ interventions in the next programming period. A need for improved capacity building at national and local level addressing both programme managing bodies and beneficiaries with training measures, technical assistance, and exchange of experience in targeted meetings and workshops, as experienced in the ESF Thematic Network on Simplification has been recognised. Also, capacity building for management authorities, auditors and beneficiaries for new social inclusion and poverty reduction interventions is needed. A need to speed up the implementation and to further strengthen it, also providing additional assistance to beneficiaries in all the stages of the project life cycle.
Programme Specific Practical Information	Bear in mind to build a professional consortium of relevant partners with capacities for project implementation, and to sign an internal partnership agreement with clearly defined tasks for each partner organisation. In depth information should be provided to show how the project meets the key requirements of the Operational Programme and the Call Specification, including a rationale on how the applicant has benchmarked deliverables. Sufficient description of the Delivery Model approach, including how it has been tested and/or whether it has been successfully used before should be provided. It is very important to present medium to long term benefits of the project. In depth information is required in relation to the applicants risk process,

	including the level of responsibility, and ensuring all risks have been considered (e.g. GDPR). Consistency in the use of the ESF logo and strapline in presented material need to be described, and additionally, narrative response to how the applicant will meet at least the minimum publicity requirements. Be sure to supply enough quality information to meet the minimum requirements for Cross Cutting Themes (horizontal issues) already at the Outline Stage. When submitting the Full Application, ensure sufficient response to conditions set at the Outline stage and provide information regarding the changes that have taken place since the Outline application. When submitting the Full Application, be sure to provide all the necessary financial documents to enable the Managing Authority to undertake the Due Diligence checks. Ensure consistency between the data contained in the application narrative and both the Indicator and Financial Annexes, as well as between the three tabs within the financial annexe – Cost Profile, Funding Profile and Funding Sources. Be sure to provide sufficient information on the procurement process to be used and how it will meet ESF requirements and national laws. Be sure to submit the application with correct level of match for the Category of Region, and provide full information included in the Financial Annexe.
Positive Aspects	✔ All relevant information for developing a concrete ESF+ project budget to be submitted with the Full Application for a concrete Call of Proposals are written in the Guidelines for Applicants published with the Call for Proposals. ✔ ESF programmes have relatively professional and helpful contact points and guidance during the implementation and reporting phase, although it vary from country to country, since the contact points often have very strict audit themselves. ✔ EC is continuing with simplification reforms at all levels, paying attention to ESF+ specificities, and improving information and guidance for (new, small) beneficiaries. ✔ ESF+ aims at involving all stakeholders (incl. NGOs, CSOs, municipalities) throughout the programme cycle and it is strengthening the partnership and consultation between public bodies, beneficiaries, experts and civil society actors involved in ESF+. ✔ There is increase in the use of simplification options, and particularly the use of SCOs that have proved to be effective for ESF interventions and beneficiaries.
Negative Aspects	✘ Still very complex application and implementation procedure and especially project administration. Administrative burdens continue to be considered an important challenge for ESF beneficiaries. The uptake of the simplification options is too slow, gold plating and bureaucratic rigidities are adding regulative complexities, and there is still a lack of understanding of the new rules. In some cases simplification procedures seem to have led to even more reporting requirements. ✘ Social innovation is considered an important challenge for the new programming period. However, the implementation of social innovation projects often clash with rules and administrative systems that were designed

	for traditional vocational training actions. ✗ Frequent payment delays - Be sure to have a sufficient financial capacity together with the partners, both for pre-financing project implementation and co-financing (matching). ESF operates by calendar years, with 4 set claim periods ending in March, June, September and December. ESF Project claims must be submitted to the ESF Managing Authority within 25 working days of the end of each claim period. Each claim will then be subject to range of checks by the ESF Managing Authority before payment can be issued, which can last from 1 to several months – you must therefore ensure you have sufficient cash flow to manage the project. ✗ Bear in mind that retention (normally 10%) is held back at the end of every European Structural Investment Funds Project whilst the final claim and final verifications are carried out. Ensure enough financial resources to finish the project implementation since the final verification can last several months after the project ends. ✗ The intervention rate is different for each Category of Region and the ESF Project costs need to take this into account when calculating and confirming the levels of match-funding you need to provide. For example: More Developed Regions have a maximum intervention rate of 50% ESF funding; Transition Regions have a maximum intervention rate of 60% ESF funding; Less Developed Regions have a maximum intervention rate of 80% ESF funding. ✗ There should be more effort to support ESF beneficiaries at the EU level since the national managing authorities in some countries tend to be inefficient.
Related Links (EU website, not NAs' website)	ESF+ a detailed Overview with all Details https://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=62&langId=en https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=325 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2020-european-semester-country-specific-recommendations-commission-recommendations_en
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Ensure you include sufficient resources to administer and manage your ESF Project. Be sure to fully comply with the requirements of the call and especially submit proper Indicator Annexe which includes all of the Outputs and Results as set out in the call specification. Sufficient information should be provided on the management and controls, including the document retention approach and an in depth description of the processes for drawing together claims for submission and the level of scrutiny undertaken.
DON'Ts	Never develop an ESF project just to meet the requirements of the call and get funding, with unreliable partners and/or if you are not sure you have all the capacity to implement the project. The real problems, in that case, arise during implementation. Do not underestimate the time requirement to get the project started – will it

	be necessary to factor in time for recruitment/procurement/formalising the partnership? It shows the quality of the project management and ensures quality implementation of the activities. Most projects spend very little in their first couple of quarters.

2.5.2.7. IBMF – Integrated Border Management Funds

Acronym	--	Former Programme Name:	--
Name	**Integrated Border Management Funds (IBMF)**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	**<u>Programme objectives:</u>** The Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) combines several components to facilitate coordination on the following objectives: ● common visa policy to maintain effective external border control and crossings ● referral of third country nationals in need of protection ● prevention and detection of cross-border crime ● emergency assistance and rescue operations ● enhanced interagency cooperation to take account of migratory and crime challenges **<u>Programme strands:</u>** **Border Management and Visa**: The Border and Visa Instrument should on one hand support effective European integrated border management at the external borders and contribute to an effective common visa policy. **Custom Control Equipment:**		

	The IBMF custom control equipment helps to ensure the EU´s external border management by facilitating the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment. It will also reinforce cooperation between relevant Union agencies, such as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA).
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**Border Management and Visa:** • purchase of border management equipment to be used by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency • IT technology **Custom Control Equipment:** • electronic systems and administrative capacity building equipment • purchase, maintenance and upgrade of eligible detection equipment for customs controls, and equipment to be used for control purposes (e.g. border control and security)
Thematic Priorities	☒ Migration ☒ Border protection ☒ Information Technology ☒ Corruption & Crime
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ OCTs
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** All Legal Entities **Specific characteristics:** • specified eligible entities in a consortia of at least two independent organizations from different EU member states or overseas countries can apply for funding
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ National Authorities ☒ Private Companies ☒ NGOs ☒ Research Organizations **Specific characteristics:** **IBMF** EU national authorities responsible for border management, including the Coast Guard insofar as they carry out border control tasks, national authorities responsible for return and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, other state and federal authorities, local public authorities, non-governmental organisations, international organisations, EU agencies, private and public law firms, networks and educational and research organisations.

	CCEI EU Member States' customs authorities		
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 2.7 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 7,39 billion (EUR 6,38 billion BMVI + EUR 1,01 billon CCEI)**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**+ 260%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **3**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Both funding components are modelled on the 2014-2020 Asylum and Migration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and aim to address the Union´s shortcomings of purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment for goods.		
Programme Specific Practical Information	--		
Positive Aspects	--		
Negative Aspects	--		
Related Links	IBMF a detailed Overview with all Details https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/646135/EPRS_BRI(2020)646135_EN.pdf https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018PC0473		
General DOs and DON'Ts			
DOs	--		
DON'Ts	--		

2.5.2.7.1. BMVI – Border Management and Visa Instrument

Acronym	**BMVI**	Former Programme Name:	**ISF Border**
Name	**Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI)**		

General Information	
Organigramm/ Structure	--
Introduction	**Border Management and Visa:** The IBMF border and visa instrument will support effective European integrated border management at the external borders and contributes to further development of the common visa, asylum, and immigration policies.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**Asylum:** Strengthen and further develop the Common European Asylum System. Legal migration and integration: facilitating legal migration to Member States according to their labor market needs and promoting short-term integration **Return:** promoting fair and effective return policies to contribute to the fight against illegal immigration, with a particular focus on sustainable return Solidarity: strengthening solidarity towards the Member States most affected by migration and asylum flows and sharing responsibility among Member States.
Thematic Priorities	☒ Migration ☒ Border protection ☒ Information Technology ☒ Corruption & Crime
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ OCTs **Specific characteristics:** All member states expect Denmark
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** All Legal Entities **Specific characteristics:** • specified eligible entities in a consortia of at least two independent organizations from different EU member states or overseas countries can apply for funding
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ National Authorities ☒ Private Companies ☒ NGOs ☒ Research Organizations **Specific characteristics:** EU national authorities responsible for border management, including the Coast Guard insofar as they carry out border control tasks, national authorities responsible for return and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, other state and federal authorities, local public authorities, non-governmental organisations, international

	organisations, EU agencies, private and public law firms, networks and educational and research organisations.
Budget	
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 6,38 billion**
Increase/ Decrease in %	--
Budget per project	**Average** / **Min.** / **Max.** -- / -- / --
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)* → *3*
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	--
Programme Specific Practical Information	--
Positive Aspects	--
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	BMVI a detailed Overview with all Details https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/646135/EPRS_BRI(2020)646135_EN.pdf https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018PC0473
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.2.7.2. CCEI – Customs Controll Equipment Instrument

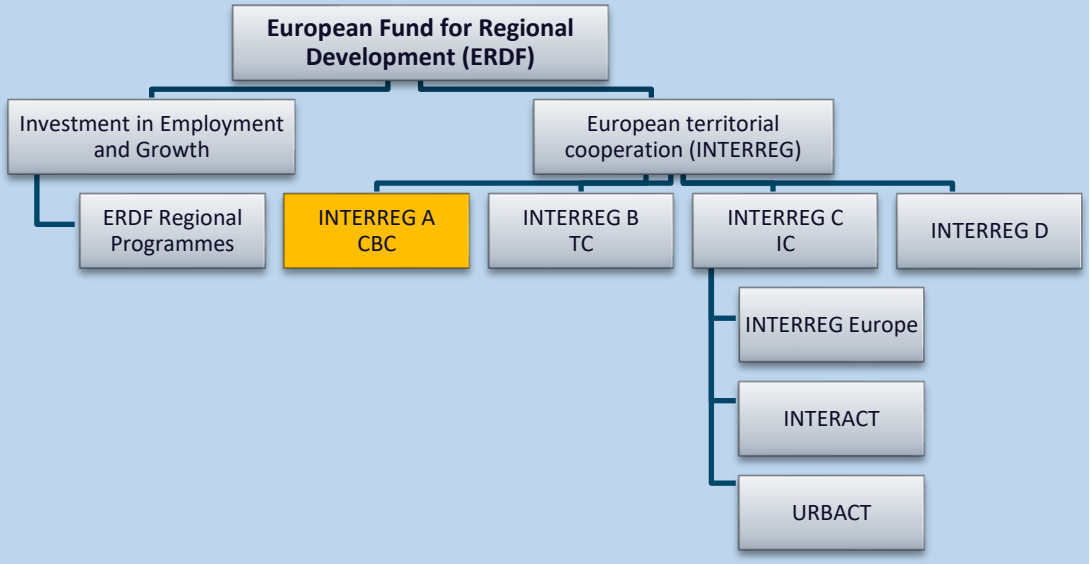
Acronym	Former Programme Name:
Name	**Integrated Border Management Funds (IBMF)**
General Information	
Organigramm/	--

Structure	
Introduction	**Custom Control Equipment:** The IBMF custom control equipment helps to ensure the EU´s external border management by facilitating the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment. It will also reinforce cooperation between relevant Union agencies, such as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA).
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	This newly established program is intended to: • contribute to the protection of the financial and economic interests of the EU and its member states • ensure security within the EU and protect it from illicit trade, while at the same time • support a facilitation of legitimate business activities. In particular, it will help to achieve adequate and equivalent results in customs controls. To this end, it will assist member states in acquiring, maintaining or upgrading relevant, modern, reliable and sustainable customs control equipment.
Thematic Priorities	☒ Border protection ☒ Corruption & Crime ☒ Migration ☒ Information Technology
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ OCTs
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** All Legal Entities *Specific characteristics:* • specified eligible entities in a consortia of at least two independent organizations from different EU member states or overseas countries can apply for funding
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ National Authorities ☒ Private Companies ☒ NGOs ☒ Research Organizations *Specific characteristics:* EU Member States' customs authorities
Budget	
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 1,01 billon CCEI**
Increase/ Decrease in %	--

Budget per project	Average	Min.	Max.
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)* → **3**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	CCEI aims to address the Union´s shortcomings of purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment for goods of the 2014 funding instruments AMIF and ISF.		
Programme Specific Practical Information	--		
Positive Aspects	--		
Negative Aspects	--		
Related Links	CCEI a detailed Overview with all Details https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/646135/EPRS_BRI(2020)646135_EN.pdf https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018PC0473		
General DOs and DON'Ts			
DOs	--		
DON'Ts	--		

2.5.2.8. IR VIA – INTERREG VI A (CBC)

Acronym	**IR-VIA**	Former Programme Name:	**INTERREG VA**
Name	**INTERREG VI – Strand A (Cross-Border Cooperation)**		
General Information			

Organigramm/ Structure	
Introduction	European Cross-Border Cooperation, also known as Interreg A, supports cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two different Member States lying directly on land, or maritime borders, or adjacent to them. It aims to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purposes of the overall harmonious development of the Union. This programme supports and facilitates territorial cooperation, with a view to overcoming formal and informal obstacles that prevent border regions from growing and developing to their full potential. It also facilitates cooperation of regions at external borders, addressing their specific development needs and contributing to a safer and more secure Europe. The cross-border cooperation strand should also involve cooperation between one or more Member States or their regions, and one or more countries or regions, or other territories outside the Union. Covering internal and external cross-border cooperation under this Regulation should result in a major simplification and streamlining of applicable provisions for the programme authorities in Member States and for the partner authorities and beneficiaries outside the Union compared to the 2014-2020 programming period
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	Building on a successful pilot action from 2014-2020, the Commission proposes to create the Interregional Innovative Investments. Regions with matching 'smart specialisation' assets will be given more support to build pan-European clusters in priority sectors such as big data, circular economy, advanced manufacturing or cybersecurity. For cross-border cooperation, the regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 3 regions of the Union along all internal and external land borders with third countries or partner countries. Regions on maritime borders which are

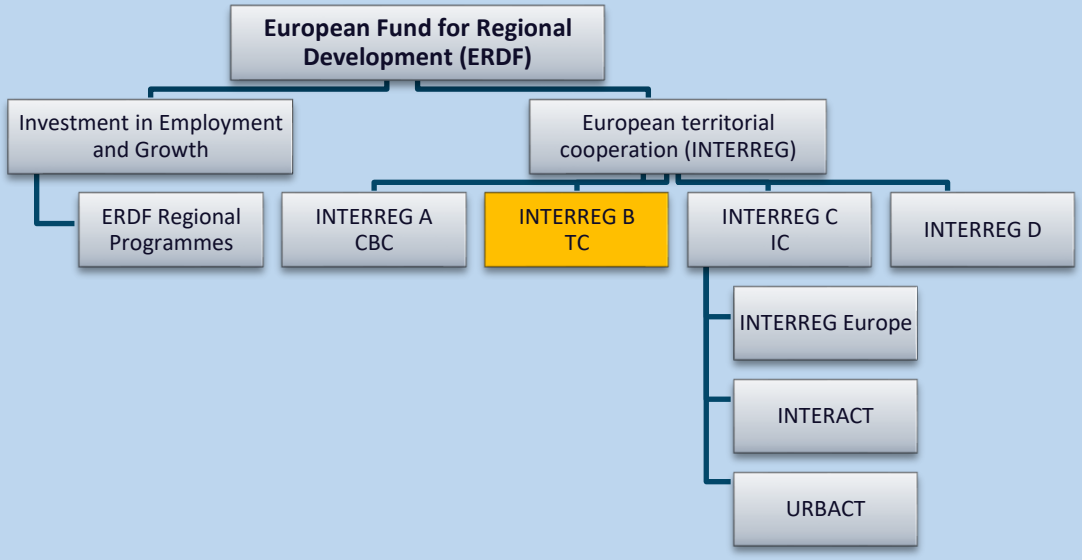
	connected over the sea by a fixed link shall also be supported under cross-border cooperation. **Specific objectives under PO4:** a) enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and improving access to Quality employment across borders; b) improving access to and the quality of education, training and lifelong Learning across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment and skills c) levels thereof as to be recognised across borders; d) enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable healthcare services across borders; e) improving accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services across borders; f) promoting social inclusion and tackling poverty, including by enhancing equal opportunities and combating discrimination across borders. **Proposals should focus also on:** • Enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders; • Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and • administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions;
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Development & Cooperation ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Research & innovation ☐ Consumer & Public Health ☐ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☒ Environment ☒ Climate Action ☒ Business & industry ☐ Justice ☐ Sports ☐ ☒ Migration ☐ Youth ☒ Europe for Citizen ☐ Education ☐ Culture & Media ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☐ ASEAN ☐ IPA ☐ NDICI ☐ ACP ☐
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Private Companies ☒ Social Enterprises ☒ Research Institutes ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☐ NGOs ☒ NGOs ☒ Public administration ☒ Universities ☒ Civil Society

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**10.1 Billion Euros (Total Interreg V Budget)** *7.5 Billion Euros: Interreg V-A (2014-2020)* *2.1 Billion Euros: Interreg V-B (2014-2020)* *0.5 Billion Euros: Interreg V-C (2014-2020)*		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**5.812 Billion Euros (June 2021)**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**Decreased by 22.5%**		
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***
	150.000 Euros (Interreg C data)	--	--
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)* → ***3***		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The support documentation is not very complex; There is a lot of information to research and assimilate regarding the implementations and the financial management of the Project.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	SCO - Simplified Cost Options; Framework will be shared between all 7 CPR funds through a single rulebook; Pre-financing to be paid for Interreg Programmes of 1% in 2021 and 2022, amount raised to 3% from 2023 onwards; Check thoroughly the specific regulation; The co-financing rate at the level of each Interreg programme shall be not higher than 80 %; Co-financing rate increased to 85% for outermost regions, agreed upon in the Common Provisions Regulation		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	80 simplification measures to be applied in cohesion policy 2021-27 (simplification handbook available online); All programme evaluation reports have confirmed the efficient and effective programme support to projects and the related satisfaction of beneficiaries; Emphasis on the intention to communicate broadly the positive results of cohesion Policy; Member States and regions have reinforced requirements in terms of communication, such as the organisation of events for the opening of big EU-funded projects and the development of social media outreach plans		
Programme Specific Practical Information	Select a strong consortia of partners; Carefully read the text of the Call; Present an Innovative approach on the project description, goals and methodology; Emphasis on the intention to communicate broadly the positive results of cohesion Policy. Member States and regions have reinforced requirements in terms of communication, such as the organisation of events for the opening of big EU-funded projects and the development of social media outreach plans;		

	Cross-border cooperation strand should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas as evidenced in the Commission communication of 20 September 2017 entitled 'Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions' ('Border Regions Communication'). As a result, the programme areas for cross-border cooperation should be identified as those regions and areas on the border or separated by a maximum of 150 km of sea where cross-border interaction may effectively take place or in which functional areas can be identified, without prejudice to potential adjustments needed to ensure the coherence and continuity of cooperation programme areas.
Positive Aspects	✔ Opportunities for Networking; ✔ Wide variety of elegible costs (staff, office and administrative, travel, expertise, equipement, infrastructures, etc.); ✔ Increased Flexibility provisions facilitating support for small projects and people-to-people projects: up to 20% within an Interreg programme may be allocated to small project funds; ✔ A complete and flexible set of support to technical assistance, tailored to the needs of each type of programme
Negative Aspects	✘ Co-financing rates decreased from 85% to 80% on 2021-2027 period
Related Links	INTERREG VI A a detailed Overview with all Details Interreg website https://interreg.eu/ EU Policy for European territorial cross-border cooperation https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/cross-border/#4 EU legislation in progress for European territorial Cooperation (Interreg) 2021-2027 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628228/EPRS_BRI(2018)628228_EN.pdf New Cohesion Policy https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/ Proposal (Document 1 &2) for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A374%3AFIN Special meeting of the European Council (17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 July 2020) https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/45109/210720-euco-final-conclusions-en.pdf Commission welcomes the political agreement on the Interreg Regulation https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/12/12-02-2020-commission-welcomes-the-political-agreement-on-the-interreg-regulation?utm_campaign=58c985f573a6a3222e00ec4c&utm_content=5fc7c49af8c8cd0001524a9c&utm_medium=smarpshare&utm_source=linkedin Official Journal of the European Union L 231, 30 June 2021 - Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external

	financing instruments https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Close a strong consortium as soon as posible; Hire a specialist consultant if you don't have previous experience; Read the call thoroughly
DON'Ts	Overestimate the budget

2.5.2.9. IR VIB – INTERREG VI B

Acronym	**IR VIB**	Former Programme Name:	**INTERREG VB**
Name	**INTERREG VI – Strand B (Transnational Cooperation)**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	Transnational cooperation, also known as Interreg B, involves regions from several countries of the EU forming bigger areas. It aims to promote better cooperation and regional development within the Union by a joint approach to tackle common issues. Interreg B supports a wide range of project investment related to innovation, environment, accessibility, telecommunications, urban development etc. The transnational programmes add an important extra European dimension to regional development, developed from analysis at a European level, leading to agreed priorities and a coordinated strategic response. This programme supports and facilitates territorial cooperation, with a view to		

	overcoming formal and informal obstacles that prevent border regions from growing and developing to their full potential. It also facilitates cooperation of regions at external borders, addressing their specific development needs and contributing to a safer and more secure Europe. Cooperation is possible over larger transnational territories or around sea basins, involving national, regional and local programme partners in Member States, third countries and partner countries and OCT's (overseas countries and territories), with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	Building on a successful pilot action from 2014-2020, the Commission proposes to create the Interregional Innovative Investments. Regions with matching 'smart specialisation' assets will be given more support to build pan-European clusters in priority sectors such as big data, circular economy, advanced manufacturing or cybersecurity. The regions to be supported by the ERDF shall be the NUTS level 2 regions of the Union, including outermost regions, covering larger transnational territories and taking into account, where applicable, macro-regional strategies or sea-basin strategies. **Specific objectives under PO4:** a) enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and improving access to Quality employment across borders; b) improving access to and the quality of education, training and lifelong Learning across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment and skills c) levels thereof as to be recognised across borders; d) enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable healthcare services across borders; e) improving accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services across borders; f) promoting social inclusion and tackling poverty, including by enhancing equal opportunities and combating discrimination across borders. **Proposals should focus also on:** • enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional strategies
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Development & Cooperation ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Research & innovation ☒ Environment ☒ Climate Action ☐ Justice ☒ Business & industry ☐ Education ☐ Youth ☒ Migration ☒ Europe for Citizen

	☐ Consumer & Public Health ☐ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion	☐ Sports ☐	☐ Culture & Media ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☐ ASEAN	☒ IPA ☒ NDICI	☐ ACP ☐
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies	☒ Private Companies ☒ Social Enterprises	☒ Research Institutes ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☐ NGOs	☒ NGOs ☒ Public administration	☒ Universities ☒ Civil Society

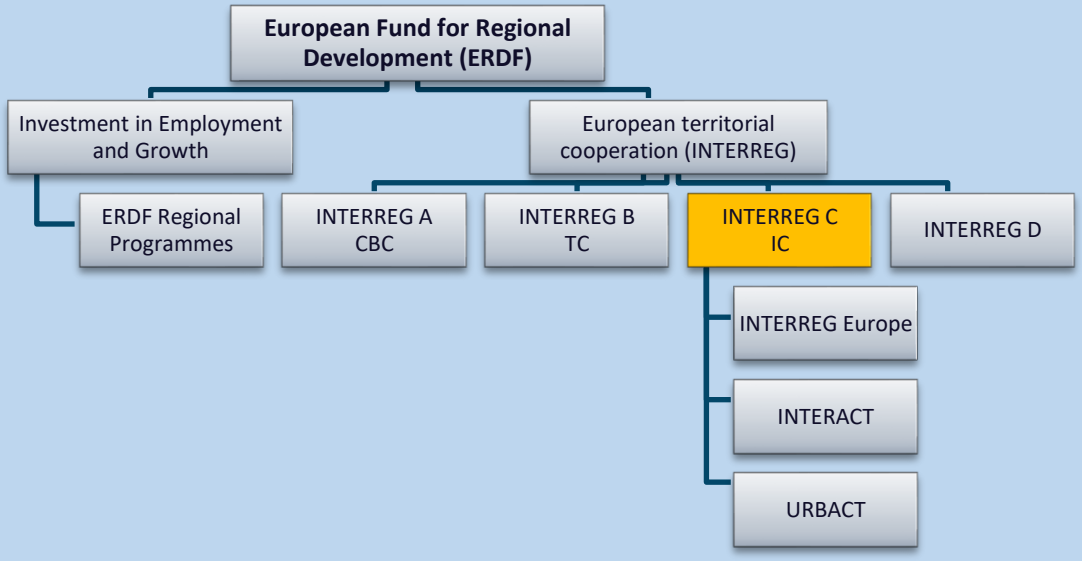
Budget

Total Budget for 2014-2020	**10.1 Billion Euros (Total Interreg V Budget)** *7.5 Billion Euros: Interreg V-A (2014-2020)* *2.1 Billion Euros: Interreg V-B (2014-2020)* *0.5 Billion Euros: Interreg V-C (2014-2020)*		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**1.467 Billion Euros (August 2021)**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**Decreased by 31%**		
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***
	150.000 Euros (Interreg C data)	--	--
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)* → **4**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The support documentation is not very complex; There is a lot of information to research and assimilate regarding the implementations and the financial management of the Project.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	SCO - Simplified Cost Options; Framework will be shared between all 7 CPR funds through a single rulebook; Pre-financing to be paid for Interreg Programmes of 1% in 2021 and 2022, amount raised to 3% from 2023 onwards; Check thoroughly the specific regulation; The co-financing rate at the level of each Interreg programme shall be not higher than 80 %; Co-financing rate increased to 85% for outermost regions, agreed upon in the Common Provisions Regulation		

Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
in 2014-2020	80 simplification measures to be applied in cohesion policy 2021-27 (simplification handbook available online; All programme evaluation reports have confirmed the efficient and effective programme support to projects and the related satisfaction of beneficiaries. Emphasis on the intention to communicate broadly the positive results of cohesion Policy; Member States and regions have reinforced requirements in terms of communication, such as the organisation of events for the opening of big EU-funded projects and the development of social media outreach plans
Programme Specific Practical Information	Select a strong consortia of partners; Carefully read the text of the Call; Present an Innovative approach on the project description, goals and methodology; Emphasis on the intention to communicate broadly the positive results of cohesion Policy. Member States and regions have reinforced requirements in terms of communication, such as the organisation of events for the opening of big EU-funded projects and the development of social media outreach plans
Positive Aspects	Opportunities for Networking; Wide variety of elegible costs (staff, office and administrative, travel, expertise, equipement, infrastructures, etc.); Increased Flexibility provisions facilitating support for small projects and people-to-people projects: up to 20% within an Interreg programme may be allocated to small project funds; A complete and flexible set of support to technical assistance, tailored to the needs of each type of programme
Negative Aspects	Co-financing rates decreased from 85% to 80% on 2021-2027 period
Related Links	INTERREG VIB a detailed Overview with all Details Interreg website https://interreg.eu/ EU legislation in progress for European territorial Cooperation (Interreg) 2021-2027 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628228/EPRS_BRI(2018)628228_EN.pdf Interreg B - Transnational cooperation EU Policy https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/trans-national *New Cohesion Policy https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/* *Proposal (Document 1 &2) for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments* https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A374%3AFIN Special meeting of the European Council (17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 July 2020) https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/45109/210720-euco-final-

	conclusions-en.pdf Commission welcomes the political agreement on the Interreg Regulation https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/12/12-02-2020-commission-welcomes-the-political-agreement-on-the-interreg-regulation?utm_campaign=58c985f573a6a3222e00ec4c&utm_content=5fc7c49af8c8cd0001524a9c&utm_medium=smarpshare&utm_source=linkedin Official Journal of the European Union L 231, 30 June 2021 - Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Close a strong consortium as soon as posible; Hire a specialist consultant if you don't have previous experience; Read the call thoroughly
DON'Ts	Overestimate the budget

2.5.2.10. IR VIC – INTERREG VI Europe (C)

Acronym	IR VIC	Former Programme Name:	INTERREG V C
Name	**INTERREG VI EUROPE (C)**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	This programme aims to strengthen europewide cooperation between the states and regions. • experience exchange to enhance territorial cooperation • institutional capacity building		
Focus of	• best-practise exchange		

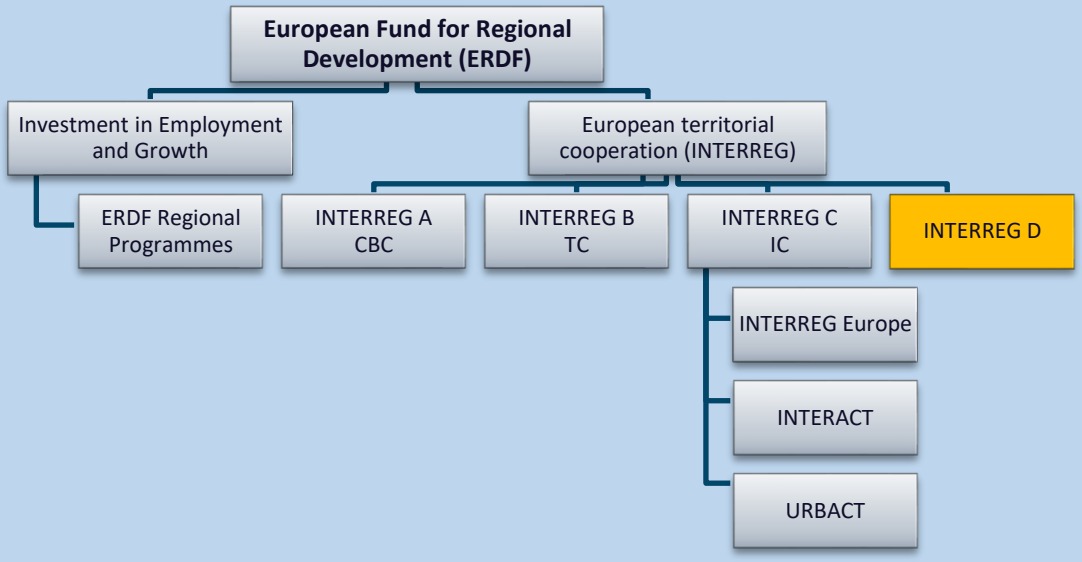
funding for 2021-2027	• capacity building • mobility actions • network building • technical assistance		
Thematic Priorities	☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☒ Development & Cooperation ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☒ Research & innovation ☐ Consumer & Public Health	☐ Environment ☐ Climate Action ☐ Justice ☐ Business & industry ☐ Sports	☐ Education ☐ Youth ☐ Migration ☐ Europe for Citizen ☐ Culture & Media
Participating Countries	☒ EU27	☒ EEA	☒ Switzerland
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies	☒ Private Companies ☐ Natural Entities	☒ Research Institutes ☐
	Specific characteristics: --		
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ Authorities ☒ NGOs	☒ Universities ☒ SMEs	☐ Migrants ☐ Civil Society
	Specific characteristics: --		

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 513 million**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 500 million**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**-2%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
		200.000	5.000.000
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → 5		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	simplified cost options and of lump sums obligatory below a certain threshold		

	support from the EU's external financing instruments possible pre-financing of 3%
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	rise in the maximum co-financing rate necessary (70%--> 80%) simplification needed (CPR handbook)
Programme Specific Practical Information	information https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628228/EPRS_BRI(2018)628228_EN.pdf
Positive Aspects	maximum co-financing rate for Interreg programmes to 80 % Opportunities for Networking; Wide variety of elegible costs (staff, office and administrative, travel, expertise, equipement, infrastructures, etc.)
Negative Aspects	*Co-financing rates decreased from 85% to 80% on 2021-2027 period*
Related Links	**INTERREG VIC-EUROPE a detailed Overview with all Details** www.interreg.eu https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN EU legislation in progress for European territorial Cooperation (Interreg) 2021-2027 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628228/EPRS_BRI(2018)628228_EN.pdf
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.2.11. IR VID – INTERREG VI D

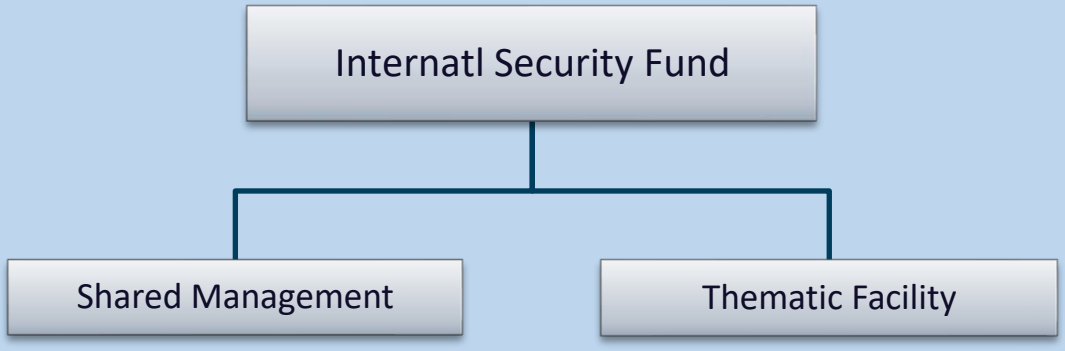
Acronym	ETCD	Former Programme Name:	NEW PROGRAMME
Name (2021-2027)	**INTERREG VI D**		
General Information			

Organigramm/ Structure	
Introduction	This programme aims to strengthen cooperation between the european states and its outmost regions, as well as between the outmost regions and its neighbor's. • experience exchange to enhance territorial cooperation • institutional capacity building
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	• best-practise exchange • capacity building • mobility actions • network building • technical assistance
Thematic Priorities	☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☒ Environment ☐ Education ☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Climate Action ☐ Youth ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Justice ☐ Migration ☒ Research & innovation ☒ Business & industry ☐ Europe for Citizen
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 outermost territories (OCTs) ☒ Neighbouring states and regions of EU27 OCTs
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Private Companies ☒ Research Institutes ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Natural Entities ☐ *Specific characteristics:* --
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☒ Universities ☒ Migrants ☒ NGOs ☒ Students ☒ Civil Society **Specific characteristics:**

	--		
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	---		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 271 million**		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**100%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **3**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The support documentation is not very complex; There is a lot of information to research and assimilate regarding the implementations and the financial management of the Project.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	SCO - Simplified Cost Options; Framework will be shared between all 7 CPR funds through a single rulebook; Pre-financing to be paid for Interreg Programmes of 1% in 2021 and 2022, amount raised to 3% from 2023 onwards; Check thoroughly the specific regulation; Co-financing rate increased to 85% for outermost regions, agreed upon in the Common Provisions Regulation		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	OCTs often have 'limited administrative and human resources" and require simplified programming rules More streamlined rules and regulations through the new 2021 CPR are very welcome All programme evaluation reports have confirmed the efficient and effective programme support to projects and the related satisfaction of beneficiaries; Emphasis on the intention to communicate broadly the positive results of cohesion Policy; Member States and regions have reinforced requirements in terms of communication, such as the organisation of events for the opening of big EU-funded projects and the development of social media outreach plans		
Programme Specific Practical Information	--		
Positive Aspects	*maximum co-financing rate for Interreg D programmes to 85 %* *Wide variety of elegible costs (staff, office and administrative, travel, expertise, equipement, infrastructures, etc.);* *Increased Flexibility provisions facilitating support for small projects and people-to-people projects: up to 20% within an Interreg programme may be allocated to small project funds*		

Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	• INTERREG VI D a detailed Overview with all Details • Interreg website https://interreg.eu/
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Select a strong consortia of partners; Carefully read the text of the Call; Present an Innovative approach on the project description, goals and methodology
DON'Ts	--

2.5.2.12. ISF – Internal Security Funds

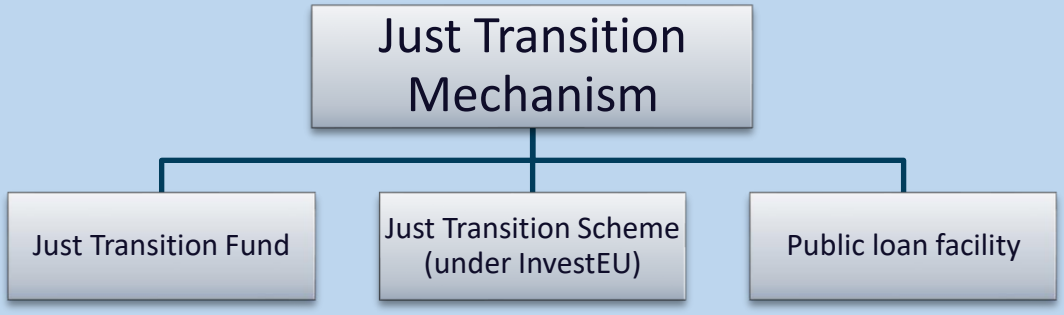
Acronym	ISF	Former Programme Name:	Internal Security Fund
Name	**INTERNAL SECURITY FUND**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	**Programme objectives:** The instrument offers financial resources to EU member states to ensure internal security standards, specifically in issue-areas of police cooperation, preventing and combating crime and combating smuggling of drugs within the EU and beyond. As internal security issues fall mainly into the responsibility of member states, there are several threats with a cross-border component. A coordinated EU response on issues such as terrorism, human trafficking is encouraged by the Internal Security Fund MFF 2021-2027. Financial resources are also targeted to improve EU crisis management which includes prevention, preparedness, resilience measures. 1. increase the exchange of information among and within the Union law enforcement and other competent authorities 2. intensify cross-border joint operations among and within the Union law enforcement to work towards prevention of cross-border criminal activities 3. capacity building of actions relating to combating and preventing terrorism		

	4. increased public-private cooperation in the sector **Programme strands:** ● Shared management ● Thematic Facility
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	1. improving and facilitating the exchange of information between and within the competent authorities of the Member States and the relevant bodies of the Union 2. improving and intensifying cross-border cooperation, including joint operations between and within the competent authorities of the Member States in relation to terrorism and serious and organized crime with a cross-border dimension *3.* strengthening Member States' capabilities in preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalization, and managing security incidents, risks and crises
Thematic Priorities	☒ Terrorism ☒ Domestic Security ☒ Emergency Assistance ☒ Law Enforcement ☒ Victims Protection ☒ Crime and Fraud ☒ Radicalisation ☐ ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 (except Denmark) ☒ International Organisations ☒ Overseas Territories ☒ Associated Third Countries
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** All Legal Entities **Specific characteristics:** in a consortia of at least two, established in different EU countries or overseas territories
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ International Organisations ☒ Civil Society Organisations ☒ Home Affairs Agencies **Specific characteristics:** --
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 1.18 billion**
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 1.93 billion**
Increase/Decrease in %	**+ 125 %**

Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **2**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	Budget itself is not too complcated, but the programmes actions are split between shared and direct management, making the funding & management rules as well as the responsible agency sometimes a bit unclear.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Internal Security Fund 2021-2027 builds on the 2014-2020 arrangements of the Internal Security Fund - Police. However, it takes into account new policy developments in the area of the European security agenda, the fight against terrorism, serious and organized crime, and cybercrime. More money for equipment needed		
Programme Specific Practical Information	At least 10% of the funding needs to be spend for the objectives 1 and 2. As most organizations will try to receive funding from objective 3, competition in objectives 1 and 2 will most likely be easier. Only 35% of the objective 3 budget is allowed to be spend on the buying of equipment. Bear in mind, that your project should also have different activities surrounding that.		
Positive Aspects	Allows all kinds of actions (joint trainings and exercises, awareness raising und communication activities, network and capacity building, buying of equipment) Maximum amount to be spent on buying of equiment has been drastically increased since last funding period (15%→35%)		
Negative Aspects	Programme might still take a while to get implemented		
Related Links	**ISF a detailed Overview with all Details** https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0177_EN.pdf https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2018/0472/COM_COM(2018)0472_EN.pdf		
General DOs and DON'Ts			
DOs	--		
DON'Ts	--		

2.5.2.13. JTF – Just Transtion Fund

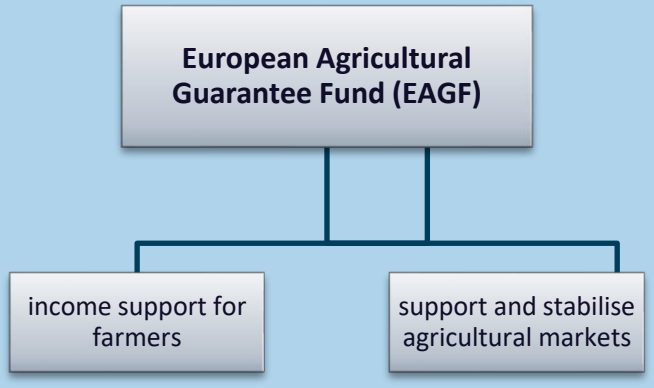
Acronym	**JTF**	Former Programme Name:	---
Name	**Just Transtion Fund**		

General Information	
Organigramm/ Structure	
Introduction	The Just Transition Fund aims to support those EU regions most affected by the EU's requested transition to a low carbon economy during the years 2021-2023. The Fund will be part of an Just Transition Mechanism, which also includes funds under Invest EU and a Public Sector Loan Facility.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	enabling regions and people to address the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the transition towards a climate-neutral economy **elegible actions:** • productive investments in SMEs (including start-ups)that lead to economic diversification and reconversion, • investments in the creation of new firms, including support for business incubators and consulting services, • investments in research and innovation activities that foster the transfer of advanced technologies, • investments in the deployment of technology and infrastructure for affordable clean energy, as well as in greenhouse gas emissions reduction, energy efficiency, and renewable energy • investments in digitalisation and digital connectivity • investments in regeneration and decontamination of sites, land restoration, and repurposing projects, • investments that enhance the circular economy, including those that promote waste prevention, reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair and recycling, • upskilling and reskilling of workers, • job-search assistance to jobseekers • active inclusion of jobseekers, and • technical assistance
Thematic Priorities	☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Climate Action ☒ Consumer & Public Health ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☒ Clean Energy ☒ SME Invest ☒ Research & innovation ☒ Business & industry ☒ Employment
Participating Countries	☒ selected EU27 NUTS 3 Regions
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** Regional Authorities only **Specific characteristics:** --

Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ Enterprises (incl. SMEs) ☐ Worker ☒ Regional Authorities		
	Specific characteristics: --		
Budget			
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 19.52 billion**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**100%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **4**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	only finances activities that are directly related to its specific objective		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	--		
Programme Specific Practical Information	Funding will be available to all Member States, while focusing on regions with the biggest transition challenges. Available funding for each Member State is based on criteria such as GHG emissions of industrial facilities in NUTS2 regions with high carbon intensity, employment in the industry sector in these regions, employment in coal and lignite mining, production of peat, and production of oil shale.		
Positive Aspects	--		
Negative Aspects	Member states with similiar national programmes have already announced that they will start cut national funding and substitute it with the JFT fund money. This leads to higher competition between potential projects over the shared funds.		
Related Links	JTF a detailed Overview with all Details https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-funding-sources_en https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-funding-sources_en		

2.5.3. The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) – Common Agrar (CAP) and Fishery Policy (CFP) in Detail

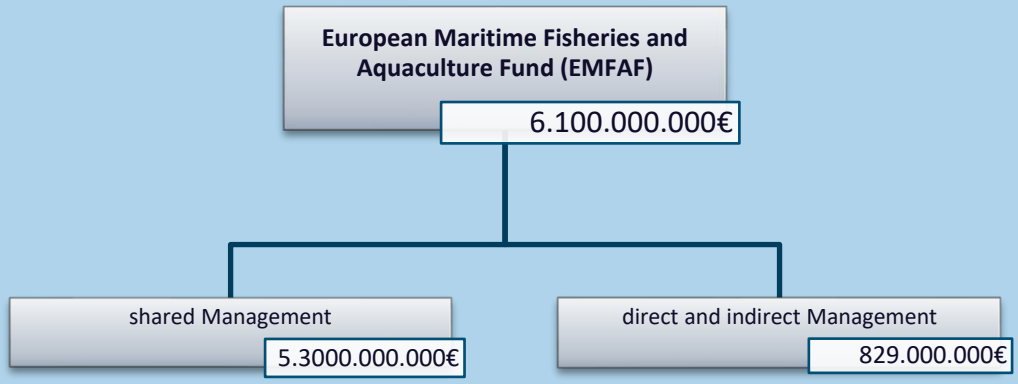
2.5.3.1. EAGF – European Agricultural Guarantee Fund

Acronym	EGF	Former Programme Name:	EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEE FUND (EAGF)
Former Programme Name (2014-2020)	EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEE FUND (EAGF)		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The EU Commission supports a transition towards a fully sustainable agricultural sector and the development of vibrant rural areas for its over 500 million consumers. Under the 2021-2027 MFF Europe is making a transition towards a smart, resilient, sustainable and competitive agricultural sector. The modernised Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will reflect a higher level of environmental and climate ambition. while addressing citizens' expectations on health issues. One among the two key funding instruments under the CAP is the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF). It aligns with the Commission´s ambition to engage on environmental and climate action in the agricultural sector and foster reliance on the virtuous Research-Innovation-Advice nexus as top priorities. **<u>Additional objectives include:</u>** • foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air (contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes) • attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas • promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural • areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry • improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare		
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	--		

Thematic Priorities	☒ Economic Growth and Employment ☒ Digitalisation	☒ Biodiversity and Sustainability ☒ Climate Protection	☒ Information Technology ☒ Agriculture
Participating Countries	☒ EU27	☒ Associated Third Countries	
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ All Legal Entities		
	Specific characteristics: --		
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ Young Farmers ☒ Local Communities	☒ SMEs ☒ Rural Business Start-Ups	
	Specific characteristics: --		
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 314 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 291.09 billion** *(EUR 270 billion for income support schemes + EUR 21 billion for supporting agricultural markets)*		
Increase/Decrease in %	**- 11 %**		
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **1**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	--		
Programme Specific Practical Information	During the first two years of the 2021-27 MFF, the existing 2014-20 CAP regulations will continue to apply, as set out in the transitional regulation adopted on 23 December 2020. The regulation is in place to ensure a smooth transition to the future framework of the CAP strategic plans. CAP strategic plans are due to be implemented from 1 January 2023.		

Positive Aspects	✔ Objective 2 (supporting agricultural markets) offers a wide variety of supported actions like intervention buying, private storage aid, sector-specific supports, exceptional market disturbance measures, and the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme.
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	**EADF a detailed Overview with all Details** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A392%3AFIN https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/budget-may2018-modernising-cap_en.pdf
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	40% of the budget will be spent on climate change measures. Taking climate change related action into account when planning your project will lead to a higher chance of success.
DON'Ts	--

2.5.3.2. EMFAF – European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Acronym	EMFAF	Former Programme Name:	European Maritime and Fisheries Funds
Name	**European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	**Programme objectives:** The European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) belongs to one of the five European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds and primarily seeks to foster growth and employment-based recovery among EU member states. Up to this date the EMFAF´s key aims revolve around i) the support for coastal communities and diversifying their economies ii) a transition to more sustainable fishing practices and iii) financial support to a transition towards sustainable aquaculture developments.		

	The EU Commission's proposal issued on June 13, 2008 stressed the following specific objectives: ● Fostering sustainable fisheries and the conservation of marine biological resource ● Contributing to food security in the Union through competitive and sustainable aquaculture and markets ● Enabling the growth of a sustainable blue economy and fostering prosperous coastal communities ● Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans **Programme strands:** ● Shared management ● Direct and indirect management
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	The EMFAF supports innovative projects that contribute to the sustainable use and management of aquatic and maritime resources. **Eligible actions:** ● sustainable and low-carbon fishing activities ● the protection of marine biodiversity and ecosystems ● the supply of quality and healthy seafood to European consumers ● the socio-economic attractiveness and the generational renewal of the fisheries sector, in particular as regards small-scale coastal fisheries ● the development of sustainable and competitive aquaculture contributing to food security ● the improvement of skills and working conditions in fisheries and aquaculture ● the economic and social vitality of coastal communities ● innovation in the sustainable blue economy ● maritime security contributing to a safe maritime space ● international cooperation contributing to healthy, safe and sustainably managed oceans
Thematic Priorities	☒ Sustainable Fisheries ☒ Scientific Cooperation ☒ Fisheries Management ☒ Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystems ☒ Coastal Development ☒ Conservation
Participating Countries	☒ **EU27** ☒ **Associated Third Countries**
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ● All Legal Entities subject to union law or International Organisations ● Legal entities established in a third country are exceptionally eligible to participate where this is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of a given action ● Legal entities established in a third country which is not associated with the programme

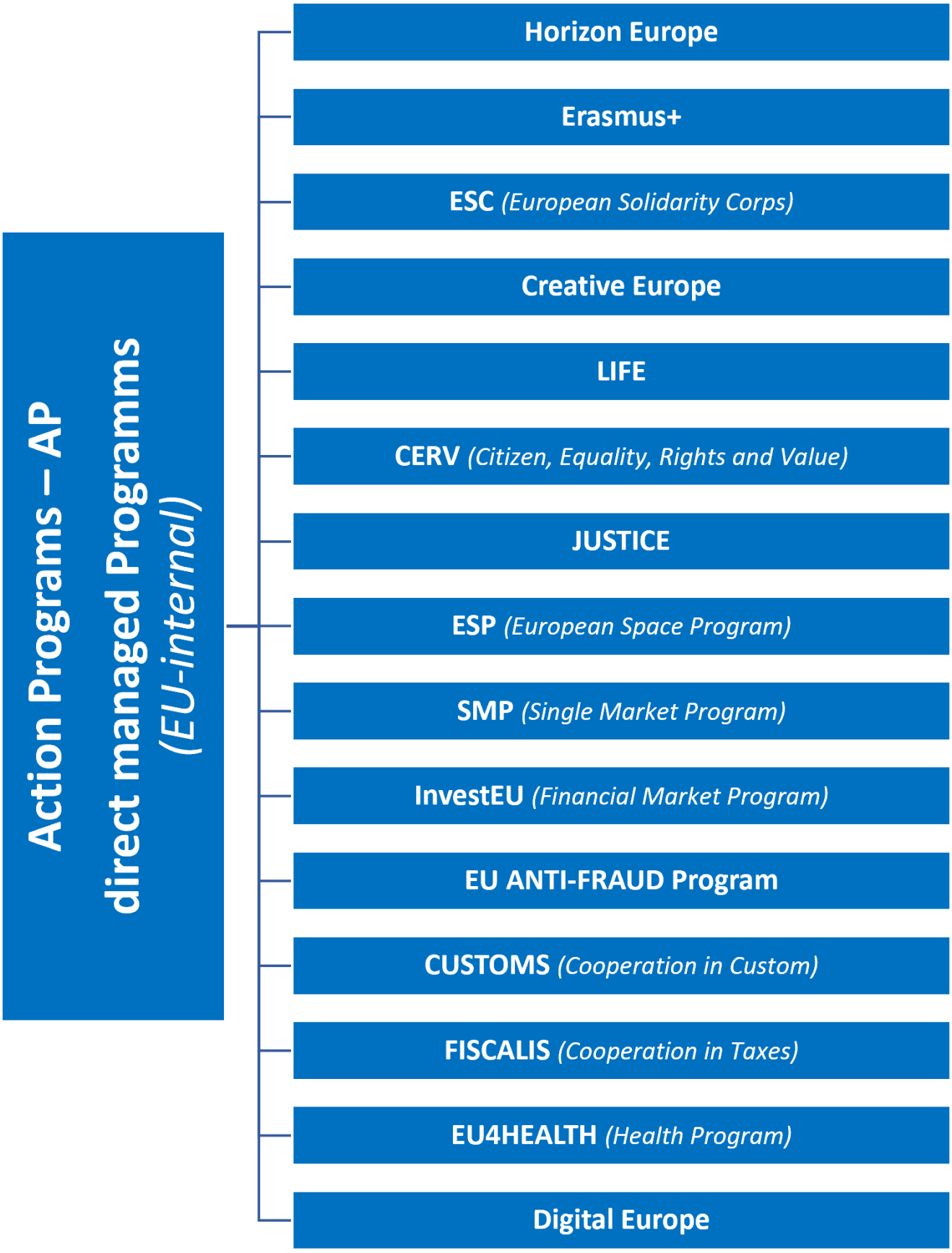
	Specific characteristics: --
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ Public authorities ☒ Industry ☒ Research institutions ☒ Non-governmental organizations ☒ Fishing associations and organisations
	Specific characteristics: --

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 6.4 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 6.108 billion** (EUR 5.311 billion shared management + EUR 0.797 billion direct management)		
Increase/Decrease in %	**- 4 %**		
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)* → ***2***		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The budget is not very complex but has a wide variety of different support measures that can be used.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	The standard maximum rate of public aid granted under shared management to beneficiaries is 50%. The maximum co-financing rate (i.e. the share paid by the EMFAF in the total public expenditure of a project) is 70%, with the exception.		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	The previous fund was based on a precise and rigid description of financing possibilities and eligibility rules ('measures'). This made it complicated for EU countries and beneficiaries to implement. The EMFAF is based on a simpler structure without rigid measures.		
Programme Specific Practical Information	The EMFAF is a small fund, so it must be used strategically. Every euro invested should generate much more in terms of collective benefits and common good. Therefore, EMFAF funding should support investment that has a clear added value, in particular by addressing market failures or suboptimal investment situations 30% of the budget will be spent on fighting climate change In 2026 and 2027, 10% of the annual spending under the budget will contribute to halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity If the pandemic significantly disrupts the markets of fishery and aquaculture products, the Commission can activate an exceptional temporary emergency		

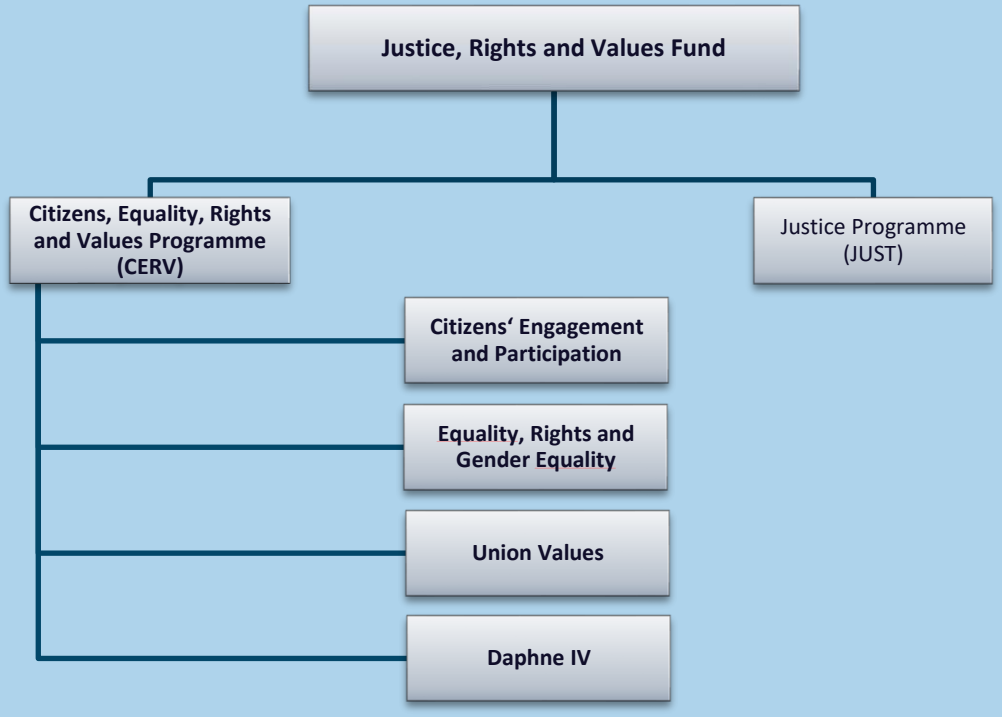
	measure to alleviate the immediate economic consequences. This measure allows for fishers and aquaculture farmers to receive financial compensation for their economic losses and additional costs.
Positive Aspects	✔ Certain subsidies are reserved for small and medium-sized fishing vessels ✔ The rate of public aid depends on the added value of the investment. Projects with a high collective added value (e.g. innovation, collective beneficiaries, public access to the results) can receive up to 100%, while certain individual fleet subsidies cannot exceed 40%
Negative Aspects	construction of new fishing vessels is not eligible for EMFAF support
Related Links	**EMFAF a detailed Overview with all Details** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A390%3AFIN https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/op-overview-fact-sheet_en.pdf https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/funding/emfaf_en
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.4. **The Action Programs/ direct managed Programs in Detail**

The following overview contains the most important, but not all, EU action programmes.



2.5.4.1. CERV – Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values

Acronym	CERV	Name:	Europe for Citizens | Rights, Equality, Citizenship | DAPHNE III
Name	**Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	This programme aims to protect and promote Union rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will contribute to sustain and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law. After merging the two existing 2014-2020 period programmes Europe for Citizens (EfC) and Rights, Equality, Citizenship (REC) it took over their sub programmes, continuing on to provide the EU with the same successfull funding opportunities. Also, to create more impact on the institutionalized stage of promoting EU values as new subprogramme called EU values has been added. **Citizens' Engagement and Participation (ex-EfC):** Promoting citizens' participation and involvement in the democratic life of the European Union, exchanges between citizens of different Member States, raising awareness of the common European history. **Equality, Rights and Gender Equality (ex-REC):** promotion of rights, non-discrimination, equality, including gender equality. **Rights - Daphne (ex-REC):** Combating violence, including gender-based violence. **Union Values**: Protection and promotion of values that are constitutive for the Union.		

Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**Eligible Actions:** a) awareness raising and dissemination of information to improve knowledge of policies and rights in the areas covered by the programme; b) mutual learning through exchange of good practices between stakeholders to improve knowledge and mutual understanding as well as civic and democratic engagement; c) analytical and monitoring activities to improve the understanding of the situation in Member States and at EU level in the areas covered by the Programme and to improve the implementation of EU law and policies; d) Training of relevant stakeholders to improve their knowledge of policies and rights in the areas covered; e) Developing and maintaining information and communication technology (ICT) tools; f) Strengthening citizens' awareness of European culture, history and memory and their sense of belonging to the Union; g) bringing together Europeans of different nationalities and cultures by giving them the opportunity to participate in town-twinning activities; h) promoting and facilitating active participation in the building of a more democratic Union, as well as awareness of rights and values, through support for civil society organisations i) Funding technical and organisational support for the implementation of Regulation [(EU) No 211/2011], underpinning the exercise of the right of citizens to launch and support European citizens' initiatives; j) building the capacity of European networks to promote and develop Union law, policy objectives and strategies, and to support civil society organisations active in the areas covered by the Programme. k) Improve knowledge of the Programme and the dissemination and transferability of its results and promote citizens' outreach, including through the establishment and support of Programme Counters / national contact network.
Thematic Priorities	☒ EU Values ☒ Democracy & Human Rights ☒ Education ☒ Inclusion ☒ Equality ☒ History ☒ Civil Rights
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ EU27 OCTs ☒ Associated Countries **Also eligible entities:** • Entities established under Union law or international organisations.
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ iNGOs ☒ Private Companies ☒ Research Institutes

	☒ Public Bodies
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ Civil Society ☒ Universities ☒ Women ☒ Civil Society, ☒ European Citizens ☒ Minorities ☒ Schools ☒ Children & Youth

Budget

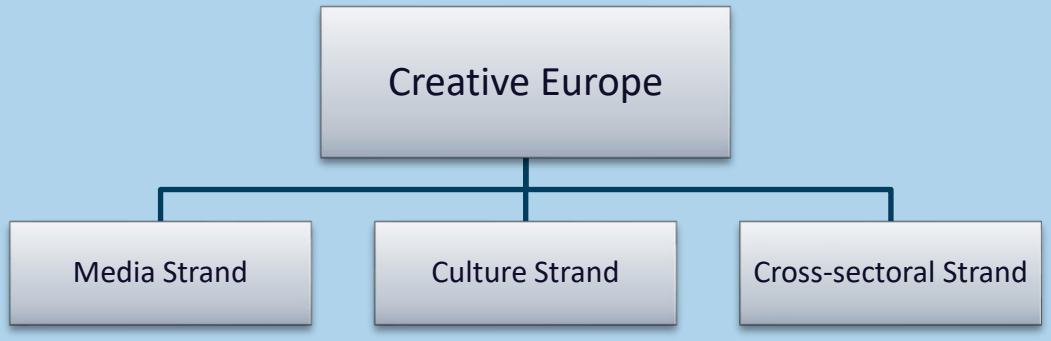
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 650 million**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 1,55 billion**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**+137%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	150.000 - 250.000	3.000	2.000.000
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → 2		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	Some of the sub programmes are running on pure sump sum budgets, the other are using standart, but often limited cost options, making budgeting extremely straight forward.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	Don´t forget that you need a real cost budget for your own internal calculations, even when the application itself only requires a lump sum budget.		

Programme Specific Tips for Applicants

lessons learnt in 2014-2020	All Member States will establish a national contact point for the CERV programme which will provide impartial guidance, practical information and assistance to applicants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the programme; Civil dialogue group: The Commission will establish a Civil Dialogue Group as an open and informal forum for discussion and to exchange experiences and good practices
Programme Specific Practical Information	Recent memorable European Events to be promoted through the "citizens participation and engagement" strand are being suggested and published by the programme for every year The Union Values Strand provides large scale operating grants for civil society networks and think tanks for the first time in Eu funding history → Only large networks have a chance to get funded
Positive Aspects	Extremely small and easy calls for beginners available National Agencies as consultants are ready to help along all the steps of the way Covers lots of different funding opportunities in the fields of democracy, rights, EU identity and connection & participation Additional to normal project funding CERV offers small scale operating grants, as well as new large scale operating grants for democracy and EU rights and values defenders
Negative Aspects	✗ Funding in the Citizens' Engagement and Participation strand is mostly only based on lump sums for the amount of events, international partners and people engaged. This might sometimes lead to heavily underfunded project ideas.

Related Links	CERV a detailed Overview with all Details https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/cerv https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/justice-and-consumers/justice-and-consumers-funding-tenders_en
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Watch out for the two step process application for Union Values funding. The first call is only a partnership agreement and the second call provides the actual funding for partnered networks
DON'Ts	---

2.5.4.2. CREA – CREATIVE EUROPE

Acronym	CREA	Former Programme Name:	Creative Europe
Name (2021-2027)	**Creative Europe**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	Creative Europe supports the European cultural and creative sectors for the period 2021-2027. The CULTURE Strand of Creative Europe helps cultural and creative organisations to operate transnationally and promotes the cross-border circulation of works of culture and the mobility of cultural players. The MEDIA Strand of Creative Europe supports the EU film and audiovisual industries financially in the development, distribution and promotion of their work. It helps to launch and distribute projects with a European dimension and international potential to travel beyond national and European borders. The CROSS-SECTORAL Strand addresses common challenges and opportunities of the cultural and creative sectors, including audio-visual.		

Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**Funding opportunities under CULTURE cover a diverse range of actions:** • Horizontal actions: cooperation projects, networks, platforms, mobility for artists and cultural professionals, and policy development. • Sectoral support: support for music, publishing, cultural heritage and architecture as well as other sectors. • Special actions: EU cultural prizes, European Capitals of Culture, European Heritage Label, support for young high-quality artists, and broad citizens' service outreach. **The MEDIA calls are divided into four thematic clusters:** • Content: Encouraging collaboration and innovation in the creation and production of high quality works. • Business: Promoting business innovation, competitiveness, scalability and talents to strengthen Europe's industry vis-à-vis global competitors. • Audience: Strengthening the accessibility and visibility of works for their potential audiences through distribution channels and audience development. • Policy: Supporting policy discussion/exchange fora, studies, and reports. Promoting awareness-raising activities. **Cross Cultural:** • Transnational policy cooperation: promoting knowledge of the programme and supporting the transferability of results. • Creative Innovation Labs: promoting innovative approaches to content creation, access, distribution and promotion across cultural and creative sectors. • News media: supporting media literacy, quality journalism and media freedom and pluralism.
Thematic Priorities	☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Research & innovation ☒ Consumer Protection ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☒ Education ☒ Business & industry ☒ Climate & Environment
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ IPA ☒ Associated countries
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Public Authorites ☒ Festivals ☒ Civil Society Organisations ☒ Networks ☒ SMEs ☒ Cinemas **Specific characteristics:** Often no application by natural persons possible

Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ *Arts and culture practitioners* ☒ *underrepresented groups* ☒ *Civil Society* ☒ *NGOs* ☒ *private Companies* ☒ *public authorities* ☒ *children/young adults*
	Specific characteristics: --

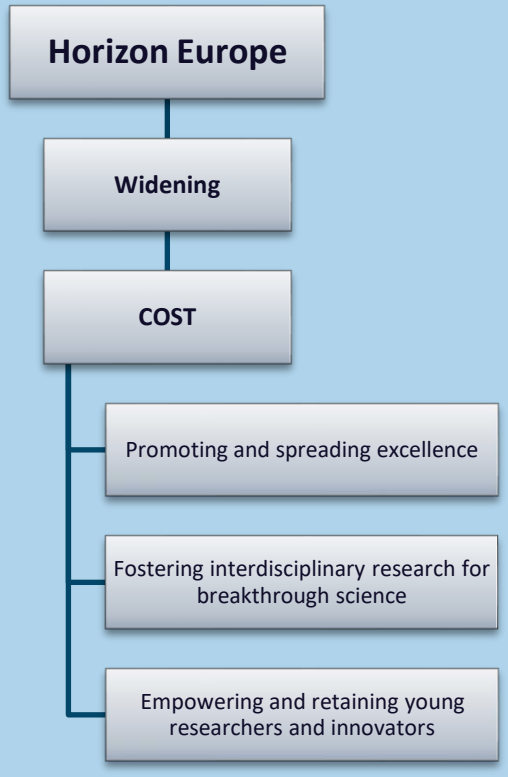
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 1,5 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 2,4 billion**		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**+63%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	100.000	2.000.000
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **3**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		

Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Greater emphasis will be placed on the transnational creation and global dissemination and promotion of European works and cross-cutting innovation higher EU co-financing rates will facilitate funding Gender equality will be respected in all funded actions and projects, EU's environmental objectives will be taken into account in the development and implementation of activities
Programme Specific Practical Information	Partners must often all be cultural professionals working in the cultural and creative sector
Positive Aspects	--
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	CREA a detailed Overview with all Details https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/crea2027 https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/projects/ https://ec.europa.eu/culture/

General DOs and DON'Ts

DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.4.3. COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology

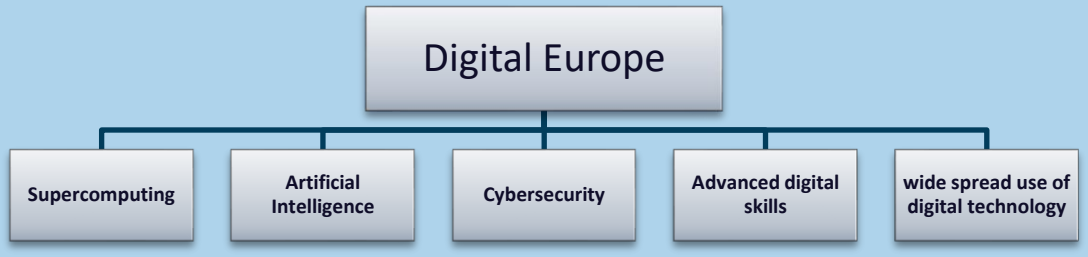
Acronym	Cost	Name:	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
Name	COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure	Since 1971, COST has received EU funding under the various research and innovation framework programmes. The COST Association, an international not-for-profit association under Belgian law, is located in Brussels and carries out all activities related to this Open Call. The COST Members established the COST Association, in September 2013. Its decision-making body is the general assembly of Members, the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO). Other legal bodies are the Executive Board, the COST Director and the COST Ministerial Conferences, which are organised every five years to gather the support and commitment of the Members' national governments. Each Member and the Cooperating Member Israel nominate a COST National Coordinator. The COST Scientific Committee advises the COST Association about the Open Call, its quality and procedures. 		

Introduction	It is a pan-European intergovernmental framework dedicated to interdisciplinary networking activities for researchers (EU and beyond) to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all scientific and technological fields through trans-European coordination of nationally funded research activities. It receives financial support from "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" under Horizon 2020.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**3 priorities:** 1. Promoting and spreading excellence; 2. Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science; 3. Empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators. COST is fully integrated into the successor of "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation", so 80% of its budget will be devoted to widening actions and 50% of its budget will be invested in widening eligible countries (ITC).
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation
Participating Countries	**All COST Members:** Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom. **Non-COST Members can join based on mutual benefit:** • Near Neighbour Countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine • International Partner Countries: non-COST countries that are not being a Near-Neighbour Country • Israel: Cooperating member • South Africa: Partner member
Possible Applicants	☒ Public and private institutions ☒ SME/Industry ☒ NGOs ☒ EU/International organisations ☒ Universities ☒ Research Institutes
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ Researchers ☒ Innovators ☒ Early career investigators
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 300 million**
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 600 million**

Increase/Decrease in %	**+100%**		
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***
	150,000/year, for 4 years	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **3**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	**Budget lines:** 1. Meetings 2. Training Schools 3. Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) 4. Conference Grants for Early Career Investigators from ITC 5. COST Action Dissemination 6. Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA) 7. Financial Scientific and Administrative Coordination (fixed percentage: 15% of the total expenditure of a Grant Period)		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	Where to find relevant information: Vademecum Contact in case of doubts: opencall@cost.eu Actions are allocated a fixed budget for Grant Period (12mths) The Action Management Committee defines a Work and Budget Plan: it constitutes the Annex A to the Grant Agreement with activities of the Action and related costs		
Program Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	More budget under FP9: initiation of up to 75 new COST Actions per call, reaching 625 Actions per year with a success rate of 15% for submitted proposals (at present, 75% of the proposals rated as excellent cannot be funded due to lack of budget)		
Programme Specific Practical Information	Identify your research challenges and describe how networking helps tackle them Present a detailed plan to reach your objectives in 4 years Show you are able to engage the right stakeholders, having a balanced EU participation, gender representation and various career stages Explain how you will maximise the impact of your idea: evaluators favor proposals with potential high impact or that indicate emerging issues or potentially important future development. Evaluation criteria: S&T excellence: 15pts; networking excellence:15pts; impact:15 pts; implementation:5pts. Max score:50 pts. Threshold:34 pts. To launch an action, it is necessary to gather a minimum number of researchers. If the action is funded, a MoU is published so that other researchers can join. So, before submitting a new action, check whether an ongoing action exists. Fields: ICT; Materials, Physical and Nanosciences; Earth System Science and Environment Management; Transport and Urban Development; Food and Agriculture; Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health; Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences; Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies; Forests, their Products and Services; Trans-Domain Proposal.		
Positive Aspects	✓ Open to all scientific and technological fields: researchers can freely propose any topic ✓ Engaging the whole research community across countries, generations and gender ✓ Simple: one submission stage and user friendly IT tools ✓ Transparent: straightforward application process and independent peer review		

Negative Aspects	✗ It does not fund pure research activities, but involved researchers bring on a common research project including research activities. ✗ Less budget for new participants joining the initiative at a later stage
Related Links	**COST a detailed Overview with all Details** COST WEBSITE
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Involve 7 or more initial partners Include training for early stage researchers The call is very competitive, so prepare in due time the application
DON'Ts	don't underestimate the 15 pages template don't foresee too many working groups don't be vague in the description of the expected impact

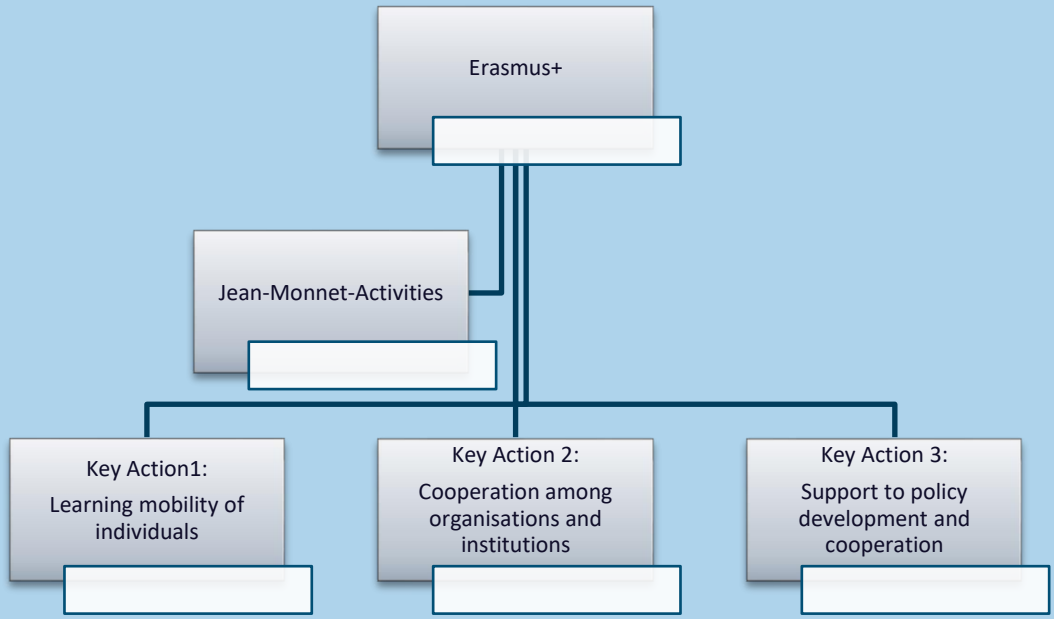
2.5.4.4. DEP – DIGITAL EUROPE

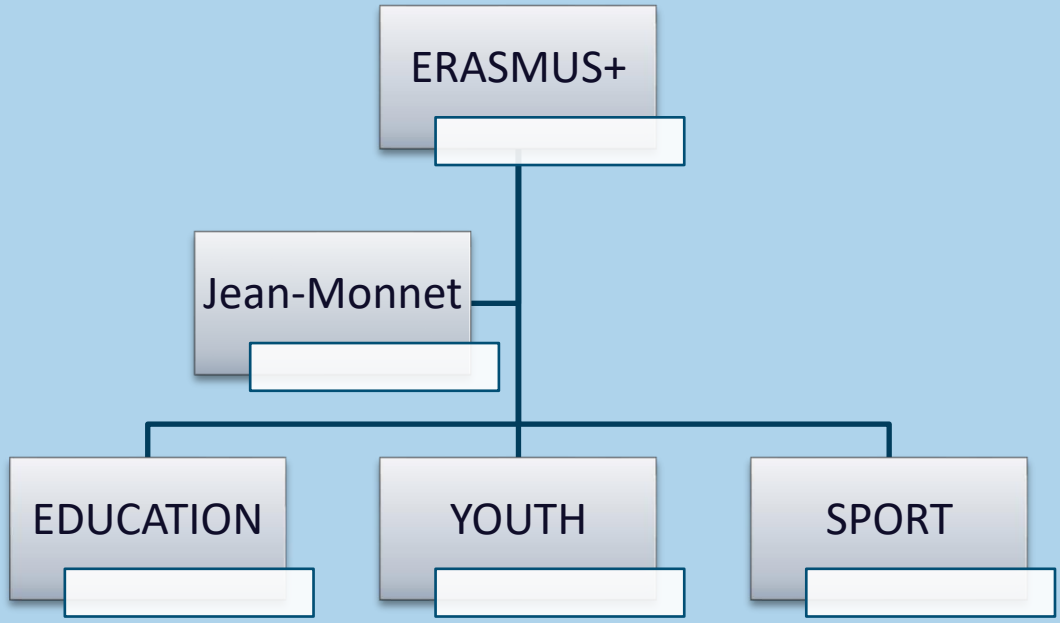
Acronym	DEP	Former Programme Name: ---
Name	**Digital Europe**	
General Information		
Organigramm/ Structure		
Introduction	Digital Europe aims to trigger investments by the EU, Member States and industry in the key areas of artificial intelligence(AI), advanced computing and data handling, cybersecurity, and the advanced digital skills necessary to deploy them. The programme has the potential to connect businesses, public administrations and citizens to the latest technologies and resources. It will also help Europe to remain globally competitive and strategically autonomous, and to have a say in how new technologies reflect our needs and values.	
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	• Building essential digital capacities for the three key digital technology areas identified (HPC, AI and cybersecurity) as well as the advanced digital skills needed to "operate" them • Accelerating the adoption and best use of digital technologies, including the latest digital capacities, across the economy and society.	
Thematic Priorities	☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Research & innovation ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion	☒ Education ☒ Business & industry ☒	☒ Consumer Protection ☒ Climate & Environment ☒
Participating Countries	☒ EU27		
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies	☒ Private Companies	☒ Research Institutes
	Specific characteristics: --		

Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☒ NGOs ☒ Schools ☒ Universities ☒ private Companies ☒ Scientists ☒ Civil Society ☒ public authorities		
	Specific characteristics: --		
Budget			
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 7,59 billion**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**100%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **4**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	Budget will often be research related and in conjunction with other funding programmes, which increases the amount of regulations to consider and therefore the difficulty.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	--		
Programme Specific Practical Information	high value synergy with Horizon Europe and CEFDigital, especially through the Digital Innovation Hubs synergies with LIFE and Copernicus through "Digital for a Clean Planet" For the first two years, the Digital Europe programme will be implemented through four work programmes : ○ For all actions excluding those implemented by the other three work programmes as indicated below - DIGITAL Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 ○ For the European Digital Innovation Hubs - DIGITAL Europe - EDIH Work Programme 2021-2023 ○ For Cybersecurity actions - DIGITAL Europe - Cybersecurity Work Programme 2021-2022 ○ For High Performance Computing actions – the work programme will be prepared by the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking		
Positive Aspects	✔ Lots of synergies and joint project opportunities with other funding programmes like Horizon Europe and CEF		
Negative Aspects	*new programme = no best practices projects to build on*		

Related Links	DEP a detailed Overview with all Details https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/europe-investing-digital-digital-europe-programme https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/content/research-strategy-and-programme-coordination-unit-d1 https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/communications-networks-content-and-technology_en
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.4.5. ERA+ – ERASMUS+

Acronym	ERA+	Name:	Erasmus+
Name	**Erasmus+**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure	 The Erasmus+ Programme Guide is drafted in accordance with the Erasmus+ annual Work Programme adopted by the European Commission, and therefore may be revised to reflect the priorities and lines of action defined in the Work Programmes adopted in the following years.		



Introduction	Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Education, training, youth and sport are key areas that support citizens in their personal and professional development. High quality, inclusive education and training, as well as informal and non-formal learning, ultimately equip young people and participants of all ages with the qualifications and skills needed for their meaningful participation in democratic society, intercultural understanding and successful transition in the labour market Building on the success of the programme in the period 2014-2020, Erasmus+ strengthens its efforts to increase the opportunities offered to more participants and to a wider range of organisations, focusing on its qualitative impact and contributing to more inclusive and cohesive, greener and digitally fit societies. For the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ still encompasses six main sectors: School education, Higher education, Vocational education and training, Adult education, Youth and Sport. Erasmus+ is adapting to the major global challenges by focusing on three key priorities: being more inclusive, digital and green.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	<u>For the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ still encompasses six main sectors:</u> • School education, • Higher education, • Vocational education and training, • Adult education, • Youth • Sport Erasmus+ is adapting to the major global challenges by focusing on three key priorities: being more inclusive, digital and green.

Thematic Priorities	☐ Research & innovation ☐ Development & Cooperation ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Research & innovation ☐ Consumer & Public Health ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion	☐ Environment ☐ Climate Action ☐ Justice ☐ Business & industry ☐ Sports ☐	☒ Education ☒ Youth ☐ Migration ☐ Europe for Citizen ☐ Culture & Media ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ ASEAN	☒ IPA	☒ ACP
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies	☒ Private Companies ☒ Natural Entities	☒ Research Institutes ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ SMEs ☒ NGOs	☒ Universties ☒ Students	☒ Migrants ☒ Civil Society

Budget

Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 14,700 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 28,430 billion**		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**67,17%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	30.000€	10.000€	4 million €
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → 2*		
	Fixed amounts already calculated by the same application depending of number of days, participants, partners involved, etc.		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The budget is not complex as it is built by the same application form. The total budget is calculated with lump sumps automatically calculating the total amount of funding depending on the number of days of mobility, participants, distance calculator, partners involved, inclusion support and so on.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	Always address the National Agency website and contact them first Join free of charge trainings at national and international level in order to learn how to take part in Erasmus Read the Programme Guide carefully and be clear with partners, specially in the budget sharing and mobility risks with participants		

Programm Specific Tips for Applicants

lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Less competition in Northern countries Important to choose the correct action within Erasmus It is essential to build a strong consortia and establish cooperation agreements with partners
Programme Specific Practical Information	Multiple months of preparation are needed, with partners to build a good consortia Share and agree on internal partnership agreements first Be careful with some fake partners from organisations that do not exist, specific attention to third countries where National Agencies do not operate Start 6 months before deadline to prepare application and build consortia Inclusion, environment and digital skills related projects are priorities for evaluators
Positive Aspects	Supports educational projects Various actions (study abroad, exchanges, internships, training courses, academic years, strategic cooperation, debates, scholarships master's and doctorate, etc.) Brand recognized throughout Europe Easy-to-read program guide Open to all types of organizations and people Electronic forms with easy budget calculations National Agencies in all European countries that help can with applications
Negative Aspects	Need to be accredited for mobility programmes Lots of paperwork and administrative processes (OID+ eForms) Difficult to understand all actions “Dangers” in the mobility of the participants (COVID, health and safety) Difficulties finding participants and partners It is not an easy application and there are too many competitors, specially in southern countries Budgeting the whole can be challenging, as its only financed by certain categories of lump sums
Related Links	**ERASMUS+ a detailed Overview with all Details** https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en (EACEA) https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/partner-search (Partner search) https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/ (OTLAS, partner search for Youth projects)
General DOs and DON’Ts	
DOs	Check the potential partner website, social media, reviews, and so on before Prepare a good PIF (Partner Identification Form) and a section within your website where you describe in English your organisation and how you intend to take part in Erasmus Keep regular contact with participants and partners

DON'Ts	Don´t wait until the last day to apply, the online system can crash due to the high number of applicants sending projects at the same time Don´t forget to prepare your participants before the mobility

2.5.4.6. EYE – ERASMUS+ for young Entrepreneurs

Acronym	EYE	Former Programme Name:	Erasmus+ for Young Entrepreneurs
Name	**Erasmus+ for Young Entrepreneurs**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure	--		
Introduction	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 1 to 6 months stay with the experienced entrepreneur, which helps the new entrepreneur acquire the skills needed to run a small firm. The host benefits from fresh perspectives on his/her business and gets the opportunities to cooperate with foreign partners or learn about new markets. A new entrepreneur strengthens his/her new enterprise, access new markets, establishes international cooperation and opens possibilities for collaboration with business partners abroad. The Programme is financed by the European Commission and operates across the Participating Countries with the help of the local contact points, competent in business support. Their activities are coordinated at European level by the Support Office of the Programme. The programme provides on-the-job-training for New Entrepreneurs (NE) with established Host Entrepreneurs (HE) in small and medium-sized enterprises in order to facilitate a successful start-up, scale-up and development of their business ideas. In March 2020, the European Commission adopted its new SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe, where it reiterates the importance of improving access to markets for European SMEs, start-ups and entrepreneurs on a European and global scale. Among the key actions identified to achieve this objective, the Commission lists the extension of the EYE Global scheme. The Programme in the new financing period (2021-2027) foresees further funding for the EYE under the new Single Market Programme. After seven successful years of COSME, the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) was coordinating the EYE programme, and as of 1 April 2021, the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) groups together in one agency all the activities of the European Innovation Council and the programmes related to SMEs.		

Focus of funding for 2021-2027	• Improving entrepreneurial skills • on-the-job training • facilitating a successful start-up, • scaling-up and development of business ideas • improving access to markets for European SMEs
Thematic Priorities	☐ Research & innovation ☐ Environment ☒ Education ☒ Development & Cooperation ☐ Climate Action ☐ Youth ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Justice ☐ Migration ☐ Consumer & Public Health ☐ Sports ☐ Culture & Media ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☐ ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ Israel, Singapore, USA, Canada, South Korea and Taiwan
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Private Companies ☐ Research Institutes ☒ Public Bodies ☐ Natural Entities ☐ ☒ Local and Regional Authorities ☒ Social Partners ☐ **Specific characteristics:** ---
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☐ Universities ☐ Migrants ☒ NGOs ☒ Students ☒ Civil Society ☒ Entrepreneurs ☐ **Specific characteristics:** • Consortia must be composed of at least 6 independent legal entities from at least 4 different Participating Countries and include no more than 10 partners. • Maximum 2 partners can be from the same country in one consortium. • Consortium should choose within their midst a lead organisation, referred to as the coordinator. • The participation of the same legal entity in more than one proposal is not permitted.
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 2,3 billion in supporting SMEs (€ 80 million for EYE)**
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 4,2 billion for the new Single Market Programme** *(The allocation of the EYE budget for each year depends on the annual budget adopted for that year.)*
Increase/Decrease in %	**increase of 82,6%**

	Average	Min.	Max.
Budget per project	€ 750.000	*Low value grants* €60 000	€ 2.000.000
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → 3		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The recommended methods for the calculation of costs are provided in Appendix. The eligible direct costs: 1. the costs of personnel, 2. costs of travel and related subsistence allowances, 3. the depreciation costs of equipment or other assets (new or second-hand), 4. costs of consumables and supplies, 5. costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the grant agreement (dissemination of information, specific evaluation of the action, audits, translations, reproduction), 6. costs entailed by subcontracts, 7. costs of financial support to third parties, 8. costs relating to a pre-financing guarantee lodged by the beneficiary of the grant, 9. costs relating to external audits where such audits are required. A flat-rate amount of 7 % of the total eligible direct costs of the action is eligible as indirect costs. The maximum EU financing rate is set to 90% of total eligible costs, with 100% of third party financing and 80% of all other cost items. Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the duration of the grant and to participate in its funding. The applicants' financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of the following supporting documents to be submitted with the application: 1. Low value grants (≤ EUR 60 000): a declaration on their honour. 2. Grants > EUR 60 000: a declaration on their honour, and either the profit and loss account as well as the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts were closed; or, for newly created entities: the business plan, the table provided for in the application form, filled in with the relevant statutory accounting figures, in order to calculate the ratios as detailed in the form. 3. Grants for an action > EUR 750 000 or operating grants > EUR 100 000: in addition to the above, an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last financial year available, where such an audit report is available; or a self-declaration signed by the applicant's authorised representative certifying the validity of its accounts for the last financial year available.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	The successful applicants are expected to provide the financial assistance to the New Entrepreneurs, and will be responsible for correct		

	management of this financial assistance. The applicants to the call should describe how they intend to organise the management and control of this financial assistance in an efficient and effective way, including avoidance of any financial abuse. The Support Office contact details: https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/index.php?lan=en
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Cross-border transfer of knowledge and experience, entrepreneurial culture and entrepreneurship shall be fostered further. Applicants should have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action: 1. at least one member with previous experience with the implementation of business exchange programmes; 2. the members of the team assigned this action with at least 3 years of experience in project management.
Programme Specific Practical Information	The EYE Programme is implemented on a local level by a network of organisations (Local Intermediary Organisations/Intermediary Organisations). Intermediary Organisations (IO) are selected on the basis of a call for proposals. It is of outmost importance to build a professional and experienced consortium of partners; Explain in details how you will undertake the management of the project. The application must provide sufficient details of how many entrepreneurs the applicant will engage to participate in the programme and when. The proposal should contain enough information about access to and contacts with entrepreneurs that the applicants have, whether direct or indirect (via their own or other networks), and the kind of relationships that they maintain, giving supporting figures. Clearly describe how you would check the quality and ensure the eligibility of applications of Host Entrepreneurs. Describe how you will assist Host Entrepreneurs prior to New Entrepreneurs arrival, and what support they will offer to New Entrepreneurs during the stay with their Host Entrepreneurs (e.g. for issues concerning visa, accommodation, visit tour, networking, etc.). Describe very clearly how you plan to identify proactively the best matches, support contacts and monitor relationships before and during the stay abroad. Communication and programme promotion activities should be focused so as to ensure that the entrepreneurs who will subsequently apply to the programme will qualify for it and will show good motivation and commitment. An appropriate level of visibility of the EU's financial contribution to the project and link with the EYE programme should be clearly visible in the application. To be a successful applicant, you should propose preparation of a final promotional booklet, online platform, video or other promotional tool with success stories and results of the project.

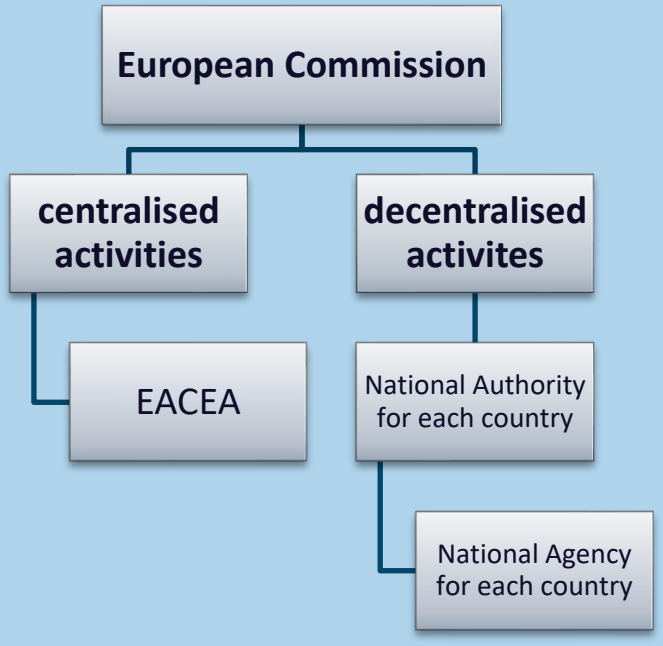
Positive Aspects	✔ The new programming period will build on the implementation experience from the previous EYE programme. ✔ A pre-financing payment corresponding to 30 % of the maximum grant amount is usually paid after the grant signature. ✔ The activities to be implemented under the certain call for proposals are detailed in the work packages within the call. ✔ Regular Network Meetings (usually taking place in February and September of each year, either in Brussels or another location in the EU) are organised within the EYE programme to enable all Intermediary Organisations to meet, network and exchange best practices. ✔ There is an IT Tool developed for managing the exchanges, i.e. a database with entrepreneurs' profiles. Access is granted only to EYE IOs and accepted applicants. The IT tool allows them to search for matching options, prepare, and implement a match. ✔ The EYE Support Office coordinates and supports the activities of the IOs, including specific tasks for the EYE Global. It also assists and supports the EISMEA in the management of the Programme and contributes to promotion, communication, event management and networking activities.
Negative Aspects	✘ Barriers can be expected from entrepreneurs who could potentially benefit from the programme: potential Host Entrepreneurs (HEs) may consider that they do not have the time or underestimate the benefits they could derive from the exchange with the New Entrepreneur (NE). ✘ NEs can only participate once in this project. ✘ The funding form offered under this grant can be the reimbursement of a specified proportion of the eligible costs actually incurred and a lump-sum financial support to third parties. ✘ The applicant must ensure that the resources, which are necessary to carry out the action, are not entirely provided by the EU grant. ✘ A pre-financing guarantee for up to the same amount as the pre-financing may be requested in order to limit the financial risks linked to the pre-financing payment.
Related Links	**EYE a detailed Overview with all Details** https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/index_en https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/ https://eic.ec.europa.eu/index_en https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/news/introducing-cosmes-services-smes-and-startups-2021-04-27_en List of active Intermediary Organisations: https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/page.php?cid=5. The Support Office contact details: https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/index.php?lan=en
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Plan for a kick off meeting (duration at least one day) where all project actors as well as the currently used IT tool will be introduced. Project management plans should also include participation in at least 6 Network Meetings.

	Build links with the business community (start-ups, incubators/accelerators) in the NE destination countries and territories with the Local IOs, with the aim of matching entrepreneurs. Describe pre-existing business links with the target countries and territories in your application. Describe how you will follow up the exchanges, and the mechanisms to be put in place to avoid problems and potential conflicts. Describe how you will assist New Entrepreneurs prior to and during their stay; making sure that the NE benefits from the exchange in his/her business field. Propose quality communication and promotion measures to effectively raise awareness, disseminate information on the mobility scheme and reach a maximum number of potential HEs. Target relevant business organisations and other bodies supporting businesses and start-ups, as well as other target audiences as appropriate, including local SMEs.
DON'Ts	Don't forget to include in the proposal an explanation how you will attract HEs. Non-financial incentives such as special promotion opportunities for their companies on a project website may be an option. When planning quantitative objectives, don't forget that not all recruited entrepreneurs will be matched. On average out of two entrepreneurs recruited, only one is matched within the project period. Don't forget to respect the provisions of the EYE privacy statement.

2.5.4.7. ESC – EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

Acronym	ESC	Name:	European Solidarity Corps
Nam	**European Solidarity Corps**		
General Information			

Organigramm/ Structure



The European Solidarity Corps brings together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal and humanitarian challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop and provides a single entry point for such solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond.

At European level, the European Commission's Education and Culture Executive Agency (Executive Agency) is responsible for the implementation of the centralised Actions of the European Solidarity Corps. The Executive Agency is in charge of the complete life-cycle management of the projects under these Actions, from the promotion, the analysis of the grant requests, the monitoring of projects on the spot, up to the dissemination of the project and Programme results. The European Solidarity Corps is mainly implemented through Indirect Management, meaning that the European Commission entrusts budget implementation tasks to National Agencies; the rationale of this approach is to bring the European Solidarity Corps as close as possible to its beneficiaries and to adapt to the diversity of each country.

Introduction	The European Solidarity Corps builds on the achievements of more than 25 years of European programmes in the field of youth and solidarity, especially on the success of the European Voluntary Service, on the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and on the previous European Solidarity Corps running from 2018 to 2020. **GENERAL OBJECTIVE** The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES** The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including young people with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities that induce positive societal changes in the Union and beyond, while improving and properly validating their competences, as well as facilitating their continuous engagement as active citizens.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS** (2 types on mainly individual projects: Solidarity Projects, developed mainly in the EU and associated countries and Humanitarian projects , developed outside the EU) VOLUNTEERING TEAMS IN HIGH PRIORITY AREAS (short term opportunities mainly in groups) **SOLIDARITY PROJECTS** (projects boosted by a group of young people, without the need of any organisation). <u>European Solidarity Corps is adapting to the major global challenges by focusing on five key priorities:</u> • INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY • ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION • DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION • PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC LIFE • PREVENTION, PROMOTION AND SUPPORT IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH
Thematic Priorities	☐ Research & innovation ☒ Environment ☒ Education ☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Climate Action ☒ Youth ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☒ Migration ☒ Consumer & Public Health ☒ Sports ☒ Culture & Media
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ IPA ☒ ACP ☒ ASEAN ☐ ☐
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Private Companies ☒ Research Institutes

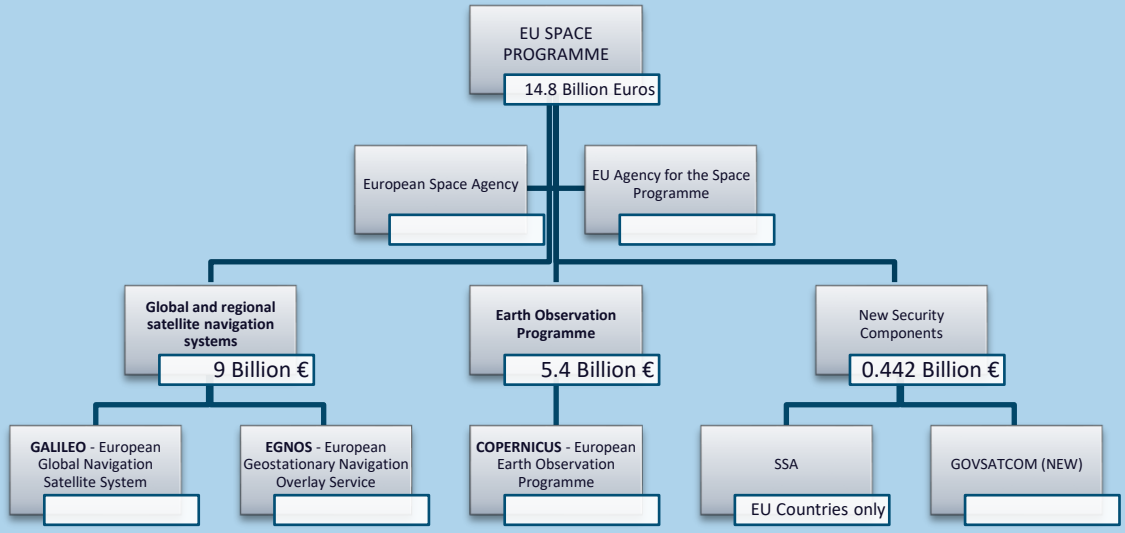
	☒ Public Bodies	☒ Natural Entities	☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ SMEs ☒ NGOs	☒ Universties ☒ Students	☒ Migrants ☒ Civil Society
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 376 million**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 1,009 billion**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**168,35%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	15.000€	5.000€	400.000 €
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **2**		
	Fixed amounts already calculated by the same application depending on the number of days, participants, partners involved, etc.		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The budget is not complex as it is built by the same application form. The total budget is calculated by fixed costs depending on the number of days of mobility, participants, distance calculator, partners involved, inclusion support and so on.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	Always address first to the National Agency website and contact them Join free of charge trainings at national and international level in order to learn how to take part in European Solidarity Corps Read carefully the Programme Guide and be clear with partners, specially in the budget sharing and mobility risks with participants		
Programm Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Less competition in Northern countries Important to choose the correct action within Erasmus It is essential to build a strong consortia and establish cooperation agreements with partners		
Programme Specific Practical Information	It is needed some months in advance for preparation with partners to build a good consortia Share and agree on internal partnership agreements Be careful with some fake partners from organisations that does not exist, specific attention to third countries where National Agencies does not operate Start 6 months before deadline to prepare application and build consortia Inclusion, environment and digital skills related projects are priorities for evaluators		

Positive Aspects	✔ Supports solidarity and humanitarian projects ✔ Support of National Agencies, the relation is closer than Erasmus+ ✔ Various actions (individual volunteering, group volunteering, youth projects boosted by young people, Humanitarian strand, etc.) ✔ Easy-to-read program guide ✔ Open to all types of organizations and people. ✔ Electronic forms
Negative Aspects	✘ Need to be accredited ✘ Too many details to manage in the practical way (accommodation, travel, pocket money, food,insurance etc.) ✘ Too much paperwork and administrative processes (OID+ eForms) ✘ Difficult to involve Northern countries ✘ Difficulties in some countries where there are not reliable partners ✘ Differences in National Agency criteria, not all the countries work in the same way ✘ "Dangers" in the mobility of the participants (COVID, health and safety) ✘ Europe Aid is merged within the European Solidarity Corps and it is still very unclear how it is going to work ✘ It is not an easy application and there are too many competitors, especially in southern countries.
Related Links	ESC a detailed Overview with all Details https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en (EACEA, official database of projects) https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/ (OTLAS, partner search for Youth projects)
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Check the potential partner website, social media, reviews, and so on before Prepare a good PIF (Partner Identification Form) and a section within your website where you describe in English your organisation and how you intend to take part in Erasmus Keep regular contact with participants and partners Participants need a proper pre departure training preparation
DON'Ts	Not to wait until the last day to apply, the online system can crash due to the high number of applicants sending projects at the same time. Be careful in countries outside the EU where there is not a National Agency Do not forget to prepare your participants before the mobility

2.5.4.8. ESP – EU-SPACE - Programm

Acronym	**ESP**	Former Programme Name:	**EUROPEAN SPACE PROGRAMME**
Name	**EU SPACE PROGAMME**		
General Information			

Organigramm/ Structure



Introduction

Space strategy for Europe, focus on four strategic goals:

- Maximising the benefits of space for society and the EU economy;
- Fostering a competitive and innovative European space sector;
- Reinforcing Europe's strategic autonomy in accessing and using space in a secure and safe environment;
- Strengthening Europe's role as a global actor and promoting international cooperation.

The different strands for EU Space programme are:

Satellite navigation systems, with a budget of €9 billion

Galileo, Europe's own global satellite navigation system, provides accurate and reliable positioning and timing information for autonomous and connected cars, railways, aviation and other sectors. The Galileo Services will gradually improve as more satellites are deployed and other services (e.g high accuracy service) will be made available.

The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) provides “safety of life” navigation services to aviation, maritime and land-based users over most of Europe. Safety of life means that the positioning information is so precise that, for example, an aircraft can safely land using it. All services provided by EGNOS are already fully operational and the number of users is growing (already 350 airports using it). The system needs constant maintenance and will also be improved to provide better quality services.

Earth observation, with a budget of €5.4 billion

Copernicus, a leading provider of Earth observation data across the globe, already helps save lives at sea, improves our response to natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, forest fires or floods, and allows farmers to better manage their crops. Copernicus covers six thematic areas: land monitoring, marine monitoring, atmosphere monitoring, climate change, emergency management response and security. Over

	2021-2027 Copernicus will expand these existing services to meet emerging needs, adding new observation capacities for CO2, and other greenhouse gas emissions monitoring, land use monitoring in support of agriculture, observations of the Polar regions, as well as security needs to improve detection of small vessels in support of border and maritime surveillance, the fight against illegal trafficking or the needs for EU external actions. **New security components, with a budget of €442 million** The new Governmental Satellite Communication (GOVSATCOM) initiative will provide Member States and EU security actors with guaranteed access to secure satellite communications. The Space Situational Awareness (SSA) initiative will support the long-term sustainability and security of space activities by ensuring protection against space hazards. The pilot project on surveillance of space and tracking of objects will be further developed to increase its performance and autonomy when it comes to preventing collisions in space and un-controlled re-entry of objects to earth. Complementary activities will address other space hazards threatening critical infrastructures (space weather, comets, and asteroids). The Programme shall include additional measures to ensure efficient and autonomous access to space for the Programme and to foster an innovative and competitive European space sector, upstream and downstream, to strengthen the Union's space ecosystem and to reinforce the Union as a global player

Focus of funding for 2021-2027
 	
(e.g. eligible actions)
	Eligible actions should contribute to Programme's specific objectives:
	
	1. To provide of state-of-the-art and, where appropriate, secure positioning, navigation and timing services;
	  ○ Indicator 1: Accuracy of the signal (GNSS),
	
	2. To deliver accurate and reliable Earth Observation data and information to support the implementation and monitoring of policies of the Union and its Member States in the fields of the environment, climate change, agriculture and rural development, civil protection, safety and security, as well as the digital economy;
	  ○ Indicator 1: Number of users of Copernicus
	  ○ Indicator 2: Addition of new services of Copernicus
	
	3. To enhance Space Surveillance Telescope (SST) capabilities to monitor, track and identify space objects, to monitor space weather and to map and network Union Near Earth Objects (NEO) capacities
	  ○ Indicator 1: Number of users of SSA components
	  ○ Indicator 2: Availability of Services
	
	4. To ensure the long-term availability of reliable, secure and cost-effective satellite communications services with an appropriate guarantee of access and robustness to withstand ill-intentioned acts

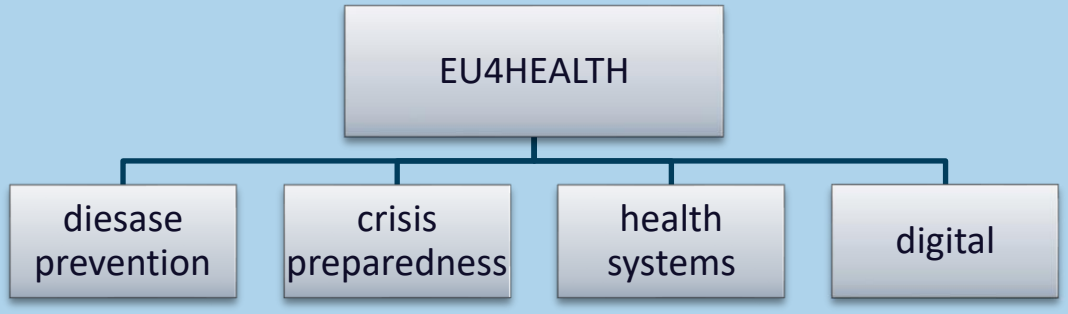
	○ Indicator 1: Number of users of GOVSATCOM ○ Indicator 2: Availability of Services 5. To contribute to an autonomous, secure and cost-efficient capability to access space ○ Indicator 1: Number of launches for EU Space actions 6. For the actions in support of the space sector: support and reinforce the competitiveness, entrepreneurship, skills and capacity to innovate of legal and natural persons from the Union active or wishing to become active in that sector, with particular regard to the position and needs of small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups. ○ Indicator 1: Growth in the downstream sector related to the Space actions
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Environment ☐ Education ☐ Development & Cooperation ☒ Climate Action ☐ Youth ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Justice ☒ Migration ☐ Research & innovation ☒ Business & industry ☒ Europe for Citizen ☐ Consumer & Public Health ☐ Sports ☐ Culture & Media ☐ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☐ ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ IPA ☒ ACP ☒ ASEAN ☒ ENI ☐
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☐ Private Companies ☒ Research Institutes ☒ Public Bodies ☐ Natural Entities ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☐ Universities ☐ Migrants ☐ NGOs ☐ Students ☒ Civil Society

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 12,6 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 14,9 billion**		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**Increased by 17%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **5**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		

Tips for applicants on budgeting	Check thoroughly the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (available online); For contracts above €10 million, the contracting authority shall ensure that at least 30 % of the value of the contract is subcontracted to companies outside the group of the prime contractor, in order to enable the cross-border participation of SMEs.
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Copernicus is reaching user constituencies from the traditional space area but so far did not sufficiently manage to reach other potential users outside space; Due to the very high number of user registrations, the communication aspects, the data distribution and access, and data download need to be improved. There is a need to effectively make available and allow for combination with other data of massive volumes of satellite data and information. Regarding GNSS, the governance set-up has revealed some inefficiency in terms of low reactivity of the decision-making process due to the number of actors involved but also due to a different governance set-up between deployment; The launch of initial services and the transition from the deployment to the exploitation phase have raised challenges that need to be properly addressed in order to maintain and improve the appropriate level of security for the operation of the EGNSS systems.
Programme Specific Practical Information	Define an effective governance structure, align scope for better coordination between the various actors and potential for further synergies; Check the specific Regulation (EU) No 1285/2013 European satellite navigation systems, Galileo and EGNOS; Regulation (EU) No 377/2014 establishing the Copernicus Programme; Decision No 541/2014/EU (SST); Regulation (EU) No 912/2010 European GNSS Agency - renamed the 'EU Agency for the Space Programme'
Positive Aspects	Most of the budget will be implemented through indirect management thanks to contribution agreements with entrusted entities; Available IP on Space technology; The new EU Space Programme proposes streamlined and simpler ways of cooperation between all institutional actors, without fundamentally altering the balance of responsibilities between all actors involved. All the existing space programmes will be consolidated in a single EU Space Programme with different components. Copernicus offers free, full and open access to all data and services through the Copernicus website and dedicated data hubs. Copernicus users – citizens, public authorities and companies – will benefit from new Data and Information Access Services (DIAS) so they can directly use the data in a cloud computing environment, set up their services and innovate on top of these data with new services and applications. Users will also be able to process and store the data under commercial conditions; The market uptake of Galileo has been a great success.

Negative Aspects	✗ Stakeholders called for adequate funding and more simplification; ✗ Bureaucratic burden; ✗ Provisions related to the protection of security interests, ownership and licence rights (in respect of tangible and intangible assets), and the participation of third countries and/or international organisations in the space programme were not addressed at this stage
Related Links	SPACE a detailed Overview with all Details EU space programme legislation in progress Briefing (EPRS, 05-2019) https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628300/EPRS_BRI(2018)628300_EN.pdf EU Space Policy, including ESP Proposal (Document 1 & 2) regulation of European Comission 06-2018 *https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-space-programmes/* Following the European Parliament's consent on 16 December 2020, the Council adopted the regulation laying down the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027. EU space policy, last seen 12/01/2021 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-space-programme/ Council adopts position on €14.8 billion EU space programme for 2021-2027 (Council's position at first Reading, 9th April 2021) https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14312-2020-INIT/en/pdf
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Develop an evaluation framework with a set of indicators intended to measure the extent to which the specific objectives of the Programme have been achieved and with a view to minimising administrative burdens and costs; Indicators should be linked to the specific objectives but without repeating them to avoid incoherence.
DON'Ts	--

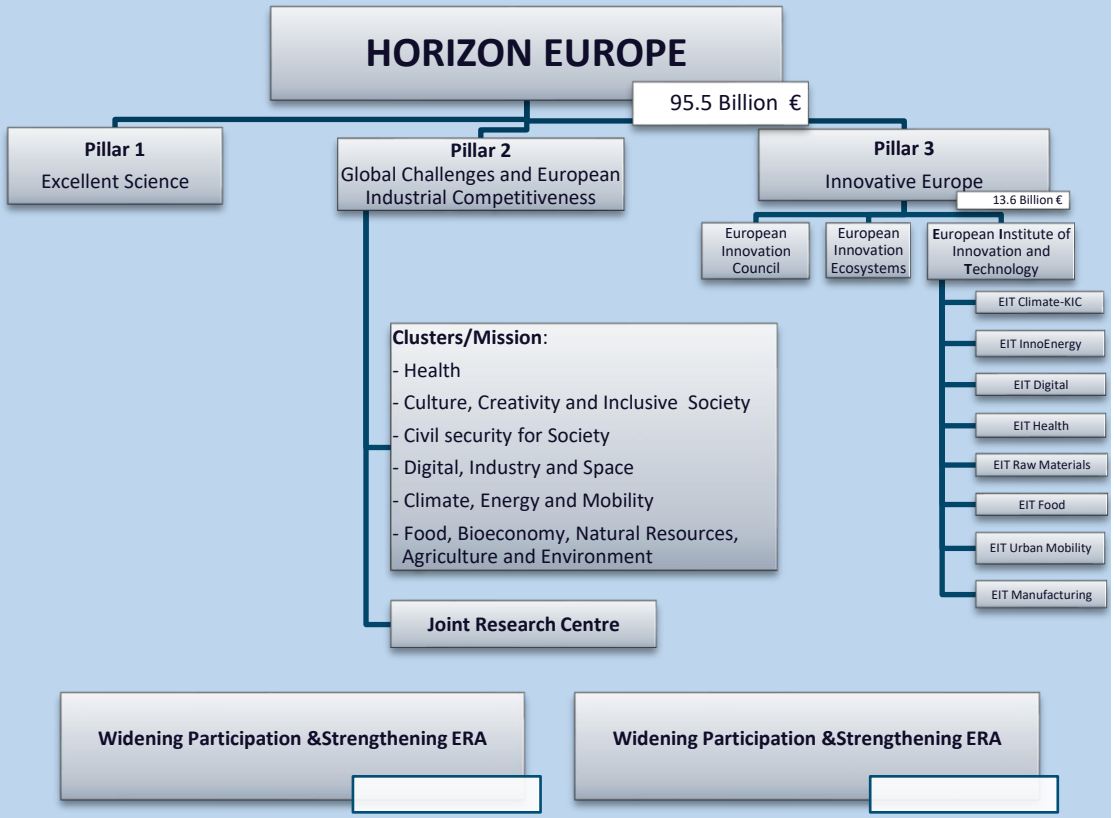
2.5.4.9. EU4HEALTH

Acronym	**EU4HEALTH**	Former Programme Name:	3rd EU Health Programme
Name	EU4HEALTH		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			

Introduction	The EU4Health program is the EU health policy response to the COVID 19 pandemic to improve conditions for patients, medical and nursing staff, and health systems in Europe. EU4Health will go beyond a mere crisis response to make health systems more resilient. EU4Health is implemented through annual work programs. The actions cover four action areas: Disease Prevention, Crisis Preparedness, Health Systems and Digital - with a cross-cutting focus on cancer.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**<u>The ten specific objectives formulated under the four general objectives are:</u>** **1. Improving and promoting health in the Union** • Disease prevention and health promotion • Health initiatives and cooperation at international level **2. Combating cross-border health threats** • Prevention, preparedness and rapid response with regard to cross-border health threats • Supplementing national stockpiles with essential crisis-related products • Establishment of a reserve of medical, health and support personnel **3. Improvements in pharmaceuticals, medical devices and crisis-related products** • Available and affordable medicines, medical devices and crisis-related products **4. Strengthening health systems, their resilience and resource efficiency** • Strengthening health data, digital tools and services; digitizing health systems • Improving access to healthcare • Developing and enforcing EU health law and evidence-based decision making • Alignment between national health systems
Thematic Priorities	☒ Health & Medicine ☒ Education ☒ Research & innovation ☒ Consumer Protection
Participating Countries	☒ EU27
Eligible Applicants	**<u>Legal body:</u>** ☒ NGOs ☒ Civil Society Organisations ☒ SMEs ☒ Public Authorites ☒ Networks **<u>Specific characteristics:</u>** --
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**<u>Legal body:</u>** ☒ Health systems of the EU member states ☒ Authorities of the health systems

	☒ Research ogranisations ☒ NGOs	☒ Health organizations ☒ Patients in the EU health system
	Specific characteristics:	--
Budget		
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 0,47 billion**	
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 5,75 billion**	
Increase/ Decrease in %	**+1223%**	
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants		
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	EU4Health was implemented with massive new funding and a new structure, because the EU Health system(s) need more focused efforts for building resilience and coordination between the national systems after the covid crisis More synergies with other programmes like ESF+, Horizon Europe, ERDF, rescEU, Digital Europe, InvestEU, Erasmus+, … are necessary and will be a big part of EU4HEALTH	
Programme Specific Practical Information	Partners must often all be cultural professionals working in the cultural and creative sector	
Positive Aspects	--	
Negative Aspects	✗ Most of the funding Will not be publicly available, but instead be spend by the member states health systems ✗ The management Will be an unusual mix between direct, shared and indirect management	
Related Links	**EU4HEALTH a detailed Overview with all Details** https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/eu4health_en https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_956 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2021.107.01.0001.01.ENG	
General DOs and DON'Ts		
DOs	--	
DON'Ts	--	

2.5.4.10. HEU – HORIZON EUROPE

Acronym	HEU	Name:	Horizon 2020
Name	HORIZON EUROPE (HEU)		
General Information			
Structure			
Introduction	Horizon Europe (HEU) is the largest R&I programme in the world. Successor of Horizon2020, it is foreseen to involve 130+ countries eligible for funding. It supports research and innovation thoughout the entire value chain, from frontier research to the market uptake of innovation, including scale-up of breakthrough innovators. The management of the framework programme is shared among many subjects, from the European Commission's directorates general and its Agencies, to independent bodies, such as e.g. European Research Council, European Innovation Council, European Institute of Innovation and Technology, and the Joint Research Centre. The "new" Horizon programme is characterised by a significant shift in the underpinning paradigm, switching from "activity-driven" (Horizon 2020) to "Impact-driven" (Horizon Europe). The new programme structure and logic confirm the TRLs-based approach (Technology Readiness Levels), securing funding instrument for each stage of development of the research/innovation. The TRLs progress is also reflected the program segmentation in the 3 core "Pillars": **Pillar I** focusses on i) fundamental research (ERC), ii) researchers' career development (MSCA actions); and iii) strategic Research Infrastructures. It supports activities in the very early TRLs (roughly from TRL1 to TRL3/4), and the key granting authorities are the		

European Research Council (ERC) and the Research Executive Agency (REA). Typically, beneficiaries of Pillar 1 are individual researchers (Principal Investigators and researchers at different levels of their career), universities, research centres, with a minority component of private organisations from the industry. Pillar I adopts a bottom up approach, i.e. research will be open to research in any sector and not limited to pre-identified specific topics.

Pillar II provides funding for the technological development of the idea, enabling the TRL to move from research toward the market. Pillar II is the "political" pillar of the programme. By offering a top-down approach (identification of research priorities through strategic planning, and definition of priorities, expected impacts, topics in the cluster work programmes) the programme leverage on R&I to reach its political and policy goals. The Pillar is segmented into 6 "clusters" and 5 "missions". Clusters provide funding through Research and Innovation Actions (RIA), Innovation Actions (IA) and Coordination & Support Actions (CSA). They are collaborative projects implemented by a consortium of beneficiaries according to the traditional model adopted in Horizon2020. The very element of novelty of Pillar II are the so-called "Missions", ambitious, time-bound set of actions in those areas where a single EU project cannot achieve the expected impact. Therefore, the main characteristic of the Missions implementation model is the "portfolio" approach (the success of project proposals is largely influenced by their relevance with the topic, but also by their complementarity with other projects in the same portfolio).

The Pillar III offers funding for "innovation", targeting those ideas with high TRLs, focusing on the potential "market" impact. Thanks to the new Horizon Europe Pillar III, the innovation is finally recognised as important as the research and the technology development in order to reach the Unions ambitious environmental, societal, competitiveness, global leadership goals. This European Innovation Council (EIC) component of this pillar is designed for SMEs mostly, even if the participation of other key players of the innovation ecosystem (research institutions, HEI, and public administration) is ensured. The European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) part of the pillar is substantially confirmed as H2020, representing the funding instrument for sector-specific Knowledge Innovation Communities implementing the triple helix paradigm. Finally, Pillar III will keep funding the strengthening and growth of the European Innovation Ecosystems.

The above main structure of the programme is complemented by other programme parts (outside the three traditional pillars) such as "Widening participation and spreading excellence in the European Research Area", "Reforming and enhancing the European Research and Innovation system", the "European Defence Fund" and the EURATOM funding.

HEU will provide support to beneficiaries thoughout many types of actions: recurrent are the RIA, IA, CSA, ERC grants (starting / consolidator / advanced / synergy, proof of concept), training and mobility action (MSCA, slightly modified and renamed), the EIC funding instruments in the twofold option "Open" or "Strategic Challenges" i.e. Pathfinder (former Future and Emerging Technologies – FET, in H2020), Transition (new funding instrument) and Accelerator (renewed, and replacing the formerly

	known SME Instrument phase 2), PPC (Pre-commercial procurement), PPI (Public procurement of innovative solutions), prizes (inducement/recognition). The programme is open to any type of organisation, including natural persons (for specific actions only). In Horizon 2020, the EU contribution received by type of beneficiary has been: • Research Organisations: 25.4% • Private for profit: 28.5% • Higher or Secondary education establishments: 39.3% • Public Bodies (Excluding Research & Education): 3.1% • Others: 3.6%
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	Horizon Europe funds Research, Technology Development, Innovation, including their relevant ecosystems, R&I policy reform and governance. Pillar I and III adopt a bottom-up approach, so the applicant can define the project topic. **Pillar II has pre-defined topics for clusters and mission:** Clusters focus on: 1. Health 2. Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society 3. Civil security for society 4. Digital Industry and Space 5. Climate, Energy and Mobility 6. Food, bio economy, natural resources, Agriculture and Environment. Missions focus on: 1. Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation 2. Cancer 3. Climate-neutral and smart cities 4. Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters 5. Soil health and food
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Environment ☒ Education ☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Climate Action ☐ Youth ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Justice ☐ Migration ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☒ Business & industry ☐ Europe for Citizen ☒ Consumer & Public Health ☐ Sports ☒ Culture & Media
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ IPA ☒ ACP ☒ ASEAN ☐ ☐
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Private Companies ☒ Research Institutes

	☒ Public Bodies	☒ Natural Entities	☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ SMEs ☐ NGOs	☒ Universities ☐ Students	☐ Migrants ☐ Civil Society
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**Horizon 2020: 77b€**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**Horizon Europe: 95.5 billion (current prices) (December 2020 Agreement)**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**+30%** *(Comparing Horizon Europe against Horizon 2020 for EU27, in constant prices)*		
Budget per project	***Average*** ***(Horizon 2020)***	***Min.***	***Max.***
	--	--	--
RIA	6,03M	Depending on the call	Depending on the call
IA	9.18M	Depending on the call	Depending on the call
CSA	1.48M	Depending on the call	Depending on the call
ITN	3.32M	Depending on the monthly allowance rates *(max 540 person/months per project)*	
IF	187.2K	Depending on the monthly allowance rates *(max 36 person/months per project)*	
RISE	983.7K	Depending on the monthly allowance rates	
Accelerator	2.44M *(Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 2)*	500.000€	2.5 M €
Starting	1.49M	500K	
Consolidator	1,94M	Up to 1.5M	
Advanced	2.40M	Up to 2M	
Synergy	9.7M	Up to 2.5M	
PoC	150.1K	N/A	150K
Co-Fund	5.67M	Depending on the call	
Prizes		Depending on the call	
PPC	6.21M	Depending on the call	
PPI	29.94M	Depending on the call	
ERA-NET Cofund	21.99M	Depending on the call	
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **5**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The financial aspects (budget) of the research Framework Programmes are among the most complex to manage. The program uses the full range of form of costs foreseen by the art. 125 Reg. 1046/2018 ("Financing not linked to costs", "Actual", "Unit", "Flat Rate" and "Lump Sum"). According to different type of actions, different forms of costs can (or must) be used. The majority of actions (RIA, IA, CSA, ERC grants, EIC grants) use actual, unit, and flat rate costs. MSCAs use unit costs only. Prizes and other		

	specific calls can use Lump Sum form. However, the use of a blend of form of costs is a decision of the EC services, so it is possible to find different combinations in different calls. Peculiarities of this programme budgeting is that (depending on the call specificities) it is possible also to declare costs related to Affiliated Entities (former linked third parties), in-kind contributors, sub-grantees. Projects are normally open to Associated Partners (former international partners, i.e. entities allowed to take part to the technical implementation of the action, but not eligible for funding). Indirect costs are normally 25% of eligible direct costs, not considering subcontracting, financial support to third parties (sub-grantees), costs of in-kind contributors when the contribution is not used by the beneficiary's premises, and other specific situations where the EU contribution to the action may represent a case of possible double funding (e.g. when receiving operational grants). The compilation of the estimated budget at proposal level can be different according to the budget model adopted for each call. For calls run under the traditional budget scheme (forms of cost: Actual, Unit, Lump Sum) the budget does not require to be detailed. Only the amount per partner, per budget category, is required. The detailed breakdown of costs incurred is required only during specific checks ordered by the PO, and (always) during Audits (CFS and II° level Audits). Consequently, estimating the budget at proposal level may appear a clerical task, nevertheless – give possible later checks and controls – underestimating the relevance of a well-designed and eligible budget can be extremely tricky, and costs declared could reveal to be ineligible when reporting, or during an audit. In addition to traditional budget approach, Horizon Europe is expected to consistently implement a novel way to manage grants budget, the so-called new Lump Sum i.e. the form of cost "Financing not linked to the cost of the relevant operations" (art. 125 letter a - Financial Regulation 2018/1046). This form of costs was introduced in 2018, and piloted between 2018 and 2020, with the aim of simplifying the financial management of grants. It is expected to be used for RIA, IA and CSA mainly, but the real magnitude of its Scope will depend on the relevant EC authorising officers responsible for each call or group of calls. When a call is implemented under this scheme, the financial reporting is no more required (i.e., no financial statements, no financial audits, no timesheets, …), and the EU contribution will be conditional to the completion of Work Packages, by all partners involved in its implementation) before the end of the reporting period. This novel lump sum model entails a detailed breakdown of project estimated costs at proposal level, per beneficiary, per budget category ad per work package, and very limited possibilities for budget shift are foreseen.
Tips for applicants on budgeting	• Even if not required by the application form, the estimated budget included in the proposal should reflect the results of an analytical budget construction, in order to avoid major problems in budget shifting during the project implementation; • When building your proposal, consider the option of heaving Linked Third Parties, in-kind contributors, International partners, instead of project partners, or subcontractors; • If you need subcontractors, make sure to describe the task to be subcontracted, the criteria that will be used to select the supplier (or the

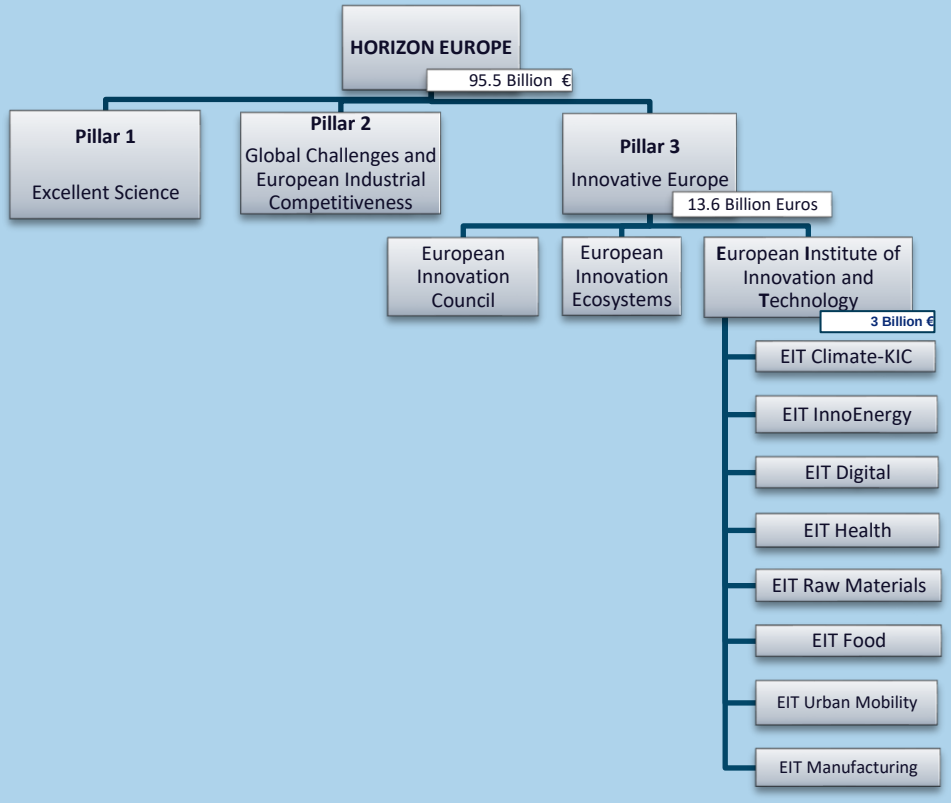
	description of the selected subcontractor and the relevant selection criteria used), always ensuring the principle of "best value for money"; - Keep an eye on the eligibility of your personnel costs, especially for categories other than A1 Employees. Unintentionally, you may estimate/declare costs of staff members that are not eligible due to the lack of formal requirements in their contracts; - When estimating the budget for personnel costs, use the most recent hourly rate of the personnel involved in the action, in order to be as close as possible to the actual rate you will you have to use to declare your costs; - Do not try to artificially inflate your estimated costs in order to reach the EU contribution max amount set by the call when you estimate your project costs; you'll be able to claim only duly justified cost backed by reasonable and justified effort.
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	The following aspects revealed to be more prone to error, or poor implementation/management, in Horizon 2020: <u>Technical Implementation issues:</u> - Soundness and credibility of KPIs, - Confusing Project KPIs vs Impact Indicators, - poorly justified Matching with EU policies, - clear understanding of TRLs scale (starting level and expected final level at the end of the project), - low level of ambition (minor advancement in the State-of-art, low innovation potential, …); - underestimation of the "Impact" related aspects and their relevance; - poor and confused Dissemination/Communication/Exploitation plans, - neglected stakeholders' analysis; - exploitation pathway not considered or prepared; - poor Work Package and Tasks description (including details of partner involvement); - difference between Deliverables/Milestones/Reports is not clear; - neglected Ethic issues, and no Ethic workpackage foreseen at proposal level; - lack of understanding of Third Parties roles and involvement; - No (or poor) Contingency Plan, not realistically covering main risks. <u>Financial Implementation issues:</u> - incorrect calculation of productive hours for personnel costs - ineligible remuneration costs for the calculation of the hourly rates for both actual costs and for average personnel costs - incorrect time claimed - Subcontracting and other direct costs allocated in the wrong category - costs without valid supporting documents - costs not foreseen in the grant agreement or agreed by EU services. - errors in equipment costs due to no direct measurement of the costs - lack of adequate supporting documents for other goods and services - travel costs not related to the action or missing supporting documents

	Time records absent or incomplete or not signed, no description of related activity, insufficient detail (e.g. only monthly activities), not subject to supervision /authorisation by superiors / project manager Project personnel not directly employed or paid by the beneficiary (unless use of 3rd party included in Annex I) Costs not recorded in the statutory accounts Usual accounting or management practices not applied to the EU project Use of budgeted figures
Programme Specific Practical Information	The programme is expected to be entirely managed through the Funding and Tender Opportunities portal, or the AI EIC platform (for EIC funds). The portal provides any practical information to participate to Horizon Europe, e.g official documents (work programmes, call for proposal, and models of grant agreements, guidelines, and templates). It is also the access point to the Participant Register, the submission facility, the System for Grant Management (SYGMA), the Project and Results area and the participation to the programme as an individual Expert.
Positive Aspects	Very high budgets available; High co-founding rates (up to 100%); Raises the international scientific standing of your organisation; All submission and project management processes online through the Participant Portal; Once you are awarded with the first grant, it is easier to keep receiving funds in the future.
Negative Aspects	Low to very low success rates; Complexity of proposal preparation; Complicated budget management and costs eligibility, resulting in beneficiaries more prone to errors and EU contribution recovery; Subject to significant technical and financial audits; Recurrent clusters of beneficiaries – high barriers to entry
Related Links	**HEU a detailed Overview with all Details** Participant Portal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home CORDIS: https://cordis.europa.eu/ DG Research: https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/organisation/dg-rtd-dg-research-innovation_en European Research Council: https://erc.europa.eu/ Marie Curie actions: https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node_en European Research Infrastructures: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-

	innovation/partners-networking/access-research-infrastructure/european-research-infrastructures_en - European Innovation Council: https://ec.europa.eu/research/eic/index.cfm - European Institute for Innovation and Technology: https://ec.europa.eu/research/eic/index.cfm - European Partnerships: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/european-partnerships-horizon-europe_en - Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/spreading-excellence-and-widening-participation - Joint Research Centre: https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/joint-research-centre_en
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	- Read carefully the entire call for proposal. Every line includes a piece of information valuable to prepare a sound proposal; - Dedicate time to understand the call scope, challenge and expected pathway to impact – you need to demonstrate you understand how the innovation can reach the society and generate an impact; - Involve you partners from the very beginning in the proposal preparation – it may take from 6 months to 1 year to prepare a competitive proposal, and it takes time to brainstorm with them and extract the best from each partner; - Ensure you have the technical and financial resources to carry out the action, or at least you have a pan to secure them; - Start working on your consortium agreement terms from the very beginning of your contacts with partners. The internal rules of the game are extremely important for your project to run smoothly, in particular about the ownership and rights to exploit research results;
DON'Ts	- Don't write your proposal alone, many expertise are required from your organisation. Collaborative projects are not one-man-band show, so proposals neither. Transmit to your partners the need of their involvement and contribution in the proposal planning and writing; - Don't underestimate the efforts and time required for the "2.Impact" section of the application form. While you are very good in writing about your science/technology/innovation ("1. Excellence"), you may struggle in figuring out and describe the benefits of your project for the world outside the academia. Get support from your team to develop this part in appropriately (e.g. experts from Social Sciences and Humanities, Knowledge transfer offices, Stakeholders external to the consortium); - Ask several review from independent experts or colleagues to identify weaknesses and remain open-minded to integrations; - In particular for very competitive and recurring calls (e.g. ERC, MSCA, Accelerator, Pathfinder,…) consider that you may be not successful at first attempt. It may take more than one to be awarded. If your project is not selected, it doesn't mean it is not good, it means it can be improved; - Don't offer to the EC unrealistic technical and scientific achievements for the

	sole purpose to rise interest on your project. Your proposal might be evaluated by experts from the same sector, so they can understand whether your ambition is realistic, and if the work plan can achieve the expected goals.

2.5.4.11. HEU-EIT – HORIZON EUROPE - EIT

Acronym	**EIT**	Former Programme Name:	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
Name	**EIT - European Institute of Innovation and Technology**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The European Institute of Innovation and Technology seeks to strengthen the capacity of EU Member States for innovation, to foster sustainable economic growth and competitiveness, and to address major societal challenges faced by the Union. **<u>EIT mission is to:</u>** • Promote and integrate higher education, research and innovation of the highest standards; • Promote synergies and cooperation between higher education, research and innovation; • Contribute to sustainable economic growth, competitiveness and entrepreneurship by enhancing EU Member States' capacity for innovation; • Address major societal challenges faced by the Union.		

	The EIT forms part of Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, which ensures that the EIT works in partnership with other EU initiatives and programmes. The EIT established 8 Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and two more will be created. These communities are supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as generating breakthroughs in the ways that higher education, research and business collaborate. The existing KICs are: • EIT Climate-KIC: Drivers of climate innovation in Europe and beyond • EIT Digital: For a strong, digital Europe • EIT Food: EIT Food connects businesses, research centres, universities and consumers. • EIT Health: Together for healthy lives in Europe • EIT InnoEnergy: Pioneering change in sustainable energy • EIT Manufacturing: Strengthening and increasing the competiveness of Europe's manufacturing • EIT Raw Materials: Developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe • EIT Urban Mobility: Smart, green and integrated transport Based on a proposal from the Governing Board and an analysis thereof, a first new KIC, in the field of Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI), is proposed to be launched as soon as possible in 2022 or 2023, with a call for proposals to be published if feasible in 2021. This priority field has the strongest complementarity with the eight existing KICs, as well as with the potential priority areas for other European Partnerships to be launched in the framework of Horizon Europe. A second new KIC, in the field of Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems (WMM), is proposed to be launched in 2026, with a call for proposals to be published in 2025. The Commission, with the assistance of independent external experts, shall carry out an ex-ante analysis by 2024 to evaluate the relevance of the WMM field. If the analysis results in a negative conclusion, the Commission may submit a proposal to amend SIA 2021-2027, taking into account the contribution of the Governing Board and the strategic planning of Horizon Europe. **The EIT will implement activities aiming at:** 1) Strengthening sustainable innovation ecosystems across Europe; 2) Fostering the development of entrepreneurial and innovation skills in a lifelong learning perspective and support the entrepreneurial transformation of EU HEIs – Higher Education Institutions; 3) Bringing new solutions to global challenges to the market.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	The Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) proposed for 2021-2027 ensures alignment with the objectives of Horizon Europe and introduces the following main new features: • Increasing the regional impact of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs): In the future, the EIT will strengthen its networks, involving more higher

education institutions, businesses and research organisations by developing regional outreach strategies. The selection of cooperation partners and the preparation of KIC activities will be more inclusive. KICs will also develop links to Smart Specialisation Strategies, an EU initiative to spur economic growth and job creation by enabling each region to identify and develop its own competitive advantages.

- Boosting the innovation capacity of higher education: The EIT will support 750 higher education institutions with funding, expertise and coaching, enabling them to develop economic activities within their area of interest. The Institute will design and launch activities particularly in countries with a lower innovation capacity. In doing so, the EIT will build on successful policy initiatives such as HEInnovate, a free self-assessment tool for all types of higher education institutions, or the Regional Innovation Impact Assessment Framework, which allows universities to assess how they are fostering innovation in the regions they are based in.

- Launch of new KICs: The EIT will launch two new KICs, selected in fields most relevant to Horizon Europe policy priorities. The first new KIC is set to focus on the cultural and creative industries (CCI) and is planned to start in 2022. This sector has a high growth potential, many local grassroots initiatives and strong citizen appeal and is complementary to the existing eight KICs. The priority field of a second new KIC will be decided at a later stage; it is due to be launched in 2025.

<u>The EIT will provide support to KICs that are running portfolios of knowledge triangle activities through:</u>

1. Education and training activities with strong entrepreneurship components to train the next generation of talents, including the design and implementation of EIT labelled programmes, in particular at master and doctoral level (EIT Label);
2. Activities supporting innovation to develop products and services that address a specific business opportunity;
3. Business creation and support activities, such as accelerator schemes to help entrepreneurs translate their ideas into successful ventures and speed up the growth Process.

<u>KICs shall in particular undertake:</u>

1. Innovation activities and investments with European added value, including the support to the creation and development of innovative businesses, fully integrating the higher education and research dimensions to attain a critical mass and stimulating the dissemination and exploitation of results;
2. Cutting-edge and innovation-driven research experimentation, prototyping and demonstration in areas of key economic and societal interest and drawing on the results of European Union and national research, with the potential to strengthen Europe's Union's competitiveness at international level and find solutions for the major challenges faced by European society;

	3. Education and training activities in particular at masters and doctoral level, as well as professional training courses, in disciplines with the potential to meet future European socio-economic needs and which expand the Union's talent base, promote the development of innovation-related skills, the improvement of managerial and entrepreneurial skills and the mobility of researchers and students, and foster knowledge-sharing, mentoring and networking among the recipients of EIT-labelled degrees and training; 4. Outreach activities and the dissemination of best practices in the innovation sector with a focus on the development of cooperation between higher education, research and business, including the service and financial sectors; 5. To seek synergies and complementarities between KIC activities and existing European, national and regional programmes, where appropriate. <u>The EIT's activities, including those managed through the KICs, are expected to have:</u> 1. A technological, economic and innovation impact by influencing the creation and growth of businesses, as well as the creation of new innovative solutions to address global challenges, creating direct and indirect jobs and mobilising additional public and private investments; 2. A scientific and educational impact by strengthening human capital in research and innovation, enhancing innovative and entrepreneurial skills both at individual and organisational levels and fostering the creation and diffusion of knowledge and innovation openly within society; 3. A societal impact, including an impact derived by the delivery of systemic solutions within and beyond the EIT Community, also through cross-KIC activities, by addressing Union policy priorities in the fields of climate change (such as mitigation, adaptation and resilience), energy, raw materials, health, added value manufacturing, digital, urban mobility, food, culture and creativity, or water through innovative solutions, engagement with citizens and end-users and by strengthening the uptake of innovative solutions in those areas of society.
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Environment ☒ Education ☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Climate Action ☒ Youth ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☐ Migration ☒ Research & innovation ☒ Business & industry ☐ Europe for Citizen ☒ Consumer & Public Health ☐ Sports ☒ Culture & Media
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ IPA ☒ ACP ☒ ASEAN
Eligible Applicants	**<u>Legal body:</u>**

	☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies	☒ Private Companies ☐ Natural Entities	☒ Research Institutes ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☒ NGOs	☒ Universities ☒ Students	☐ Migrants ☒ Civil Society
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 2.4 Bln**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 3 Bln**		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**Increased by 25%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	EUR 0.25 Mio	EUR 0.1 Mio	EUR 0.35 Mio
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **5**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The Budget needs to be included by Work Package, year and category; It involves a considerable effort; Permits budget overview/editing.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	○ The distinctive focus of the EIT will be on human capital, entrepreneurial education, stronger regional outreach and support to business creation and development in specific thematic areas. EIT contribution to the KICs may cover up to 100 % of the total eligible costs of KIC added-value activities only in the initial stages of the KIC life. Such contribution shall gradually decrease over time in compliance with the co-funding rates defined in the SIA (see 3.4, Annex to the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of Council on the SIA for the EIT); Available platform with webinars to support proposal submission; Plan the Budget with the support of Excel, simulating the fields of Plaza platform (to have the overview of the Budget); The minimum condition to form a KIC is the participation of at least three independent partner organisations, established in at least three different Member States; At least two thirds of the partner organisations forming a KIC shall be established in the Member States; At least one higher education institution, one research organisation and one private company shall be part of each KIC; The EIT shall gradually decrease the funding rate for KIC added-value activities in order to increase the levels of private and public investments other than revenues from their partners. The adaptation of the funding model is expected to facilitate the ability of the KICs to manage the transition towards financial sustainability. It is expected that KICs be encouraged to gradually decrease the		

share of EIT funding in their business plan during the duration of the partnership agreements, while increasing the level of co-investment from non-EIT sources. Decreasing EIT funding rates for KIC added-value activities shall be applicable across phases of the KICs' entire life cycle (start-up, ramp-up, maturity, exit from the EIT grant), as presented in the following table:

	Start-up	Ramp-up	Maturity	Exit from EIT grant
Years	1 – 4	5 – 7	8 – 11	12 – 15
EIT funding rate	Up to 100 %	Up to 80 %	Up to 70 %	Up to 50 % at year 12, decreasing by 10 % per annum

- The EIT shall ensure that the grant allocation process will follow a performance-based funding model. The use of multiannual grants shall be increased to the extent possible. The EIT funding shall be directly tied to progress made in the areas listed in Article 10 and Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2021/819 and to the KICs' objectives as laid down in their business plans, and could be reduced, modified or discontinued in the event of a lack of results. The EIT shall, inter alia, provide stronger incentives to the KICs to strive for new partners and shall take corrective measures, in particular based on the KIC's individual performance, in order to ensure the highest level of impact;
- The EIT shall apply strict rules for reinforcing the comprehensive assessment mechanism prior to the expiry of the initial seven-year period of the KIC's operations in accordance with Articles 10 and 11 of Regulation (EU) 2021/819. That comprehensive assessment, to be undertaken with the help of independent external experts, shall be in line with best international practice and with the monitoring and evaluation criteria for European Partnerships set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/695. It shall take place before the expiry of the initial seven-year period. As a result of the comprehensive assessment, the Governing Board shall decide to continue, modify or discontinue (thus not extending the partnership agreement with that KIC) the financial contribution to a KIC and reallocate the resources to better performing activities. The Governing Board shall seek the opinion of the MSRG prior to adopting that decision.

Programme Specific Tips for Applicants

lessons learnt in 2014-2020

- Success rate depends on the on the KIC;
- KICs are active members of the EIT Community after the end date of the framework partnership agreement
- More than 50% of partners from the business sector (industry, SMEs and start-ups) demonstrate that the instrument (KIC) is close to the market;
- At the EU level, the KICs should continue to develop their thematic links with corresponding thematic DGs of the European Commission, seeking to inform and contribute to the development of policy and support the principles of the Innovation Union.
- CLCs (Co-location Centers) should play a stronger role in informing national and sub-national policy stakeholders of their results, particularly where they are able to 'channel' lessons learned at EIT and KIC level.

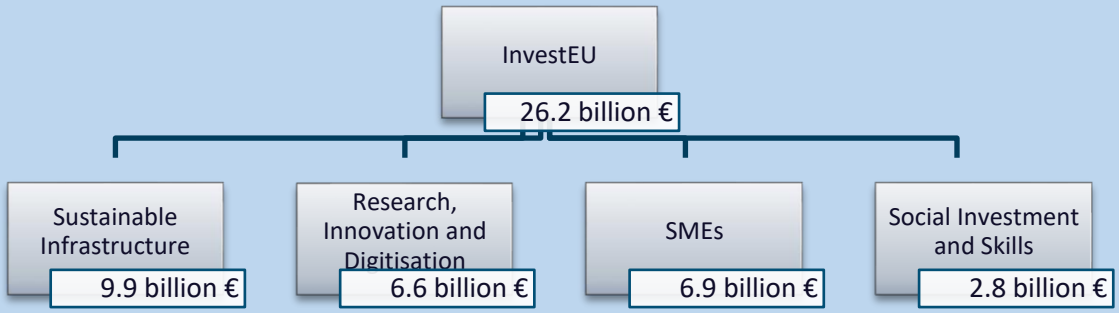
Programme

- Define your 'KIC business plan' describing the objectives and the planned KIC

Specific Practical Information	added-value activities; The KICs shall ensure that their activities are conducted with a high level of transparency. In particular, they shall set up an accessible, free website providing information about their activities; Each KIC is organised around five to ten of co-location centres (CLCs) which are intended to act as geographical hubs for the practical integration of the knowledge triangle; The first wave of KICs (EIT Digital, EIT Climate-KIC and EIT InnoEnergy), launched in 2009, is established and mature and after 2024 their framework partnership agreements will be terminated, in line with the maximum grant duration. A second and third generation of KICs (EIT Health and EIT Raw Materials (2014), EIT Food (2016) is maturing.
Positive Aspects	✔ The network is very strong; ✔ The access to support is easy – to Q&A or to get contact with other entities; ✔ KICs shall have substantial overall autonomy to define their internal organisation and composition, as well as their precise agenda and working methods; ✔ The variety of sources of funding eligible (EIT, KAVA, KCA); ✔ Further simplification of procedures for the efficient management of KICs (e.g. with the introduction of a new co-funding mechanism, multi-annuality of grants, etc.); ✔ The EIT shall intensify its efforts towards simplification in order to reduce the administrative burden on the KICs, allowing the implementation of their business plans and multiannual strategies in an agile and efficient way. Such simplification may include the use of lump sum or unit costs for relevant KIC activities.
Negative Aspects	✘ Innovation / Innovative Europe pillar is very competitive; ✘ The projects are approved on an annual base; ✘ KICs are incited to self 'financial sustainability', meaning a capacity of a KIC to fund its knowledge triangle activities independently after the end date of the partnership.
Related Links	**HEU-EIT a detailed Overview with all Details** EIT Website https://eit.europa.eu EIT Strategy *2021 - 2027* https://eit.europa.eu/who-we-are/eit-glance/eit-strategy-2021-2027 European Commission Proposals for the EIT legislative package (07-2019) https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/innovation-in-education/the-european-institute-of-innovation-and-technology-eit_en Knowledge and Innovation Communities https://eit.europa.eu/our-communities/eit-innovation-communities/eit-funding-model Decision (EU) 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe and repealing Decision No 1312/2013/EU https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021D0820&from=EN Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast)

	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0819&from=EN
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Develop efective and efficient Monitoring and Evaluation Tools for operational performance of the KICs; Reinforce openness and transparency of the KIC and the alignment with the proposed approach for European Partnerships under Horizon Europe Give priority to the transfer of its higher education, research and innovation activities to the business context and their commercial application, as well as to supporting the creation of start-ups, spin-offs and SMEs; Be clear on the role of the partners and responsibilities since the beginning of the process; Define – with the consortium – milestones, main editors of proposal sections and proof writers; Engage the CLC on the proposal writing for validation and Q&A; Engage KOL on validating your proposal since the beginning;
DON'Ts	Never start writing without having the consortium closed (considering all the value chain mandatory to fulfil the tasks proposed);

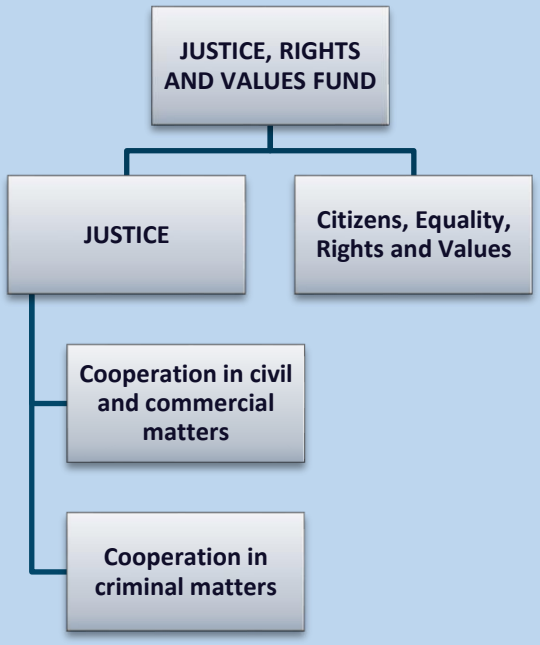
2.5.4.12. InvestEU

Acronym	INV	Former Programme Name:	NEW
Name	**InvestEU**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The InvestEU Fund acts as a single EU investment support mechanism for internal action, replacing all existing financial instruments. Its overall objective is to support the Union's policy objectives by mobilizing public and private investment within the EU that meets the additionality criterion, thereby addressing market failures and sub-optimal investment situations that hamper the achievement of the EU's objectives of sustainability, competitiveness and inclusive growth. **Components:** 1. InvestEU Fund (EU budget guarantee to back the financial products provided by the implementing partners)		

	2. InvestEU Advisory Hub (technical assistance for project development) 3. InvestEU Portal (easily accessible database to promote projects in search of financing) 4. blending operations (exploit, whenever appropriate, synergies between grant- and market-based financing)
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**No grant funding, but investment support.** - Policy Area "Sustainable Infrastructure" (9.9 Billion €) - Policy Area "Research, Innovation and Digitisation" (6.6 Billion €) - Policy Area "SMEs" (6.9 Billion €) - Policy Area "Social Investment and Skills" (2.8 Billion €) The just transition scheme will be established horizontally across all InvestEU policy windows.
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Digitisation ☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Business & industry ☒ Social Investment ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☐ IPA ☐ ACP ☐ ASEAN ☐ ☐
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☐ NGOs ☒ Private Companies ☐ Research Institutes ☐ Public Bodies ☐ Natural Entities ☐ **Specific characteristics:** --
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☒ private Companies ☒ Public bodies ☒ Private Investors ☒ Projekt promoters ☒ Service Providers ☒ Recipients of microfinance **Specific characteristics:** --
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 4.3 billion** *(sum of the united 2014 - 2020 programmes)*
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 10.28 billion**
Increase/Decrease in %	**219 % increase**

Budget per project	Average	Min.	Max.
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **4**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	Investment Support Schemes, not projects		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	too many financial instruments → streamlining necessary		
Programme Specific Practical Information	climate mainstreaming target of at least 60 % for investment under the sustainable infrastructure window		
Positive Aspects	--		
Negative Aspects	--		
Related Links	InvestEU a detailed Overview with all Details https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/659364/EPRS_BRI(2020)659364_EN.pdf		
General DOs and DON'Ts			
DOs	--		
DON'Ts	--		

2.5.4.13. JUSTICE

Acronym	JUSTICE	Name:	Justice Programme
Name	**Justice Programme**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The program aims to contribute to the further development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust. It promotes: • judicial cooperation in civil matters, including civil and commercial matters, insolvencies, family matters and successions, etc. • judicial cooperation in criminal matters • judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture • effective access to justice in Europe, including rights of victims of crime and procedural rights in criminal proceedings • initiatives in the field of drugs policy (judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects) • e-Justice • supporting crime victims		
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**Eligible actions:** • Training activities (staff exchanges, workshops, development of training modules,…) • Data collection, analysis • Mutual learning, cooperation 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,…)		

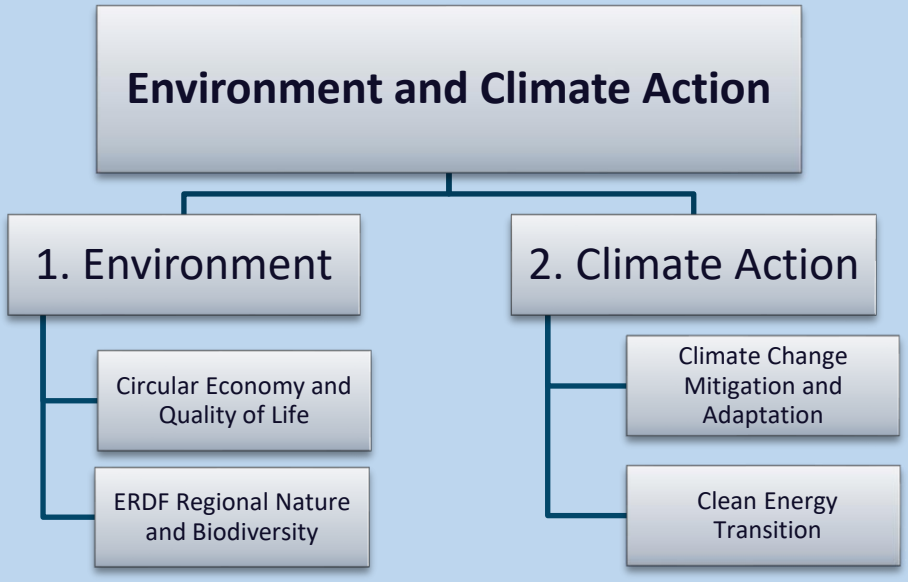
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Justice
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 (NO DK) ☒ IPA ☒ EFTA & EEA ☒ ENP ☒ Other third countries with specific agreement for participation
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ SMEs/Enterprises ☒ Research Institutes ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Training institutions ☒ Non-profit organizations ☒ International Organizations
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ Researchers/academics ☒ Citizens and Judiciary and judicial staff' (judges, prosecutors, court staff, lawyers, notaries, bailiffs, enforcement officers, insolvency practitioners, mediators, court interpreters, court experts, prison staff, probation officers

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 377,6 million**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 305 million**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**Decrease of 19,23 %**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	EUR 180.000 - 400.000	EUR 75.000 depending on the call	EUR 600.000 depending on the call
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **4**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	Guidelines for applicants (including financial rules) are clear The call identifies specific EC directives and regulations where the EU approach is needed to enhance the common EU Legal Area Detailed budget lines for each partner: travel, equipment, other costs, subcontracting, personnel (person-month for work package) Partners' administrative information and annexes to be uploaded on the Participant Portal The application package includes: Technical Part Template (Part B), Annex with indicators (xls format), staff CVs (PDF file) and letters of support from associate partners		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	A file for the budget definition is provided to help allocate project's costs and fill in the proposal. It has not to be uploaded Real costs must be applied		

	Partners' responsibilities (tasks and work package leaders) should be reflected in the budget composition and allocation of person-months Budget distribution: keep an overall balance among partners and countries, avoiding budget concentration
Program Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	The awarding rate of calls for proposal ranged between around 16% and 47% . With respect to the specific objectives "Judicial Cooperation" and "Judicial Training", almost half of the applications submitted were awarded. The Justice Programme promotes projects with a European dimension to tackle cross-border issues funding activities in key areas that are not necessarily high on the agenda of Member States. Thanks to its structure, with broad specific objectives, the Programme is able to timely respond to evolving and emerging needs.
Programme Specific Practical Information	Ensure practical feasibility of the project: include as partner/associate partner representatives of the target group; Letter of support from organizations representing the target group are positively evaluated (Ministry of Justice, managers of prisons, council of notaries, mediators, human rights observatories, NGOs); Time needed for proposal preparation: 2 months for experienced designers (depending on partners' commitment and collaboration). The file with indicators has to be carefully filled in with realistic numbers for outputs and outcomes: it is the EC's tool for the evaluation of project's results.
Positive Aspects	The programme is addressed to very specific targets and objectives: the competition is lower Work Programme describes the calls' topics, so the proposal preparation can start before their official publication The Part B template is not as complex as the H2020 one Flexibility during the project implementation: budget shifts up to 20% of the total budget are allowed Clear rules and templates for technical/financial reporting
Negative Aspects	The budget: obstacle for applicants without specific skills The overall budget per project is quite low Indicators sometimes are hard to assess or to describe
Related Links	**JUSTICE a detailed Overview with all Details** JUSTICE REGULATION JUSTICE - LEGISLATIVE TRAIN SCHEDULE JUSTICE - WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2022 JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	Clearly define a specific problem to be addressed Provide updated and detailed data (statistics, data) for the "context" section Clearly identify your target group and ways to reach it Show the project impact using realistic indicators

	Deliver practical outputs useful for the Justice operators/stakeholders
DON'Ts	Limit the partnership to the minimum eligibility requirements Include partners without clear roles Foresee too many deliverables Include too many project meetings Include a general/vague dissemination strategy describe the benefits for the target groups in a general way

2.5.4.14. LIFE – Clima

Acronym	LIFE	Name:	LIFE
Name	LIFE Subprogramme: Climate		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The EU LIFE program supports projects in the fields of environmental protection and climate policy. The focus here is on the implementation, adaptation and development of environmental and climate policies and European legislation in the relevant areas. In the funding period 2021 - 2027, LIFE contributes to the achievement of the environmental and climate policy goals of the von der Leyen Commission Strategy, the EU Green Deal and other EU environmental and climate strategies. However, the LIFE action program remains the only EU initiative that deals exclusively with environmental climate issues. The CLIMATE subprogramme specifically supports projects in the areas of farming, land use, peatland management, renewable energies and energy efficiency and also aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy by funding coordination and support actions (Other Action Grants) across Europe.		

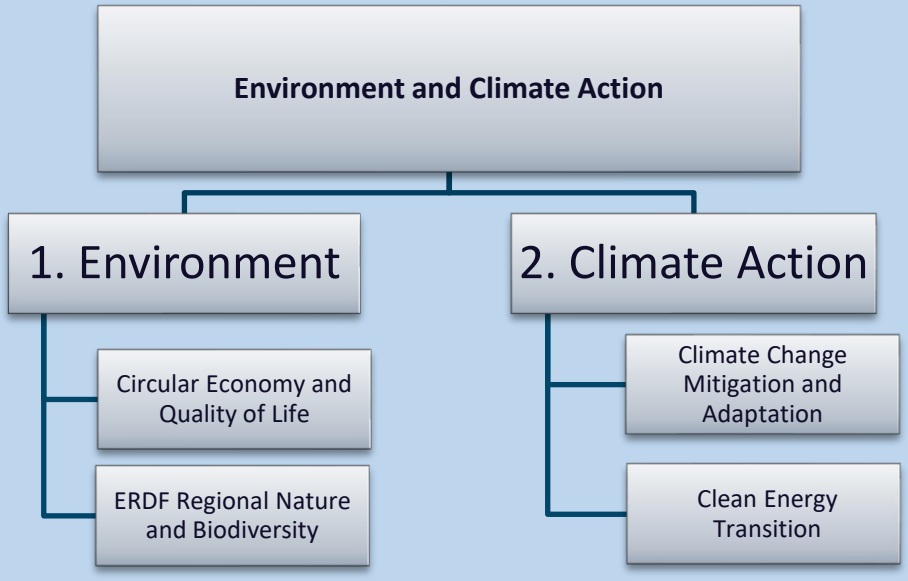
	Subprogramme: • Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; • Clean Energy Transition
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	NEW: strategic nature conservation projects strategic integrated projects technical assistance projects standard action projects pilot projects
Thematic Priorities	☐ Research & innovation ☐ Environment ☐ Education ☐ Development & Cooperation ☒ Climate Action ☐ Youth ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Justice ☐ Migration ☐ Research & innovation ☐ Business & industry ☐ Europe for Citizen ☐ Consumer & Public Health ☐ Sports ☐ Culture & Media ☐ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☐ ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ EFTA Members of the EEA ☒ Neighbourhood ☒ IPA ☒ associated countries ☐
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Private Companies ☐ Research Institutes ☒ Public Bodies ☐ Natural Entities ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ SMEs ☐ Universties ☐ Migrants ☐ NGOs ☐ Students ☐ Civil Society ☒ Environmental organisations/activists ☒ Municipalities ☒ public structures of the environmental sector

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**€ 850.000 million**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**€ 1 944 000 00** *€947 000 000 for the sub-programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* *€997 000 000 for the sub-programme Clean Energy Transition.*		
Increase/Decrease in %	**227%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
		500.000	5.000.000
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **3**		

Criteria for the complexity of budget	The support documentation is not very complex; Due to the fact that alot of LIFE projects are either follow-up projects of existing projects (also from other funding instruments) or want to generate follow-up projects themselves, the budgeting can be tricky, needing to take the other projects into account. For example to avoid double funding an action.
Tips for applicants on budgeting	Co-financing in traditional LIFE projects is up to 55% of the total eligible project costs*
Programm Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Opportunities for improvements regarding its catalytic role for the implementation of EU key policy priorities, coherence with other EU funds, strategic focus and management were identified. Success rate: 20% Failing proposals are usually poorly prepared Last round of calls comprised highest budget for projects First results of 2014-2020 Period - LINK The new LIFE program is designed to be simpler and more flexible to facilitate broader geographic access.
Programme Specific Practical Information	Traditional projects last on average projects 3–5 years A concept note should have no more than 10 pages If justified, an associated beneficiary or a sub-contractor under the coordinating beneficiary's direct control could take over the project management Bonus points if the consortium is transnational Create a complementary consortium Eligibility and award criteria are the most important evaluation criteria for the application (award criteria: overall quality & EU added value)
Positive Aspects	Overhead Flatrate (max.7%) Well-structured and informative website with direct contact to the National Contact Points Helpful tools and info events on application processes etc. Partly a two-step process, which makes the application process less stressful Project applications can theoretically be submitted in every official EU language.
Negative Aspects	proposals for small projects with total costs below €500 000 have rarely been selected in the evaluation due to the limited output and consequently a low added value
Related Links	**LIFE-Clima a detailed Overview with all Details** https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/section/life/life-climate-action-sub-programme https://ec.europa.eu/easme Support for applicants: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-support-applicants_de Project Database: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search#
General DOs and DON'Ts	

DOs	👍 Refer with the baseline description of the project on the EU-level, but also to the local context! 👍 Make clear, how the project is sustainable 👍 Limit the description of activities to the project's key activities and be specific in time and budget of those. 👍 Know the projects rationale when applying. It needs to be clear for the evaluator of your proposal 👍 For experienced applicants: Check out the new 2021-2028 KPIs for LIFE, as they changed in between funding periods. 👍 Be aware, that standard action projects with transnational cooperation and contribution to environmental, nature or climate protection receive extra points compared to single country projects.
DON'Ts	👎 Don't include maps or pictures in your application. 👎 Don't budget your activities too low out of austerity. 👎 No sub-contracting between beneficiaries and affiliates

2.5.4.15. LIFE – Environment

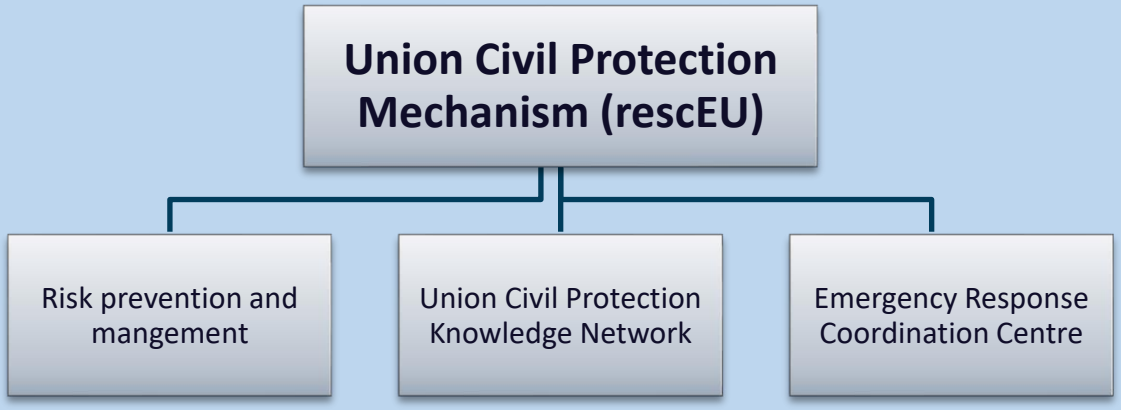
Acronym	-	Name:	**LIFE**
Name	**LIFE** **Subprogramme: Environment**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The EU LIFE program supports projects in the fields of environmental protection and climate policy. The focus here is on the implementation, adaptation and development of environmental and climate policies and European legislation in the relevant areas. In the funding period 2021 - 2027, LIFE contributes to the achievement of the environmental and climate policy goals of the von der Leyen Commission Strategy, the EU Green Deal and other EU environmental and climate strategies. However, the LIFE		

	action program remains the only EU initiative that deals exclusively with environmental climate issues. The ENVIRONMENT subprogramme specifically supports protection and restoration of Europe's nature and halting and reversing biodiversity loss as well as facilitating the transition toward a sustainable, circular, toxic-free, energy-efficient and climate-resilient economy and at protecting, restoring and improving the quality of the environment, either through direct interventions or by supporting the integration of those objectives in other policies. **Subprogramme:** • Nature and Biodiversity • Circular Economy and Quality of Life
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	NEW: strategic nature conservation projects strategic integrated projects technical assistance projects standard action projects pilot projects
Thematic Priorities	☐ Research & innovation ☐ Development & Cooperation ☐ Agriculture & Rural Development ☐ Research & innovation ☐ Consumer & Public Health ☐ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☒ Environment ☐ Climate Action ☐ Justice ☐ Business & industry ☐ Sports ☐ ☐ Education ☐ Youth ☐ Migration ☐ Europe for Citizen ☐ Culture & Media ☐
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ IPA ☒ EFTA Members of the EEA ☒ associated countries ☒ Neighbourhood ☐
Possible Applicants	☒ NGOs ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Private Companies ☐ Natural Entities ☐ Research Institutes ☐
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☒ SMEs ☒ NGOs ☒ Universties ☐ Students ☐ Migrants ☐ Civil Society
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**€ 2 550 000 000**
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**€ 3 488 000 000** *€2 143 000 000 for the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity*

	€1 345 000 000 for the sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**209%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
		500.000€	5.000.000€
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **3**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	The support documentation is not very complex; Due to the fact that alot of LIFE projects are either follow-up projects of existing projects (also from other funding instruments) or want to generate follow-up projects themselves, the budgeting can be tricky, needing to take the other projects into account. For example to avoid double funding an action.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	*Co-financing in traditional LIFE projects is up to 55% of the total eligible project costs. An exception are nature and biodiversity projects under the environment sub-programme: They can receive up to 60%, or 75% in specific cases.**		
Programm Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	*Opportunities for improvements regarding its catalytic role for the implementation of EU key policy priorities, coherence with other EU funds, strategic focus and management were identified.* *Success rate: 20%* *Failing proposals are usually poorly prepared* *Last round of calls comprised highest budget for projects* *First results of 2014-2020 Period - LINK* *The new LIFE program is designed to be simpler and more flexible to facilitate broader geographic access.*		
Programme Specific Practical Informations	*Traditional projects last on average projects 3–5 years* *A concept note should have no more than 10 pages* *If justified, an associated beneficiary or a sub-contractor under the coordinating beneficiary's direct control could take over the project management* *Bonus points if the consortium is transnational* *Create a complementary consortium* *Eligibility and award criteria are the most important evaluation criteria for the application (award criteria: overall quality & EU added value)*		
Positive Aspects	*Overhead Flatrate (max.7%)* *Well-structured and informative website with direct contact to the National Contact Points* *Helpful tools and info events on application processes etc.* *Partly a two-step process, which makes the application process less stressful*		
Negative Aspects	*proposals for small projects with total costs below €500 000 have rarely been selected in the evaluation due to the limited output and consequently a low added value*		
Related Links	**LIFE-ENV a detailed Overview with all Details**		

	✗ https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life ✗ https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/section/life/life-environment-sub-programme ✗ https://ec.europa.eu/easme/ ✗ Support for applicants: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-support-applicants_de ✗ Project Database: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search#
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	*Refer with the baseline description of the project on the EU-level, but also to the local context!* *Make clear, how the project is sustainable* *Limit the description of activities to the project's key activities and be specific in time and budget of those.* *Know the projects rationale when applying. It needs to be clear for the evaluator of your proposal* *For experienced applicants: Check out the new 2021-2028 KPIs for LIFE, as they changed in between funding periods.* Be aware, that standart action projects with transnational cooperation and contribution to nvironmental, nature or climate protection receive extra points compared to single country projects.
DON'Ts	*Don't include maps or pictures in your application.* *Don't budget your activities too low out of austerity.* *No sub-contracting between beneficiaries and affiliates*

2.5.4.16. **rescEU**

Acronym	rescEU	Former Programme Name:	---
Name	**Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			

Introduction	**Programme objectives:** RescEU´s main objective is to prevent, prepare and respond to natural and man-made disasters within an outside of the EU. Although its main focus is on human protection, it also entails dealing with the negative effects in the environmental, property and natural heritage sectors. ● improve the cooperation between the civil protection and other relevant services ● facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters, including to take measures that mitigate immediate consequences ● increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters ● increase the availability and use of scientific knowledge on disasters ● increase cooperation and coordination activities at transnational level **Programme strands:** Risk prevention and management: ● assessment of risk management capability at national and sub-national level Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network: ● improve training and knowledge sharing, to establish a network of relevant civil protection and disaster management actors Emergency Response Coordination Centre: ● enhance preparedness and response to disasters at EU level
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	● emergency response infrastructure, transport capacity and emergency support teams ● logistical infrastructure needed for different types of emergency, including those with a medical component ● coordination/complementing financial resources with the new EU4Health programme ● effective EU response in future to large-scale emergencies (i.e. COVID-19)
Thematic Priorities	☒ Civil Protection ☒ Information Technology ☒ Natural disasters ☒ Emergency response infrastructure
Participating Countries	☒ All Countries in the World The EU Civil Protection Mechanism covers all phases of disaster management - prevention, preparedness and response - and can be activated in any emergency-affected country in the world.
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** All Legal Entities

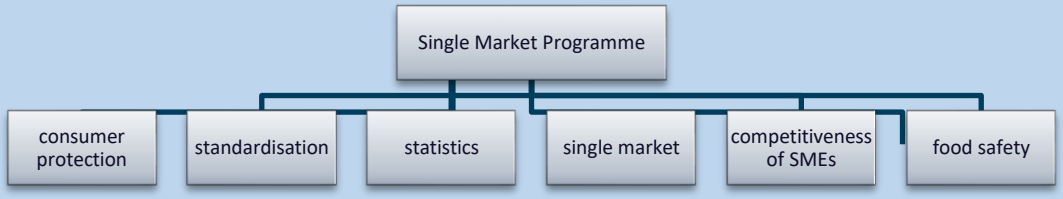
	Specific characteristics: --
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ National Authorities with civil protecton capacities ☒ International Organisations ☒ Health Orginisations ☒ Private Businesses
	Specific characteristics: --

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 574 million**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 3.32 billion**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**+ 578%**		
Budget per project	***Average***	***Min.***	***Max.***
		€ 300 000	€ 2. 000 000
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **4**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		

Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	--
Programme Specific Practical Information	*When the mechanism is activated, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre channels the assistance provided by the Member States and participating states.*
Positive Aspects	--
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	rescEU a detailed Overview with all Details https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/emergency-response-coordination-centre-ercc_en https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2019:125:FIN https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-

	content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019D0420&from=EN https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/1_en_act_part1_v9.pdf
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.4.17. SMP – SINGLE MARKET PROGRAM

Acronym	**SMP**	Former Programme Name:	**COSME**
Name	**Single Market Programme**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	The new Single Market Programme supports the whole european single market, its citizens and consumers. Stronger governance of the internal market and effective and efficient coordination of joint action by the Member States and the Commission are essential. This requires carefully drafted, implemented and enforced Union legislation in all areas, including financial services, anti-money laundering, free movement of capital and consumer protection.		
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	**<u>The main focus points of funding 2021-2027 are:</u>** • Strengthening the administration and functioning of the internal market. • Enforce and further develop rules in areas such as financial services, anti-money laundering, free movement of capital, consumer protection, food safety, animal and plant health • Supporting capacity-building joint actions between Member States • Production of high quality European statistics **<u>The Single Market Programme's main activities include</u>** • data gathering, analyses, studies and evaluations in support of effective enforcement and modernisation of the EU legal framework • capacity-building activities and facilitation of joint actions between EU countries, their competent authorities, the European Commission and decentralised EU agencies		

	• financing of mechanisms allowing individuals, consumers and business representatives to contribute to decision-making processes • strengthening the exchange and dissemination of expertise and knowledge • setting of common European standards
Thematic Priorities	☒ consumer protection ☒ economy ☒ Statistics ☒ SME´s
Participating Countries	☒ EU27
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** All Legal Entities
	Specific characteristics: --
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ Private individuals and companies ☒ consumer organizations ☒ statistical institutes ☒ standards organizations ☒ Authorities in the fields of food and feed, animal health and welfare and plant protection
	Specific characteristics: --

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	---		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 4.21 billion**		
Increase/ Decrease in %	--		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	*From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)* → ***5***		

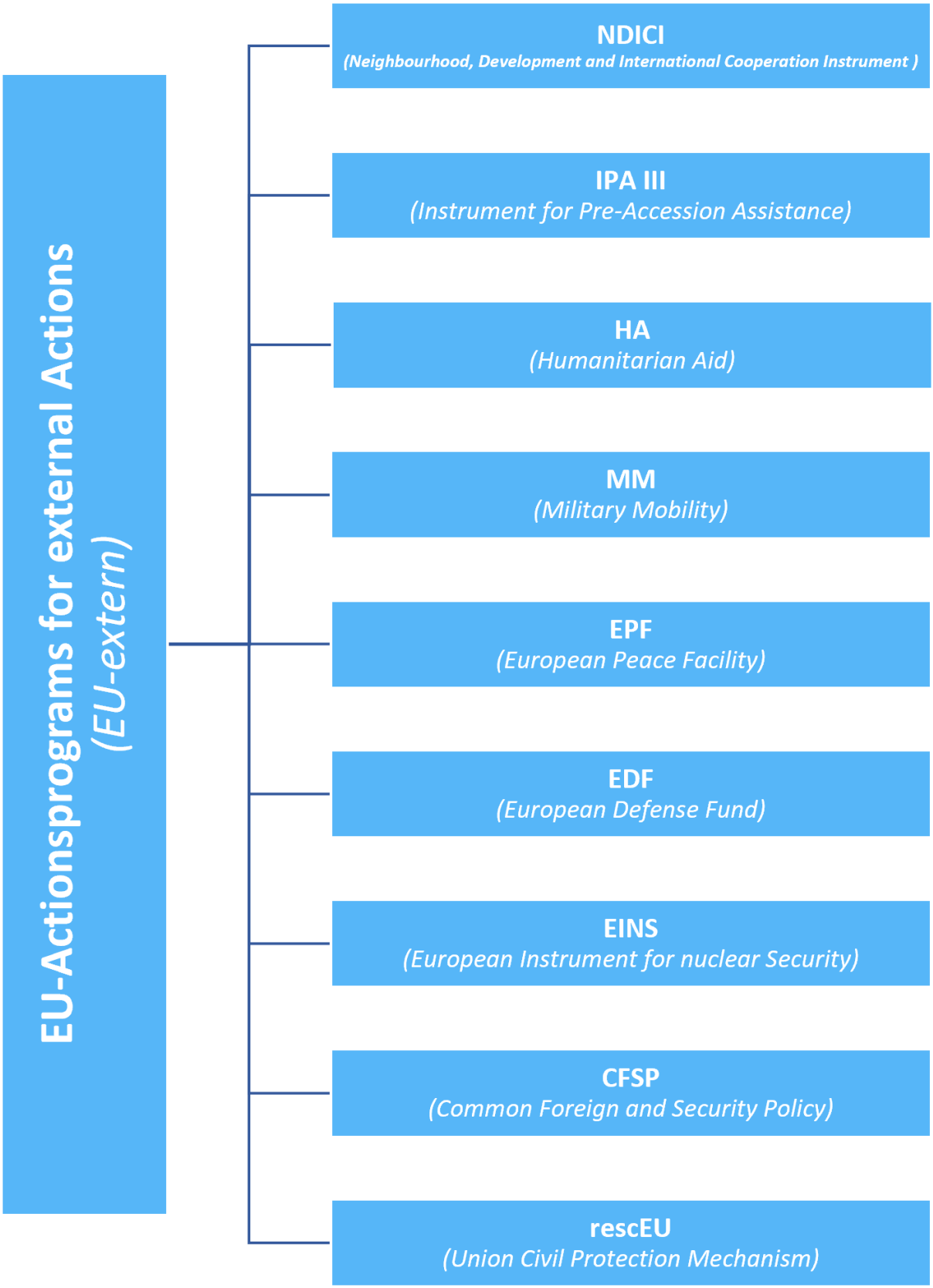
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	SMP unites more than 6 previous financial and consumer protection programmes to support a more flexible and agile financing framework, which will allow to better exploit synergies, prevent duplication and fragmentation.
Programme Specific Practical Information	--

Positive Aspects	--
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	**SMP a detailed Overview with all Details** https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme_en https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/background_de https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/single-market-programme-legal-texts-and-factsheets_en
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

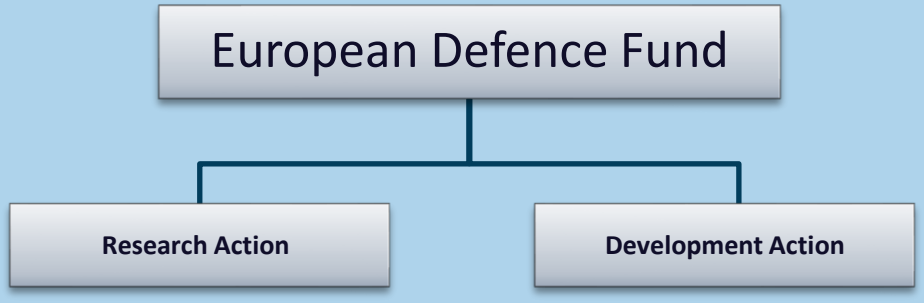
2.5.5. **The EU-Actionprogramms → Area External Action**

The EU action programmes in support of the European Union's common foreign policy make up a significant part of the European Union's seven-year budget (MFF).

We will briefly present some of them below.



2.5.5.1. EDF – EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

Acronym	EDF	Former Programme Name:	--
Name	**EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	**Programme aims:** To protect the EU´s defence and security interests, funding areas comprise security and cyber security, border control, coast guard, maritime transport and space issue-areas. The European Defence Fund aims to be an instrument of improved competitiveness and innovativeness to cater for the European defence, technological and industrial sector. The programme further seeks to trigger cooperative actions that support defence research and development activities at each stage of the industrial cycle in order to strengthen the EU's strategic autonomy. ● promote the integration and strengthen the European defence technological and industrial base; ● support the development of defence products and technologies in the Union by acting as a catalyst for R&D cooperation programmes in key defence technology areas **Programme strands:** i) Research action ii) Development action		
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	Geopolitical instability and cyber-attack threats are becoming of increasing relevance. In that sense, the European Defence Fund will contribute financial investments to EU member states and associated third countries to strengthen the EU's military and defence sector. **Specific funding priorities are:** ● Finance EU projects in the area of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and in collaboration with regional/international security bodies, like NATO		

	• Promote cross-border activities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) • Co-finance new technology and innovative equipment • spur defence and security projects within the framework of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) Collaborative projects with significant cross-border participation by small and medium-sized enterprises are particularly encouraged. This ensures that the European Defence Fund remains open to recipients from all Member States, regardless of their size and location in the Union.
Thematic Priorities	☒ Civil Protection ☒ Information Technology ☒ Research & Developement ☒ Defence industry
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ EFTA ☒ Associated Third Countries
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** All Legal Entities **Specific characteristics:** Eligible funding for consortia of at least three legal entities based in at least three EU member states.
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ Research Organisation ☒ SMEs ☒ Private Companies ☒ Industry Consortia ☒ National and European Authorities ☒ Policy Institutes and Think-tanks ☒ NGOs **Specific characteristics:** --

Budget			
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 7,95 billion**		
Increase/ Decrease in %	**N/A**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → 5		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for	--		

applicants on budgeting	
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	--
Programme Specific Practical Information	The budget is implemented through direct management and, in substantiated cases, through indirect management for specific actions
Positive Aspects	--
Negative Aspects	New Programme = no best practise projects
Related Links	European Defense Fund a detailed Overview with all Details https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018PC0476&from=EN https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2018/number/6/article/the-multiannual-financial-framework-and-european-defence.html https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-new-boost-for-jobs-growth-and-investment/file-mff-european-defence-fund
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.5.2. HA – Humanitarian Aid

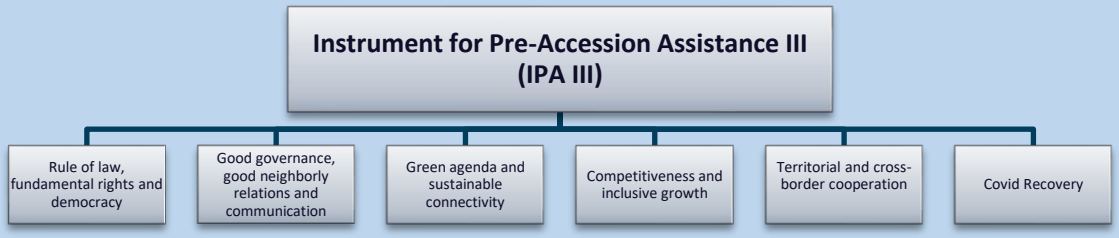
Acronym	HA	Former Programme Name:	HUMANITARIAN AID
Name	**HUMANITARIAN AID**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure	--		
Introduction	The humanitarian aid instrument is to provide emergency relief to victims of man-made and natural disasters. Financial resources are directly drawn from EU Member States and the EU-Budget. The Commission's Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) is the key agency in charge of delivering humanitarian assistance and civil protection. ECHO does particularly focus on food and nutrition, shelter, healthcare, water and sanitation and education in emergencies of third world countries. The agency's mandate revolves around an effective response to emergencies and provision of non-EU countries with assistance to strengthen their own capacities in response to crises and development efforts. Coordinating humanitarian and development aid and tackling the detriments of climate change, hunger and poverty are thus key objectives in this issue-area.		

	In addition to the initial budget, an EU Emergency Aid Reserve can be called upon to respond to unforeseen events and major crises, financing notably humanitarian, civilian crisis management and protection operations in non-EU countries. The funding goes to tackling humanitarian interventions, which mainly consist of funding indirectly managed projects carried out by humanitarian organisations. **Programme objectives:** • provide assistance, emergency relief and protection to people affected by natural or manmade disasters and similar emergencies • boost resilience to future shocks through long-term development assistance • reinforce EU humanitarian assistance and support capacity building to enhance future crisis prevention and preparedness • boost a balanced recovery of the economic activity, ensuring continuity and increase in investments for the green and digital transition
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	• provide humanitarian relief to populations in areas of health, sanitation, nutrition support for third countries • Support third countries to overcome the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and thus promote resilience to future challenges • Support affected economies both within the EU as well as in third countries • Fund health and climate related research and innovation activities
Thematic Priorities	☒ Emergency relief ☒ Food Security and Nutrition ☒ Digitalisation ☒ Poverty reduction ☒ Health and Education
Participating Countries	all non-EU countries
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** all non-EU countries *Specific characteristics:*
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ United Nations agencies ☒ Non-governmental Organisations ☒ other International Organisations **Specific characteristics:** --
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**€ 10.9 billion**
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**€ 10.3 billion**
Increase/Decrease in %	**- 6 %**

Budget per project	Average	Min.	Max.
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **5**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	There us usually no relevant budget for individual calls for application. For partner organisation the budget implementation is checked very meticulously.		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	Money goes directly to the over 200 partner organisations, including United Nations agencies, other international organisations, including the Red Cross and the Red Crescent movement, and non-governmental organisations. Therefor there is big budget for individual small calls for application. A minimum of 10 % of the EU humanitarian aid budget goes to projects on education in emergencies		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	--		
Programme Specific Practical Information	--		
Positive Aspects	--		
Negative Aspects	Money goes directly to the over 200 partner organisations, including United Nations agencies, other international organisations, including the Red Cross and the Red Crescent movement, and non-governmental organisations. Therefor there is big budget for individual small calls for application.		
Related Links	**HA a detailed Overview with all Details** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020PC0461&from=EN https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/164/humanitarian-aid		
General DOs and DON'Ts			
DOs	--		
DON'Ts	--		

2.5.5.3. IPA III – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance III

Acronym	IPA III	Former Programme Name:	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II
Name	**Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance III**		
General Information			

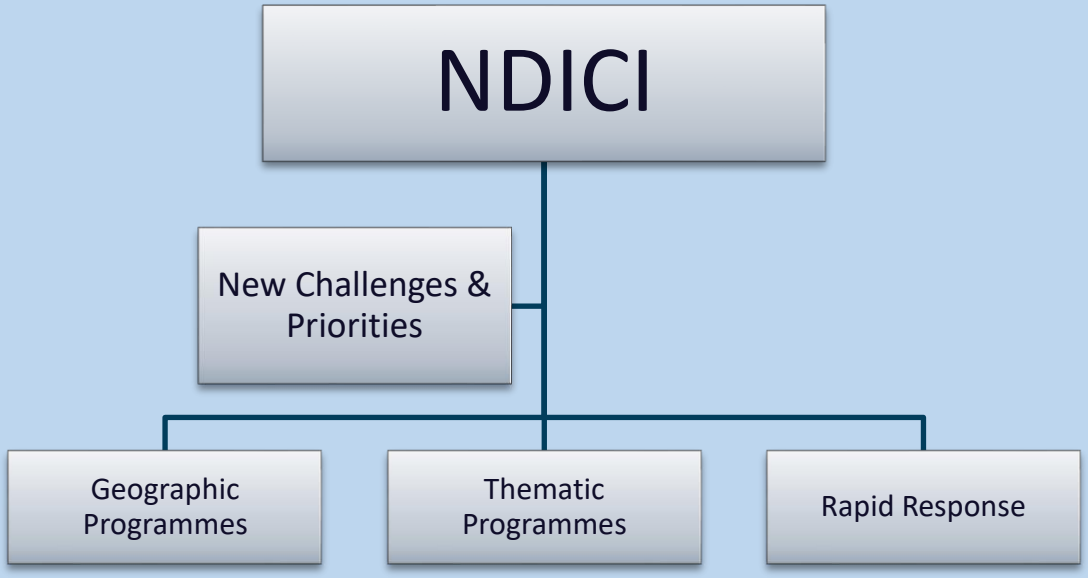
Organigramm/ Structure	
Introduction	IPA aims to prepare candidate and potential candidate countries for EU membership for the rights and obligations associated with it. The instrument was first established for the 2007-2013 programming period, continued as IPA II 2014–2020 and now IPA III for the current MFF (2021 - 2027). Its beneficiary countries include the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, the Repubic of North Macedonia) and Turkey.
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	Development aid Communication and networking Exchange of best practice examples technical support
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Environment ☒ Education ☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Climate Action ☒ Youth ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☒ Justice ☒ Migration ☒ Culture & Media ☒ Business & industry ☐ Europe for Citizen ☒ Consumer & Public Health ☒ Sports ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
Participating Countries	☒ IPA ☒ EU27
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ NGOs ☒ Private Companies ☒ Research Institutes ☒ Public Bodies ☒ Natural Entities **Specific characteristics:** --
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ SMEs ☒ Universities ☒ Migrants ☒ NGOs ☒ Students ☒ Civil Society **Specific characteristics:** --
Budget	
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 11.7 Billion**
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 14.16 Billion**
Increase/ Decrease in %	**+21%**
Budget per	*Average* *Min.* *Max.*

project		50.000€	2.500.000€
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → 3		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		
Programme Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	• Program needed a more performance based evaluation → no country envelops anymore, but programming based on priority targets and the beneficiaries performance to fulfill them • more synergies with other european funds can be achieved • faster programming session based on maturity assessments allows earlier implementation • more investments and leverage of funds was necessary • more impact and coherence needs to be achieved through tighter cooperation and increased synergies with other EU programmes like NDICI		
Programme Specific Practical Information	• At least 16% of the overall financial envelope of the programme have to go to climate objectives, striving to achieve the goal that climate-related spending reaches 30 % of MFF expenditure by 2027. • Priority should be given to environmental projects addressing cross-border pollution. • Pre-accession assistance III is managed by the European Commission and the EU delegations (direct management), as well as the national authorities of EU candidate countries and potential candidates, international organisations and Member States' agencies (indirect management).		
Positive Aspects	--		
Negative Aspects	--		
Related Links	• IPA III a detailed Overview with all Details • https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/de/funding/ipa/		
General DOs and DON'Ts			
DOs	--		
DON'Ts	--		

2.5.5.4. NDICI – Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

Acronym	**NDICI**	Name:	**EDF, ENI, DCI, EIDHR, IcSP, EFSD, PI**
Name	**Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)**		
General Information			

Organigramm/ Structure



Introduction

The funding architecture for the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), as proposed in May 2018, sets out a simplified structure that incorporates the following external aid instruments (MFF 2014-2020):

- European Development Fund (EDF) including ACP investment facility and excluding African Peace Facility;
- Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC);
- European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI);
- Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI);
- European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
- Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP);
- Partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries (PI);
- European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD);
- External Lending Mandate (ELM);
- Guarantee Fund for external action;
- Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA)

<u>The EU's external action funding architecture will revolve around three key pillars as during the MFF 2021-2027:</u>

1. The thematic pillar allocates funding to future global challenges in the fields of
   - Human Rights & Democracy
   - Civil Society Organisazions
   - Peace and Stability
   - Global Cahllenges

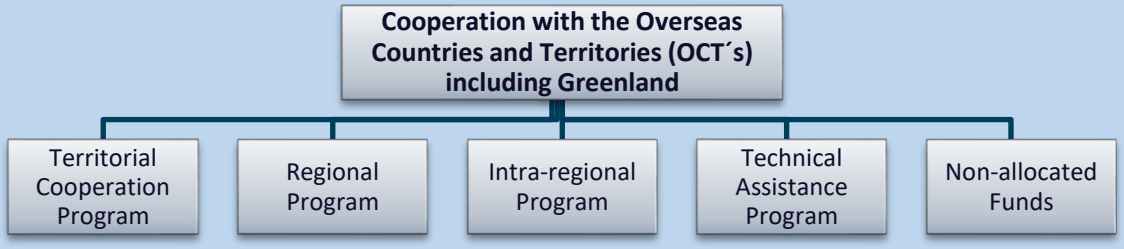
   There is focus to aid civil society organisations working in the health, education, social protection, culture, migration or environment sector. The thematic pillar complements activities in the geographic pillar. The pillar has worldwide coverage.

2. The geographic pillar promotes funding to third countries according to the following regional clusters:

	• Neighbourhood • Sub-Saharan Africa • Asia and the Pacific • Americas and the Caribbean 3. The rapid response pillar supports actions related to improving the EU´s response to crisis management, conflict prevention and peace building. It further aims to nurture capacity-building in the realm of humanitarian, foreign policy and developmental actions. The pillar has also worldwide coverage. 4. An Investment Framework is set up in order to pool additional financial resources coming from the European Fund for Sustainable Development (ESFD+) and the External Action Guarantee. There is strong emphasis on promoting long-term development actions among Western Balkan and Sub-Saharan African states. 5. An additional flexibility cushion provides financial resources for emerging priorities and challenges (emerging technologies, cyber and infrastructure security, health emergencies, etc.)
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	• Good and democratic governance, rule of law and human rights • Poverty eradication, economic inequality and long-term development actions • Migration and mobility • Environment and climate change • Inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent employment • Security, stability and peace • Partnerships → climate change, environmental protection and gender equality as cross-cutting priorities
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research & innovation ☒ Development & Cooperation ☒ Agriculture & Rural Development ☒ Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ☒ Consumer & Public Health ☒ Environment ☐ Climate Action ☐ Justice ☒ Business & industry ☐ Sports ☒ Education ☐ Youth ☒ Migration ☐ Europe for Citizen ☒ Culture & Media
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ ASEAN ☒ IPA ☒ No Limitations ☒ ACP

Possible Applicants	☐ NGOs ☐ Public Bodies	☐ Private Companies ☒ International Organisations	☐ Research Institutes ☒ All Legal Entities
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	☐ SMEs ☒ Public Bodies	☐ Universities ☒ Local Institutions	☐ Migrants ☒ Civil Society Organisations
Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**€ 19.6 billion**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**€ 90.6 billion**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**+ 366%**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **4**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	A target of 93 % of all funds must go towards official development assistance 30 % towards climate-related projects 10 % towards addressing migration and forced displacement, including fighting the root causes		
Programm Specific Tips for Applicants			
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	Streamlining of funding opportunities more synergies necessary		
Programme Specific Practical Information	--		
Positive Aspects	--		
Negative Aspects	--		
Related Links	NDICI a detailed Overview with all Details DG for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO): https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/22_en EU Delegations: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/area/geo_en		

2.5.5.5. OCT & Greenland

Acronym	OCT	Former Programme Name:	OCT
Name	**Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT´s) including Greenland**		
General Information			
Organigramm/ Structure			
Introduction	**Programme objectives:** The overall objectives of the Cooperation with the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), including Greenland instrument, are to strengthen economic, political and cultural relations between the EU and the Overseas Countries and territories. Funding to the instrument is based on the vision to foster competitiveness, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability between the OCTs. As indicated by EU member states the instrument is to contribute to the 2030 Agenda of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement. There are specific objectives that are as follows: ● assist the OCTs in addressing the major challenges they face, including the level of education for Greenland; ● strengthen the resilience of the OCTs, reducing their economic and environmental vulnerability; ● improve the competitiveness of the OCTs, including social standards; ● promote OCT cooperation with other partners **Programme strands:** ● territorial cooperation programme ● regional programme ● intra-regional programme ● technical assistance programme ● non-allocated funds programme		
Focus of funding for 2021-2027	● economic diversification of OCTs' economies in order to spur further integration in world and regional economies; ● an increase of labour skills in the labour force, as in the specific as of Greenland ● the promotion of green and blue economy; ● the sustainable management of natural resources, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; ● climate change mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change;		

	• the promotion of disaster risk reduction; • the promotion of research, innovation and scientific cooperation activities; • the promotion of social, cultural and economic exchanges between the OCTs, their neighbours and other partners; Arctic issues
Thematic Priorities	☒ Research and Innovation ☒ Climate Change ☒ Employment and Labour ☒ Sustainable Development ☒ Green Economy
Participating Countries	☒ EU27 ☒ Overseas Territories ☒ Outermost Regions ☒ ACP ☒ non-ACP
Eligible Applicants	**Legal body:** ☒ natural persons ☒ public and/or private bodies/institutions **Specific characteristics:** eligibility criteria diverge between regional/intra-regional and territorial financing instruments
Target Group/Final Beneficiaries	**Legal body:** ☒ public authorities ☒ local, national and/or regional public/ semi-public agencies or local authorities ☒ companies/firms that undertake productive projects in the territory of an OCT ☒ non-governmental actors ☒ financial institutions and development banks **Specific characteristics:** --

Budget			
Total Budget for 2014-2020	**EUR 218 million**		
Total Budget for 2021-2027	**EUR 500 million**		
Increase/Decrease in %	**+ 229 %**		
Budget per project	**Average**	**Min.**	**Max.**
	--	--	--
Complexity of budget	From 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult) → **4**		
Criteria for the complexity of budget	--		
Tips for applicants on budgeting	--		

Programme Specific Tips for Applicants	
lessons learnt in 2014-2020	OCTs often have 'limited administrative and human resources" and require simplified programming rules
Programme Specific Practical Information	--
Positive Aspects	--
Negative Aspects	--
Related Links	**OCT a detailed Overview with all Details** proposal for regulation of EU cooperation with Greenland: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a22696d6-6fe2-11e8-9483-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF A new association of the Overseas Countries and Territories (Including Greenland): https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2018)628314 Association of the overseas countries and territories with the EU including EU/Greenland/Denmark relations 2021–2027: Procedure File: 2018/0244(CNS) | Legislative Observatory | European Parliament (europa.eu)
General DOs and DON'Ts	
DOs	--
DON'Ts	--

2.5.6. European Funding Instruments structured by Themes

The EU action programmes are usually limited to certain clear individual **themes**, **specialist sectors** or **specialist areas**. As a rule, there is **one main funding instrument** per thematic sector. In addition, the EU is also open to cross-sectoral projects with cross-sectoral synergy effects.

In this chapter, an overview of the main thematic sectors and the according funding instruments is given. Additionally, other frequently used funding instruments as "secondary funding instruments" are listed in the below mentioned sectors too. Very often, one can therefore apply to various EU funding instruments, even though the project idea can be clearly assigned to one thematic area.

As a rule, however, you may not apply for two different EU funding possibilities for the same project at the same time. As a rule, this is not allowed to **exclude double funding**. Exceptions to the cumulation of two EU funds in one project naturally confirm this basic rule of the prohibition of cumulation. In this case, however, the project and cost areas within a project must be marked out very clearly.

In addition to the calls for proposals via the EU funding instruments, the European Commission also repeatedly opens tenders for services provisions. For these tenders one does not apply in project form with one's own project proposal and for which one must contribute own funds for co-financing. This type of tender, known as a "call for tender", is a pure service contract that is usually advertised on the homepages of the individual Directorates General or on the EU's joint tender portal "Funding & tender opportunities".

In the following list, we have, as far as known, also considered the "Calls for Tender" in addition to the classic "Calls for Proposals".

The following topics are listed in alphabetical order.

2.5.6.1. Audio-visual and Media

The European Commission has a special funding instrument for this topic to promote the European film industry in competition with Hollywood and Bollywood. In addition, however, the topic is also repeatedly eligible for funding in other, especially EU action programmes and special "Calls for Tender" from DG Connect.

Main Funding Instrument:	**Creative Europe – Subprogram MEDIA**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	• PRIX EUROPA - Best European Digital Online Media Project of the Year • special tender by the COM – GD CNECT
Responsible GDs:	GD EAC, GD CNECT
Responsible EAs:	EACEA - Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Responsible NAs:	CED MEDIA - as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)
Relevant Sector Strategy:	• European Media and Audiovisual Action Plan • Action Plan for the Recovery of the Media and Audiovisual Sector and its Transformation (of 3.12.2020)

2.5.6.2. Employment, social affairs and inclusion

The themes of employment, social affairs and inclusion are some of the most important themes of European funding policy and are actually, so to speak, a cross-cutting theme in many European funding instruments. They are particularly present in the EU funding instruments of the ESIF type.

Main Funding Instrument:	**ESF+**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	EGF, ERDF, CF, IPA III, ERA+,
Responsible GDs:	GD EMPL, GD REGIO
Relevant Sector Strategy:	• EES - European employment strategy • European Pillar of Social Rights • European Skills Agenda

2.5.6.3. Education and Training

Education is first and foremost a national task, but it is nevertheless an important funding topic in the European Union and thus worthy of its own EU action programme called ERASMUS+. The funding volume of this programme has grown considerably with each EU funding phase since 1971. In addition, the topics of education, exchange of experience, European learning from one another and lifelong learning are cross-cutting themes of many other European funding instruments.

Main Funding Instrument:	**ERASMUS+**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	ISF, PERICLES IV, FISCALIS, CUSTOMS, EU4HEALTH, LIFE
Responsible GDs:	**GD EAC**
Responsible EAs:	EACEA - Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Relevant Sector Strategy:	The EU has a variety of individual strategies on the sub-areas and specific target groups of education. A current overview of the Commission can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/about-education-policies_de

2.5.6.4. Digital, Information and Communication

With the start of the current EU funding phase, the topics of digital, information and communication in the economic context have once again received a considerable boost and considerably more financial resources and funding instruments. This means that you can currently place projects in the context of these topics in a variety of European funding instruments, depending on which topic or target group the digitalisation topics of the project address.

Main Funding Instrument:	**DEP - Digital Europe Programme**

Secondary Funding Instruments:	Horizon Europe, Connecting Europe Facility, InvestEU, INTERREG
Responsible GDs:	**GD Connect** - Communication networks, content and technologies
Responsible EAs:	HaDEA
Responsible NAs:	as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)
Relevant Sector Strategy:	Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Communications Networks, Content and Technology

2.5.6.5. Energy

With the start of the current EU funding phase, the European Commission has issued a series of ambitious goals on the topics of renewable energies and climate and, accordingly, has imposed a requirement across almost all EU funding instruments to "think and act green" in projects. Almost every project has to demonstrate its relevance to these issues in order to receive funding.

In addition, the European Commission has financially strengthened and expanded already existing EU funding instruments.

Main Funding Instrument:	**Connecting Europe Facility**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	ERDF, European Energy Efficiency Fund, European Fund for Strategic Investments, Financing Energy Efficiency, Horizon Europe, Innovation Fund, JTF, KF, LIFE, RRF Call for Tender
Responsible GDs:	**GD ENER**
Responsible EAs:	CINEA
Relevant Sector Strategy:	Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Energy

2.5.6.6. Research & Innovation

These are the areas in which the European Union has seen the greatest increase in funding volume for several funding periods, so that the current funding programme for research and innovation has now become the largest research programme in the world.

Main Funding Instrument:	**Horizon EuropEe**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	AAL, DEP, ERDF, EU4Health, CF, LIFE, RFCS
Responsible GDs:	**GD RTD**, GD CNECT, GD MOVE, GD ENER
Responsible EAs:	CINEA, ERCEA, EREA, HaDEA
Responsible NAs:	as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)
Relevant Sector Strategy:	In line with the diversity of the individual funding areas of the powerful HEU funding instrument, there is a diversity of EU strategies on the individual research sectors. A good introduction is given by this Homepage of the European Commission.

2.5.6.7. Health and Well-Being of Citizens

These topics are also worthy of a separate funding instrument for the European Union. In addition, the topics of health and wellbeing are repeatedly promoted in the context of other topics in a large number of other EU funding instruments.

Main Funding Instrument:	**EU4HEALTH**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	ERDF, ESF+, Horizon Europe - Pillar II - Cluster Health, INTERREG, Single Market Programme
Responsible GDs:	**GD SANTE** – Health and Food Safety
Responsible EAs:	HaDEA - Health and Digital Executive Agency
Responsible NAs:	as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)
Relevant Sector Strategy:	Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Health & Food Safety

2.5.6.8. Youth

Europe's youth (in the EU context up to the age of 30) receives more financial attention with each new EU funding period. Although this sector lost its independent EU funding instrument "Youth in Action" with the start of the 8th EU funding phase, it also received a substantial financial boost under the umbrella of the new framework programme for education, youth and sport ERASMUS+. Today, it is the second strongest pillar of the joint funding instrument for education, youth and sport after the education sector.

Main Funding Instrument:	**ERASMUS+ Youth**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	EU Solidarity Corps, ERA+ for young Entrepreneurs, HEU-MSCA (Fellowships for young Researcher), EGFL (young farmers), ESF+ (in particular the employment initiative for young unemployed people)
Responsible GDs:	**GD EAC**, GD EMPL
Responsible EAs:	EACEA - Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Responsible NAs:	as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)
Relevant Sector Strategy:	• Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Education, Youth, Sport and Culture • EU-Youth Strategy incl. der EU-youthtargets 2019-2027

2.5.6.9. Municipalities

Municipalities are important actors for the European Union, as they bring together a large part of the European population in their territories. The settlement of Europe's urban areas is increasing, and the European Union's funding for urban centres is increasing at the same rate. Accordingly, municipalities have a variety of European funding instruments at their disposal for the implementation of their objectives.

Municipalities are given preferential treatment in some funding instruments, or projects with municipal participation are given preference by the EU. Sometimes municipal participation is even a mandatory prerequisite for the approval of funding.

Main Funding Instrument:	**European Urban Initiative, INTERREG**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	CERV, ERDF, ESF+, KF, URBACT,
Responsible GDs:	**GD REGIO**
Responsible EAs:	European Urban Initiative (EUI) **Permanent Secretariat** Les Arcuriales, 45D rue de Tournai, 7th floor 59000 Lille FRANKREICH 0033 361 765934, JS of each EuroRegion
Further Consulting Entities:	**European Commitee of the Regions (AdR)** Rue Montoyer 92 – 102 B – 1000 Brüssel Tel: +32 2 28 22 211
	Council of european Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) Rue d'Arlon 22 TEL: +32 2 51 17 477
Relevant Sector Strategies:	• european Cohesion policy • the new Leipzig-Charta • Territorial Agenda 2030 of the EU • Roadmaps for Administrative Capacity Building • Covenant of Mayors (en) -- Konvent der Bürgermeister (de)

2.5.6.10. Culture

The field of culture lies within the sovereignty of the individual member states, and some member states do not want too much influence "from outside" on their national culture. Nevertheless, there is an extra funding instrument of the European Union for the specialist sector of culture, since 2014 together with the MEDIA programme, under the umbrella of the joint EU action programme "CREATIVE EUROPE".

The Creative Europe Desk Bonn (CED Germany) has been maintaining a good overview of other EU funding opportunities for culture for ten years, you can find the link in the table.

Main Funding Instrument:	**Creative Europe – Sub-Program Culture**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	http://www.europa-foerdert-kultur.info/home.html
Responsible GDs:	**GD EAC**
Responsible EAs:	EACEA - Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Responsible NAs:	as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)

Relevant Sector Strategy:	Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Education, Youth, Sport and Culture

2.5.6.11. Security and Justice

Europe, too, must increasingly face global challenges with regard to its internal security and the protection of its borders. Accordingly, the last two EU funding phases have seen a significant increase in spending in this area. In addition, a common defence fund has been created.

Main Funding Instrument:	**Internal Security Fund, Integrated Border Management Fund, European Defense Fund, Justice Fund**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	EU Anti-Fraud Programme, PERICLES IV, HORIZONT EUROPA
Responsible GDs:	**GD JUST**
Responsible EA:	EACEA - Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Responsible NAs:	as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)
Relevant Sector Strategy:	• Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Justice and Consumers • EU Security Union Strategy • EU Cybersecurity Strategy

2.5.6.12. Sport

After more than 50 years of existence of the European Union, the field of sport finally manages to get its own small EU action programme as a sub-programme of ERASMUS+ in the 8th EU funding period 2014-2020. Since then, there have been smaller regular calls for proposals for the sports sector. However, the topic can also be promoted again and again from other EU funding instruments in the context of other topics, target groups and regions.

Main Funding Instrument:	**ERASMUS+ - Sports**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	EU Solidarity Corps, INTERREG A
Responsible GDs:	**GD EAC**, GD REGIO
Responsible EAs:	EACEA - Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Responsible NAs:	as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)
Relevant Sector Strategy:	• EU-Sport Policy • EU-white paper Sport • KOM-Kommuniqué „Developing the European Dimension in Sport“

2.5.6.13. Tourism

The European Union no longer has a specific funding instrument for tourism, but it does have a large number of funding instruments that explicitly support tourism as an economic factor. As in only a few other cases, the European Commission has created its own webpage, which provides detailed information on this in a separate "Tourism - funding Guide" at https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/funding-guide_en. There, 15

funding instruments of the ESF type are listed. There, reference is made to 15 funding instruments of the ESIF and AP type.

Main Funding Instrument:	**ERDF**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	INTERREG
Responsible GDs:	**GD GROW**
Responsible NAs:	enterprise europe network office of the own region
Relevant Sector Strategy:	here one usually refers to the strategies for the economic development of a region

2.5.6.14. Transport

The topic of transport has gained more and more momentum in the last EU funding periods of the European Union. In the current EU funding phase, even more emphasis is being placed on reducing CO^2 emissions and promoting electric vehicles or alternative transport routes to the car (rail, water).

Main Funding Instrument:	**Connecting Europe Facility**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	ERDF, EIB support Instruments, Horizon Europe, INTERREG, CF, LGTT, PSA
Responsible GDs:	**GD MOVE**, GD RTD, GD REGIO
Responsible EAs	CINEA, EIB, JS of the EuroRegions
Nationaler Contact:	in each Member State there is usually a contact point at the national level of a transport or infrastructure ministry
Relevant Sector Strategies:	• EU-Transport Policy • EU-Mobility-Strategy • Trans-European Transport Network Policy • Action Plan on Military Mobility

2.5.6.15. Environment

By far the largest increase in funding has been in the environmental sector, and this as a cross-cutting theme across almost all EU funding instruments. Many EU funds have now been given a "green label" and thus clear conditions have been imposed on how much money from the respective EU funding instrument has to flow into projects with a green claim. In this respect, there are many other funding opportunities for "sustainable projects" in addition to the one specific sectoral programme for the environment and ecology.

Main Funding Instrument:	**LIFE**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	Horizon Europe, INTERREG, NER 300
Responsible GDs:	**GD ENV, GD CLIMA**

Responsible EAs:	CINEA
Responsible NAs:	in each Member State there is usually a contact and counselling point at national level
Relevant Sector Strategy:	Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Environment

2.5.6.16. Economy, Business, Consumers

Since the founding of the European Union, the economy has played an important role in the funding policy of the latter, as it is largely responsible for the creation of the gross domestic product of the European Member States and thus for securing the prosperity of the citizens of the European Union. The oldest and still most important instrument is the Structural and Investment Fund ERDF. We have also listed other important instruments for this area, which should not be underestimated.

Main Funding Instrument:	**ERDF, InvestEU, Single Market Programme**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	ESF+, INTERREG, CF, EGF, HEU
Responsible GDs:	GD REGIO
Responsible EAs:	EISMEA
Responsible NAs:	in each Member State, there is usually a contact and advisory point at national level and usually again at regional level, or even an indirect fund manager who administers and distributes the funding regionally.
Relevant Sector Strategy:	Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Economic and Financial Affairs

2.5.6.17. Civil Society, Union, Rights

The protection of the fundamental rights of the citizens of the European Union has once again received a considerable financial boost in this current EU funding phase due to the security-related changes in Europe in the last decade.

Main Funding Instrument:	**CERV - Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values**
Secondary Funding Instruments:	ESF+, HEU
Responsible GDs:	GD JUST
Responsible EAs:	EACEA
Responsible NAs:	as a rule, each member country has its own national advisory institutions (NA)
Relevant Sector Strategies:	• EU Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter • EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025) • EU-Strategie forthe rights of childs • EU-LGBTIQ-Strategy

3. Tips and Hints for a Successful Project Proposal

Developing an EU application is not a job of a few days or even a weekend but requires extensive preparation work and thus often goes over a phase of several weeks or even months. Of course, there are exceptions, but the rule is time-consuming preparation.

The smallest part of the work is writing or filling out an application. The main work consists in particular of a rock-solid preparatory planning of a project, along a series of classical project development steps.

We can by no means replace a solid study of the elements of project planning with this handout, but we can at least outline which steps and topics are relevant in a typical planning phase of a new project.

In the following chapter the consortium therefore gathered tips and hints for a successful project proposal, based on their long-lasting experience and knowledge in the field of European Funding and Project Development.

In a first step it is of course important to identify the right funding instrument. While the hope is that this handbook already gives organizations a first hint on which instruments could possibly fit their projects, it is acknowledged that this handbook is not encompassing all existing funding instruments, but the most important ones. For this reason, a list of databanks is offered that can be used to make an in-depth analysis on suiting funding instruments.

In the second part of this chapter, specific tips and DOs & DONTs will be given to future applicants for the planning, writing and submission process.

3.1. Finding the Right Funding Instrument

At a very early stage of project initiation, an applicant should look for a funding instrument that is suitable for the project, because the priorities of the future funder must be considered from the very beginning of project planning. Successful project applications always have a high correspondence between the project goals and the funding goals of the funding instrument.

3.1.1. Databases

Today, good databases on the Internet make it easy to quickly identify technically suitable funding instruments.

The following Internet-based databases can be a good help for your initial research. However, please note the following:

A good funding database is one that allows you to narrow down the search results in detail by means of as many filters as possible, thus offering an ideally suitable funding instrument at the end. Databases that only allow you to enter a search term and the topic category and then immediately eject 30 funding instruments are extremely unsuitable for the layman in terms of funding, because as a rule most of these 30 funding instruments do not fit when you take a closer look. In addition, the long list does not help you to choose which instrument you should use in practice.

A list of good data bases for funding instruments and websites with information thereof can be found below.

Name	Kurzbeschreibung
European Commission	
EU Financial Assistance	*This entry page of the EU gives a first textual overview of different funding instruments of the European Union.* https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/funding-grants_de
Overview of funding programmes	*This quick guide is once again based on the names of the respective funding instruments and in the structure of the multiannual financial framework (MFF).* https://ec.europa.eu/info/overview-funding-programmes_en

European Commission

English

Search

Home > Funding, Tenders > Find funding > EU funding programmes

EU funding programmes

A list of the funding programmes implemented through the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, divided by heading and cluster.

PAGE CONTENTS

EU programmes and funds financed from the EU budget and NextGenerationEU

Heading 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital

Heading 2: Cohesion and Values

Heading 3: Natural Resources & Environment

Heading 4: Migration & Border Management

Heading 5: Security & Defence

Heading 6: Neighbourhood & the World

Related links

EU programmes and funds financed from the EU budget and NextGenerationEU

The list below provides an overview of the funding opportunities financed by the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and NextGenerationEU by heading, cluster, and programme or fund (most of the programmes implemented under shared management are called "funds").

Further elements, including links to calls, will be added to the programme pages as they become available.

See also the new brochure on the MFF 2021-2027 and NextGenerationEU

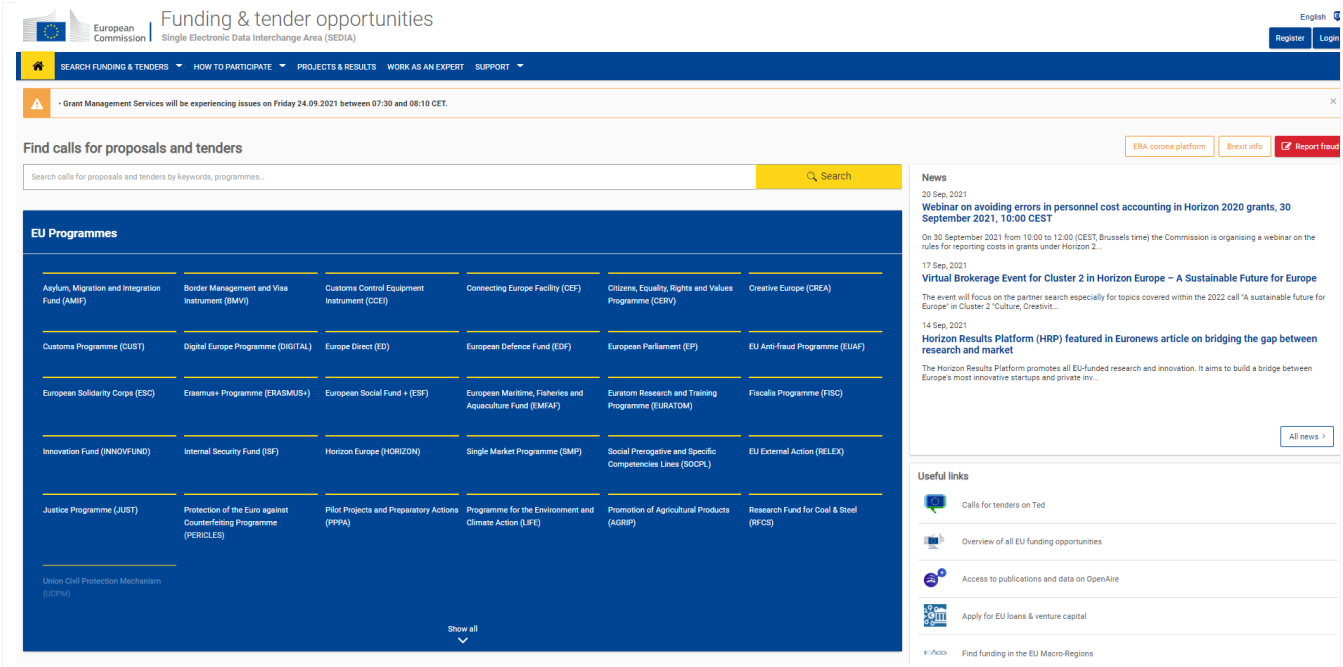
Heading 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital

Research & Innovation

Horizon Europe

Scientific, technological, economic, environmental and societal impact; support to all forms of research and innovation.

Calls for funding	*This database of the European Commission allows an interactive search by subject area.* *https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/funding-opportunities/calls-for-funding_de*
Funding & Tender-Portal der EU	*The large interactive EU portal to research calls for proposals and many other European funding instruments managed directly in Brussels at the DGs and EAs.* *https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home*

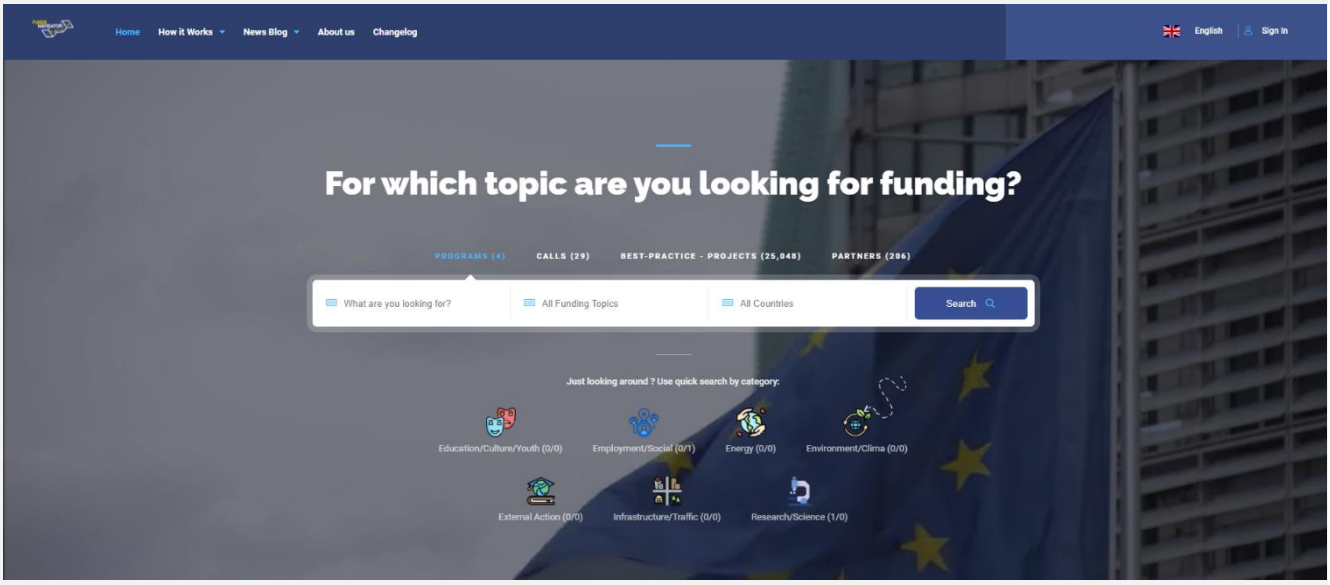


International

Funds-Navigator

This fast-growing database is somewhat different from the usual databases in that it attempts to identify only the most suitable funding instrument by means of a targeted query of the conditions of the person interested in funding. In addition, this Berlin product has the most extensive collection of already EU-funded projects of the last 21 EU funding years, as well as a partner search tool with also the most extensive database of already funded project sponsors in Europe, well sorted by funding topics.

www.funds-navigator.eu

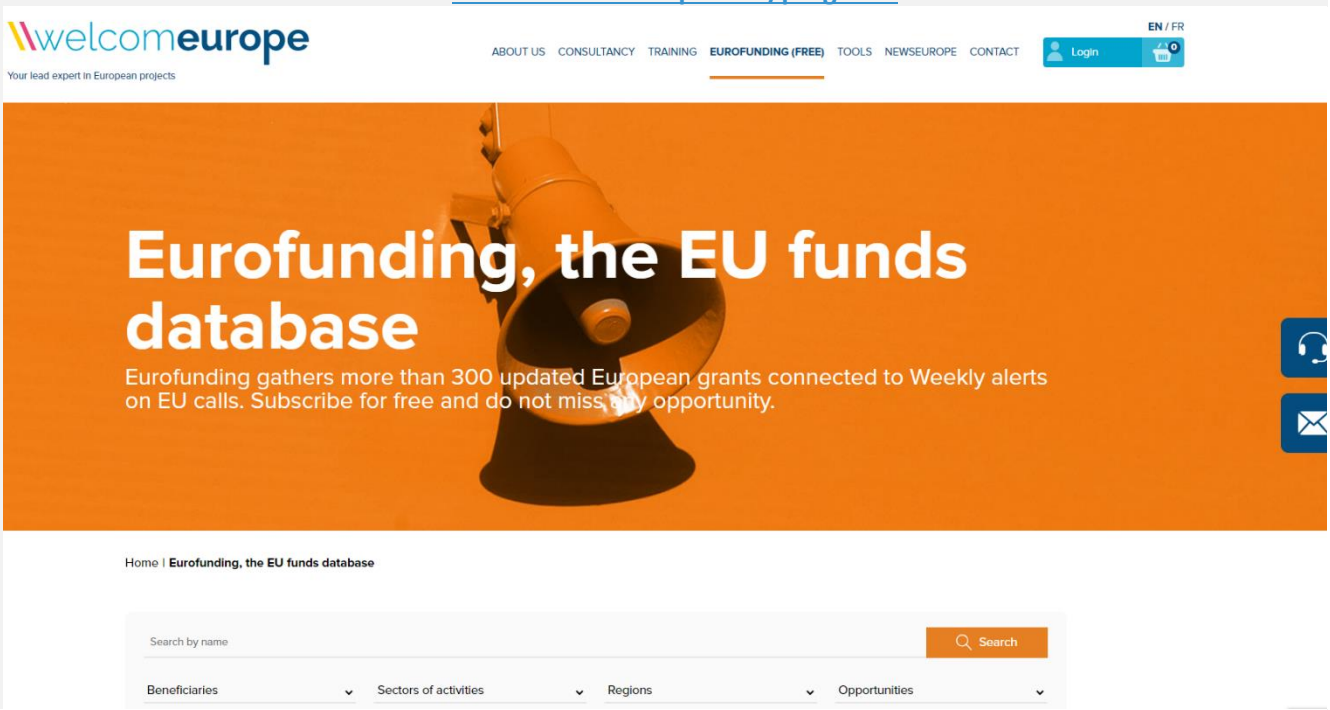


EuroVienna

In the online database on EU funding EuroAccess Vienna you can get a first overview of the current calls for project submissions of the European Union and get an overview of EU funding.
https://euro-access.at/

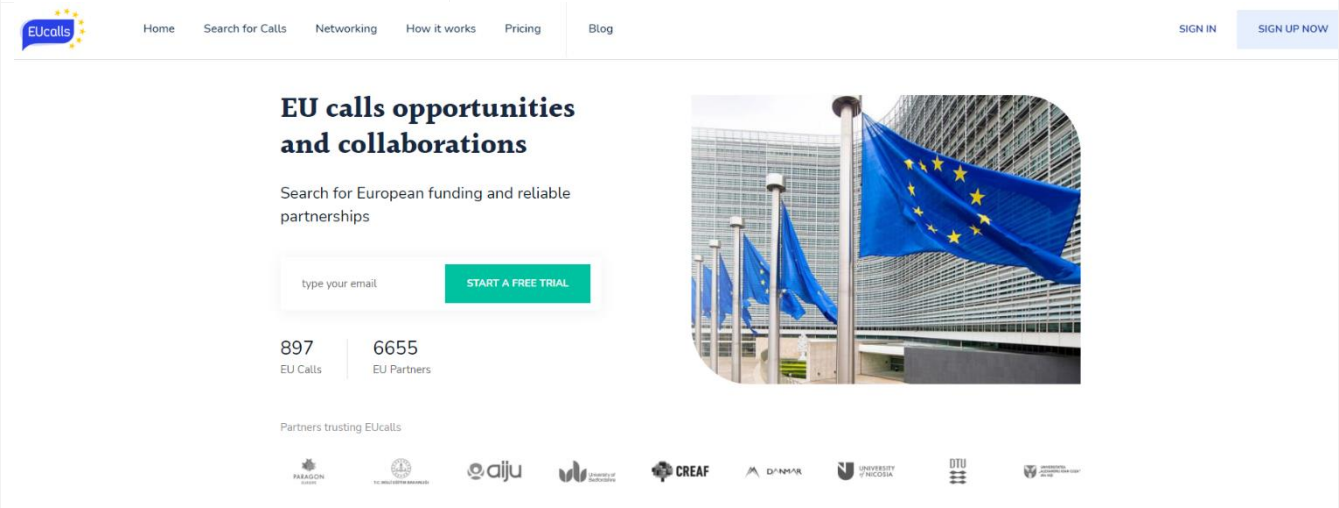
Welcome Europe

The consultancy Welcomeeurope hosts the Eurofunding database. Eurofunding collects and shares current EU calls from all thematic areas. There is the possibility to sign up for notifications and view calls for free. However, detailed information about the calls, as well as support offers, can only be viewed after registration against payment. **www.welcomeurope.com/programs**



EUcalls

EUcalls is also a matching tool for organizations looking for suitable calls. In addition, EUcalls offers a function to find suitable project partners and to network with them. A unique feature of EUcalls is the Idea Pad, a function that allows to develop project ideas within the organization and/or together with other organizations.
www.eucalls.net



3.1.2. **Knowing the strategy behind the funding instrument**

Why does the European Union fund your projects?

The EU finances you because your projects help them to achieve their planned EU goals in the respective subject sectors, for example in the field of **European environmental protection**, **European research**, **tourism**, or **European cultural heritage**.

In each subject area or sector, the EU sets annual or even long-term goals in so-called "**work programs**" that are to be achieved within a certain period. Through calls for tenders, the EU then looks for service providers who can help itself to translate these EU work program goals from theory into practice through the implementation of very specific projects.

After the end of the Europe 2020 Strategy in 2020, the new successor strategy of the **von der Leyen Commission 2019 - 2024 (vdL Strategy)** has been in place since November 2020. This strategy, like the EUROPE 2020 strategy, emphasizes **smart**, **sustainable** and **inclusive growth** as the way to overcome the structural weaknesses of the European economy, improve its **competitiveness** and **productivity** on a global scale and in competition with other world regions and actors, and solidify a **sustainable social market economy**. All this in the context of a transition to a **greener**, more **sustainable** and **digital economy**.

As the overarching and **mother of all specialized strategies and funding instruments**, it is important for you to always put this strategy in the context of your own project goals when planning your projects. Every EU-funded project must contribute (to an appropriate degree) to at least one of the six objectives of the vdL Commission's strategy.

The six goals of the vdL strategy 2019 - 2024 are:

- A European **Green Deal**
- An economy that works for the people
- A Europe that is fit for the digital age
- Protection of our European way of life
- A stronger Europe in the world
- A new impetus for European democracy

In addition to the vdL strategy, there are separate **EU guidelines and strategic approaches for each sector**, for each **thematic area** of expertise and for almost all **target groups**. We have therefore explicitly addressed these in the brief descriptions and have already listed them for you in a rudimentary way in section 1.5.

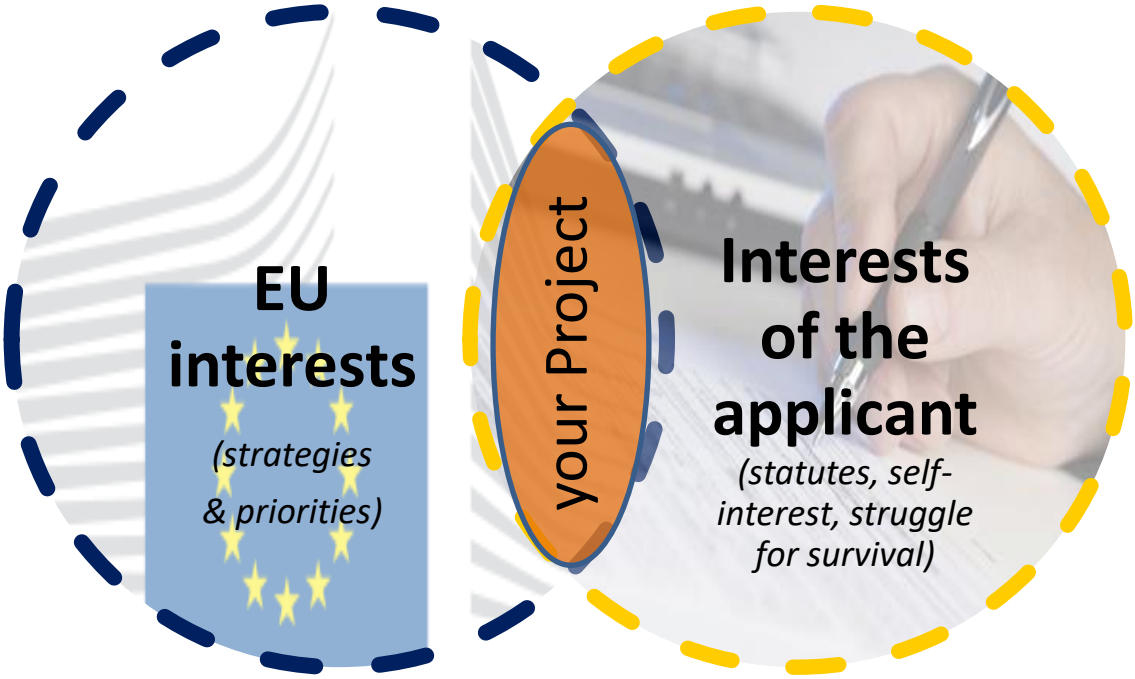
In most cases, the project as described in the application form is a **compromise between your original project idea and the goals and requirements of the EU funding instrument**, which you must also strongly consider in addition to your own interests.

If the applicant's own interests are not aligned with those of the EU, it is unlikely that the project will be funded, even if it has a good project idea.

Ideally, after an initial funding search, you will have at least three suitable EU funding instruments and then, by comparing these funding opportunities with each other, select the funding instrument that already shows the highest convergence with your project concerns and objectives, its content, target groups, implementation methods and regional approaches.

This clever pre-selection gives you the chance to get close to the funding intensions of the funding body with as little effort as possible.

The following graphic will help you visualize this principle once again.



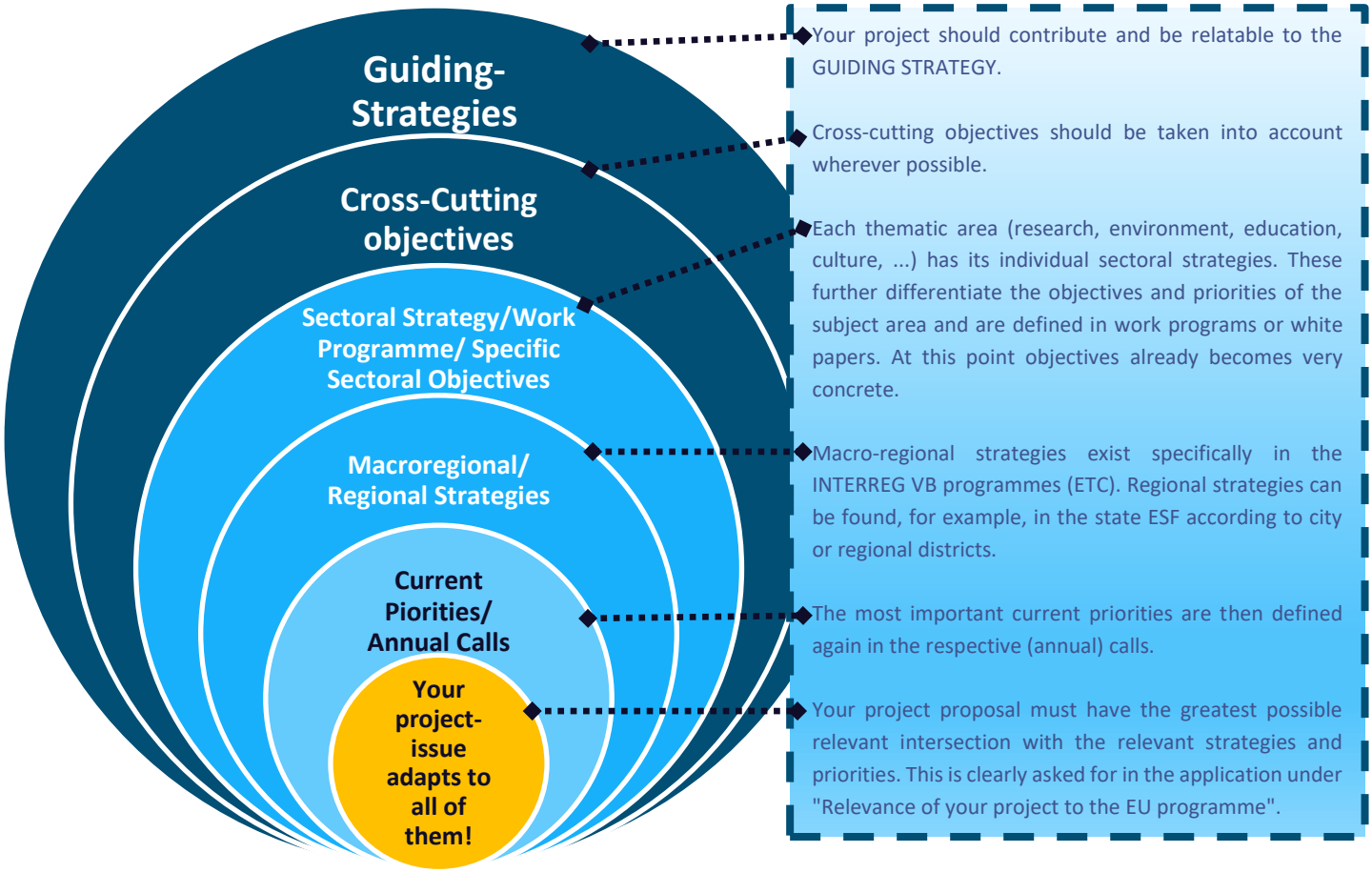
An essential skill for successful applicants is therefore to reconcile their own original project idea with the objectives of the EU required by the funding instrument.

Therefore, it is very important to deal very extensively and in detail with the basic strategies behind a funding instrument.

This is usually not a quick task and requires a time-consuming research and reading time of several hours to several days when accessing a new funding instrument for the first time. Only this basic study of the **strategies**, **goals**, **work programs** but also **priorities** and **evaluation criteria** of a call will enable you to align your project along these external goals.

The following graphic visualizes the essential levels and **dimensions of strategies and policies** of the European Union and should serve as an incentive for you to deal with them in detail. The knowledge of this is crucial for the success of a project application.

The EU strategies in the context of your project



The specific documents you should study at the beginning of your planning phase for the selected funding instrument:

The current **call**, the **program guide**, the **financial guidelines** and the **work program** for the funding instrument, the **thematic/sectoral strategy(ies)**, **best practice brochures** and the **database** of funded projects, the **award criteria** of the evaluators, and the **model grant agreement** (MGA).

3.2. Successful EU Applications

Almost all descriptions of how to apply for European funding merely describe how to fill out an EU application, what sequence of steps to follow and rules to observe, and what tips and tricks to keep in mind, if possible, when submitting an application.

In doing so, it is regularly completely disregarded that the filling out of an EU application form is an important, but only subordinate work step. The EU awards project funding (action grants) in 95% of all **grants** and therefore also expects you to provide a detailed project description along the usual project standards.

Therefore, before an application can be filled out, a rock-solid project development phase is required. According to classic project management standards, this project development phase includes the phases of **initialization**, **definition,** and **planning** of a project.

Regardless of whether you prefer the project management standard **PRINCE2**, **IPMA** or the EU-related **PM²** standard, you should stick to one of the similar standards if you want to successfully acquire EU funding. Of course, a mix of all three is also possible. The only important thing is that you follow proven and logical structuring methods to comprehensively consider and plan your project.

This compulsion of the funding agencies to squeeze your funding request into a project form forces a completely new competence from the applicants, which they do not have in addition to their actual expertise in their field: **The professionalism of a project planner/manager**.

Only very, very few experts from the fields of culture, youth, education, research, media, environment, etc. bring this additional expertise, which must now also be provided, into the application process for the planning of a project. Accordingly, many applications are unstructured and regularly have to be rejected by the EU evaluators as not worthy of funding.

A method that is practically used in two out of three EU applications and is fundamentally wrong is to fill out the application form on-the-fly while reading the questions for the first time. This often involves writing down the knowledge that exists in the head but is still unstructured.

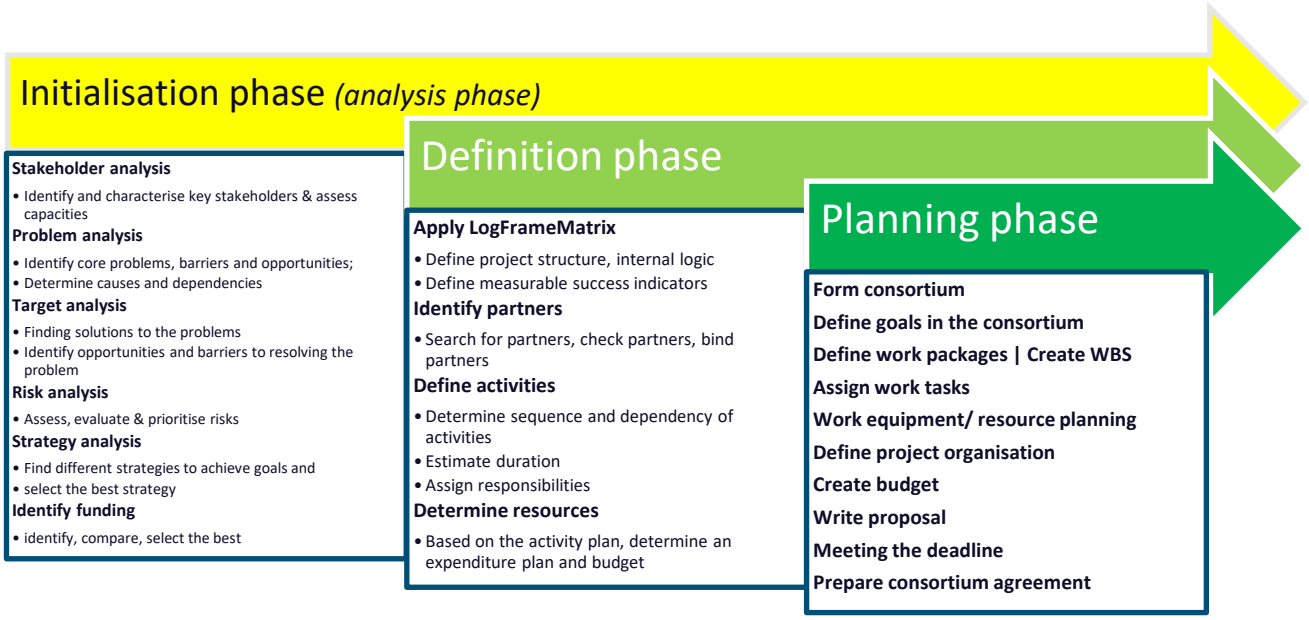
This usually reads for the EU evaluators not only conceivably bad and unstructured, it is also mostly torn from a larger context, only selectively on the question and does not represent an overall concept of a project implementation. Good evaluators recognize this basic flaw of many projects very quickly and usually reject such applications quickly.

A successful EU application therefore always requires a solid preparation phase before the actual EU application can be filled out in paper form or, increasingly, as an online form.

In the following, we have listed a classic sequence of the most important steps, in which you can see very nicely that, as a rule, a number of preparatory activities have to be implemented before the application is submitted, which then, however, also make writing a really good application quite easy.

3.2.1. The right sequence of steps for success

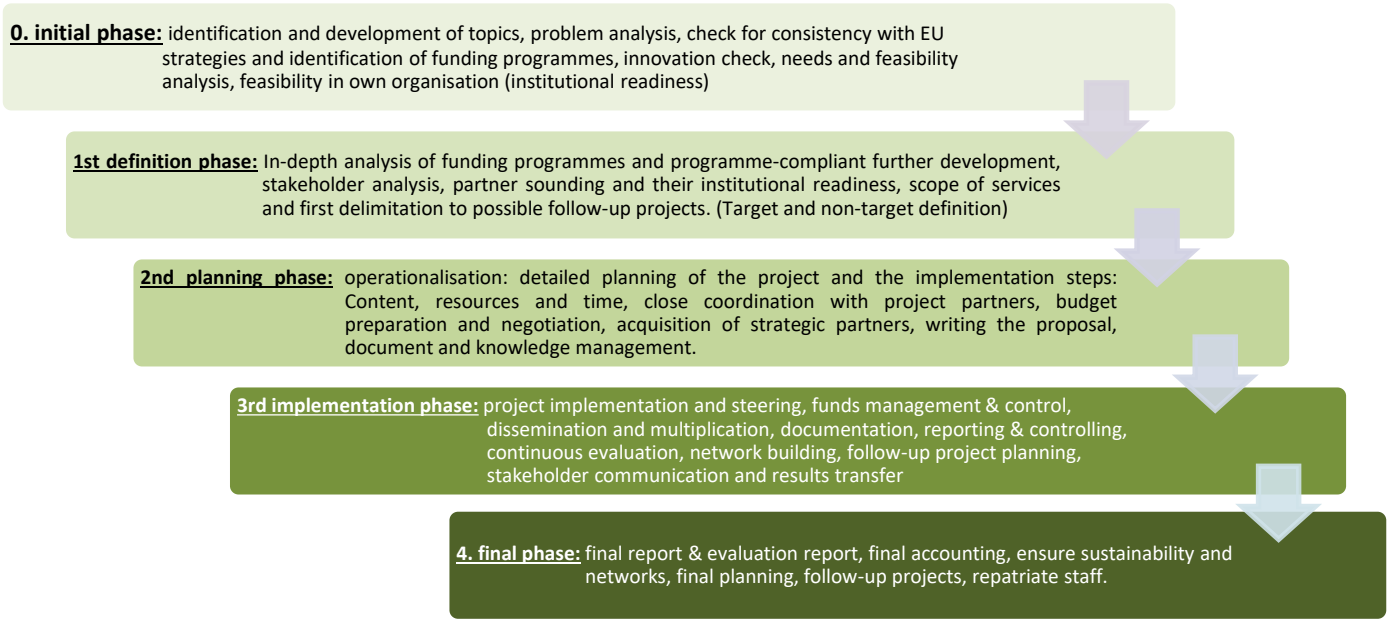
In the following graphics, we have compiled the individual steps and phases for a project application along the classic steps and phases of project planning.



In each phase there is a logical sequence of steps, where each step builds on the results of the previous steps, results and determinations.

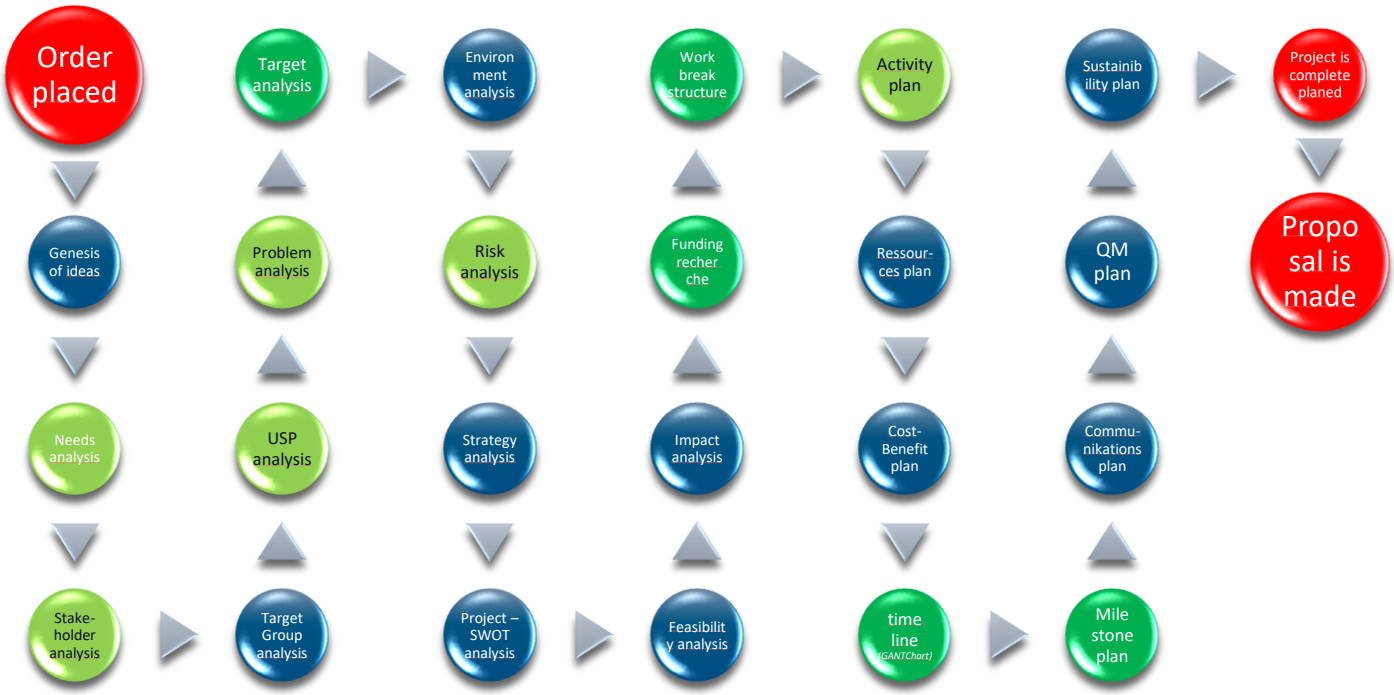
Ultimately, experienced project designers implement each of their larger projects in the planning and implementation phase in this way or very similarly.

In the following overview, we still have a 5-phase model to present to you, now supplemented by the 2 classic phases of project implementation. However, these will not be discussed further in this handout, as project management is a chapter of its own.



Finally, the following graphic presents all the steps of a typical project planning in much more detail. The red steps are milestones, the green steps are "must do", the light green steps are "nice to do" and the blue steps are usually underestimated and not done in many project plans due to lack of time.

Every step is important and every step also contributes to the quality of your project.



Finally, we would like to provide you with a very brief outline of the three planning phases in more detail.

Please note that successful applicants secure their successes and approvals precisely with this standard.

3.2.1.1. Initialization

At the beginning of the **initialization phase**, only an initial project idea exists, which must be further elaborated in the next steps. The aim of this phase is therefore to clarify who is responsible for the first steps in the project and how the project will be organized. Incidentally, this is also often asked for in the project application.

For example, the EU asks about **project goals**, the **impact**, the **outcomes**, the **outputs**, the **activities,** or the **deliverables**. It requires clear indicators according to **SMART** criteria and expects clear conditioning in terms of your project's **performance targets**, **time targets**, and **cost targets**.

However, the project objectives, and how you will achieve them, must not only be described. There must also be a solid justification of why you are pursuing these goals with your project. For this purpose, an intensive **needs analysis** is necessary in advance, which proves the **necessity** of your project.

Furthermore, a **stakeholder analysis** is carried out in this phase, through which you first identify the stakeholders of your project and then analyse and categorize them according to their influence potential and attitude towards the project plan.

If it has not yet been decided from the beginning which call/project call you will apply to with your project, the decision for a funding instrument will be made at this point at the latest, after a screening as well as a detailed comparison of the **funding possibilities**.

After deciding on a funding instrument, its award criteria can be analysed. It may well be that the project idea has to be modified again and adapted to the award criteria. This then also marks the start of the next phase, the **definition phase**.

3.2.1.2. Definition

In the **definition phase**, the project idea is then translated into initial concrete structures. This includes the composition of the **project consortium**, as well as the environment analysis.

The **environment analysis** is about collecting all framework conditions, influences as well as internal and external factors that may have an impact on the project. Since EU-funded projects aim at a broader societal environment, are oriented towards the common good and should have a sustainable impact, it is particularly important in EU-funded projects.

As a part of this analysis, **project risks** must also be identified in every case and appropriate **action strategies** developed to avoid or at least minimize risks. Since you want to apply for and use public funds, the thorough identification and derived action strategies to deal with risks are indispensable, are asked for in most EU applications and represent an important award criterion when evaluating your application.

However, keep in mind that the risk analysis must also be repeated during project implementation, as European projects can evolve to some extent during the actual implementation phase of the project. Furthermore, certain environmental factors or risk perceptions may change over time.

At the end of the definition phase, a **project outline** is prepared, which contains the first summary of the most important key data of the future project. Some funding bodies may also provide advice based on a project outline before the application is submitted to obtain initial feedback and tips and information for further planning.

3.2.1.3. Planning

In the **planning phase**, the project is defined in detail and central project plans are created. These project plans operationalize your project and are either requested as annexes for EU applications or queried directly in the application form.

The **operationalization** mainly refers to the product creation and implementation, the process and deadlines of the project, as well as the cost and financial planning.

Since in the planning of large, complex projects (such as EU-funded projects) an enormous number of sub-aspects have to be considered, there are a number of helpful methods and instruments which you should use.

On the one hand, the **work breakdown structure** (WBS) will not only make it easier for you to write the proposal, but also to manage the project during its later implementation. It is the central planning tool for every project. In the WBS, all project elements (subprojects, work packages, sub work packages) are defined and hierarchically assigned to each other. Likewise, responsibilities are assigned to all project elements, which helps you, all project partners and also the EU to understand at first glance who is responsible for which products and/or processes. In addition, the WBS serves as the basis for further planning steps, such as the GANTT Chart and the budget.

The so-called **GANTT Chart** provides a good overview of the course of the project. Based on the WBS, the GANTT Chart shows the chronological sequence of work packages and tasks in a bar chart. Therefore, the GANTT Chart is the central instrument for time and schedule planning of your project. The GANTT Chart is also usually submitted as an attachment to the project application and provides the EU with a good visualization of the time sequence of your project.

After also defining the time duration, and thus the duration of the subtasks in the project, the **cost plan/project budget** can be created from this. The success of the project is largely dependent on a well-balanced project budget, i.e., sufficiently dimensioned cost targets. This is what ensures the quality of the project in the first place. Therefore, the solid budget preparation before the application is indispensable and is of course requested by the EU in the application and/or as an annex. A well thought-out and comprehensibly presented

budget is an important criterion for the decision of your project application. If the EU is not convinced of the cost-benefit ratio of your project, this can lead either to a rejection or to a reduction of the budget.

Furthermore, the **cooperation** with all partners must be clarified concretely and satisfactorily in the planning phase and recorded in writing. This so-called **"contracting"** regulates the roles, rights, and obligations of the partners in the internal relationship as well as in the external relationship towards the European Union. This lays the foundation for good cooperation during project implementation. Appropriate project tools such as a partnership contract or a set of rules for the project and consortium in the form of a project manual should be standards for your project planning and implementation.

3.2.1.4. Concluding Remark

The steps of the **initialization**, **definition** and **planning phase** are mostly completely underexposed, which is also the reason for most rejections of applications. Conversely, applicants are always successful if they work professionally in these phases and know the classic tools of project planning and apply them professionally.

The following flowchart is optimized for projects applying for European funding. Depending on the scope of your project and the EU funding instrument you are applying to, the requirements will vary greatly. The diagram represents an ideal and maximum requirement, which you can of course always break down to a simpler and shortened sequence of steps.

For example, a small youth exchange between two partner organizations, funded by the EU action program ERASMUS+ KA 1 - Youth with a duration of only a few months, within which two actual youth encounters of 10 days each and some preparatory activities take place, cannot be compared to an INTERREG C - funded project, which unites 15 partners from 10 countries within a project duration of four years.

However, be aware that many of the following process steps can be applied to both.

Feel free to use this sequence of steps as a checklist for your next application process and then consider what is important to you and what you neglect. Each step you do not complete will reduce the quality of your project description, while each completed step will be another step towards approval.

One thing should be clear to you by now; good project proposals take time!

The following sequence of steps is a maximum variant of possible process steps of a project planning, which you can implement more or less extensively from project to project.

3.3. DOs and DON'Ts for the Proposal Writing Process

If the project development phase has been carried out solidly, the application is again a hard work, but with the right tips and tricks it is easily manageable.

While the concrete content and the innovation of the project idea are decisive for the chances of success of an application, the so-called **application lyric** also plays a major role. This includes a good knowledge of the **formal criteria**, an **easily readable text** and knowledge of the **criteria according to which the application will be evaluated** by the evaluators. Due to the large number of project applications, evaluators of EU applications often do not have much time to deal with each application in depth. Therefore, it is important that all information is presented in an easy-to-understand and easy-to-read manner, because it is often the form that ultimately determines whether the application is reviewed attentively and favourably or whether it is quickly discarded in frustration.

In the following, you will find a few tips and tricks that you should keep in mind or avoid doing when submitting your application. These dos and don'ts are the result of many years of experience in submitting applications, as well as the project partners' own evaluating activities.

3.3.1. DOs

3.3.1.1. General aspects

a) Plan enough time to write the application. A timeline to start is mandatory!

b) Plan the necessary work steps around the application realistically and with time buffers.

c) Allocate clear responsibilities for the different application sections.

d) As the leader of the application process, review and evaluate the progress weekly.

e) Never plan and write alone, but in a team of different experts, this brings the 360-degree view and quality to the project

f) Get enough support from other members of the project consortium or from organizations that support you in an advisory way

g) Dock external expertise in areas where you are not an expert (budget, PR, gender aspects, evaluation, legal issues, translations, etc.).

h) Contact responsible persons at the EU to clarify questions and ask a lot!

3.3.1.2. Specifics

a) Clarify whether the application process is a one- or two-step process.

b) Familiarize yourself with the terms and deadlines of the funding instruments.

c) Clarify which electronic forms to use for the application and how to fill them out correctly. What attachments are needed and in what quality?

d) Pay attention to the formal criteria for submitting an application.

e) Read the Award Criteria and all other relevant call documents carefully and pay special attention to the topic areas where high scores tend to be achieved

f) Take advantage of the advisory services offered by the contact points of the funding programs, if these advisory points exist.

3.3.1.3. Tips regarding the three sections of a typical EU application

I. <u>Verbal Part</u>

a) Fill in all the requested information

b) Show the specific reference to the EU strategies behind each topic

c) Read the questions thoroughly and specifically answer only what is really asked. Do not forget any sub-question of a section

d) Write the application in a language you feel comfortable with. If necessary, once the application is completed, have it translated into the language expected by the EU.

e) If necessary, have the application proofread by a native speaker.

f) Use your own writing style and only write about things you have expertise in.

g) Avoid regional and/or national perspectives in favour of European ones

h) Write short and concise sentences that are easy for outsiders to understand

i) Structure within individual application sections using subheadings, boldface, lists, tables, so that there are no "text deserts"

j) Do not flatten into generalized sentences or personal opinions, but always argue based on reliable evidence

k) Avoid repetition and in any case do not copy sections again

l) Avoid vague statements and be as specific as possible (SMART criteria)

m) Do not use subjunctives, but use clear statements

n) Do not use specific technical terms, as the evaluators may not come from your content area and therefore do not have the content expertise to follow all the technical terms.

II. Budget

a) Be sure to have your project partners prepare their own work package budgets.

b) Check whether all tasks, work packages, events, products, and also public relations modules described in the verbal part are exactly financially supported and are reflected in the budget.

III. Annexes

a) At the very beginning of your application phase, create a checklist of all the attachments to be included with the application.

b) This checklist is best completed by an aide or office staff member who is not involved in the time-consuming substantive tasks of submitting the application

c) At least 10 days prior to application submission, the milestone for review of all attachments should be scheduled. At least 5 days before deadline, all attachments should be complete and uploaded to the application portal, if applicable

Declaration by EU-Learning

A common declaration by the partnership on expectations and wishes for the new funding period. This declaration will be finalized during the final conference. But the partners will have to deliver input from the meeting number 3. It will be directed to EU institutions (EU-Commission, EU Parliament, Council of the EU) and to other stakeholders active in the field of European funding.

Please note that at the time of the first online submission (the completion of the EU-funded project) not all funding instruments with all data were fully known. The document will therefore continue to be developed even after the end of the EU funding and may already be available for free download in a more up-to-date version on the internet.

Therefore, please look for a more up-to-date version or contact us at *handbook@eu-learning.net*

You are also welcome to use this e-mail to send us suggestions for improvements or suggestions for optimization.

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