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## ANNEX

### 2023 annual work programme within the framework of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and in particular its Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand

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## Part 1 – General Overview

### 1. Overall socio-economic and political context

The activities in the 2023 Annual Work Programme of the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) will take place in the context of the **recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**, as well as in the wake of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. Already the pandemic has led to major **economic, labour and societal impacts** and has changed our ways of working and living, with some sectors, regions and population groups more affected than others. The war has brought about new uncertainties for the labour market, additional supply chain disruptions and a sharp rise in energy and food prices.

Having been on track for recovery from the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the European economy entered into 2022 in a weaker position than initially forecasted due to the war. It is significantly impacted both directly and indirectly, notably by trade and financial disruptions, the spike in energy and agricultural prices. Besides, the Summer Economic Forecast<sup>1</sup> says that the deceleration of growth in the US is adding to the negative economic impact of China's strict zero-COVID policy. **The euro area annual inflation rate was 9.1% in August 2022, up from 8.1% in May.** A year earlier the rate was 3%. European Union annual inflation was 10.1% in August 2022, up from 8.8% in May. A year earlier the rate was 3.2%.<sup>2</sup> This adds pressure to governments to ensure support to people in vulnerable situations and households that are most affected by the economic situation, to ensure a just and socially fair transition to a carbon neutral continent by 2050. In short, the outlook remains subject to high uncertainty and the balance of risks is tilted towards adverse outcomes.

The EU took immediate measures to support Member States both in mitigating the effects of the crisis that followed the COVID pandemic and in strengthening its resilience, while preserving employment and high social protection and social inclusion standards, notably through the adoption of the NextGenerationEU package and the Multi-Annual Financial framework for 2021-2027, including the REACT-EU regulation. The EU is determined to **prevent long-term and potential structural damage** that unequal health risks and widened socio-economic divides may inflict on European society.

EU Member States are providing a safe haven and are welcoming the people fleeing from Ukraine, the majority of whom are women and children. The EU has granted them with temporary protection, including access to accommodation, schools, health care, and jobs. They provided support in various ways, notably through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

The EU, Member States and Financial Institutions have mobilised financial, humanitarian, emergency and budget support to Ukraine.<sup>3</sup> This included grants, loans and guarantees from the member States. The EU provided macro-financial assistance (MFA) and budget support to help Ukraine address urgent needs on the ground, humanitarian assistance and an emergency package to support needs of internally displaced population, municipalities, health support, critical infrastructure rehabilitation, media and cyber-security. Also the shared

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<sup>1</sup> [Summer 2022 Economic Forecast: Russia's war worsens the outlook \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Eurostat: euroindicators, Annual inflation up to 9.1% in the euro area, 104/2022, 16/09/2022, 741bf6b2-1643-6ff0-34e7-31522ce1e252 \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Factsheet\\_EU\\_and\\_Ukraine.pdf](#), European Commission, 24/08/2022

management strand of the ESF was made more flexible to cater for the needs linked to this inflow of refugees.

Against this backdrop, the **European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and its 20 principles** provide a compass for building up a strong social Europe and ensure a just transition. **The EPSR Action Plan** sets out an extensive policy agenda, strengthening the social dimension of the EU's recovery and resilience efforts and promoting socially just, green and digital transitions. Implementing the EPSR is **crucial in ensuring that the recovery is fair and inclusive**.

By 2030, the EU commits to meet the following headline targets set by the EPSR Action Plan:

1. At least 78% of people aged 20 to 64 should be in employment,
2. At least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year,
3. The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million, including at least 5 million children.

To support these targets pointing at specific policy actions, Member States have translated the EU headline targets into national ones and may set complementary targets. At the EPSCO meeting of 16 June 2022, EU employment and social affairs ministers presented their national targets to deliver on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan by 2030. Member States' commitments set the EU firmly on the path to achieving or even exceeding the EU headline targets: on employment, the national targets taken together (78.5%) exceed the EU headline target; on adult learning, the targets put forward by Member States (57.6%) so far almost reach the EU headline target; on reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, the national targets taken together (15.6 million) exceed the EU headline target.<sup>4</sup>

Besides, the implementation of the EPSR is monitored through a scoreboard of key indicators to screen employment and social performances of Member States. It serves as a reference framework to monitor 'societal progress' over time.

The activities of the EaSI strand will notably support initiatives of the Commission work programme relating to employment and social inclusion, further to the EPSR Action Plan, either through preparatory work or conversely monitoring and assessment of implementation. This includes, in particular, the initiatives on long term care, the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work, social dialogue, guidance on Distributional Impact Assessment and tackling employment and social risks and addressing labour shortages in the EU in the geopolitical context.

### *Employment*

The Employment and Social Development in Europe (ESDE) report<sup>5</sup> indicates that **the strong rebound of the European economy recorded in 2021 follows the most severe contraction ever recorded** as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis **in 2020**. However, the recovery was of various speed in the Member States and largely mirrored the loss they had suffered during the crisis.

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<sup>4</sup> Cf. Commission welcomes Member States' targets for a more social Europe by 2030 - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission (europa.eu)

<sup>5</sup> Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) – Annual Review 2022

**During 2021, labour markets recovered, notably thanks to the job-retention measures** widely adopted by the Member States and supported by the EU. Women and some groups, in particular young people, migrants and workers on temporary and part-time contracts, were disproportionately affected by the crisis.

**The EU headline target of at least 78% of the population aged 20-64 in employment by 2030** reaffirms the commitment to an inclusive high employment rate. The employment rate rose in 2021 by 1.4 percentage points (p.p.) in the EU (73.1%). Following the considerable decline in 2020, the employment rate is now 0.4 p.p. higher in the EU compared to 2019.

The **unemployment rate** declined by 0.2 p.p. (to 7.0%) in the EU. It shrank slightly more for men, by -0.3 p.p. (to 6.7%), than for women, by -0.2 p.p. (to 7.4%).

In 2021, the **youth unemployment rate**, though still high, compared to total unemployment, also shrank by 1.0 p.p. in the EU (to 16.6%). After rising in 2020 in the context of the COVID-19 crisis to 14.0%, the rate of people aged 15-29 who are neither in employment nor in education and training (NEETs) decreased in 2021 by 0.9 p.p. in the EU (to 13.1%).

**The gender employment gap** (the difference between the employment rate of women and men) shrank, at 10.8 p.p. in 2021, after declining by 0.2 p.p. in 2020. The employment rate of women rose to 67.7%, while that of men rose to 78.5%. Increasing women's employment rate is pivotal to reaching the EPSR Action Plan's target of 78% of people in the EU aged 20 to 64 being in employment by 2030.

Whilst 2021 generally showed a positive labour market development, Russia's unprovoked and unjustified **war** of aggression against Ukraine and the **increased inflation** have led to **new risks emerging** that can reverse this positive trend.

The COVID-19 crisis has affected a number of activities typically more exposed to undeclared work. In 19 countries, less than 10% of the employers are inspected per year. Reinforcing the capacity of labour inspectorates and providing incentives to promote the transformation of undeclared work into formal work are seen as key factors to address this phenomenon and ensure adequate health and safety at work and social protection for all<sup>6</sup>.

The pandemic has also reduced labour mobility in the European Union (EU) in 2020. For the first time since 2012, the number of EU movers slightly decreased in 2020. Also cross-border work and recruitment decreased at different times in various states. The number of cross-border workers decreased by 3 % in 2020 compared to 2019 overall. Due to restrictions on travel and economic activity, the recruitment of staff from abroad decreased in 2020, while the number of jobseekers increased. Compared to 2019, the employment rate of movers fell by 2.6 percentage points to 72.7%; a slightly larger drop than the employment rate of non-mobile workers, which fell by 0.5 percentage points to 73.3%.

The digital platform economy has grown quickly in recent years. Between 2016 and 2020, its revenues grew almost fivefold from an estimated EUR 3 billion to about EUR 14 billion. New ways of organising work, such as platform work, make it more complex to correctly classify people as workers or self-employed and many people working through digital labour platforms are increasingly disadvantaged. This leads to situations where some people are unfairly deprived of access to the rights and protections associated with the worker status.

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<sup>6</sup> COM(2021) 743 final, Proposal for a Joint Employment Report from the Commission and the Council

## *Skills*

**The EU headline target on skills sets out that at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year** before 2030, to improve employability, boost innovation, ensure social fairness and close the digital skills gap. Following the SOTEU speech, 2023 has been declared to be the European Year of skills. This is particularly crucial when industrial, economical, and societal structures are changing in response to climate change. Climate change related investments and reforms boost employment in green sectors, while some jobs in traditionally non-green industries are lost. The Council recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality<sup>7</sup> aims to ensure that the Union's transition towards a climate-neutral and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 is fair and leaves no one behind.

This directly affects the skills needed to support the green transition and the European Green Deal. With the right accompanying measures in place, the green transition could add around 1 million quality jobs in the EU by 2030 and 2 million by 2050, in sectors such as construction, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) or renewable energy, while mitigating the decline in middle skilled jobs as a result of automation and digitalisation. Restructuring and adjustment in companies and ecosystems will require large labour reallocations across sectors and regions.

Also taking into account the benefits of innovation, stronger cooperation and partnership between all actors in research, education and training and the labour market can support upskilling.

**Upskilling and reskilling are the main priorities** to foster an inclusive recovery and support the digital and green transitions. The crisis has highlighted the importance of strengthening in particular **digital skills**, still not sufficient among a large part of the EU population. Most jobs require these skills and the crisis has proven the importance of adequate digital skills for the continuity of business, education and training activities; it also empowers citizens to access information and services. Also more generally, skills gaps and skills mismatches are re-appearing in industrial sectors.

## *Poverty reduction*

The share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion remained broadly stable in most Member States in 2021. The **EU headline target** to reduce by 2030 the **number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion** by at least 15 million people, including at least 5 million children, is of key importance in the view of the current challenges.<sup>8</sup>

The impact of the pandemic on disposable income was cushioned thanks to extraordinary government intervention with income-support policies and automatic stabilisers. Nonetheless, households' purchasing power is endangered as prices are on the rise.

The recent increase in energy prices and its distributional impact underlines the significance of enabling access to essential services such as energy and transport for tackling social exclusion and poverty, including energy poverty, access to housing and sustainable ways of transport, with a focus on vulnerable groups and regions.

**The social impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have been unequal among Member States, population groups and age groups.** Whereas the socio-economic conditions have generally

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<sup>7</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9107-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) – Annual Review 2022

improved for older people, young people and the working-age population faced deteriorating living conditions in a number of EU countries. Demographic trends over the last decade show that the share of the 65+ age group is persistently on the rise, both in comparison to the working-age population and to the child population. This trend continues to pose long-term challenges to pension systems. Pension adequacy remained generally stable in 2020. The gender gap in pensions remains large<sup>9</sup>, despite a gradual decrease over the last ten years. Moreover the risk of poverty or social exclusion remains higher for women than men in the EU.<sup>10</sup>

Population ageing is also expected to lead to a strong increase in the demand for long-term care services. On average, 26.6% of people aged 65 or more living in private households were in need of long-term care in 2019 in the EU. Strengthening access to formal services is important to ensure social fairness and gender equality; it also provides an opportunity for job creation.<sup>11</sup>

The current situation increases the challenges for the social protection systems, specifically in relation to sustainability, ensuring adequate incomes and providing quality services, in particular for those in vulnerable situations.

Against the overall improvements, certain groups like large families, persons with disabilities, people with a migrant background, marginalised communities such as Roma people, as well as non-standard workers remain more exposed to poverty and social exclusion. Significant regional disparities remain, while joint actions of discretionary measures and automatic stabilisers may have managed to counter the increase in market income inequality.<sup>12</sup>

The COVID-19 crisis has amplified long-standing housing challenges and pre-existing inequalities in tenure and housing conditions, in particular for those who were already at risk of housing exclusion before. Persons experiencing homelessness were more exposed to health issues and affected by the interruption of service delivery over lockdown periods. Many Member States continued taking measures in 2021 to support the housing tenure of households, notably from people in vulnerable situations, and some adopted more permanent measures to improve housing affordability in the longer run. In addition, Member States took extraordinary measures to protect persons in a situation of homelessness from becoming infected. The EPSR Action Plan announced the launch of several initiatives targeted at combatting poverty, including for instance an Affordable housing initiative, which will pilot the renovation of 100 districts and the creation of a European platform on combatting homelessness.<sup>13</sup>

## **2. Overall priorities for the EaSI strand in 2023**

In 2023, the EaSI strand will continue to support analytical activities, policy implementation, capacity building and communication and dissemination across the four policy areas: employment and skills, social protection and inclusion, labour markets and labour mobility and safe and fair working conditions.

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<sup>9</sup> 29.5% for people aged 65-74 in the EU-27 in 2019, COM(2021) 743 final, Proposal for a Joint Employment Report from the Commission and the Council

<sup>10</sup> [Living conditions in Europe - poverty and social exclusion - Statistics Explained \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&plugin=1)

<sup>11</sup> COM(2021) 743 final, Proposal for a Joint Employment Report from the Commission and the Council

<sup>12</sup> Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) – Annual Review 2022

<sup>13</sup> COM(2021) 743 final Proposal for a Joint Employment Report from the Commission and the Council

In line with article 4 of the ESF Regulation, the overall political priority remains to implement the EPSR in line with its Action Plan. The overall budget in terms of commitments for the EaSI strand is set at EUR 130.9 million.

In 2023, this leads to the following priorities for the EaSI strand:

1. *Strengthen employment and skills:*

- Support **networks in the area of microfinance and social enterprise finance**, notably to increase the number and quality of outreach activities, mutual learning among members, research activities and input for policy design;
- Support the implementation of the **Action Plan for the social economy**, including detailed analysis of related topics, guidance and support to stakeholders, communication and awareness raising;
- Support **multilingual classification of European skills, competences, qualifications and occupations** (ESCO), and help Europeans to present their skills and achievements in a clear and unified way using the **Europass**<sup>2</sup>;
- Prepare for the **future and new forms of work**, and a **just transition**, including by assessing and monitoring the employment, social and distributional impacts of the twin transitions;
- Analyse employment and social developments, monitor and collect data to support the **European Semester** process and evidence-based decision-making, in particular to feed into the analysis of employment and social conditions induced by **exogenous shocks and crises** (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine).

2. *Help improve social protection and inclusion:*

- Support **networks of relevant stakeholders in the area of social inclusion**, notably to foster outreach activities, mutual learning among members, research activities and input for policy design;
- Continue to further **involve civil society** in the implementation of the Commission's priorities;
- Help institutions across the EU to **exchange information on social security electronically**, faster, more accurately and securely;
- Support IT systems and platforms that ease social protection implementation across the EU;
- Support analysis on social protection matters, in particular as regards the **gaps in formal and effective access to adequate and effective social protection and inclusion**, including **minimum income and pensions**; facilitate networking, mutual learning and information sharing in the field; support Member States' work on social policy reforms, including access to healthcare and social services, in particular for groups in vulnerable situations, and support the relevant initiatives (including long term care);
- Monitor, collect data and analyse various cross-sections in the field of **social protection and inclusion**, in particular vulnerable groups such as people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, people with disabilities, minorities, and the homeless.
- Support the **European Semester** process and the just transition aspects of the Energy Union and Climate Action governance towards a socially fair climate transition.
- Support integrated and innovative approaches and concrete experimentation at the local level addressing homelessness, in support of the work of the **European platform on combating homelessness**;



- Collect and analyse data on all aspects of **inequalities**, including those linked to the green transition, income distribution and poverty, inequality of opportunities;

### 3. *Improve labour markets and ensure fair labour mobility:*

- Support **fair mobility** in cross-border regions, in particular via EURES cross-border partnerships with full involvement of regional social partners;
- Continue to support **public employment services** through capacity building, networking and mutual learning;
- Support the improvements of labour market support by promoting evidence-based research on the effectiveness of active labour market policies and labour market training.
- Support the relevant actors in devising and implementing innovative approaches as regards the **protection of posted workers** and the fight against undeclared work;
- Collect data on the **labour market** and assess labour market shortages in relation to the twin transition;
- Perform the **Evaluation of the European Labour Authority (ELA)**.

### 4. *Foster safe and fair working conditions:*

- Analyse the **risks to health and safety of workers** namely in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, and throughout the global value chain and promote international standards;
- Support the European centre of expertise in the field of **labour law**;
- Focus on **health and safety at work**, maintain the network of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee to promote effective and equivalent enforcement of EU-OSH directives. Support the tripartite Advisory Committee on Safety and Health in preparing, implementing and evaluating activities in the field of health and safety at work and facilitate cooperation between national administrations, trade unions and employers' organisations;
- Collect data through surveys to carry out analysis on **labour standards**;
- Support **capacity building for social partners** and innovative practices in the Western Balkans;
- Perform evaluation of existing **legislation on working conditions**;
- Continue cooperation with International organisations on analysing risks and setting standards as regards health and safety at work;
- Promote **decent work in key EU supply chains** by developing new knowledge, tools, guidance, policy advice, technical assistance and training to support the EU's commitment to responsible global leadership, to the Sustainable Development Goals, and to promoting international labour standards.

**Cross-cutting activities** such as communication and dissemination help achieve the EaSI strand priorities and are crucial for its visibility. The Commission will organise activities for mutual learning such as exchange of good practices, or other events and support studies, reports, information material and media coverage. The Commission will streamline the organisation of events, by supporting one major presidency event and three networking events per semester, as well as organising itself one flagship event.

The Commission will continue to support the creation and operation of EaSI **National Contact Points** within the EU Member States and other participating countries, and support exchanges of best practices between them, in order to promote the EaSI strand and its results.

Also, using the dedicated allocation from the shared management budget under the ESF+ provisions, the Commission will run a **transnational cooperation** scheme with a view to transferring and upscaling outcomes of innovative solutions. Following a call for expression of interest, the Lithuanian ESF Agency (ESFA) has been selected to be entrusted with the implementation of the initiative. The initiative will include two work streams:

- A grant scheme (calls for proposals) for **transnational projects** helping to conceptualise, further develop, validate and/or roll out social innovations.
- A **European Competence Centre for Social Innovation**, which will support transnational cooperation and capacity building for ESF+ Managing Authorities and other relevant stakeholders. It will also collect, assess, develop, validate and disseminate knowledge, tools and methods for social innovation.

It is proposed that in 2023 the thematic focus of the ESF Social Innovation+ calls will be in the societal consequences of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. This can include innovative approaches focussing on **inclusion of refugees** as well as approaches and models enabling community based participative **energy production and delivery**.

## Part 2 – Grants, Procurements, Indirect Management and other actions

### 1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives in the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2023 as follows:

#### 1.1. Budget breakdown

Budget Line	Amount
<b>07.020100.05</b> - ESF+ shared management strand - Operational expenditure (Transnational cooperation)	EUR 30 308 100
<b>07.020400</b> - ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand	EUR 100 516 890
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 130 824 990</b>

#### LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013

#### 1.2. Type of actions to be financed

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2): EUR 57 625 000
- for prizes (implemented under direct management) (point 3): N/A
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 4): EUR 32 472 890
- for actions implemented under indirect management (point 5): EUR 35 173 100

- for contributions to trust funds (point 6): N/A
- for financial instruments (point 7): N/A
- for contributions to blending facilities (point 8): N/A
- for other actions or expenditure (point 9): EUR 5 554 000

## **2. Grants**

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme amounts to EUR 57 625 000.

Budget line 07.020100.05: N/A

Budget line 07.020400: EUR 57 625 000

### **BUDGET LINE**

**07.020400**- ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand

#### **2.1. Direct grants**

##### **2.1.1. Events organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU (2023)**

###### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results**

The EaSI strand will support the deepening of the EU employment and social agenda during the two terms of the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU with a series of events to be organised by presidencies. The topics are agreed to contribute to defining and raising awareness on our policy priorities and they are defined by the Presidency in agreement with the Commission.

###### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The Commission will co-fund conferences to provide a platform for Member States and relevant stakeholders to exchange information and good practices notably in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH); Public Employment Services (PES); Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC).

###### **Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant**

These events will fall in two main categories: a) Presidency conferences and b) meetings of permanent EU networks and Committees under the Presidency auspices. The Member State holding the Council Presidency is the beneficiary of the grant to be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(c) of Financial Regulation. These events, which are highly political in nature and which need representation at the highest level both from national authorities and European representatives, are to be organised exclusively by the Member State holding the Presidency. Given the unique role of the Presidency in the framework of EU activities, the Member State responsible for the organisation of the event is considered as a de jure monopoly.

###### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL throughout the year

## **2.1.2. Direct Grant to the International Energy Agency (IEA) (including the CEM Secretariat) - Project on “Best practices of just transitions in selected energy sectors”**

### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

Supporting analytical work on just transition policies and best practice and reports collecting and presenting the evidence. The deliverables will feed directly into the work of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and will be presented at and inform the CEM-14 Summit and side events and other relevant events or Annual International Just Transition events, incl. relevant global fora and roundtables. They will contribute to:

- Develop analysis and guidance to support countries, companies and social partner organisations in promoting people-centred, just and inclusive clean energy transitions.
- Better understand the labour market needs, including for skills development, diversity management and labour market transitions, associated with clean energy transitions.
- Explore the related training and education needs for maximising the job creation potential of clean energy policies, and supporting governments to take actions to ensure that people benefit from new job opportunities in the clean energy transition.

Policy action should contribute to the implementation of the EPSR, such as principle 1. Education, training and life-long learning, 4. Active support to employment and 5. Secure and adaptable employment.

### **Expected results**

Contribution to the further development and effective implementation of the CEM initiative on “Empowering People: Skills & Inclusivity for Just Transitions” (CEM-EPI), and its dissemination to and/or integration in other relevant sectoral initiatives, including through case studies, analytical reports and practical guidance and tools on best practices of just transitions in selected energy sectors.

Contribution to the work of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and notably the discussions and deliverables at CEM-14, and at other International Just Transition events as relevant.

Presentation of interim and final studies and reports to DG EMPL as well as to CEM-EPI co-leads, including during a final workshop to be co-hosted by DG EMPL and IEA, including the CEM Secretariat (hosted by IEA) as relevant.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The analytical work will consist in:

- Examining skills needs, and mapping pathways from current skills in the short, medium and long-term, and longer term training and education needs.
- Examining mechanisms for reskilling, upskilling and redeployment for workers in negatively impacted sectors and in sectors undergoing significant restructuring.
- Examining mechanisms for enhancing equality, diversity and inclusiveness in skills development and employment (including policy examples that aim to ensure greater representation, inclusion and diversity in clean energy employment, and collating good practices on policies to develop skills and maximise good quality employment).

### **Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant**

A direct grant will be awarded to IEA, including the CEM Secretariat hosted by IEA, in accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial regulation, which stipulates that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence.

The IEA, including the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) Secretariat hosted by the IEA, have a unique technical, analytical and operational experience on topics of direct relevance for the

activities to be funded, such as the clean energy transition and its intersection with employment, skills and social policy (as shown e.g. in recent reports: “IEA: Recommendations of the global commission on people-centred clean energy transitions”, “Clean energy transition indicators monitoring tool”, the “Tracking Clean Energy Progress (TCEP) reports” etc.). The IEA further is an international partner of the initiative “Empowering People: Skills & Inclusivity for Just Transitions”, co-led by Canada, the European Commission (DG EMPL) and the U.S.. Furthermore, thanks to the close involvement of the CEM Secretariat, it brings exclusive experience on CEM processes and has the characteristics and competences required to support effectively CEM initiatives and contribute to the preparation and organisation of upcoming CEM events, notably the CEM-14 Summit in 2023 to which the activities would contribute.

### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

### **2.1.3. Co-delegation to ESTAT: Direct grants to Member States: Labour Force Survey (LFS)**

#### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

The priorities in 2023 will include the continued cooperation with EUROSTAT based on a MoU to further develop the analytical capacity of the DG's priorities for quality statistics allowing monitoring of developments and trends in the EU in the following areas: employment and labour markets, health and disability, skills and training. In this context, timeliness of the data, as well as availability of data on dynamic aspects of labour markets is of particular importance. This action will contribute to the monitoring of EPSR principles, notably 2. Gender equality, 3. Equal opportunities, 6. Wages, 12. Social protection and 20. Access to essential services.

#### **Expected results**

The data collected provide input to the European Semester, the Social Scoreboard and the work of the Employment Committee (EMCO) and Social Protection Committee (SPC), and the collection of labour market policy statistics and expansion of the data collection cover new arising needs.

#### **Description of the activities to be funded**

European statistics, and namely the EU LFS, are needed for the programming and implementation of EU policies in the area of employment, skills, social affairs and labour mobility. With this activity DG EMPL supports the LFS by financing grants to the Member States for projects aiming at implementing specific modules and pilot studies.

The LFS is an important source of information on the situation and trends in the EU labour market. The LFS modules aim to provide users with statistics on a specific detailed topic or ad-hoc subject concerning the labour market by adding each year a set of variables to supplement the core LFS as stipulated by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2175 establishing a multiannual rolling planning<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2175 of 20 October 2020 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/256 establishing a multiannual rolling planning, OJ L 433, 22.12.2020, p. 20.

### **Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant**

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be National Statistical Institutes (NSI) and other National Authorities as designated by the Member States members and being members of the European Statistical System.
- be properly constituted and registered in one of the EU Member States or EFTA countries.

According to Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The individual award decisions substantiating the specific characteristics of the activities and the particular technical competence, high degree of specialisation or administrative power of the beneficiaries will be adopted at a later stage by ESTAT.

### **Implementation**

Through a co-delegation to ESTAT

### **2.1.4. Direct grant to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs Programme**

#### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

This activity targets EPSR principle 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection. Workers have the right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work as well as a working environment adapted to their professional needs and which enables them to prolong their participation in the labour market. The IARC's activities will provide information and updated scientific evidence relevant to EU actions fostering protection of safety and health of workers.

#### **Expected results**

Support the IARC in order to continue to provide authoritative, up-to-date evaluations of environmental and occupational exposures that may present carcinogenic hazards to human beings, and to disseminate the results world-wide as printed books and in electronic form by online internet access.

#### **Description of the activities to be funded**

Provide and distribute authoritative, up-to-date evaluations of environmental and occupational exposure that may present hazards to human health, and to disseminate the results world-wide as printed books and in electronic form by online internet access. The IARC Monographs are of high value to the work of the Commission and its associated scientific committees, by providing updated and reliable scientific evaluations on risks derived from exposure to carcinogenic substances. The scientific committees then produce recommendations and opinions on limit values for chemicals based on IARC Monographs (among other relevant literature).

### **Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant**

According to article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The IARC, an independent and world-wide recognised research organization under the WHO, provides unique scientific advice on environmental and occupational exposure that may present hazards to human health.

## **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

### **2.1.5. Direct Grant to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)**

#### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

This activity targets EPSR principle 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection. Workers have the right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work as well as a working environment adapted to their professional needs and which enables them to prolong their participation in the labour market. ICNIRP's activities will provide information and updated scientific evidence relevant to EU actions fostering protection of safety and health of workers. Providing information and updated scientific information to maintain Directive 2013/35/EU adapted to the scientific developments. The ICNIRP, an independent research organization, provides a unique scientific advice and guidance on the health effects of non-ionizing radiation (NIR) to protect people, including workers, from detrimental NIR exposure. The work and independency of ICNIRP are recognised worldwide and meet the criteria of expertise expected from them within the limits of available scientific knowledge and evidence.

#### **Expected results**

The action proposed by ICNIRP will contribute to keeping scientific knowledge and evidence-base in the area of NIR up-to-date and, consequently, to underpinning policy developments in this field.

#### **Description of the activities to be funded**

Dissemination of information and advice on the potential health hazards of exposure to non-ionising radiation.

#### **Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant**

According to article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. ICNIRP is an independent organization consisting of high level internationally recognized multinational experts. ICNIRP has a unique expertise and it gives recommendations on limiting exposure for the frequencies in the different non-ionising radiation (NIR) subgroups. It develops and publishes Guidelines, Statements, and reviews which are used by national and international bodies, such as the European Commission (for Electromagnetic Fields Directive 2013/35/EU, for example) and World Health Organization.

## **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

## **2.2. Calls for proposals**

### **2.2.1. Call for proposals: Annual operating grants to support EU level Social NGO Networks**

#### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty by providing financial support to EU-level networks of civil society organisations active in this area at local, regional, national and transnational level. It will thereby contribute to the implementation of the EPSR and its Action Plan, ensuring just transitions, protecting livelihoods, boosting employment, reducing poverty and inequalities and creating opportunities for all. They particularly focus on principles aiming at ensuring access to adequate social protection throughout the life cycle – from tackling child poverty, to active age population, and rights for adequate old age income support (principles 11 - 16) – and tackling barriers to social inclusion of certain particularly disadvantaged groups such as the inclusion of people with disabilities (principle 17) and housing and assistance for the homeless (principle 19). NGOs networks are also involved in Commission files related to education, gender equality, equal opportunities, work life balance, social protection, long-term care etc. and thus to the related principles of the EPSR.

#### **Expected results**

In terms of results, the Commission expects:

- Improved awareness about EU policies and funding among the network's members;
- Increased awareness of EU and national authorities about the needs and potential of organisations represented by the networks;
- Increased capacity of the networks and their members to support policy making in their respective areas;
- Enhanced research and availability of data about the fields in which the networks operate.

#### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The call aims at awarding the annual operating grant for 2024 based on a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) with networks active in the area of social inclusion for the period 2022-2025. The activities to be funded include, among others: analytical activities, training and capacity building activities, mutual learning and exchange of good practices, awareness raising, information and dissemination activities with EU added value.

#### **Types of applicants targeted by the call**

Restricted to networks that have signed a framework partnership agreement with the Commission for the period 2022-2025

#### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL



## **2.2.2. Call for Proposals: EURES Cross-border partnerships and support to EURES cooperation on intra-EU mobility for EEA countries and social partners**

### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

Support fair mobility for frontier workers in cross-border regions. The activities will provide concrete data on obstacles to mobility in the cross-border region as well as improve the cross-border labour market. This action will contribute to the implementation of EPSR principles 04. Active support to employment and "03. Equal opportunities and access to the labour market.

### **Expected results**

The activities will contribute to the national work plan of the National Coordination Offices (NCO) of the countries involved and their result will be part of the annual activity report of the NCOs involved.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The overall objectives of the call are to promote workers' intra-EU labour mobility, to boost employment opportunities as well as to support the implementation of the EURES Regulation. The call for projects consists of three topics:

1. The first topic supports fair mobility for frontier workers in cross-border regions, in particular cross-border partnerships offering comprehensive EURES services;
2. The second topic targets listed EEA countries, that are part of EURES, to offer comprehensive EURES services in EEA countries or specific EURES services for workers or employers. Following the key principle "Equal opportunities and access to the labour market" of the EPSR, the action aims at reaching jobseekers in EEA countries.
3. The third topic targets EU-level social partner organisations. It will support the coordination of activities of the European social partners in the EURES network.

### **Types of applicants targeted by the call**

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies);
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - ✓ EU Member States;
  - ✓ non-EU countries: listed EEA countries in accordance with Article 29(a) of the ESF+ Regulation.

For topics 1 and 3, organisations of social partners without legal personality under the applicable national law of above-mentioned countries are also eligible, provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met (Article 197. 2 (c) of the Financial Regulation).

For topics 1 and 3, affiliated entities can take part in the consortium, and they must satisfy the eligibility criteria as all applicants.

#### **Types of entities - topic 1**

Only consortia are eligible.

To be eligible, lead applicants must be:

- the relevant National EURES Coordination Office(s) as designated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/589 or
- the EURES member(s) or partner(s) of the regions involved with the endorsement of its National Coordination Office

To be eligible, co-applicants must fall in one of the categories listed below:

- EURES members or partners
- Social partner organisations at European, national or regional level
- Public or private employment services
- Third sector organisations
- Other relevant actors active on the EU/EEA labour market, including European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

#### Types of entities – topic 2

Consortia are not eligible.

To be eligible, single applicants must be the National EURES Coordination Offices of EEA-non EU countries, in accordance with Article 29(a) of the ESF+ Regulation.

#### Type of entities – topic 3

Actions may involve consortia.

Applicants (single or lead and co-applicants) must be social partners, established at European level and represented in the Advisory Committee on Free Movement of Workers, i.e.:

- The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- The Confederation of European Business (BUSINESSEUROPE)
- European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEUnited)
- European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest (CEEP)

### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

### **2.2.3. Call for proposals: implementation of a European Tracking Service for pensions (ETS)**

#### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

The overall objective is to facilitate the access to pension information for mobile workers. This action will contribute to the implementation of EPSR principles 12. Social protection and 15. Old age income and pensions.

#### **Expected results**

The action will enhance the functionality and coverage of the ETS, including by connecting additional National Tracking Services to the ETS, expanding and improving the pension provider search functionality and extending the Pension Communication Network.

#### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The action will support the implementation of the roll-out phase of the ETS, following up on the pilot phase in 2019-2022 (implemented under a grant under EaSI Social innovation call VP/2018/003). The ETS is an international platform of pension institutions aiming to help mobile workers follow their pension rights held in different Member States. Through a dedicated website, ETS is helping mobile workers find and connect to their former pension providers in other Member States and to have an overview of pension rights in different countries by connecting individualised pension information from national pension tracking services. The ETS also acts as a competence network on pension communication.

The principal activities during the roll-out phase will include connecting additional national tracking services, improving the functionality of the ETS website, including by extending the

pension provider functionality by adding more pension providers, strengthening the organisational capacity of ETS and promoting pension communication.

### **Types of applicants targeted by the call**

Proposals by both single applicants and consortia are allowed.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- fall into one of the categories below, either
  - ✓ public law bodies, including Member States' organisations
  - ✓ Or bodies governed by private law with a public service mission, including Member States' organisations, to the extent that they are provided with adequate financial guarantees;
  - ✓ Or bodies governed by private law that are entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership and that are provided with adequate financial guarantees.
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - ✓ EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories);
  - ✓ non-EU countries: listed EEA countries and countries associated to the ESF+ or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list-3rd-country-participation\\_esf-socpl\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#));

### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

## **2.2.4. Call for Proposals: Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and Access to information (topic 1) and Activities to tackle undeclared work (topic 2)**

### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

This call for proposals supports implementation of the following key EPSR principles: 3. Equal opportunities; 5. Secure and adaptable employment; 6. Wages; 7. Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals; 8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers; 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection.

#### **Topic 1:**

The general objective of this call for proposals is therefore contributing to the implementation of the key EPSR principles in the area of posting of workers. The specific objectives of the strand 1 are the following: a) To promote transnational cooperation among public authorities and stakeholders, including the promotion of the use of the Internal Market Information System (IMI) and sharing experiences and best practices in this respect; b) To increase the accessibility, transparency and quality of the information concerning the terms and conditions of employment to be respected and the existing practices in the Member States to monitor and enforce the provisions of the Posting of Workers Directive; c) To promote the evidence basis through the collection and evaluation of original data, and the analysis specific to the posting process and posted workers' working conditions, including through the collaboration between universities across various disciplines, research centres and institutes and stakeholders, in particular social partners.

#### **Topic 2:**

The priority for this call is to co-finance actions fostering joint activities and cross-border projects of enforcement authorities improving their technical capacity in the field of preventing and deterrence of undeclared work in line with the Platform's vision of transforming undeclared into declared work by using a holistic approach, where national governments join up strategy and operations and cooperate with social partners and other stakeholders to employ the full range of direct and indirect policy measures. This will further enhance on-going cooperation between Member States enforcement authorities.

Cooperation may cover the following areas:

1. Common training courses for staff involved in enforcement activities;
2. Joint actions and exchange of staff of enforcement authorities;
3. Provision of technical assistance and/or support to implementation of measures/practice as identified by the European Platform tackling Undeclared Work.
4. Setting up information exchange systems;
5. Collaborative work in form of sharing of information and mutual learning between enforcement authorities.

The main objective of this call for proposals is to develop and fund initiatives, which shall contribute to enhancing the implementation, application, knowledge and better enforcement of EU and national law in the area of undeclared work, thus contributing to the reduction of undeclared work and to the transition into formal jobs. The knowledge gained from these projects should also help building up evidence-based knowledge for better policy design.

## **Expected results**

### **Topic 1:**

Expected results will be the development of new or improving existing exchanges, peer reviews and/or training programmes between officials of competent public authorities and/or between relevant social partners and stakeholders in the contexts of monitoring the compliance with and enforcement of the applicable rules in relation to posted workers, and/or of administrative cooperation and mutual assistance. Furthermore, the results will include the development/improvement of online platforms for the collection and dissemination of quality, user-friendly, and specific information targeted at workers.

### **Topic 2:**

The expected results are the improved transnational cooperation between Member States' different authorities to prevent and deter undeclared work, increased mutual trust among the stakeholders and the increased public awareness on the urgency of action and encouraging Member States to step up their efforts in dealing with undeclared work.

## **Description of the activities to be funded**

This call for proposals envisages two topics:

Topic 1 (Posting of workers) supports the implementation, application and enforcement of the Directive 96/71/EC and Directive (EU) 2018/957 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of provision of services and its Enforcement Directive 2014/67/EU. The call for proposals will fund transnational cooperation initiatives aiming at developing initiatives by relevant stakeholders involved in the context of posting with a significant and lasting impact on workers, companies and administrations. Activities aim at supporting competent authorities in Member States and social partners in administrative cooperation, in increasing access to essential information for posted workers, to promote the evidence basis through the collection and evaluation of original data and analysis.

Activities under topic 2 (undeclared work) aim to complement and add value to the activities indicated in the work programme of the European Platform tackling undeclared work, which has been integrated into the European Labour Authority in 2021. The call for proposals will support relevant actors in the field of undeclared work such as ministries, enforcement authorities, social partners, etc. to develop and fund innovative initiatives which shall contribute to enhancing the implementation, application, knowledge and better enforcement of EU and national law in the area of undeclared work, including through cross-border cooperation, thus supporting the transformation of undeclared work into declared work.

## **Types of applicants targeted by the call**

Topic 1: Applicants must be properly constituted and registered legal entities, having their registered office established in one of the following eligible countries:

- EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories);
- non-EU countries: listed EEA countries and countries associated to the ESF+ or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list-3rd-country-participation\\_esf-socpl\\_en.pdf](#) ([europa.eu](#))).

Only consortia are eligible. They must be composed of a minimum of three entities established and registered in at least three different EU Member States.

Lead applicants and co-applicants must be established in EU Member States and EEA countries, according to ESF+ Regulation.

Co-applicants can also be established in associated Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates, in accordance with ESF+ Regulation.

Lead applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities must fall in one of the following categories:

- Public authorities;
- International organisations (with registered headquarters both inside and outside of eligible countries of the Call);
- Non-profit organisations (private or public);
- Research centres/institutes;
- Higher education establishments;
- Civil society organisations,
- Social partner organisation at European, national or regional level (in application of Article 197 2. (c) of the Financial Regulation), social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met).

Topic 2: Applicants must be properly constituted and registered legal entities, having their registered office established in one of the following eligible countries:

- EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories);
- non-EU countries: listed EEA countries and countries associated to the ESF+ or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list-3rd-country-participation\\_esf-socpl\\_en.pdf](#) ([europa.eu](#))).

Single or lead applicants and co-applicants must be established in EU Member States and EEA countries, according to ESF+ Regulation.

Co-applicants can also be established in associated Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates, in accordance with ESF+ Regulation.

Organisations of social partners without legal personality under the applicable national law are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met (Article 197.2(c) of the Financial Regulation);

Single or lead applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities must fall in one of the following categories:

- Public enforcement authorities such as labour inspectorates, social security inspectorates, tax authorities, customs authorities, migration bodies, ministries in charge of tackling undeclared work, the police and the public prosecutor's office, or

- Social partners, which are entitled by law or institutional agreement to carry out enforcement tasks can be lead-applicant. Other social partners can be co-applicants.
- Non-profit organisations (private or public).

**For both topics:**

Affiliated entities can take part in the consortium, and they must satisfy the eligibility criteria as all applicants.

**Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

**2.2.5. Call for proposals: Social innovation practices to combat homelessness**

**Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

This call aims at piloting and evaluating innovative projects and/or policy measures addressing homelessness and housing exclusion. By testing integrated approaches to homelessness, covering areas such as prevention, access to housing, including housing-led approaches, and enabling services, it shall contribute to prevent and combat homelessness in line with the Pillar principle 19 and the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness.

The objective is to support capacity building of innovative multi-stakeholder governance structures and/or social experimentation at local, regional and national level of innovative forms of service delivery in the areas of homelessness and housing exclusion, including new forms of collaboration with public authorities. It should complement other work strands (e.g. data collection and mutual learning with Member States) of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness.

The purpose is to select and support a limited number of intermediaries in the greatest number of Member States, capable of:

- building the capacity and knowledge of a large number of local, regional and national stakeholders including through the creation of formal and informal networks in the fields covered by the call.
- promote social experimentation and the evaluation of innovative practices in the field of homelessness and housing exclusion.

**Expected results**

- New forms of service delivery are implemented and tested;
- Improved capacity and knowledge for preventing and combatting homelessness;
- Increased support to the full implementation of the Social Pillar Principle 19 and the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting. Homelessness.

**Description of the activities to be funded**

Activities to be funded should be:

- Social experimentation, piloting and evaluating social innovation practices in the field of homelessness policies and projects.

And/or:

- Financial support for capacity building of civil society organisations, non-profit public and private service providers, local and regional authorities, in order to create multi-stakeholder networks and structures and promote innovative governance practices to tackle homelessness and housing exclusion.

The activities may also include mutual learning, exchange of good practices and awareness raising. Information and dissemination activities should be included and the results should be made public.

These activities will be carried out by a limited number of intermediaries including through financial support to third parties. The actions have to be implemented in at least 3 eligible countries.

### **Types of applicants targeted by the call**

Proposals by both single applicants and consortia are allowed.

In order to be eligible,

a) the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)

- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

- ✓ EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs));
- ✓ non-EU countries (listed EEA countries and countries associated to the ESF+ or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list-3rd-country-participation\\_esf-socpl\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)));

- be non-profit-making and independent from any conflicting interests;

- if sole applicant: an umbrella civil society organisation, a network of local and regional authorities and/ or social services providers at European level (covering at least 14 eligible countries), an International Organisation or an International Financial Institution, including Multilateral Development Banks. It must be active in the area of the call (part of statutory aim);

- if consortium: the lead applicant must be either one of the above or a civil society organisation, local or regional authority, social service provider, or national development bank at national level. Co-applicants can include research centres/institutes and higher education establishments (private and public). In the case of a lead applicant at national level, at least two co-applicants should be from two other eligible countries. The majority of the applicants must be active in the area of the call (part of statutory aim).

### **Types of third party organisations that may receive financial support from the intermediaries**

In order to be eligible for financial support, the third party must:

- be established in an eligible country;
- be a legal entity (public or private bodies)
- be non-profit-making or a public authority or a social enterprise/social cooperative;
- respect the fundamental rights and values on which the EU is founded.

Affiliated entities, the associates and contractors of the beneficiary acting as intermediary are not eligible as third parties that may receive financial support.

### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL



## **2.2.6. Call for proposals: Support networks active in the area of social enterprise finance / microfinance support**

### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

Social enterprises and microenterprises are instrumental in the implementation of many of the EPSR principles. In particular they play a key role in delivering the following EPSR principles: 3. Equal opportunities, 4. Active support to employment, 5. Secure and adaptable employment, 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities, 18. Long-term care and 20. Access to essential services. To support the development in this field, the Commission cooperates with EU level networks in its outreach activities at EU, national and local level. EU level networks are also key partners in the consultation and implementation of the Action Plan for Social Economy, as well as on a number of other policy files such as long-term care, green transition and social innovation. This partnership will enhance the capacities of these networks to contribute actively to the development and implementation of the EU policies in this area.

### **Expected results**

- To benefit from the networks' expertise as regards the challenges (and ways to tackle them) that social enterprises, microenterprises and their support organisations/intermediaries face in the various Member States and;
- To be supported in its outreach activities at EU, national and local level with the aim of ensuring awareness, contribution to and implementation of EU level policies and initiatives in the areas of social enterprise and microenterprise finance.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The action aims to provide specific operating grants to the organisations that have signed a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreement, i.e. networks in the areas of microfinance and social enterprise support. The activities to be funded contain, among others, outreach activities, mutual learning among members, research activities and input for policy design.

### **Types of applicants targeted by the call**

Restricted to networks that have signed a framework partnership agreement with the Commission for the period 2022-2025.

### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

## **2.2.7. Call for proposals: Support to the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness**

### **Priorities of the year, objectives pursued**

This action will support the aims of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness and contribute to the execution of its work programme. The Platform has been established as an instrument for the implementation of the EPSR principle 19, which stresses the need for social housing or housing assistance of good quality for those in need, the right to appropriate assistance and protection against forced eviction for vulnerable people and adequate shelter and services for people experiencing homelessness.

### **Expected results**

Prepare learning and analytical tools (training materials, explanatory fiches on good practices in terms of policy and projects, background documents etc.) on specific aspects of homelessness. The results of these activities will be disseminated and will feed into an on-site

visit programme to homelessness projects, trainings for practitioners and webinars/ seminars. These capacity and knowledge building activities and the corresponding mutual learning activities will be based on an inclusive and participatory approach involving all key stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness. They will also contribute to promoting good practices, disseminating the results of the Platform and raising awareness on homelessness issues. The relevant material created for the purpose of these activities shall be freely disseminated online at the latest at the end of the action.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The European Commission will support the functioning and activities of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness. In line with the Platform's work programme adopted in February 2022, the activities will promote capacity and knowledge building in the area of homelessness and housing exclusion. More specifically, the activities will include developing learning tools and collect and deepen evidence and knowledge on specific aspects of homelessness, and identify good practices in terms of policies and projects. These activities will be disseminated and will feed into an on-site visit programme to homelessness projects, trainings for practitioners and webinars/ seminars. These capacity and knowledge building activities and the corresponding mutual learning activities will be based on an inclusive and participatory approach involving all key stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness. They will also contribute to promoting good practices, disseminating the results of the Platform and raising awareness on homelessness issues.

### **Types of applicants targeted by the call**

Applications by both single applicants (single beneficiaries) and consortia are allowed. The single applicant, or the coordinator/ lead applicant in case of a consortium, must have signed a framework partnership agreement for the period 2022-2025 for EU level Social NGO Networks (call ESF-2021-OG-NETW-NGO-FPA). Each FPA signatory can only participate in one proposal.

In case of consortia, all applicants should fall under one the following categories:

- public authorities;
- international organisations (with registered headquarters both inside and outside of eligible countries of the call);
- non-profit organisations (private or public);
- research centres/institutes;
- higher education establishments (private and public);
- civil society organisations; or social partner organisations at European, national or regional level (in application of Article 197(2)(c) of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met).

Applicants must be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

- ✓ EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories);
- ✓ non-EU countries: listed EEA countries and countries associated to the ESF+ or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list-3rd-country-participation\\_esf-socpl\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#))

### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

### **3. Prizes**

N/A

### **4. Procurement**

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme amounts to EUR 32 472 890.

Budget line 07.020100.05: N/A

Budget line 07.020400: EUR 32 472 890

The Commission intends to launch an open procedure for one Framework Contract (FWC) for the provision of services related to contracts to support logistics to organise Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) campaigns and Train the Trainer events, development of the campaign website, development and dissemination of campaign materials and similar tasks as needed. The total value of the envisaged FWC is 1 000 000 EUR in 4 years (250 000 EUR per year).

#### **Objectives pursued and expected results**

Activities implemented through procurement contracts will assist in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its action plan, the policy initiatives of the Commission Work programme in the field of employment and social inclusion as well as the European Semester, through improved capacity of Member States and stakeholders, mutual learning, general communication and raising awareness among stakeholders, developing evidence basis, and supporting stakeholders, including through improved IT tools.

#### **Subject matter of the contracts envisaged**

In 2023, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (call for tenders and framework contracts) or administrative arrangements in the following policy areas:

#### **4.1. Employment and skills**

The actions in this policy area have as objective to support analytical activities (including evaluation, statistics and surveys), mutual-learning, exchange of good practices, evaluation of policy initiatives, advisory services and technical assistance, meetings and events, awareness raising on employment policy related issues, European centres of expertise in the field of labour law, employment and labour, IT, trainings, communication, dissemination and capacity-building activities in relation with the implementation of the employment and skills related objectives outlined in the EPSR Action Plan.

The actions will cover notably the areas of youth employment, long-term unemployment, undeclared work, platform work, job creation, entrepreneurship, microfinance and social enterprise finance, social economy, skills (such as European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO)) and their development, including mutual recognition and transparency of competences, occupations and qualifications expert networks. Activities are expected to provide data, information, statistics and reports to strengthen and better target employment policies.

##### **Type of contracts**

Service

##### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegation to DIGIT

#### **4.2. Social protection and inclusion**

Actions in this policy area aim to support analytical activities (research, policy advice), mutual learning, exchange of good practices, promoting dialogue with civil society and stakeholders, exchange of social security information, IT, awareness raising, meetings and events, communication, dissemination and capacity-building activities, in relation with the social protection and inclusion objectives in the EPSR Action Plan.

The expected results include an improvement and alignment of the social protection and pension systems responding to challenges of the new forms of works in Member States and the implementation of the EPSR as regards social inclusion. It will notably cover the inclusive employment and growth, alleviation of poverty, homelessness and social impact monitoring, modernisation and reforms of social protection systems including pension (adequacy and sustainability of pensions) and long-term care systems as well as social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

##### **Type of contracts**

Service

##### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

### **4.3. Labour markets and labour mobility**

The actions in this policy area have the objective to support analytical activities (including evaluation, statistics and surveys), data collection and availability, communication, dissemination and capacity-building activities, mutual-learning, exchange of good practices between competent authorities, meetings and conferences, technical assistance, use of external expert evaluators for calls of proposals and IT services in the area of labour markets and labour mobility (including posting of workers and seasonal workers).

The expected results include the availability of data, development and maintenance of the EURES portal (including translations), contribution to improved labour markets and labour mobility and improving legislation on working conditions in the Member State.

#### **Type of contracts**

Service

#### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegation to DIGIT

### **4.4. Safe and fair working conditions**

The actions in this policy area have the objective to support analytical activities (including evaluation, statistics and surveys), data collection and availability, mutual-learning, exchange of good practices between competent authorities, communication, meetings and conferences, dissemination and capacity-building activities in relation to safe and fair working conditions (including occupational diseases), Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) and international labour standards.

The expected results include the availability of data, statistics, contribution to better working conditions in the EU and refining and improving legislation on working conditions in the Member State.

#### **Type of contracts**

Service

#### **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL

### **4.5. Cross-cutting issues**

The actions in this section have the objective to support cooperation with key international partners (such as the International Labour Organization (ILO)), analytical activities, data collection and availability (including evaluation, statistics and surveys), mutual-learning, capacity building, exchange of good practices with third countries, cross-cutting analysis, DG EMPL communication and dissemination activities, meetings and events, evaluation of DG EMPL agencies, horizontal and cross-cutting IT, audits, contribution to corporate IT and communication.

The expected results include improved cooperation with partner countries, international organisations and stakeholders, enhanced IT processes, better regulation and wider and high-quality outreach to the European citizens and beyond.

## **Type of contracts**

Service

## **Implementation**

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegations to COMM, DIGIT, REGIO

### **5. Actions implemented under indirect management**

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for actions implemented under indirect management in 2023 amounts to EUR 35 173 100.

Budget line 07.020100.05: EUR 30 308 100

Budget line 07.020400: EUR 4 865 000

### **BUDGET LINE**

**07.020100.05** - ESF+ shared management strand - Operational expenditure (Transnational cooperation)

**07.020400**- ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand

### **5.1. Transnational cooperation initiative for Social innovation**

#### **Implementing entity**

The Lithuanian ESF Agency ESFA has been selected to become the entrusted entity, subject to successful conclusion of the currently ongoing Pillar Assessment, expected to be finalised in August 2022.

#### **Objectives pursued**

To support transfer and scaling-up of social innovations.

- Transfer and scaling up of innovative solutions relevant to today's societal challenges.
- Increased capacity of ESF+ managing authorities and relevant stakeholders in supporting social innovation.
- More coherent policy regarding social innovation at EU level as well as in the Member States and eligible non-EU countries. The transitions to a low-carbon and digital economy, demographic changes, the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences and migration related issues are transforming the world of work, education, training and social services. In this context social innovation is becoming crucial, because it opens up new inclusive and participatory ways of facing the challenges in the interest and for the benefit of European citizens.

Against this background, the ESF+ Regulation, notably its Article 5 provides a budget of EUR 175 million in 2018 prices for transnational cooperation for social innovation for 2021-2027. The purpose of this activity is thus to continuously implement transnational initiative for supporting, disseminating and up-scaling of social innovations in the EU, in complementarity to the Member State's activities under the ESF+ in shared management and to the social experimentation implemented under the EaSI strand. This includes the ALMA initiative. The action is implemented with subsequent contribution agreements with the entrusted entity, based on annually available budget during the 2021 - 2027 programming period.

As a thematically transversal concept, the transnational cooperation initiative for Social innovation supports the implementation of all chapters of the EPSR.

### **Expected results**

- Transfer and scaling up of innovative solutions relevant to today's societal challenges.
- Increased capacity of ESF+ managing authorities and relevant stakeholders in supporting social innovation.
- More coherent policy regarding social innovation at EU level as well as in the Member States and in eligible non-EU countries.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The following implementation tasks are included:

- Prepare and implement EU wide transnational calls for proposals projects related to social innovation and/or social policy experimentation. In 2023, the call for proposals will notably target social innovations which are relevant in addressing the societal consequences of the war in Ukraine in the EU Member States and in eligible non-EU countries.
- Support the capacity building of stakeholders, in cooperation with the forthcoming National competence centres for social innovation
- Validate and showcase innovative solutions, including through the EU social innovation database
- Prepare the continuation of the EU level thematic cooperation and mutual learning between the ESF managing authorities (the Communities of practice launched in 2020).

### **BUDGET LINE**

**07.020400**- ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand

## **5. 2. Contribution agreement with OECD: Research project to investigate Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) in Public Procurement - Global Supply Chains**

### **Implementing entity**

According to Article 154.1 of the Financial Regulation, the selection of the entities to be entrusted with the implementation of Union funds pursuant to point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62.1, shall be transparent, justified by the nature of the action and shall not give rise to conflict of interest. OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation). OECD has a strong established work in the space of Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) and already established working groups on both Public Procurement and Responsible Business Conduct.

### **Objectives pursued**

The objective is to support the reduction of Human Rights deficiencies risk in European organisation's global supply chains. The aim of this project is to produce practical guidelines to improve human rights due diligence in national public procurement policies related to global supply chains.

This action will contribute to the implementation of EPSR principles 01. Education, training and life-long learning, 02. Gender equality, 03. Equal opportunities and 04. Active support to employment.

### **Expected results**

This project aims firstly, to add to the available EC literature base on the HRDD aspect of Sustainable Public Procurement to inform policy. This project will provide a useful resource to identify EU MS priorities, and to enable EU MS to compare their delivery on HRDD in public procurement respective to each other, and identified best practice. There are two research components. The first research component would produce a technical context of HRDD in Public procurement. The second component would identify the best performers and produce a detailed case study. There are two research papers sought in this project.

- Research into Global Best Practice on HRDD in Public Procurement, including detailed case study, common trends and recommendations.
- Evaluation of existing of Public Procurement policy in the EU, against HRDD criteria, with a component on Best Practice, including a Human Rights deficiency risk-review and grading of the identified policies.

This project also aims to establish a HRDD best practice pilot example in relevant organisations in the EU to serve as a case study for comparable organisations. The result of this project will be new research in the subject matter, and tangible guidance on Human rights due diligence. This research will complement developments in global supply chain topics (Decent Work Communication, Due diligence regulation, and Sustainable Corporate Governance). This work will also complement the development of a Social Taxonomy – and increase visibility on “social” component of sustainable procurement – ultimately supporting sustainable targeting of EU public procurement.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

Studies; implement three best practice pilots (with Case studies), and provide recommendations on best practice.

## **5.3. Contribution agreement with OECD: Global Deal to promote their capacity building for social dialogue and collective bargaining in third countries (2nd phase)**

### **Implementing entity**

According to Article 154.1 of the Financial Regulation, the selection of the entities to be entrusted with the implementation of Union funds pursuant to point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62.1, shall be transparent, justified by the nature of the action and shall not give rise to conflict of interest. OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation). OECD, hosts the Global Deal's secretariat, an initiative that brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including trade unions and employer organisations, to support social dialogue.



### **Objectives pursued**

The objective is to support the development of healthy social dialogue and collective bargaining in third countries, especially countries with which the EU has a free trade agreement or which benefit from Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP).

This action will contribute to the implementation of EPSR principles 01. Education, training and life-long learning, 02. Gender equality, 03. Equal opportunities, 04. Active support to employment, 07. Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals, 08. Social dialogue and involvement of workers, 09. Work-life, 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection.

### **Expected results**

Contribute to the development of consultation practices that will ultimately lead to the levelling of the playing field.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The Global Deal brings together various stakeholders to promote joint solutions while still representing their different interests. Effective social dialogue requires mutual respect and trust to create favourable conditions for collaboration between employers, workers and governments. This can lead to peace in the labour market, promote competition and enhance economic stability and shared prosperity. The Global Deal will support regional events to promote social dialogue and collective bargaining, research on social dialogue and capacity building in third countries.

## **5.4. Contribution agreement with OECD: Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses**

### **Implementing entity**

According to Article 154.1 of the Financial Regulation, the selection of the entities to be entrusted with the implementation of Union funds pursuant to point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62.1, shall be transparent, justified by the nature of the action and shall not give rise to conflict of interest. OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation).

### **Objectives pursued**

In light of the unique OECD expertise in inequality studies and access to administrative data the activity will deepen the analysis of inequality trends and drivers for which new sources of yet unexploited, or underexploited, data can provide important new insights for deepening the understanding of policy-relevant questions in the domain of inequality, complement EC research and analysis on the topic and provide independent evidence for informed policy making in the field of labour market, skills and social inclusion and protection in the context of twin transitions and current geopolitical uncertainties.

This action will contribute to the implementation of EPSR principles 02. Gender equality, 03. Equal opportunities, 06. Wages, 12. Social protection, and 20. Access to essential services.

### **Expected results**

For each work stream:

- A research report;
- A policy brief that summarises the statistical analysis and main policy messages from the two research reports;
- An EU-OECD expert workshop to discuss conceptual challenges and preliminary findings;
- A basic set of selected indicators and tabulations from the research reports.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

Work Stream 1 focuses on new evidence on social mobility and equality of opportunity in the wake of COVID-19 and ongoing megatrends; this work stream could cover topics such as: expansion of the country and time coverage of different dimensions of social mobility, analysis of inherited wealth, unequal impact of the pandemic on social mobility, intersection between social mobility and gender as well as perceptions of the extent of social mobility.

Work stream 2 focuses on labour market transformation, inequality and the changing role of social protection; this work stream could cover topics such as: long-term earnings mobility, inequality and the role of policies; geographic inequalities in labour market outcomes and the role of digital technologies, closing social protection gaps for hard-to-cover workers, unequal labour market effects on the green transition.

Work stream 3 focuses on emerging inequality issues in uncertain times; this work stream could cover topics such as the sharing of costs of the COVID-19 crisis, the unequal labour market and social policy implications of the war in Ukraine, the high impact of energy prices on the cost of living or the effects of market concentration on economic inequality.

## **5.5. Contribution agreement with the OECD: ageing and adequacy of pensions**

### **Implementing entity**

According to Article 154.1 of the Financial Regulation, the selection of the entities to be entrusted with the implementation of Union funds pursuant to point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62.1, shall be transparent, justified by the nature of the action and shall not give rise to conflict of interest. OECD is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has a unique competence and expertise on both employment and social policies, including pensions and retirement, in particular the inequality aspects, as demonstrated by its past collaboration with EU Member States in the area of social protection.

### **Objectives pursued**

To support the Commission and the Social Protection Committee in the preparation of the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report, focusing on the monitoring of inequalities as well as the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the adequacy of retirement incomes, in line with the conclusions of the 2021 Pension Adequacy Report, endorsed by EPSCO.

This action will contribute to the implementation of EPSR principles 12. Social protection (Chapter III) and 15. Old age income and pensions.

### **Expected results**

Drafting, analytical support and contribution to the debate in SPC framework and with externally stakeholders feeding into the preparation and dissemination of the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report, focusing on the short-term and long-term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, ageing and life expectancy, including healthy life years, duration of working life and retirement and transition into retirement, breaking down by socioeconomic gradients to consider the impact on inequalities and income distribution.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

Analytical work on ageing and pension adequacy, with particular focus on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on pension systems and pension adequacy, working life duration, transition into retirement and inequalities and income distribution, feeding into the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report.

## **5.6. Contribution agreement with ILO: Sustainable supply chains to build back better - Advancing decent work in five global supply chains of key importance to the European Union for a fair, resilient, and sustainable COVID-19 crisis recovery. (2nd phase)**

### **Implementing entity**

According to Article 154.1 of the Financial Regulation, the selection of the entities to be entrusted with the implementation of Union funds pursuant to point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62.1, shall be transparent, justified by the nature of the action and shall not give rise to conflict of interest. ILO is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation). ILO is a leading organisation on decent work, labour standards and protecting workers rights. ILO has a unique mandate, normative framework, sector-specific knowledge and experience with sectoral social dialogue which are very well aligned to this project objectives.

### **Objectives pursued**

The objective is to support the implementation of the actions envisaged in the Decent Work Communication, especially as regards decent work in global supply chains, inclusive and green recovery from COVID-19 through joint activities, workshops and monitoring. This action is supporting the EPSR principles and in particular 1-13, 17, 18, 20.

In the context of new EU legislative developments in the Global Supply Chain due diligence, and in Sustainable Corporate Governance Initiative it is important that the EU continues to promote decent work throughout strategic key supply chains.

This project will support the EU's commitment to responsible global leadership, to the Sustainable Development Goals, and to promoting international labour standards.

### **Expected results**

The output of this project is important for promoting decent work in key EU supply chains. This project will develop new knowledge, tools, guidance, policy advice, technical assistance and training to address decent work challenges and opportunities in five sectors: coffee, electronics, fisheries, rubber gloves and textiles.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

Reports focusing on promoting decent work in its links of addressing informality, focusing on impacts of COVID-19 and aiming at recovery which creates decent and sustainable employment, including in selected country cases and supported by an outreach event  
Continuity from direct grant to the ILO for a project on trade, supply chains and decent work.

### **5.7. Contribution agreement with the ILO: Labour and skills shortages, especially in the context of the green and digital transitions**

#### **Implementing entity**

According to Article 154.1 of the Financial Regulation, the selection of the entities to be entrusted with the implementation of Union funds pursuant to point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62.1, shall be transparent, justified by the nature of the action and shall not give rise to conflict of interest. ILO is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation). The ILO is equipped with unique capacities in the area of labour and skills, including technical expertise for research and analysis on aspects relating to the twin digital and green transitions, notably thanks to its Green Jobs Programme established in 2009. The ILO is well positioned to create relevant evidence and knowledge with a focus on the EU while also ensuring consistency and exploiting synergies with related activities at the international level, in particular on “green jobs” in the context of the G7 and COP.

#### **Objectives pursued**

To contribute to the evidence and knowledge base on labour and shortages in the EU, including quantitative estimates of the investment needs for reskilling, upskilling and labour market transitions in the green and digital transitions, also in the context of REPowerEU. Furthermore, contribution to the evidence and knowledge base of the “Green Jobs for Youth Pact” initiative launched by UNEP, ILO and UNICEF, underpinning EU and Commission contributions to the initiative.

Main objectives are:

- a) Improved understanding and evidence on the extent, drivers and consequences of labour and skills shortages in the EU and the expected trends and investment needs to tackle labour shortages, also relating to skill needs in the green and digital transition and in the context of RePowerEU.
- b) Specific analysis and evidence of these challenges in the light of the EU’s green and digital transition, with a focus on economic activities and jobs contributing to the twin transition in particular.
- c) Improved understanding and proposals for a possible definition and taxonomy of jobs that particularly contribute to climate and environmental objectives (“green jobs”) and a just transition, also taking into account the digital transition.
- d) Contribution to the evidence and knowledge base for possible policy actions on labour shortages in the EU as of 2023, notably with a view to (investment) needs for the green and digital transitions, also in the context of REPowerEU.

Policy action should contribute to the implementation of the EPSR, such as principle 4. Active support to employment.

## **Expected results**

There is only limited evidence on which sectors will flourish in the economy by 2030/2050 and which will decline, and only a partial understanding of how labour demand will shift across sectors and regions. Further analysis on this topic will thus help us understand the economic costs of shortages and the expected (skill) investment needs to tackle labour shortages, also relating to skill needs in the green and digital transition and in the context of RePowerEU. The project should place a particular focus on green, digital, and twin (green + digital) jobs and sectors, which are contributing to the transition.

The analysis could further contribute to building a comprehensive understanding of jobs that are of particular importance for achieving climate and environmental objectives (“green jobs”) as well as promoting the digital transition. In this context, the European Public Employment Services (PES) network board adopted a position paper in 2022, which states that there is currently no definition of green jobs; that it is decisive for PES to understand the main aspects and skills of jobs demanded by a greener economy; that further European and national initiatives are welcomed by the PES Network in order to improve knowledge on green jobs.

The project could help improve the evidence and knowledge base on labour shortages in the EU, including quantitative estimates of the investment needs for reskilling, upskilling and labour market transitions in the green and digital transitions, also in the context of REPowerEU. It could thereby also contribute to the evidence and knowledge base of the upcoming new “Green Jobs for Youth Pact” initiative launched by UNEP, ILO and UNICEF, and underpin EU and Commission contributions to the initiative. Analysis at the country level could support future assessments of the implementation of the Council Recommendation on fair transition and monitoring of the fair green and digital transition, including as part of the European Semester process. The project would further support regular briefing and reporting needs, e.g. concerning the aggregate number of jobs needed (already today, by 2030) for the green transition, covering various sectors, and notably construction, energy production and the circular economy.

## **Description of the activities to be funded**

a) More granular and up-to-date data, including at the country and regional level, on labour and skills shortages in green and digital jobs and sectors, which would contribute to the monitoring of the implementation of the Council Recommendation on ‘Ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality’ and monitoring of the fair green and digital transition in general. Data should be publicly available, providing access to information and transparency to stakeholders as part of an inclusive whole-of-society approach. In addition, working definitions, codes and programmes should be shared with DG EMPL.

b) A report presenting the data, evidence and analysis delivering on the project objectives, including through specific policy recommendations for policy action at the EU, national and sub-national levels to close labour and skills shortages in relevant areas. The report should be presented to DG EMPL staff and other relevant Commission services during a final workshop. Throughout the whole duration of the project, regular meetings and seminars would be organised so as to discuss the methodology and the developments of the project.

c) A tool (e.g. online platform) or mechanism (e.g. events and dialogues), at the disposal of the Commission, to monitor the evolution of labour and skills shortages on a regular basis and in a granular, real-time manner in the future, with particular attention to their relevance in the green and digital transition. The tool should build on and, where possible, create synergies with existing tools, processes (e.g. by Cedefop, Eurofound and the European

Labour Authority), methodologies and mechanisms (e.g. international conferences, such as COP-27 and its Just Transition Pavilion). Evidence from such tools/mechanisms would respond to regular briefing and reporting needs (e.g. concerning job creation, key sectors and the nature of relevant jobs).

## **5.8. Contribution agreement with WHO: Building more accessible, better quality and resilient long-term care systems through tools and policy advice for the implementation of the Long-Term Care Recommendation**

### **Implementing entity**

According to Article 154.1 of the Financial Regulation, the selection of the entities to be entrusted with the implementation of Union funds pursuant to point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62.1, shall be transparent, justified by the nature of the action and shall not give rise to conflict of interest. WHO is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation). The World Health Organisation (WHO) has a unique competence in the area of long-term care and capacity building as demonstrated by its rich policy work and tools in this policy area as well as concrete country projects in some EU Member States (country assessment frameworks and case studies on integrated delivery of care).

### **Objectives pursued**

EPSR principle 18 on Long-term care states that: “Everyone has the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality, in particular home-care and community-based services.” The principal aim of this Action is to help Member States implement the forthcoming Council Recommendation on long term care in particular its provisions related to access, integrated provision, quality assurance, and support for informal carers.

Policy action should contribute to the implementation of the EPSR, such as principle 12. Social protection, 16. Health care, 18. Long-term care and 20. Access to essential services.

### **Expected results**

Tools and guidance developed to support Member States in the implementation of the Council Recommendation on long term care.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

The activity will comprise the development of tools for and tailor-made guidance to policy-makers and practitioners to support the implementation of the Council Recommendation on Long-Term Care in areas such as equity of access to long term care, integrated care, quality assurance, and support for informal careers. To achieve this, it will leverage the expertise of the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe. It will include in addition piloting the use of the various tools developed with Member States interested in addressing specific challenges in the areas covered by the Recommendation.

## **5.9. Contribution agreement with WHO: International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)**

### **Implementing entity**

According to Article 154.1 of the Financial Regulation, the selection of the entities to be entrusted with the implementation of Union funds pursuant to point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 62.1, shall be transparent, justified by the nature of the action and shall not give rise to conflict of interest. WHO is an international organisation that passed the pillar assessment (Article 154(3) and (4) of the Financial Regulation). The World Health Organization, through its International Programme on Chemical Safety, makes a valuable contribution by providing updated and reliable scientific evaluations on risks derived from exposure to chemicals.

### **Objectives pursued**

"The International Programme on Chemical Safety of the World Health Organization (WHO/IPCS) provides information, methodologies and tools to be used to manage the risks posed by chemicals. WHO/IPCS activities include information products on the health effects of chemicals, coordinating the development of chemical risk assessment methodologies between institutions, and developing and promoting tools for risk management of priority chemicals of major health concern.

These information products and tools, capacity building for risk assessors in low resource settings and guidance on risk management of chemicals and prevention and management of chemical poisoning are used to develop policy on the sound management of chemicals. This includes preventive measures for occupational exposures to hazardous chemicals, which are a significant cause of mortality and ill health in workers.

This initiative develops and updates information relevant to prevent occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals, develops methods to better assess risks from chemicals, including carcinogens, and assists the dissemination of good practice for managing risks from existing and new substances which have significant effects on health. As such, it also contributes to the implementation of EPSR principle 10 on healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment.

### **Expected results**

WHO/IPCS activities include information products on the health effects of chemicals, coordinating the development of chemical risk assessment methodologies between institutions, and developing and promoting tools for risk management of priority chemicals of major health concern.

### **Description of the activities to be funded**

Development of authoritative risk assessment documents, in particular:

- International Chemical Safety Cards (IPCS)
- Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)
- Running the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network

**6. Contributions to trust funds**

N/A

**7. Financial instruments**

N/A

**8. Contributions to blending facilities**

N/A

**9. Other actions or expenditure**

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for other actions or expenditure under this work programme amounts to EUR 5 554 000

Budget line 07.020100.05: N/A

Budget line 07.020400: EUR 5 554 000

**BUDGET LINE**

**07.020400**- ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand

**9.1. Various meetings of standing, ad-hoc committees and other events**

**Amount**

EUR 1 200 000

**Description and objective of the implementing measure**

To support events and meetings organised by DG EMPL in particular in the field of safety and health at work, labour law, mutual learning and pensions.

**Implementation**

Co-delegation to PMO

**9.2 Scientific support for evaluation of chemicals at work**

**Amount**

EUR 975 000

**Description and objective of the implementing measure**

Opinions to prepare future updates of Directives 98/24/EC and 2004/37/EC, to provide the appropriate administrative, technical and scientific support by the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) which carries out the evaluations of the occupational exposure limits for hazardous chemicals with the intent to develop proposals to establish the appropriate Occupational Exposure Limits (OEL) at European Union level.

**Implementation**

Service level agreements with ECHA



### **9.3. Support for data collection and management, analysis, studies and evaluations**

#### **Amount**

EUR 3 374 000

#### **Description and objective of the implementing measure**

The actions will include, assessing and promoting synergies between green and digital transitions as well as assessing the impact of tax-benefit reforms in the European Semester, thematic analysis and policy initiatives. It also includes an analysis of sources and mitigation of carbon inequality and environmental footprint inequality.

#### **Implementation**

Service level agreements with JRC

### **9.4. Publications**

#### **Amount**

EUR 5 000

#### **Description and objective of the implementing measure**

Conception, printing, storage and distribution of DG EMPL publications in various areas.

#### **Implementation**

Co-delegation to OP