



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2011/0268(COD)

4.4.2012

*****I**

DRAFT REPORT

on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006
(COM(2011)0607 – C7-0327/2011 – 2011/0268(COD))

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Rapporteur: Elisabeth Morin-Chartier

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

In amendments by Parliament, amendments to draft acts are highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the draft act which may require correction when the final text is prepared – for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a language version. Suggested corrections of this kind are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

The heading for any amendment to an existing act that the draft act seeks to amend includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend. Passages in an existing act that Parliament wishes to amend, but that the draft act has left unchanged, are highlighted in **bold**. Any deletions that Parliament wishes to make in such passages are indicated thus: [...].

CONTENTS

	Page
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION.....	5
EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM	27

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (COM(2011)0607 – C7-0327/2011 – 2011/0268(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2011)0607),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 164 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C7-0327/2011),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 22 February 2012¹,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of ...²,
 - having regard to Rule 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Budgetary Control, the Committee on Regional Development, the Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A7-0000/2012),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend its proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

¹ OJ C ... /Not yet published in the Official Journal.

² OJ C ... /Not yet published in the Official Journal.

Amendment 1
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) The ESF **should** improve employment opportunities, promote education and life-long learning and **develop** active inclusion policies in accordance with the tasks entrusted to the ESF by Article 162 of the Treaty, and thereby contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 of the Treaty. In accordance with Article 9 of the Treaty, the ESF **should** take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health.

Amendment

(2) The ESF **must** improve employment opportunities, promote education and life-long learning and **support** active inclusion policies in accordance with the tasks entrusted to the ESF by Article 162 of the Treaty, and thereby contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 of the Treaty. In accordance with Article 9 of the Treaty, the ESF **must** take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health.

Or. fr

Amendment 2
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) The European Council of 17 June 2010 called for all common policies, including cohesion policy, to support the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". In order to ensure the full alignment of the ESF with the objectives of this strategy, particularly as regards employment, education, and the fight against social exclusion, the ESF should support Member States in implementing the Council recommendations on broad guidelines for economic policies of the Member States

Amendment

(3) The European Council of 17 June 2010 called for all common policies, including cohesion policy, to support the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". In order to ensure the full alignment of the ESF with the objectives of this strategy, particularly as regards employment, education, **training** and the fight against social exclusion, the ESF should support Member States in implementing the Council recommendations on broad guidelines for economic policies of the Member States

and the Union and the Council decisions on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States adopted in accordance with Articles 121 and 148(4) of the Treaty. It should also **contribute to** the implementation of the flagship initiatives, with special regard to the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs", "Youth on the Move", and the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion". It **will** also **support** the activities in the "Digital Agenda" and the "Innovation Union" initiatives.

and the Union and the Council decisions on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States adopted in accordance with Articles 121(2) and 148(4) of the Treaty. It should also **support** the implementation of the flagship initiatives, with special regard to the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs", "Youth on the Move", and the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion". It **should** also **contribute to** the activities in the "Digital Agenda" and the "Innovation Union" initiatives.

Or. fr

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) The European Union is confronted with structural challenges arising from economic globalisation, technological change and an increasingly ageing workforce and growing skills and labour shortages in some sectors and regions. They have been compounded by the recent economic and financial crisis, which has resulted in increased levels of unemployment, hitting in particular young people and other vulnerable groups, such as migrants. The ESF **should** aim to promote employment and support labour mobility, invest in education, skills and life-long learning, promote social inclusion and combat poverty. In promoting the better functioning of labour markets by enhancing the transnational geographical mobility of workers, the ESF should, in particular, support European Employment Services (EURES activities) in relation to recruitment and the related information, advice and guidance services at national

Amendment

(4) The European Union is confronted with structural challenges arising from economic globalisation, technological change and an increasingly ageing workforce and growing skills and labour shortages in some sectors and regions. They have been compounded by the recent economic and financial crisis, which has resulted in increased levels of unemployment, hitting in particular young people and other vulnerable groups, such as migrants. The ESF **must** aim to promote employment and support labour mobility, invest in education, skills and life-long learning, promote social inclusion and combat poverty. In promoting the better functioning of labour markets by enhancing the transnational geographical mobility of workers, the ESF should, in particular, support European Employment Services (EURES activities) in relation to recruitment and the related information, advice and guidance services at national

and cross-border level.

and cross-border level.

Or. fr

Amendment 4
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) Efficient and effective implementation of actions supported by the ESF depends on good governance and partnership between all relevant territorial and socio-economic actors, in particular the social partners and non-governmental organisations. It is therefore necessary that Member States encourage the participation of social partners and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the ESF.

Amendment

(9) Efficient and effective implementation of actions supported by the ESF depends on good governance and partnership between all relevant territorial and socio-economic actors, in particular the ***local and regional authorities, the*** social partners and non-governmental organisations. It is therefore necessary that Member States encourage the participation of ***local and regional authorities,*** social partners and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the ESF.

Or. fr

Amendment 5
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Regulation (EU) No [...] provides that rules on eligibility of expenditure are to be established at national level, with certain exceptions for which it is necessary to lay down specific provisions ***with regard to the ESF.***

Amendment

(15) Regulation (EU) No [...] provides that rules on eligibility of expenditure are to be established at national level, with certain exceptions for which it is necessary to lay down specific provisions ***for each Fund.***

Or. fr

Amendment 6
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 18 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18a) Given the fundamental role of the ESF in achieving the headline social and employment targets of the Europe 2020 strategy, this Fund should be considered a political priority and financed as such.

Or. fr

Amendment 7
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 18 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18b) Human capital is the main lever on which the Union can rely to ensure its international competitiveness and the sustainable recovery of its economy. No other type of investment can produce structural reforms unless it is accompanied by a coherent human capital development strategy; it is therefore necessary to ensure that the resources intended to improve skills, raise employment levels and guarantee the participation of all in society allow action to be taken on an adequate scale, using a minimum of 25% of the funds deployed under the Union's economic, social and territorial cohesion policy.

Or. fr

Amendment 8
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 18 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18c) All scientific and empirical evidence indicates that reducing the funds available for policies to support human capital development and social inclusion can only have the effect of further penalising Member States experiencing economic or budgetary difficulties and reducing their chances of recovery in the long term; consequently, under no circumstances must payments under the ESF be suspended in connection with a Member State's performance in the context of the Union's economic governance process.

Or. fr

Amendment 9
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Mission

Missions

Or. fr

Amendment 10
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The ESF shall promote high levels of employment and job quality, support the geographical and occupational mobility of workers, ***facilitate their adaptation to change***, encourage a high level of education and training, ***promote gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, enhance social inclusion***

1. The ESF shall promote high levels of employment and job quality, support the geographical and occupational mobility of workers, encourage a high level of education and training ***and facilitate workers' adaptation to change in companies and production systems. The ESF shall also contribute to enhancing***

and combat poverty, thereby contributing to the priorities of the European Union as regards strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion.

economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union, to combating poverty and social exclusion, to promoting gender equality, to equal opportunities and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.

Or. fr

Amendment 11
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. It shall do so by supporting Member States in pursuing the priorities and headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The ESF shall support the design and implementation of policies and actions, taking account of the integrated guidelines for the economic and employment policies of Member States and the Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes.

Amendment

2. It shall do so by supporting Member States in pursuing the priorities and headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, *with the aim of ensuring enhanced social cohesion*. The ESF shall support the design and implementation of policies and actions *in connection with its missions*, taking account of the integrated guidelines for the economic and employment policies of Member States and the Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes.

Or. fr

Amendment 12
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The ESF shall benefit people, *including* disadvantaged *groups* such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minorities, marginalised communities and people facing social exclusion. The ESF shall also provide support to enterprises, systems and structures with a view to facilitating their

Amendment

3. The ESF shall benefit people. *It shall provide support, in particular, for individuals and groups excluded from the labour market, in a disadvantaged position or at risk of being marginalised in the labour market*, such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minorities, marginalised

adaptation to new challenges and promoting good governance and the implementation of reforms, in particular in the fields of employment, education and social policies.

communities and people facing social exclusion The ESF shall also provide support to **workers**, enterprises **and entrepreneurs, as well as to** systems and structures with a view to facilitating their adaptation to new challenges and promoting good governance and the implementation of reforms, in particular in the fields of employment, education and social policies **and initial and continuing vocational training**.

Or. fr

Amendment 13
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility through:

(a) **For the thematic objective** ‘Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility’ through:

Or. fr

Amendment 14
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(i) Access to employment for job-seekers **and** inactive people, **including local employment initiatives** and support for labour mobility;

(i) Access to employment for job-seekers, **mobilisation for access to employment for** inactive people **or people who are far from the labour market**, and support for labour mobility;

Or. fr

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) Sustainable integration of young people not in employment, education or training into the labour market;

Amendment

(ii) Sustainable integration of young people, ***including those*** not in employment, education or training, into the labour market;

Or. fr

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iv

Text proposed by the Commission

(iv) Equality between men and women and reconciliation between work and private life;

Amendment

(iv) Equality between men and women ***as regards access to work with career progression*** and reconciliation between work and private life;

Or. fr

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point vi

Text proposed by the Commission

(vi) Active ***and healthy*** ageing;

Amendment

(vi) ***Improvement in the quality of employment, working conditions and environment, occupational health and support for*** active ageing ***for older workers***;

Or. fr

Amendment 18
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) Investing in education, skills and life-long learning through:

Amendment

(b) ***For the thematic objective*** ‘Investing in education, skills and life-long learning’ through:

Or. fr

Amendment 19
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) Reducing early school-leaving ***and*** promoting equal access to good-quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education;

Amendment

(i) ***Preventing and*** reducing early school-leaving, promoting equal access to good-quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education ***and reintegrating young people who leave school without qualifications through the support of personal projects allowing them to rejoin education and training pathways.***

Or. fr

Amendment 20
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) Improving the quality, efficiency and openness of tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels;

Amendment

(ii) Improving the quality, efficiency and openness of tertiary and equivalent education ***and the networking of higher education establishments, training and research centres and companies*** with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels;

Or. fr

Amendment 21
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

(iii) ***Enhancing*** access to lifelong learning, upgrading the skills and competences of the workforce ***and increasing the labour market relevance of education and training systems***;

Amendment

(iii) ***Providing better and fairer*** access to lifelong learning, ***recognising acquired experience and*** upgrading the skills and competences of the workforce, ***including with a view to ensuring the active ageing of workers***;

Or. fr

Amendment 22
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point iii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iiia) Improving the matching of education and training systems to the needs of the labour market, including through the development of tools for anticipating required skills, the reaction capacity of education and training systems and education and career guidance;

Or. fr

Amendment 23
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty through:

(c) ***For the thematic objective*** ‘Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty’ through:

Amendment 24
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) Integration of marginalised communities such as the Roma;

Amendment

(ii) ***Social and employment*** integration of marginalised communities, such as the Roma;

Or. fr

Amendment 25
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

(iii) Combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation;

Amendment

(iii) Combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, ***which affect victims' access to and fair participation in the labour market;***

Or. fr

Amendment 26
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point v

Text proposed by the Commission

(v) Promoting the social economy and ***social enterprises;***

Amendment

(v) Promoting ***social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and*** the social economy ***in order to facilitate access to employment and high-quality services for all;***

Or. fr

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point vi

Text proposed by the Commission

(vi) Community-led local development strategies;

Amendment

(vi) **Inclusive** community-led local development strategies;

Or. fr

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) Enhancing institutional capacity and efficient public administration through:

Amendment

(d) **For the thematic objective** ‘Enhancing institutional capacity and efficient public administration’ through:

Or. fr

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – point i – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

This investment priority is only applicable throughout the territory of the Member States **which have at least** one NUTS level 2 **region** as defined in Article 82(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No [...] **or in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support.**

Amendment

This investment priority is only applicable **in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support or, in other Member States, to actions which, while they may take place** throughout the territory of the Member State concerned, **contribute to strengthening institutional capacities and the efficiency of administrations and public services eligible in one or more of its** NUTS level 2 **regions** as defined in Article 82(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No [...];

Amendment 30
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) Capacity building for stakeholders delivering employment, **education** and social policies **and** sectoral and territorial pacts **to mobilise for reform at national, regional and local level.**

Amendment

(ii) Capacity building for stakeholders delivering **education, training and** employment and social policies, **including by means of** sectoral, **national** and territorial pacts and local **development initiatives;**

Or. fr

Amendment 31
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable economy, through reform of education and training systems, adaptation of skills and qualifications, up-skilling of the labour force, and the creation of new jobs in sectors related to the environment and energy;

Amendment

(a) Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable economy, through reform of education and training systems **necessary for the** adaptation of skills and qualifications, up-skilling of the labour force, and the creation of new jobs in sectors related to the environment and energy;

Or. fr

Amendment 32
Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Member States shall ensure that the

Amendment

1. Member States shall ensure that the

strategy and actions set out in the Operational Programmes are consistent and ***focused on addressing*** the challenges identified in the National Reform Programmes and the relevant Council Recommendations made under Article 148(4) of the Treaty, in order to contribute to achieving the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment, education and poverty reduction.

strategy and actions set out in the Operational Programmes are consistent and ***respond to*** the challenges identified in the National Reform Programmes and the relevant Council Recommendations made under Article 148(4) of the Treaty, in order to contribute to achieving the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment, education and poverty reduction.

Or. fr

Amendment 33
Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Common indicators as set out in the Annex to this Regulation and programme specific indicators shall be used in accordance with Article 24(3) and 87(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All indicators shall be expressed in absolute numbers.

Amendment

1. ***The specific indicators established in the context of the various operational programmes and the*** common indicators as set out in the Annex to this Regulation and programme specific indicators shall be used in accordance with Article 24(3) and 87(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All indicators shall be expressed in absolute numbers.

Or. fr

Amendment 34
Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. At the same time as the annual implementation reports, the managing authority shall transmit electronically structured data for each investment priority. The data shall cover the ***categorisation*** and the output and result indicators.

Amendment

2. At the same time as the annual implementation reports, the managing authority shall transmit electronically structured data for each investment priority. The data shall cover the ***intervention categories*** and the output and result indicators.

Amendment 35
Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The *involvement* of the *social* partners *and other stakeholders, in particular non-governmental organisations, in the implementation of operational programmes, as* referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No [...], may take the form of global grants as defined in Article 113(7) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. In such a case, the operational programme shall identify the part of the programme concerned by the global grant, including an indicative financial allocation from each priority axis to it.

Amendment

1. ***Providing the necessary conditions in terms of guarantees of solvency and competences are met, the participation of the*** partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No [...], ***in particular the social partners and non-governmental organisations, in the implementation of the operational programmes*** may take the form of global grants as defined in Article 113(7) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. In such a case, the operational programme shall identify the part of the programme concerned by the global grant, including an indicative financial allocation from each priority axis to it.

Or. fr

Amendment 36
Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. To encourage adequate participation of the social partners in actions supported by the ESF, managing authorities of an operational programme in a region as defined in Article 82(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No [...] or in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support shall ensure that ***an appropriate amount*** of ESF resources *is* allocated to capacity-building activities, in the form of training, networking measures, and strengthening of the social dialogue, and to activities jointly

Amendment

2. To encourage adequate participation of the social partners ***referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No [...], in actions and in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes*** supported by the ESF, managing authorities of an operational programme in a region as defined in Article 82(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No [...] or in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support shall ensure that ***2%*** of ESF resources ***are*** allocated to

undertaken by the social partners.

capacity-building activities, in the form of training, networking measures, and strengthening of the social dialogue, and to activities jointly undertaken by the social partners.

Or. fr

Amendment 37
Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. To encourage adequate participation of and access by non-governmental organisations to actions supported by the ESF, notably in the fields of social inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities, the managing authorities of an operational programme in a region as defined in Article 82(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No [...] or in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support shall ensure that an appropriate amount of ESF resources is allocated to capacity-building for non-governmental organisations.

Amendment

3. To encourage adequate participation of and access by non-governmental organisations ***referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No [...] to actions and the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes*** supported by the ESF, ***in particular with impact measures***, notably in the fields of social inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities, the managing authorities of an operational programme in a region as defined in Article 82(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No [...] or in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support shall ensure that an appropriate amount of ESF resources is allocated to capacity-building for non-governmental organisations.

Or. fr

Amendment 38
Proposal for a regulation
Article 7

Text proposed by the Commission

The Member States and the Commission shall promote equality between men and women through mainstreaming as referred

Amendment

The Member States and the Commission shall promote equality between men and women through mainstreaming ***throughout***

to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...] **and** specific targeted actions as referred to in Article 3(1)(a)(iv), in particular with the aim of increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment, reducing gender-based segregation in the labour market, combating gender stereotypes in education and training and promoting reconciliation of work and personal life for men and women.

the drawing up and implementation of the programmes, as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...]. ***The ESF shall also support*** specific targeted actions as referred to in Article 3(1)(a)(iv) ***of this Regulation***, in particular with the aim of increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment, reducing gender-based segregation in the labour market, combating gender stereotypes in education and training, ***combating gender-specific representations of occupational profiles and professions, reducing gender-based segregation and promoting reconciliation of work and personal life for men and women.***

Or. fr

Amendment 39 **Proposal for a regulation** **Article 8**

Text proposed by the Commission

The Member States and the Commission shall promote equal opportunities for all, ***including accessibility for disabled persons*** through mainstreaming the principle of non-discrimination, as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...], ***and through*** specific actions within the investment priorities as defined in Article 3, and in particular Article 3(1)(c)(iii). ***Such actions shall target people at risk*** of discrimination and people with disabilities, with a view to ***increasing their labour market participation, enhancing their social inclusion***, reducing inequalities in terms of educational attainment and ***health status and*** facilitating the transition from institutional to community-based care.

Amendment

The Member States and the Commission shall promote equal opportunities for all, ***without discrimination based on gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or convictions, disability, age or sexual orientation***, through mainstreaming the principle of non-discrimination, as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...]. ***In addition, the ESF shall support*** specific actions within the investment priorities as defined in Article 3 ***of this Regulation***, and in particular Article 3(1)(c)(iii), ***which aims to eliminate all forms of*** discrimination and ***to improve accessibility for*** people with disabilities, with a view to reducing inequalities in terms of educational attainment, ***increasing the labour market participation of people at risk of discrimination and enhancing their social inclusion, including by*** facilitating the transition from institutional to

community-based care.

Or. fr

Amendment 40
Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The ESF shall promote social innovation within all areas falling under the scope of the ESF, as defined in Article 3 of this Regulation, in particular with the aim of testing **and** scaling up innovative solutions to address social needs.

Amendment

1. The ESF shall promote social innovation within all areas falling under the scope of the ESF, as defined in Article 3 of this Regulation, in particular with the aim of testing **and/or** scaling up innovative solutions to address social needs **with all the actors concerned and, in particular, in liaison with the social partners.**

Or. fr

Amendment 41
Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Member States shall identify themes for social innovation, corresponding to their specific needs in their operational programmes.

Amendment

2. Member States shall identify **areas and** themes for social innovation, corresponding to their specific needs in their operational programmes, **as well as a plan for evaluating the tests carried out and for capitalising on and disseminating the results obtained.**

Or. fr

Amendment 42
Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall facilitate capacity building for social innovation, in particular through supporting mutual learning, establishing networks, and disseminating good practices and methodologies.

Amendment

3. The Commission shall facilitate capacity building for social innovation, in particular through supporting mutual learning, establishing networks, and disseminating ***and making good use of*** good practices and methodologies.

Or. fr

Amendment 43
Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Member States may select themes ***for transnational co-operation*** from a list proposed by the Commission and endorsed by the ESF Committee.

Amendment

2. In order to identify areas and forms of transnational cooperation corresponding to their specific needs, Member States may select themes from a list proposed by the Commission and endorsed by the ESF Committee ***as provided for in Article 163(2) of the Treaty;***.

Or. fr

Amendment 44
Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall facilitate transnational cooperation ***on the themes referred to in paragraph 2*** through mutual learning and coordinated or joint action. In particular, the Commission shall operate an EU-level platform to facilitate the exchange of experience, capacity building and networking, as well as dissemination of the relevant outcomes. In addition, the Commission shall develop a coordinated

Amendment

3. The Commission shall facilitate transnational cooperation through mutual learning and coordinated or joint action. In particular, the Commission shall operate an EU-level platform to facilitate the ***construction of transnational partnerships,*** exchange of experience, capacity building and networking, as well as ***capitalisation on and*** dissemination of the relevant outcomes. In addition, the

implementation framework, including common eligibility criteria, types and timing of actions, and common methodological approaches for monitoring and evaluation, with a view to facilitating transnational cooperation.

Commission shall develop a coordinated implementation framework, including common eligibility criteria, types and timing of actions, and common methodological approaches for monitoring and evaluation, with a view to facilitating transnational cooperation.

Or. fr

Amendment 45
Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 3 – point b

Does not affect English version

Or. fr

Amendment 46
Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The ESF may support community-led local development strategies, as referred to in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No [...], territorial pacts and local initiatives for employment, education and social inclusion, as well as Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) as referred to in Article 99 of Regulation (EU) No [...].

Amendment

1. The ESF may support community-led local development strategies, as referred to in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No [...], territorial pacts and local initiatives for employment, education, **training** and social inclusion, as well as Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) as referred to in Article 99 of Regulation (EU) No [...].

Or. fr

Amendment 47
Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Complementing ERDF interventions as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF], the ESF may support sustainable urban development through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental and social challenges affecting urban areas of cities which are listed in the partnership contract.

Amendment

2. Complementing ERDF interventions as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF], the ESF may support sustainable urban development, ***via the investment priorities referred to in Article 3(1) of this Regulation***, through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental and social challenges affecting urban areas of cities which are listed in the partnership contract.

Or. fr

Amendment 48
Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No [...], the ESF may support actions and policies falling within its scope through financial instruments, ***such as risk-sharing schemes, equity and debt, guarantee funds, holding funds, and loan funds***.

Amendment

1. Pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No [...], the ESF may support actions and policies falling within its scope through financial instruments.

Or. fr

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The Commission proposal concerning the European Social Fund (ESF) for 2014-2020 contains some important advances which deserve to be supported by Parliament in order to effectively help European people adapt to changes in the jobs market through cofinancing of training projects and employment aid programmes:

- allocation of funds in line with the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy,
- thematic concentration and allocation of 20% of the funding under the Fund in each Member State to social inclusion and combating poverty,
- better acknowledgement of the role of the social partners and non-governmental organisations, and
- simplification of procedures.

The European Social Fund, the EU's principal instrument for employment promotion, was set up in 1957 under the Treaty of Rome. Since it was created it has focused on supporting the geographical and occupational mobility of workers. In this period of crisis social cohesion is of the utmost importance, with ESF investment being concentrated on:

1. social integration through employment,
2. raising the level of qualification,
3. raising the level of employment.

To achieve this social cohesion, the four main thematic objectives of the Commission proposal on the ESF will have to be applied for the 2014-2020 period: 'promoting employment and labour mobility', 'investing in education, skills and life-long learning', 'promoting social inclusion and combating poverty' and 'enhancing institutional capacity and efficient public administration'.

Support for young people is essential at a time when 21% of them are without employment in the European Union and many other young people have left training systems without any qualifications. This is why the ESF is the instrument for social integration through employment, with an integrated approach supporting personalised or global pathways towards an objective of maximum, high-quality employment. Furthermore, social inclusion of unemployed people must be supported by ensuring access to adequate resources and services for all.

In addition, the ESF must be used as an instrument to help anticipate future skills needs in order to substantially increase the number of highly-skilled workers, which, according to recent forecasts Europe will need in the near future.

Clearer recognition of the specific role of the partners at all levels is essential to ensuring that projects function smoothly. With the mobilisation of all stakeholders and the involvement of all the social partners in the management and use of the ESF at European, national and regional or local level, the ESF will remain the indispensable Fund for employment and professional integration of Europeans.

The simplification of rules and procedures and a result-oriented approach are the right way to enhance the impact of ESF-financed operations. Elements which aim to simplify the

administrative procedures include the use of lump sums and unit costs in order to effectively eliminate one of the main obstacles to companies' accessing the Funds, and consequently to increase the absorption of the available resources. In particular, ESF application files for projects where the public support is less than EUR 50 000 need to be simplified. Efficient use of ESF funds can substantially improve the impact of recovery policies and support the creation of new jobs in the European Union.

All these objectives will have to be subject to impact measurements several times during the programming period in order to ensure that resources are being used appropriately and that the policies being implemented are effective.

2. The ESF, overall framework of the cohesion policy

Strong support from the minimum overall share for the ESF of 25% of the budget of the structural and cohesion funds is necessary. The Member States will remain the principal intermediaries for all ESF policies given the importance of national employment policies; with due respect for the Member States' autonomy, they are free to organise the implementation of the programmes in accordance with their own organisation.

First of all, an effort must be made to improve the governance of the ESF by maintaining centralised coordination while taking better account of the real needs on the ground

Rationalisation of controls seems to be an absolute necessity for simplifying the life of the ESF's local actors. Controls need to be harmonised, with the practice of 'over-control' being banned and certain unnecessary controls being eliminated. As a way of reducing controls, 'contracts of confidence' concluded between each Member State and the Commission would make it possible to cut back the regulatory constraints burdening the Member States. All Member States must set themselves the goal of reducing payment delays by introducing the practice of phased payments.

The ESF's local actors must be supported by increasing the appropriations for technical assistance and training from the management services of the European Social Fund.

In order to increase the utilisation rate of the ESF the conditions must be created for improved utilisation:

- by encouraging each Member State to refocus the funding priorities in order to increase the effectiveness of the ESF;
- by creating an ESF cheque (lump sum) for micro-projects in specific areas, the results of which are easily achieved and measurable;
- by increasing communication and the exchange of information with project promoters;
- by ensuring enhanced synergy between the ESF and the ERDF, as provided for in the General Regulation on the Cohesion Funds.

The European Social Fund supports projects benefitting the most vulnerable people. There would be serious concerns if the provisions on macroeconomic conditionality introduced in the Commission's draft regulation on common provisions on the funds were also to apply to the ESF. The vulnerable populations in countries already in difficulty must not be punished twice.