

17.10.2013

A7-0241/ 001-178

AMENDMENTS 001-178

by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Report

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A7-0241/2012

EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2011)0609 – C7-0318/2011 – 2011/0270(COD))

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a European Union Programme for Social *Change and Innovation*

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a European Union Programme for Social *Progress, Innovation and Employment and amending Decision No 283/2010/EU*

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) In line with the Commission Communication ‘A budget for Europe 2020’, which recommends rationalising and simplifying the Union’s funding instruments and sharpening their focus both on Union added value and on impacts and results, this Regulation establishes a European Union Programme for Social

(1) In line with the Commission Communication ‘A budget for Europe 2020’, which recommends rationalising and simplifying the Union’s funding instruments and sharpening their focus both on Union added value and on impacts and results, this Regulation establishes a European Union Programme for Social

Change and Innovation (hereinafter ‘the Programme’) to provide for the continuation and development of activities carried out on the basis of Decision No 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – Progress, Regulation No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Union and Commission Decision 2003/8/EC of 23 December 2002 implementing Regulation No 1612/1968 as regards the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment and Decision No 283/2010/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2010 establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion (hereinafter ‘the Facility’).

Progress, Innovation and Employment (hereinafter ‘the Programme’) to provide for the continuation and development of activities carried out on the basis of Decision No 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – Progress , Regulation No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Union and Commission Decision 2003/8/EC of 23 December 2002 implementing Regulation No 1612/1968 as regards the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment and Decision No 283/2010/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2010 establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion (hereinafter ‘the Facility’).

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In accordance with Article 148(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Council adopted guidelines for employment policies on 21 October 2010, which, together with the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union adopted in accordance with Article 121 of the Treaty, comprise the Europe 2020 integrated guidelines. The Programme should contribute to **applying** the Europe 2020 **integrated guidelines, and in particular Guidelines 7, 8 and 10, while supporting** implementation of the flagship initiatives, with special regard to the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, an Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, and Youth on the Move.

Amendment

(3) In accordance with Article 148(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Council adopted guidelines for employment policies on 21 October 2010, which, together with the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union adopted in accordance with Article 121 of the Treaty, comprise the Europe 2020 integrated guidelines. The Programme should contribute to **achieving** the Europe 2020 **targets, especially its poverty reduction and employment objectives as defined in the Employment Guidelines. To that end, the Programme should support the** implementation of the flagship initiatives, with special regard to the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, an Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, and Youth on the Move, **as**

well as the Youth Opportunities Initiative.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion and the Innovation Union flagship initiatives identify social innovation as a powerful tool for addressing the social challenges arising from population ageing, poverty, unemployment, new work patterns and life styles, and citizens' expectations regarding social justice, education and health care. The Programme should support action to step up social innovation in *policy areas falling within its scope in the public, private and third sectors*, taking due account of the role of regional and local authorities. *In particular, it should help identify, evaluate and scale up innovative solutions and practice through social experimentation to assist the Member States more effectively in reforming their labour markets and social protection policies.* It should also act as a catalyst for transnational partnerships and networking between public, private and third-sector actors as well as supporting their involvement in designing and implementing new approaches to tackling pressing social needs and challenges.

Amendment

(4) The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion and the Innovation Union flagship initiatives identify social innovation as a powerful tool for addressing the social challenges arising from population ageing, poverty, unemployment, new work patterns and life styles, and citizens' expectations regarding social justice, education and health care. The Programme should support action to step up social innovation in *response to social needs that are not met or that are met insufficiently, in terms of combating poverty and social exclusion, promoting a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and poverty preventing social protection, improving working conditions and improving access to healthcare and training for vulnerable people*, taking due account of the role of regional and local authorities. It should also act as a catalyst for transnational partnerships and networking between public, private and third-sector actors as well as supporting their involvement in designing and implementing new approaches to tackling pressing social needs and challenges.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) In particular, the Programme should help identify, analyse and scale up innovative solutions and their practical implementation through social policy experimentation to assist, where

necessary, the Member States to increase the efficiency of their labour markets and further improve their social protection and inclusion policies. Social policy experimentation refers to project-based field testing of social innovations. It allows the gathering of evidence on the feasibility of social innovations. Successful ideas should be pursued on a wider scale with financial support from the European Social Fund (ESF) as well as other sources. Experience shows that social policy experimentation projects often last between three and five years and include a great variety of actors of all sizes. National information centres on social policy experimentation, where established, should serve as a one-stop-shop for all interested parties and support the creation and development of networks and partnerships.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4b) The open method of coordination, which has proved its flexibility and operational effectiveness in social policy areas, should be used in a holistic manner in areas of interest to individual Member States. It should therefore be used more widely, not least in order to improve the Programme and make it more effective.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4c) Progress towards socially and environmentally sustainable development in Europe will need the anticipation and development of new skills and competencies, leading to the improvement

of the conditions for job creation, the quality of employment and working conditions through accompanying education, labour market and social policies in connection with the transformation of industries and services. The Programme should therefore contribute to promoting the creation of quality and sustainable 'green' and 'white' employment and the anticipation and development of new skills and competencies for new quality and sustainable jobs by linking employment and social policies with industrial and structural policies supporting a transition towards a resource-efficient and low carbon economy. In particular, the Programme should act as a catalyst for exploring the job creation potential of public sector led green and social investments and of local and regional employment initiatives.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4d) The Programme should pay particular attention to the territorial dimension of unemployment, poverty and exclusion, and especially to the increasing inequalities that exist within and between regions, between rural areas and cities as well as within cities.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4e) The participation of women in enterprise and decision-making in the economic and business spheres is a proven factor in improving competitiveness, productivity and

innovation. Recent reports presented by the Commission on the extent of compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and governance and sustainability studies by the World Bank and the United Nations, show that the integration of women in the labour market and, in particular, equality in political decision-making, encourage transparency and participation and reduce corruption. Therefore, in accordance with the European Strategy for Gender Equality 2010-2015, the Union should make better use of women's potential, contributing to the Union's overall economic and social goals by getting more women into the labour market and into good quality jobs. In particular the employment rates of older women, single parents, disabled women, migrant women and women from ethnic minorities are still relatively low and there is therefore a need for the remaining gender gaps to be reduced in both quantitative and qualitative terms.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4f) It is necessary to consolidate the social dimensions of the single market. Given the need to enhance confidence in the single market and the free movement of services by ensuring respect for workers' rights, it is necessary to ensure that the rights of both workers and entrepreneurs to freedom of movement throughout the Union are accorded equal status.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) In line with the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Programme should pursue a coherent approach to promoting employment and combating social exclusion and poverty. Its implementation should be rationalised and simplified, notably through a set of common provisions including, inter *allia*, general objectives, typology of actions, monitoring and evaluation arrangements. The Programme should *also* focus on *large* projects with clear EU added value *in* order to *reach critical mass and* reduce administrative *burden for both the beneficiaries and the Commission*. In addition, greater use should be made of simplified cost options (lump-sum and flat-rate financing) in particular for the implementation of mobility schemes. The Programme should be a one-stop shop for microfinance providers, providing financing for *micro-credit, capacity building* and technical assistance. *Lastly*, the Programme should provide for budgetary flexibility through the establishment of a reserve to be allocated on an annual basis in order to respond to policy priorities.

Amendment

(5) In line with the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Programme should pursue a coherent approach to promoting *quality and sustainable* employment and combating social exclusion and poverty *while keeping sight of the objective of gender equality and gender mainstreaming*. Its implementation should be rationalised and simplified, notably through a set of common provisions including, inter *alia*, general objectives, typology of actions, monitoring and evaluation arrangements. The Programme should focus on projects, *irrespective of their size*, with clear EU added value. *In* order to reduce administrative *burdens, the Programme should support the creation and development of networks and partnerships*. In addition, greater use should be made of simplified cost options (lump-sum and flat-rate financing) in particular for the implementation of mobility schemes *while at the same time ensuring transparency of proceedings*. The Programme should be a one-stop shop for microfinance providers *at Union level*, providing financing for *micro-credits and social entrepreneurship, facilitating access to borrowing and providing* technical assistance. *Within its limited scope*, the Programme should provide for budgetary flexibility through the establishment of a reserve to be allocated on an annual basis, *while fully respecting the prerogatives of the budgetary authority*, in order to respond to policy priorities.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) Taking into account the limited funds available to the programme and the pre-

allocation of these funds to the various axes, funding priority should be given to the development of structures with a clear multiplier effect which will benefit further activities and initiatives. Appropriate measures should also be put in place to avoid any possibility of overlap and/or double-financing with other funds or programmes, in particular the European Social Fund.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5b) The extensive objectives and the great importance given to this programme are in contradiction with the very limited financial means allocated, which could potentially disappoint stakeholders' expectations of this programme.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6) The Union should equip itself with a sound analytical basis to support policy-making in the employment and social area. Such an evidence base adds value to national action by providing a Union dimension and comparison for data-gathering and the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators with a view to composing a full picture of the situation in the fields of employment, social policy and working conditions across the Union and ensuring high-quality evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes and policies.

(6) The Union should equip itself with a sound analytical basis to support policy-making in the employment and social area, ***paying special attention to the impact of financial and economic crises***. Such an evidence base adds value to national action by providing a Union dimension and comparison for data-gathering and the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators with a view to composing a full picture of the situation in the fields of employment, social policy and working conditions across the Union and ensuring high-quality evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes and policies ***with a view to reaching the Europe 2020***

Strategy targets.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) The Union is uniquely placed to provide a Union platform for policy exchanges and mutual-learning between the Member States in the employment and social *areas*. Knowledge of policies applied in other countries and of their results broadens the range of options available to policy-makers, *triggers* new policy developments *and encourages national reform*.

Amendment

(7) The Union is uniquely placed to provide a Union platform for policy exchanges and mutual-learning between the Member States in the *areas of* employment, *social protection* and social *inclusion, as well as social entrepreneurship*. Knowledge of policies applied in other countries and of their results, *including those achieved through social policy experimentation at local, regional and national level*, broadens the range of options available to policy-makers, *thereby triggering* new policy developments.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) Ensuring that minimum standards are in place and that working conditions improve constantly *in the Union* is a central feature of Union social policy. The Union has an important role to play both in ensuring that the legislative framework is adapted, in line with '*Smart Regulation*' principles, to evolving work patterns and new health and safety risks and in financing measures to improve compliance with Union rules on the protection of workers' rights.

Amendment

(8) Ensuring that, *in the Union*, minimum standards are in place *and are effectively applied* and that working conditions improve constantly is a central feature of Union social policy. *This improvement could be identified, for example, by a social label*. The Union has an important role to play both in ensuring that the legislative framework is adapted, in line with '*decent work*' principles, to evolving work patterns and new health and safety risks and in financing measures to improve compliance with *ILO labour standards, the UN and ILO 'Decent Work' Agenda* and Union rules on the protection of workers' rights.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) The Programme should take into account the fact that improving working conditions also involves making working hours and forms of employment more flexible, creating services to support family life and improving leave conditions and other mechanisms to support working parents.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8b) Action should also be taken to promote investment in healthcare and social facilities with a view not merely to reducing inequalities and discrimination but also to fostering growth, wellbeing and development at national, regional and local level.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) Civil society organisations ***active at various levels can*** play ***an important*** role in ***meeting*** the objectives of the Programme, ***by participating*** in the ***policy-making process*** and ***contributing*** to ***social innovation***.

(9) Social partners and civil society organisations play ***a key*** role in ***promoting quality employment and combating social exclusion and poverty, as well as in fighting unemployment, and should be closely associated in all actions designed to achieve*** the objectives of the Programme, ***including social innovation. Therefore, social partners and civil society organisations should be involved in mutual learning and in the development, monitoring, field testing, evaluation and dissemination of new policies. High-quality partnerships should***

be forged at all levels. The partnership principle should be strengthened and extended to all sections of the Programme as their guiding principle.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The Union is committed to strengthening the social dimension of globalisation by promoting decent work and labour standards internationally, either directly vis-à-vis third countries or indirectly through cooperation with international organisations. Accordingly, suitable relations need to be developed with third countries not participating in the Programme in order to help achieve its objectives, having regard to any agreements of relevance between such countries and the Union. This may involve the attendance of representatives of these third countries at events of mutual interest (such as conferences, workshops and seminars) that take place in countries participating in the Programme. In addition, cooperation should be developed with the international organisations concerned, **and** in particular the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with a view to implementing the Programme in a way that takes the role of such organisations into account.

Amendment

(10) The Union is committed to strengthening the social dimension of globalisation **and to combating social dumping**, by promoting decent work and labour standards, **not only in its Member States, but also** internationally, either directly vis-à-vis third countries or indirectly through cooperation with international organisations. Accordingly, suitable relations need to be developed with third countries not participating in the Programme in order to help achieve its objectives, having regard to any agreements of relevance between such countries and the Union. This may involve the attendance of representatives of these third countries at events of mutual interest (such as conferences, workshops and seminars) that take place in countries participating in the Programme. In addition, cooperation should be developed with the international organisations concerned, in particular the International Labour Organisation (ILO) **and other relevant United Nations bodies**, the Council of Europe, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with a view to implementing the Programme in a way that takes the role of such organisations into account.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) In accordance with Articles 45 and 46 **of the Treaty**, Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 lays down provisions intended to achieve freedom of movement for workers by ensuring close cooperation between the Member States and with the Commission. EURES should promote better functioning of the labour markets by facilitating transnational geographical mobility of workers, providing greater transparency on the labour market, ensuring **the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment and supporting activities in the areas of recruitment**, advice and **guidance** services at national and cross-border level, thereby contributing to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Amendment

(11) In accordance with Articles 45 and 46 **TFEU**, Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 lays down provisions intended to achieve freedom of movement for workers by ensuring close cooperation between the Member States and with the Commission. EURES should promote **the** better functioning of the labour markets by facilitating **the voluntary** transnational geographical mobility of workers, providing greater transparency on the labour market, ensuring **equal treatment for cross-border workers both in social and in tax-related terms** and supporting advice, **guidance** and **placement** services at national and cross-border level **for mobile workers and employers**, thereby contributing to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. **However, the Commission itself should not act as an employment service.**

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) EURES' scope should be widened to **develop** and support targeted mobility schemes at Union level with a view to filling vacancies where labour market shortcomings have been identified. In accordance with Article 47 of the Treaty, the scheme should facilitate mobility among young workers.

Amendment

(12) EURES' scope should be widened to **include developing and supporting** targeted mobility schemes at Union level with a view to filling vacancies where labour market shortcomings have been identified **and developing further and increasing the number of cross-border EURES partnership projects**. In **the light of high youth unemployment and in** accordance with Article 47 of the Treaty, the scheme should facilitate **voluntary** mobility among young workers **in the Union**. **Targeted mobility schemes, such as 'Your first EURES job', should make it easier for young people to access employment opportunities and take up a job in another Member State, as well as encourage employers to create job**

openings for young mobile workers. Nevertheless, mobility schemes should not discourage the Union and Member States from helping young people find a first job in their home country.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) In many border regions EURES cross-border partnerships play an important tool in developing a genuine European labour market. EURES cross-border partnerships involve each, at least two Member States or a Member State and another participating country, and consequently have a clear horizontal nature and added value at Union level. EURES cross-border partnerships should therefore continue to be supported through horizontal Union activities, which could be complemented by national resources or by the ESF.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12b) The evaluation of EURES activities should take qualitative and quantitative criteria into account. Therefore the Commission, the Member States and the social partners should develop common indicators to assess the quality of employment and working conditions with regard to EURES jobs. As outgoing placements in one Member State means incoming placements in another, depending on the ever changing labour market situations and related mobility patterns, the evaluation focus should not only be on incoming or outgoing placements in individual countries but

especially on aggregated figures at Union level. Furthermore, counselling does not necessarily result in measurable mobility or job placements.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) Lack of access to credit is one of the main obstacles to business creation, especially among people furthest from the labour market. Union and national efforts in this area need to be stepped up in order to increase the supply of microfinance and meet demand from those who need it most, and in particular unemployed and vulnerable people who wish to start up or develop a micro-enterprise, including on a self-employed basis, but do not have access to credit. As a first step, in 2010 the European Parliament and the Council set up the Facility.

Amendment

(14) Lack of access to credit, **equity or quasi equity** is one of the main obstacles to business creation, especially among people furthest from the labour market. Union and national efforts in this area need to be stepped up in order to increase the supply of microfinance, **facilitate access to borrowing** and meet demand from those who need it most, and in particular **the** unemployed, **women** and vulnerable people who wish to start up or develop a micro-enterprise, including on a self-employed basis, but do not have access to credit. **Similarly, small undertakings and micro-enterprises make up the majority of newly-formed companies in the Union and it should be possible for microcredits to provide a means of obtaining added value and concrete results rapidly.** As a first step, in 2010 the European Parliament and the Council set up the Facility. **Communication activities on microfinance opportunities at Union and Member State level should be improved to better reach those in need of micro-financing.**

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) Microfinancing and support to social entrepreneurship should have a long-lasting impact and should reach the potential beneficiaries. It should

contribute to a high level of quality and sustainable employment and serve as a catalyser for both economic and local development policies. In order to maximise the opportunities for creating viable micro-enterprises, the actions involving microfinance and social entrepreneurship should be accompanied with mentoring and training programmes that should be regularly updated and made accessible through centralised information points. For this purpose, it is essential that an adequate part of the budget be assigned to such measures.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Making microfinance more available on the Union's young microfinance market ***calls for*** the institutional capacity of microfinance providers, and in particular non-bank microfinance institutions, to be stepped up in line with the Commission Communication 'A European Initiative for the development of micro-credit'.

Amendment

(15) Making microfinance more available on the Union's young microfinance market ***requires*** the institutional capacity of microfinance providers, and in particular ***of*** non-bank microfinance institutions, to be stepped up in line with the Commission Communication 'A European Initiative for the development of micro-credit' ***and the Commission report on 'Promotion of Women Innovators and Entrepreneurship'.*** ***Improving the availability and accessibility of microfinance on the Union's market also requires that the rules governing cross-border operations of microfinance providers are set in such a way as to facilitate micro-financing within the single market.***

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) Social enterprises are a cornerstone of Europe's pluralist social market economy.

Amendment

(16) Social enterprises are a cornerstone of Europe's pluralist social market economy,

They can act as drivers of social *change* by offering innovative solutions, and therefore make a valuable contribution to meeting the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. *The* programme should improve social enterprises' access to finance and thereby contribute to the Social Business Initiative launched by the Commission.

and play an important role in ensuring greater social convergence in Europe. They can act as drivers of social *progress* by offering innovative solutions, and therefore make a valuable contribution to meeting the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, *as well as promoting inclusive labour markets and social services accessible to all. Within its limited scope the* programme should improve social enterprises' access to finance and thereby contribute to the Social Business Initiative launched by the Commission.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) In order to capitalise on the experience of international financial institutions, and in particular the European Investment Bank Group, action involving microfinance and social entrepreneurship should be implemented by the Commission indirectly by entrusting budget implementations tasks to financial institutions in accordance with the financial regulation. Using Union resources concentrates leverage from *international* financial institutions and other investors, unifies approaches and thus improves access to finance *for micro-enterprises, including the self-employed and* social enterprises. The Union contribution thus assists in the development of the emerging social business sector and the microfinance market in the Union and encourages cross-border activities.

Amendment

(17) In order to capitalise on the experience of international financial institutions, and in particular the European Investment Bank Group, action involving microfinance and social entrepreneurship should be implemented by the Commission indirectly by entrusting budget implementations tasks to financial institutions in accordance with the financial regulation. Using Union resources concentrates leverage from financial institutions and other investors, *creates synergies between Member State and Union action*, unifies approaches and thus improves *the* access to finance *of, and the outreach of microfinance to particular at-risk groups and young people, as well as access to finance for* social enterprises. The Union contribution thus assists in the development of the emerging social business sector and the microfinance market in the Union and encourages cross-border activities. *The Union's actions should be complementary to the Member States' use of financial instruments for microfinance and social entrepreneurship. The entities entrusted with the implementation of the actions should ensure added value and avoid duplication of financing through Union*

resources.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17a) In accordance with the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Programme should tackle the pressing problem of youth unemployment. European youth suffers most from the economic crisis; youth unemployment rates are high in many Member States, in some of them reaching more than 40%. Although the situation in European countries differs considerably, the average youth unemployment rate in the Union is more than twice as high as the adult unemployment rate. Moreover there are large regional disparities. Especially in rural areas, youth unemployment is rising. Young people aged under 25 should therefore be given a future and the prospect to playing a key role in developing society and economy in Europe, which is of particular importance in time of crises.

(Linked to the Youth Initiative Axis)

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17b) By tackling youth unemployment and the precariousness of young workers it should be possible not only to reduce societal costs but also to promote social inclusion. Therefore, the Programme should put a special focus on youth employment, by introducing a Youth Initiative axis, which aims to improve the transition from education to decent employment as well as working conditions of young people, and to reduce early

school leaving.

(Linked to the Youth Initiative Axis)

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17c) The Commission and the Member States should take a rights-based approach to training and employment. The qualitative aspect of decent work for young people, including remuneration for internships and apprenticeships, should not be compromised, and the core labour standards and other standards related to the quality of work, such as working time, wages, social security, and occupational health and safety, should be central considerations to the efforts that are made.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17d) The actions of the Programme should support the Member States in creating efficient incentives for young people that will guarantee decent living and working conditions. Such incentives should encourage public and private employers to hire and train young people, to invest both in quality job creation for young people and in continuous training and upgrading of their skills during employment and to support entrepreneurship as a choice among youth. The Programme should also point to the special role and importance of small enterprises regarding training, expertise and traditional know-how, as well as ensure that young people have access to microfinance. The Programme should facilitate the exchange of best

practice between the Member States in all these areas.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17e) Actions of the Programme should support the Member States and labour market actors in their implementation of the Youth Guarantee ensuring that young people are either in a job, education or (re-)training within four months of leaving school, especially for early leavers from education and training and other vulnerable youth. The Programme should facilitate the exchange of best practice between the Member States in this area.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18) Pursuant to *Articles 8 and 10 of the Treaty*, the Programme *should support the mainstreaming of gender equality and anti-discrimination objectives in all its activities*. Regular monitoring and evaluation should be carried out to assess the way in which gender equality and anti-discrimination issues are addressed in the Programme's activities.

(18) Pursuant to *Article 3(3) TEU and Article 8 TFEU*, *it is necessary to ensure that the Programme contributes to the promotion of equality between women and men in all its axes and activities through gender mainstreaming and, where relevant, specific action to promote women's employment and social inclusion*. Regular monitoring and evaluation should be carried out to assess the way in which gender equality and anti-discrimination issues are addressed in the Programme's activities.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18a) Pursuant to Article 10 TFEU, the Programme should ensure that the implementation of its priorities contributes to combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and to fulfilling the obligation under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with regard inter alia to education, work and employment and accessibility. Regular monitoring and evaluation should be carried out to assess the way in which anti-discrimination issues are addressed in the Programme's activities.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18b) Equality and anti-discrimination are not only legal questions but fundamental challenges for society. The Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – Progress (the Progress Programme) included sections on 'Antidiscrimination and diversity' and 'Gender equality' that are to be continued and further developed under the Rights and Citizenship Programme. Furthermore, the mid-term evaluation of the Progress Programme underlined the need for more efforts and new initiatives with regard to equality and anti-discrimination. It is therefore of the utmost importance to maintain a strong focus on those issues in all relevant initiatives and actions covered by the Programme, especially in the fields of improving women's labour force participation, working conditions and promoting a better balance between professional and private life.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18c) Pursuant to Article 3 TEU and Article 24 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Programme shall ensure the protection of children's rights.

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(19) Pursuant to Article 9 *of the Treaty*, the Programme should *ensure that the requirements linked to the promotion of a high-level of employment, a guarantee of adequate social protection and the fight against social exclusion are taken into account in defining and implementing the Union's policies and activities.*

(19) Pursuant to Article 9 ***TFEU and the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy***, the Programme should ***contribute to ensuring a high level of quality and sustainable employment, to guaranteeing adequate social protection and to combating poverty and*** social exclusion.

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation Recital 19 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(19a) The Programme should complement other Union programmes, while acknowledging that each instrument should work according to its own specific procedures. Thus, the same eligible costs should not receive double funding. With the aim to achieve added value and substantial impact of Union funding, close synergies should be developed between the Programme, other Union programmes and the Structural Funds, especially the ESF.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 19 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(19b) The Programme should be implemented in such a way so as to facilitate participation by the competent authority or authorities of each Member State in meeting the Programme's objectives.

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(20) To ensure more efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication actions undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to information and communication activities under this regulation shall also contribute to ***corporate communication of*** the political priorities of the European Union as far as they are related to the general objectives of this Regulation.

(20) To ensure more efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication actions undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to information and communication activities under this regulation shall also contribute to ***providing information on*** the political priorities of the European Union as far as they are related to the general objectives of this Regulation.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 20 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(20a) The Programme should be monitored, evaluated and adjusted or amended where appropriate.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23a) In order to ensure that the Programme is sufficiently flexible to respond to changing needs and corresponding policy priorities throughout its duration, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 TFEU should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the allocation of funds to the individual thematic sections within the axes of the Programme, the adoption of multiannual work plans, [and of the definition of areas for the use of unallocated funds]. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert, social partners and civil society organisations level. The Commission, when preparing and drawing-up delegated acts, should ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and Council.

(The provision on the use of unallocated funds will be finalised once agreement is reached on the Financial Regulation)

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24) Implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission with a view to ensuring there are uniform conditions for implementing actions under the EURES and the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axes of the Programme.

deleted

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) *The* implementing powers *relating to actions carried out under the Progress axis of the Programme* should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

Amendment

(25) *In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers* should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation Recital 25 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(25a) With regard to the delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme, the Commission should be assisted, in a consultative capacity, by a strategic advisory board chaired by the Commission and composed of representatives of Member States and other participating countries, trade unions, employers' organisations and civil society organisations and financing institutions, organised at Union level, which are directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of Programme activities.

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation Article 1 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. This Regulation establishes a European Union Programme for Social *Change* and Innovation (hereinafter ‘the Programme’) which aims to contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020

Amendment

1. This Regulation establishes a European Union Programme for Social *Progress*, Innovation *and Employment* (hereinafter ‘the Programme’) which aims to contribute, *including by means of*

Strategy, its headline targets **and** Integrated Guidelines by providing financial support for the European Union's objectives in terms of promoting a high level of employment, guaranteeing adequate social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty **and** improving working conditions.

innovative action, to the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, its headline targets, Integrated Guidelines, **flagship initiatives and the Youth Opportunities Initiative** by providing financial support for the European Union's objectives in terms of promoting a high level of **quality and sustainable** employment, guaranteeing adequate **and decent** social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty, improving working conditions **and enhancing the employment and educational situation of young people**.

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) 'Social enterprise' means an **enterprise whose primary objective is to achieve social impact rather than generate profit for owners and stakeholders. It operates in the market through the production of goods and services in an entrepreneurial and innovative way, and uses surpluses mainly to achieve social goals. It is managed in an accountable and transparent way, in particular by involving workers, customers and stakeholders affected by its business activity.**

Amendment

(a) 'Social enterprise' means an **undertaking, regardless of its legal form, which is not listed on a regulated market within the meaning of point (14) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2004/39/EC, and which:**

(i) in accordance with its Articles of Association, Statutes or any other statutory document establishing the business, has as its primary objective the achievement of measurable, positive social impacts rather than generating profit for its owners, members and stakeholders, where the undertaking:

– provides innovative services or goods which generate a social return and/or

– employs an innovative method of production of goods or services and that method of production embodies its social objective;

(ii) reinvests its profits first and foremost

to achieve its primary objective and has in place predefined procedures and rules for any circumstances in which profits are distributed to shareholders and owners, in order to ensure that any distribution of profits does not undermine the primary objective;

(iii) is managed in an entrepreneurial, accountable and transparent way, in particular by involving workers, customers and/or stakeholders affected by its business activities.

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) ‘Microfinance’ includes guarantees, counter-guarantees, microcredit, equity and quasi-equity extended to persons and micro-enterprises.

Amendment

(d) ‘Microfinance’ includes guarantees, counter-guarantees, microcredit, equity and quasi-equity extended to persons and micro-enterprises ***that have no or insufficient credit standing.***

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) ‘Social innovation’ means ground-breaking social initiatives or projects that are social both in their ends and their means and are drawn up specifically to provide more effective, efficient, sustainable and just responses to social needs that are unmet or insufficiently met such as combating poverty and social exclusion, finding a first job, promoting a high level of quality employment, guaranteeing adequate and poverty-preventing social protection, guaranteeing access to health care for vulnerable people and improving working conditions, thereby contributing to social progress.

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(db) 'Social policy experimentation' means project-based field testing of social innovations in order to gather evidence on their effectiveness and feasibility, such projects being limited in time and including a variety of actors.

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The Programme shall be made up of the following **three** complementarity axes:

1. The Programme shall be made up of the following **four** complementarity axes:

(Linked to the Youth Initiative Axis)

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) The Progress axis, which shall support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Union employment **and** social **policy** and legislation **on working conditions** and shall promote evidence-based policy-making and innovation, in partnership with the social partners, civil society organisations and **other interested parties**;

(a) The Progress axis, which shall support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Union **policy in the fields of** employment, **working conditions**, social **protection**, **social inclusion** and **combating poverty as well as** legislation **in those areas**, and **which** shall promote evidence-based policy-making, **social** innovation, **social policy experimentation** and **social progress**, in partnership **and cooperation** with the social partners, civil society organisations and **public and private bodies**;

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) The EURES axis, which shall support activities carried out by the EURES network, *i.e.* the **specialist services designated by the EEA Member States and the Swiss Confederation, together with** other interested parties, to develop information exchanges and dissemination and other forms of cooperation to promote **workers'** geographical mobility;

Amendment

(b) The EURES axis, which shall support activities carried out by the EURES network, **together with the social partners** and other interested parties, to develop information exchanges and dissemination and other forms of cooperation, **such as cross-border partnerships, as well as the provision of individual counselling and information for jobseekers, mobile workers and employers** to promote **voluntary** geographical mobility **for workers on a fair basis and to contribute to a high level of quality and sustainable employment**;

Amendment 56

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c**

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) The Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis, which shall **facilitate** access to **finance** for **entrepreneurs**, especially **those furthest from the labour market**, and social enterprises.

Amendment

(c) The Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis, which shall **promote** access to, **and increase the availability of, micro-financing** for **business start-ups**, especially **with regard to unemployed, socially excluded and other vulnerable people, as well as existing micro-enterprises and** social enterprises.

Amendment 57

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

(ca) The Youth Initiative axis, which shall improve the employment and educational situation of young people, in particular those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Amendment

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The common provisions laid down in Articles 1 to 14 shall apply to all **three** axes set out in points (a), (b) **and** (c) of paragraph 1, to each of which specific provisions shall also apply.

Amendment

2. The common provisions laid down in Articles 1 to 14, **and in Title IIa, shall, where appropriate,** shall apply to all **four** axes set out in points (a), (b), (c) **and (ca)** of paragraph 1, to each of which **shall also apply** specific provisions.

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) Strengthen ownership of the Union objectives in the employment, social **and** working conditions **fields among key Union and national policy-makers**, as well as **other interested parties** in order to **bring about concrete and coordinated actions at both Union and Member State level;**

Amendment

(a) Strengthen ownership **among policy-makers at all levels, and bring about concrete and coordinated actions at both Union and Member State level, in respect** of the Union objectives in the **fields of employment, social protection and inclusion, combating poverty and improving** working conditions, **in close collaboration with the social partners** as well as **civil society organisations and public bodies** in order to **meet the social objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy;**

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) **Support** the development of adequate, **accessible** and efficient social protection systems and labour markets and facilitate policy reform, by promoting good governance, mutual learning and social innovation;

Amendment

(b) **Promote social governance by targeting greater social convergence and supporting** the development of adequate, **decent, inclusive** and efficient **high-quality** social protection systems and labour markets, **in order to ensure social inclusion and a high level of quality and sustainable employment and to** facilitate policy reform, **where necessary,** by

promoting *participation of all relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations and vulnerable people such as those experiencing poverty, unemployment and social exclusion as well as by promoting decent work*, good governance, mutual learning and social innovation;

Amendment 61

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) Modernise Union law in line with *the Smart Regulation* principles and ensure that Union law on matters relating to working conditions is effectively applied;

Amendment

(c) Modernise *and improve* Union law in line with *decent work* principles and ensure that Union law on matters relating to working conditions is effectively applied, *in order to achieve progress on the social and employment policy targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy*;

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) Promote the creation of quality and sustainable 'green' and 'white' jobs and the anticipation and development of new skills and competencies towards that end by linking employment and social policies with industrial and structural policies supporting a transition towards a resource-efficient and low carbon economy and a environmental and social sustainable development;

Amendment 63

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) Promote workers' geographical

Amendment

(d) Promote workers' *voluntary*

mobility and boost employment opportunities by developing Union labour markets that are open and accessible to all;

geographical mobility *on a fair basis, especially cross-border mobility*, and boost employment opportunities, *including through initiatives on first jobs and returning the unemployed to work*, by developing *high-quality and inclusive European* Union labour markets that are open and accessible to all *while respecting and guaranteeing freedom of movement and workers' rights throughout the Union*;

Amendment 64

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) Promote workplaces offering various possibilities for workers to achieve a healthy balance between professional and private life;

Amendment 65

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) Promote employment and social inclusion by increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable *groups and* micro-enterprises, and by increasing access to finance for social enterprises.

(e) Promote employment and social inclusion by increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable *people who wish to start up a micro-enterprise as well as for existing* micro-enterprises, and by increasing access to finance for social enterprises;

Amendment 66

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point e a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ea) Combat poverty and social exclusion by supporting the activities of social partners, civil society organisations, social enterprises and public and private bodies,

focusing in particular on social innovation and social policy experimentation;

Amendment 67

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point e b (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(eb) Improve the knowledge and understanding of the situation prevailing in the Member States and in other participating countries through analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies and their implementation;

Amendment 68

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point e c (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ec) Ensure a good transition from education to decent employment, prevent early-school leaving and promote quality of traineeships and apprenticeships.

(Linked to the Youth Initiative Axis)

Amendment 69

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 2 – introductory part**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. In pursuing those objectives, the Programme shall *aim to*:

2. In pursuing those objectives, the Programme shall:

Amendment 70

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point a**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) Promote equality between women and men *and* combat discrimination based on

(a) Promote equality between women and men *by implementing gender*

sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation;

mainstreaming in all its axes and activities and putting into practice positive action to promote gender equality, combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, language, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and contribute to fulfilling the obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with regard, inter alia, to education, work and employment and accessibility;

Amendment 71

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) ***Ensure that the requirements linked to the promotion of a high-level of employment, a guarantee of adequate social protection and the fight against social exclusion are taken into account in defining and implementing of the Union's policies and activities.***

Amendment

(b) ***In defining and implementing the Union's policies and activities, promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guarantee adequate and decent social protection, combat long-term unemployment and fight against poverty and social exclusion.***

Amendment 72

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 4a

Partnership principle

To ensure that the Programme meets beneficiaries' needs and requirements and in order to promote good governance, mutual learning and social innovation, the Commission and the Member States shall apply the partnership principle at all levels throughout the lifecycle of the Programme. To that end, the Commission and the Member States shall ensure that those social partners and civil society organisations which represent the target groups of the Programme are regularly consulted and involved in strategic

decisions concerning the development, implementation monitoring and evaluation of the Programme and its axes. A sufficient amount of financial resources shall be allocated to the effective application of the partnership principle, as well as to the capacity- and competence-building activities of the social partners and of civil society organisations which are directly or indirectly involved in implementing the activities of the Programme.

Amendment 73

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The *financial appropriations* for implementing the Programme over the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020 shall amount to EUR **958.19** million¹.

Amendment

1. The *financial envelope within the meaning of point [...] of the Interinstitutional Agreement of XX/201Z between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and sound financial management, which constitutes the prime reference* for implementing the Programme over the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, shall amount to EUR *[XXX million] in current prices*.

¹ *In current prices.*

Justification

The financial envelope specified in the legislative proposal constitutes only an indication and will be finalised once agreement is reached on the regulation on the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Amendment 74

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. *The following indicative percentages*

Amendment

2. *Over the entire period of the*

shall be allocated to the axes set out in Article 3 (1) as follows:

Programme, the financial breakdown allocated to the axes set out in Article 3(1) **(a), (b) and (c) shall be** as follows:

Amendment 75

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) 60 % to the Progress axis, ***of which at least 17 % shall be allocated to promoting social experimentation as a method for testing and evaluating innovative solutions with a view to scaling them up;***

(a) 60 % to the Progress axis;

Amendment 76

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) ***15 %*** to the EURES axis;

(b) ***18 %*** to the EURES axis;

Amendment 77

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The remaining 5 % shall be apportioned among the axes on an annual basis ***in line with policy priorities.***

In order to make effective use of the funds and to enable them to be shifted between the axes in accordance with policy priorities, the remaining 2 % shall be apportioned among the axes on an annual basis ***without prejudice to the prerogatives of the budgetary authority in the annual budget.***

Amendment 78

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. In addition to the financial appropriations mentioned in paragraph 1, funding shall be provided for the Youth Initiative axis set out in Article 3(1)(ca). Over the Programme period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, financial appropriations committed to this axis shall amount to EUR [XXX million].

(Linked to the Youth Initiative Axis)

Justification

In order to tackle the unacceptably high levels of youth unemployment a new 'Youth Initiative' axis is introduced, provided that the funding can be secured for this objective within the MFF 2014-2020.

Amendment 79

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. A gender-sensitive approach, including gender budgeting and gender impact assessment, shall where appropriate be used when allocating the funds.

Amendment 80

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. The Commission may make use of the appropriations referred to paragraph 1 to finance technical and/or administrative assistance, in particular relating to auditing, outsourcing of translation, meetings of experts, and information and communication activities for the mutual benefit of the Commission and the beneficiaries.

3. The Commission may make use of **up to 3 % of** the appropriations referred to paragraph 1, to finance technical and/or administrative assistance, in particular relating to auditing, outsourcing of translation, meetings of experts, **cooperation with third countries** and information and communication activities for the mutual benefit of the Commission and the beneficiaries, **and strengthen**

checks on expenditure.

Amendment 81

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) Gathering of data and statistics, as well as development of common methodologies, classifications, indicators and benchmarks;

Amendment

(a) Gathering of data and statistics, ***taking account of both qualitative and quantitative criteria***, as well as development of common methodologies, classifications, indicators and benchmarks, ***where appropriate broken down by gender and age group***;

Amendment 82

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) Surveys, studies, analyses and reports, including through the funding of networks ***of experts***;

Amendment

(b) Surveys, studies, analyses and reports, including through the funding of networks ***and development of expertise on thematic priorities***;

Amendment 83

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) Evaluations and impact assessments;

Amendment

(c) ***Independent qualitative and quantitative*** evaluations and impact assessments ***carried out by both public and private bodies, as well as actions required to translate good practices and experimentation into ordinary social policy, including an appraisal of the effectiveness of measures relating to objectives in the areas of employment and social cohesion***;

Amendment 84

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) Monitoring of progress in Member States and other participating countries on key priorities in the fields of employment, social protection and inclusion, and combating poverty in line with the Europe 2020 targets as well as improving working conditions;

Amendment 85

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point d b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(db) Monitoring the impact of policies implemented with regard to the most vulnerable groups;

Amendment 86

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point d c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(dc) Monitoring the impact of policies implemented with regard to improving working conditions;

Amendment 87

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) Preparation and implementation of social experimentation as a method for testing and evaluating innovative solutions with a view to scaling them up;

(e) Preparation and implementation of social ***policy*** experimentation as a method for testing and evaluating innovative solutions with a view to scaling them up;

Amendment 88

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) *Exchanges* and dissemination of good practice, innovative approaches and experience, peer reviews, benchmarking and mutual learning at European level;

Amendment

(a) ***Focused and strategic exchanges, identification and*** dissemination of good practice, innovative approaches and experience, peer reviews, benchmarking and mutual learning at European level ***in order to enhance knowledge and make progress in achieving the Union's objectives of promoting a high-level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions;***

Amendment 89

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) *Council Presidency events, conferences and seminars;*

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 90

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) Training of legal and policy practitioners, ***and*** EURES advisers;

Amendment

(c) Training of legal and policy practitioners, EURES advisers ***and the actors of the EURES cross-border partnerships;***

Amendment 91

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) Drafting and publication of guides, reports and educational material;

Amendment

(d) Drafting and publication of guides, reports and educational materials **and measures relating to information, communication, and media coverage of initiatives supported by the Programme;**

Amendment 92

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point f a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fa) Support for active engagement of all relevant actors in the follow up of already agreed Union priorities, such as active inclusion, combating homelessness and housing exclusion, child poverty, energy poverty and poverty amongst migrants and ethnic minorities;

Amendment 93

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point f b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fb) Enhancing knowledge and understanding amongst policy makers and other stakeholders regarding development and implementation of policies that promote quality employment, good working conditions, inclusive labour markets, social protection and inclusion, and combat of poverty;

Amendment 94

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point f c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fc) Fostering the prevention culture in the field of health and safety at work and promotion of both mental and physical

health within a work setting.

Amendment 95

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) Capacity-building *of national* administrations and specialist services responsible for promoting geographical mobility designated by the Member States *and* microcredit providers,

Amendment

(b) Capacity-building of *the* administrations and specialist services responsible for promoting geographical mobility designated by the Member States, *as well as capacity-building of the* microcredit providers *and the providers of financing for social enterprises;*

Amendment 96

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 3 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) Capacity-building of the social partner organisations, the civil society organisations and the actors of the social economy;

Amendment 97

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 3 – point b b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(bb) Capacity-building and operational costs of EURES cross-border partnerships;

Amendment 98

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 3 - point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) Organisation of working groups of national officials to monitor the

Amendment

(c) Organisation of *transnational* working groups of national, *regional and local* officials to monitor *proper* the

implementation of Union law;

implementation of Union law;

Justification

The exchanges between public administrations should benefit all levels of governments as many public policies are shared and are not the sole competence of national administrations.

Amendment 99

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 3 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) Networking and cooperation among specialist bodies, national, regional and local authorities, and employment services at European level;

Amendment

(d) Networking and cooperation among specialist bodies **and other relevant stakeholders**, national, regional and local authorities, and employment services at European level;

Amendment 100

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 3 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) Funding of European-level observatories;

Amendment

(e) Funding of European-level, **interregional and cross-border** observatories, **including on key thematic priorities**;

Amendment 101

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 3 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) **Exchange** of personnel between national administrations.

Amendment

(f) **Transnational exchange** of personnel between **regional, local and** national administrations.

Justification

Monitoring the implementation of EU law must also take regional and local contexts into account and should, therefore, involve regional and local government representatives.

Amendment 102

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Actions to promote mobility of individuals in the Union, ***in particular the development of a*** multilingual digital platform for the clearance of job vacancies and applications, and targeted mobility schemes to fill vacancies where labour market shortcomings have been identified and/or to help specific groups of workers such as young people.

Amendment

4. Actions to promote ***voluntary*** mobility of individuals in the Union ***on a fair basis and to remove mobility obstacles:***

(a) Provision of information and counselling for jobseekers, mobile workers and cross-border workers, as well as organisations representing their interests, and employers;

(b) Development of the multilingual digital platform for the clearance of job vacancies and applications, and targeted mobility schemes to fill vacancies where labour market shortcomings have been identified and/or to help specific groups of workers such as young people.

Amendment 103

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Support to microfinance and social enterprises in particular through the financial instruments provided for under ***Title VIII of Part one of*** Regulation XXX/2012 [New Financial Regulation] on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union, and grants.

Amendment

5. Support to microfinance and social enterprises in particular through the financial instruments provided for under Regulation XXX/2012 [New Financial Regulation] on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union, and grants.

Amendment 104

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 a (new)

Article 6a

***Social Innovation and Social Policy
Experimentation***

1. The Programme shall support social innovation and social policy experimentation. It shall help identify, analyse and scale up innovative solutions and their practical implementation through social policy experimentation.

2. Social innovation shall aim to improve the quality of life and work. It shall not be judged primarily on the basis of economic criteria but, rather, on the basis of its added value for society.

3. Social policy experimentation shall, where necessary, aim to assist the Member States to increase the efficiency of their labour markets and to further improve their social protection and inclusion policies. It shall aim to improve the life of beneficiaries through tailored services or products and shall be developed with the direct involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The results of the experiments shall help to determine whether and under what conditions it is possible to implement social innovations on a wider scale. Social policy experimentation shall therefore aim to ensure that effective approaches are scaled up, including with the support of the ESF.

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

Amendment 105

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, shall ensure that activities carried out under the Programme are consistent with, and complementary to other Union action, in particular under the European Social Fund (ESF) ***and in such areas as social dialogue, justice and fundamental rights, education, vocational training and youth policy, research and innovation, entrepreneurship, health, enlargement and external relations, and general economic policy.***

Amendment

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, ***in accordance with the partnership principle***, shall ensure that activities carried out under the Programme are consistent with and complementary to other Union action, in particular under the European Social Fund (ESF) ***and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The consistency and complementarity of those activities notably with the Rights and Citizenship Programme, the "Erasmus for All" Programme, the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation, and the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises shall also be ensured.***

Amendment 106

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The activities shall be consistent with and complementary to other Union actions in areas such as social dialogue, justice and fundamental rights, equal opportunities, gender equality, education, vocational training, children's rights and well-being. The activities shall also be consistent with, and complementary to other Union policies, and in particular youth policy, migration policy, research and innovation, entrepreneurship, health, working conditions, enlargement and external relations, and general economic policy, as well as the needs of the internal market.

Amendment 107

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1b. The Programme shall complement other Union programmes, while acknowledging that each instrument shall work according to its own specific procedures. The same eligible costs shall not receive double funding, and close synergies shall be developed between the Programme, other Union programmes and the Structural Funds, in particular the ESF.

Amendment 108

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The activities supported by the Programme shall comply with Union and national law, including state aid rules.

2. The activities supported by the Programme shall comply with Union and national law, including state aid rules, ***and ILO Conventions.***

Amendment 109

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The actions that are implemented shall further comply with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Amendment 110

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. Consistency and complementarity shall also be ensured by means of the close involvement of local and regional authorities in the implementation of the

Programme.

Amendment 111

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall establish **any relations needed with committees dealing with policies, instruments and actions of relevance to the Programme** in order to ensure that they are regularly and appropriately informed of progress in implementing the Programme.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall establish **the necessary links with the Employment Committee, the Social Protection Committee, the Advisory Committee on Health and Safety at Work and the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement of Workers** in order to ensure that they are regularly and appropriately **consulted and** informed of progress in implementing the Programme.

The Commission shall also inform other committees dealing with policies, instruments and actions of relevance to the Programme.

Where appropriate, the Commission shall establish regular and structured cooperation between the strategic advisory board referred to in Article 26g, the committee referred to in Article 26i and monitoring committees established for other relevant policies, instruments and actions.

Amendment 112

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The results of the actions implemented under the Programme shall be suitably communicated and disseminated in order to maximise their impact, sustainability and Union added value.

Amendment

1. The results of the actions implemented under the Programme shall be **regularly and** suitably communicated and disseminated **to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, as well as the social partners and the public** in order to maximise their impact, sustainability and Union added

value.

Amendment 113

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Communication activities shall also **contribute to corporate communication of** the political priorities of the European Union as far as they are related to the general objectives of this Regulation.

Amendment

2. Communication activities shall also **provide information on** the political priorities of the European Union as far as they are related to the general objectives of this Regulation.

Amendment 114

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Lump-sums **and scale of unit costs and flat-rate financing may be used** in respect of support awarded to programme participants, in particular in respect of mobility schemes referred to in Article 6(4).

Amendment

2. **The grant agreement shall specify which part of the Union financial contribution will be based on the reimbursement of eligible costs, and which part will be based on flat rates (including scale of unit costs) or** lump-sums in respect of support awarded to programme participants, in particular in respect of mobility schemes referred to in Article 6(4).

Amendment 115

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraphs 1 and 1a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall take appropriate preventive measures ensuring that, when actions financed under this Regulation are implemented, the financial interests of the Union are protected against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, **by effective checks and, if irregularities are detected, by the recovery of amounts** wrongly paid and, where appropriate, by effective, proportional and deterrent

Amendment

1. The Commission shall take appropriate preventive measures **and carry out effective checks** ensuring that, when actions financed under this Regulation are implemented, the financial interests of the Union are protected against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities.

penalties, in accordance with Article 325 of the Treaty, Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests and the Financial Regulation.

1a. If irregularities are detected, **amounts wrongly paid shall be recovered primarily by offsetting** and, where appropriate, **the protection of the financial interests of the Union** in accordance with Article 325 of the Treaty, Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests and the Financial Regulation may include effective, proportional and deterrent penalties.

Amendment 116

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Without prejudice to paragraphs 1 and 2, decisions, agreements and contracts resulting from the implementation of this Regulation shall expressly entitle the Commission, including OLAF, and the Court of Auditors to conduct such audits, on-the-spot checks and inspections.

Amendment

3. Without prejudice to paragraphs 1 and 2, decisions, agreements and contracts resulting from the implementation of this Regulation shall expressly entitle the Commission, including OLAF, and the Court of Auditors to conduct such audits, on-the-spot checks and inspections **up to four years after the final payment.**

Amendment 117

Proposal for a regulation Article 13

Text proposed by the Commission

With a view to regular monitoring of the Programme and making any adjustments needed to its policy and funding priorities, the Commission shall draw up biennial monitoring reports and send them to the European Parliament and the Council. **Such** reports shall cover the **Programme's**

Amendment

With a view to regular monitoring of the Programme and making any adjustments needed to its policy and funding priorities, the Commission shall draw up **an initial qualitative and quantitative monitoring report after one year and thereafter** biennial **qualitative and quantitative**

results and the extent to which gender equality and anti-discrimination considerations, including accessibility issues, have been addressed through its activities.

monitoring reports and send them to the European Parliament and the Council. *The reports shall also be transmitted, for information, to the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The monitoring reports shall cover the progress made in the implementation of the Programme and the results achieved and shall contain information on the impact and sustainability of its axes, including where appropriate, the total number of people assisted or placed and, if placed, still employed, as well as microenterprises and social enterprises still in business at the end of the period of support, as well as information on compatibility with other Union financial instruments, in particular the ESF. The monitoring reports shall also cover the extent to which the principles of gender equality and gender mainstreaming have been applied and how anti-discrimination considerations, including accessibility issues, have been addressed through its activities. The reports shall be made available to the public in order to enhance the Programme's transparency.*

Amendment 118

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. A mid-term evaluation of the Programme shall be carried out by *the end of 2017* to measure progress made in meeting its objectives, to determine whether its resources have been used efficiently and to assess its Union added value.

Amendment

1. A mid-term evaluation of the Programme *in cooperation with the Strategic Advisory Board referred to in Article 26g* shall be carried out by *mid-2017* to measure progress made in meeting its objectives, to determine whether its resources have been used efficiently and to assess its Union added value. *The Strategic Advisory Board shall be involved in the whole evaluation process. The outcome of the evaluation may be taken into account in the design of new programmes in the area of employment and social affairs.*

Amendment 119

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. If any evaluation carried out pursuant to Article 19 of Decision No 1672/2006/EC or Article 9 of Decision No 283/2010/EU, or the evaluation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article reveals major shortcomings of the Programme, the Commission shall consider presenting a proposal to the European Parliament and the Council, including appropriate amendments to the Programme.

Amendment 120

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1b. Prior to any proposal for a prolongation of the Programme beyond 2020 the Commission shall present to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions an evaluation on the conceptual strengths and weaknesses of the 2014 to 2020 programme.

Amendment 121

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 - paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. Two years after the expiry of the Programme at the latest, the Commission shall carry out an ex-post evaluation measuring its impact and Union added value and shall forward a report on that evaluation to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of

2. Two years after the expiry of the Programme at the latest, the Commission shall carry out an ***independent*** ex-post evaluation measuring its impact and Union added value and shall forward a report on that evaluation to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of

the Regions.

the Regions. *The report shall be made available to the public.*

Amendment 122

Proposal for a regulation Title II

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Specific *Provisions*

Provisions Specific to Programme Axes

Amendment 123

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 14a

Thematic sections and financing

1. The Progress axis shall support actions in one or more of the thematic sections listed in points (a), (b) and (c). Over the entire period of the Programme, the breakdown of the allocation referred to in Article 5(2)(a) between the different sections shall respect the following minimum percentages:

(a) employment, within which at least 50 % of the allocation to this section shall be spent to fight youth unemployment: 20 %;

(b) social protection, social inclusion and the reduction and prevention of poverty: 50 %;

(c) working conditions: 10 %.

2. Within the activities in the three thematic sections, at least 25 % of the allocation referred to in Article 5(2)(a) shall be spent on social policy experimentation over the entire period of the programme.

3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 26e, concerning the allocation of funds to individual sections within the axis. In particular, those delegated acts

may decrease by up to 5 percentage points the allocations to sections (a), (b) and (c) referred to in paragraph 1, taking due account of specific needs and policy priorities in the areas covered by the Progress axis.

4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 26e defining the thematic sections for which unallocated funds may be used in accordance with the Financial Regulation.

(The provision on the use of unallocated funds will be finalised once agreement is reached on the Financial Regulation)

Amendment 124

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. In addition to the general objectives set out in Article 4, the specific objectives of the Progress axis shall be to:

Amendment

1. In addition to the general objectives set out in Article 4, the specific objectives of the Progress axis shall be to ***support the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Integrated Guidelines and the Flagships Initiatives, and to that end*** to:

Amendment 125

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) Develop and disseminate high-quality comparative analytical knowledge in order to ensure that Union ***employment and social*** policy ***and*** working conditions ***legislation are*** based on sound evidence and are relevant to needs, challenges and conditions in the individual Member States and the other participating countries;

Amendment

(a) Develop and disseminate high-quality comparative analytical knowledge in order to ensure that Union policy ***and legislation in the fields of employment,*** working conditions, ***social protection, social inclusion and combating poverty, including inter alia combating discrimination and multiple discrimination, combating housing exclusion, combating youth unemployment and youth poverty, poverty amongst migrants and ethnic minorities,***

child poverty and energy poverty is based on sound evidence and are relevant to people's needs, social challenges and social conditions in the individual Member States and the other participating countries;

Amendment 126

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) Facilitate effective and inclusive information-sharing, mutual learning and dialogue *on Union employment* and social *policy* and working conditions legislation at Union, national and international level in order to assist the Member States and the other participating countries in developing their policies and in implementing Union law;

Amendment

(b) Facilitate effective and inclusive information-sharing, mutual learning and dialogue, *through the European Employment Strategy and the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion and through networking amongst specialised bodies, including the social partners and civil society organisations, on Union policy including inter alia the fields of employment, working conditions, social protection, social inclusion combating discrimination and multiple discrimination, combating poverty and housing exclusion, protecting children's rights and well-being, helping the integration of migrants and the improvement of the situation of asylum seekers, combating youth unemployment and youth poverty, and on legislation in those areas,* at Union, national and international level in order to assist the Member States and the other participating countries in developing their policies and in implementing Union law;

Amendment 127

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) Provide *policy-makers with* financial support to test social and labour market policy reforms, build up the main actors' capacity to design and implement social

Amendment

(c) Provide financial support to test social and labour market policy *innovations, and, where necessary, to* build up the main actors' capacity to design and implement

experimentation, and make the relevant knowledge and expertise accessible;

social *policy* experimentation, and *to* make the relevant knowledge and expertise accessible, *in order to better anticipate and develop the job creation potential and skills needed for environmentally and socially sustainable development and to ensure adequate and decent social protection, social inclusion, a reduction of poverty, a high level of quality and sustainable employment and better working conditions*;

Amendment 128

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) Provide *Union and national* organisations with financial support to step up their capacity to develop, promote and support the implementation of Union *employment and social* policy and working conditions legislation.

Amendment

(d) Provide organisations with financial support to step up their capacity to develop *innovative solutions*, and to promote and support the implementation of Union policy *in the fields of employment*, working conditions, *social protection*, *social inclusion and combating poverty as well as* legislation *in those areas*.

Amendment 129

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 15a

Specific actions

In addition to types of actions set out in Article 6, the following specific actions may be financed under the Progress axis:

(a) support for developing common strategies to produce real improvements in the employment, social and working conditions fields;

(b) support to social partners and civil society organisations at all levels for projects and research in the fields of employment and social inclusion;

(c) support for initiatives aimed at addressing labour shortages including the cooperation between schools and training centres with employment services;

(d) support for initiatives facilitating sustainable job creation;

(e) support for initiatives encouraging employers to apply social standards which are more ambitious than current statutory provisions, including the possibility to develop and obtain a designation such as a social label;

(f) support for fostering the prevention culture in the field of health and safety at work and for the promotion of both mental and physical health within a work setting;

(g) support for combating exclusion and poverty, not least by enabling the most deprived to gain or maintain access to health care;

(h) support for networks of business incubators providing technical and financial support for business start-ups.

Amendment 130

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) Non-governmental organisations, **and in particular those** organised at Union level;

Amendment

(e) Non-governmental organisations organised both at **national and** Union level;

Amendment 131

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. For the purpose of implementing the Programme, the Commission shall cooperate closely with the Union agencies dealing with social affairs, in particular the European Training Foundation, the

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and the European Institute for Gender Equality.

Amendment 132

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission may cooperate with international organisations, and in particular the Council of Europe, the OECD, the ILO and the World Bank.

Amendment

3. The Commission may cooperate with international organisations, and in particular the Council of Europe, the OECD, the ILO and ***other United Nations bodies, and*** the World Bank.

Amendment 133

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission may cooperate with third countries not participating in the Programme. Representatives of such third countries may attend events of mutual interest (such as conferences, workshops and seminars) that take place in countries participating in the Programme and the cost of their attendance may be ***covered*** by the Programme.

Amendment

4. The Commission may cooperate with third countries not participating in the Programme. Representatives of such third countries may attend events of mutual interest (such as conferences, workshops and seminars) that take place in countries participating in the Programme and the cost of their attendance may be ***co-financed*** by the Programme.

Amendment 134

Proposal for a regulation Article 17

Text proposed by the Commission

Article 17

Implementing powers conferred on the Commission

Amendment

deleted

1. Measures relating to the following and which are necessary for the implementation of the Progress axis shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 18(3):

(a) the multiannual work plans laying down medium-term policy and funding priorities;

(b) the annual work plans, including the criteria for the selection of beneficiaries following calls for proposals.

2. All other measures necessary for the implementation of the Progress axis shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 18(2).

(See amendment for Article 26 h.)

Amendment 135

Proposal for a regulation Article 18

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 18

deleted

Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

(See amendment for Article 26 i.)

Amendment 136

Proposal for a regulation Article 19

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 19

deleted

Transitional measures

Actions which are initiated before 1 January 2014 on the basis of Decision 1672/2006/EC (Sections 1, 2 and 3 referred to in Article 3 thereof) shall continue to be governed by that Decision. With regard to those actions, the Committee referred to in Article 13 of that Decision shall be replaced by the Committee provided for in Article 18 of this Regulation.

(See amendment for Article 26 j.)

Amendment 137

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 19 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 19a

Thematic sections and financing

1. The EURES axis shall support actions in one or more of the thematic sections listed in points (a), (b) and (c). Over the entire period of the Programme, the breakdown of the allocation referred to in Article 5(2)(b) between the different sections shall respect the following minimum percentages:

(a) Information services, counselling and job-matching for mobile workers and employers: 20 %;

(b) Targeted mobility schemes such as for young people: 20 %;

(c) Transnational, sectoral and cross-border cooperation: 40 %.

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 26e, concerning the allocation of funds to individual sections within the axis. In particular, those delegated acts

may decrease by up to 5 percentage points the allocations to sections (a), (b) and (c) in paragraph 1, taking due account of specific needs and policy priorities in the areas covered by the EURES axis.

3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 26e defining the thematic sections for which unallocated funds may be used in accordance with the Financial Regulation.

(The provision on the use of unallocated funds will be finalised once agreement is reached on the Financial Regulation)

Amendment 138

Proposal for a regulation

Article 20 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) Ensure that job vacancies and applications, and any related information **are** transparent for the potential applicants and the employers; this shall be achieved through their exchange and dissemination at transnational, interregional and cross-border level using standard interoperability forms;

Amendment

(a) Ensure that **information and advice on** job vacancies and applications, and any related information **such as that concerning living and working conditions including social legislation, labour law and collective agreements in force, and that concerning opportunities to acquire new skills is** transparent for the potential applicants and the employers; this shall be achieved through their exchange and dissemination at transnational, interregional and cross-border level using standard interoperability forms, **as well as by individual counselling and mentoring, especially for the low skilled;**

Amendment 139

Proposal for a regulation

Article 20 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) Develop services for the **recruitment and** placing of workers in employment through the clearance of job vacancies and applications at European level; this shall cover all phases of placement, ranging

Amendment

(b) Develop **recruitment** services, **including 'one-stop-shop' guidance and training,** for the placing of workers in **quality and sustainable** employment through the clearance of job vacancies and

from pre-recruitment preparation to post-placement assistance with a view to the applicant's successful integration into the labour market; such services shall include targeted mobility schemes to fill vacancies where labour market shortcomings have been identified and/or help particular groups of workers such as young people.

applications at European level; this shall cover all phases of placement, ranging from pre-recruitment preparation to post-placement assistance with a view to the applicant's successful integration into the labour market; such services shall include targeted mobility schemes to fill vacancies where labour market shortcomings have been identified and/or help particular groups of workers such as young people.

Amendment 140

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 20a

Specific actions

In addition to types of actions set out in Article 6, the specific actions under the EURES axis may include:

(a) developing cross-border partnerships, where requested by services territorially responsible for the border regions; counselling and information opportunities before, during and after the mobility experience for jobseekers, mobile workers, including cross-border workers, seasonal workers, migrant workers, posted workers, and employers, in order to promote voluntary geographical mobility on a fair basis and drafting and dissemination of material informing jobseekers, mobile workers, employers and EURES advisers on labour law, social security and working conditions in cross-border regions and other Member States;

(b) developing and implementing targeted mobility schemes in cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement of Workers;

(c) evaluating activities and placements facilitated by EURES, taking into account qualitative and quantitative criteria alike,

focussing on incoming and outgoing placements in individual Member States as well as aggregated placement figures at Union level, thereby taking the changing labour market situations and related mobility patterns into account and developing indicators in cooperation between the Commission, the Member States and the social partners at Union level to evaluate the quality of employment and working conditions with regard to EURES jobs.

Amendment 141

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 20b

Targeted mobility schemes

- 1. Targeted mobility schemes may be designed for specific groups of workers, sectors, occupations, countries or group of countries wherever a clear economic need is identified and there is potential for Union-wide recruitment to provide added value, for example in the area of "bottleneck vacancies" and "niche vacancies" for which recruitment difficulties have been identified. The Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement of Workers will be regularly consulted with regard to the schemes.*
- 2. Targeted mobility schemes shall be based on the principle of 'fair mobility', and shall fully respect applicable labour standards and legal requirements. Accordingly, the schemes shall ensure placement in quality and sustainable employment with adequate and decent salaries and working conditions on the basis of collective agreements and/or minimum wages.*
- 3. The implementing organisations delivering services to jobseekers and employers in the framework of targeted*

mobility schemes shall be selected in an open call for proposals to which employment services may respond, provided that they are committed to the principle of fair mobility.

4. In accordance with Article 11(2), the call for proposals shall define the type of support measures offered under the targeted mobility schemes and shall include limited financial support to the jobseekers and the employers that accompany the services provided under the targeted mobility schemes.

5. Financial incentives for employers shall be used for integration and qualification measures for the new employee, whereas financial incentives for employees shall be used for transition costs such as travel, housing and language courses.

6. In respect of targeted mobility schemes, strong coordination shall be ensured, as well as full compliance with applicable labour law and standards.

Amendment 142

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 20 c

Monitoring of the Brain Drain

In order to detect and prevent negative effects of geographical mobility on individual Member States or specific economic sectors the Commission shall, in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation 492/2011, regularly monitor mobility patterns, especially those of skilled workers. In the event of emerging labour market distortions, the Commission shall consider presenting proposals to the European Parliament and Council to counteract such developments.

Amendment 143

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The EURES axis shall be open to all **public and private** bodies, actors and institutions designated by a Member State or the Commission which fulfil the conditions for participating in the EURES network, as set out in Commission Decision 2003/8/EC¹⁹. Such bodies and organisations shall include in particular:

Amendment

2. The EURES axis shall be open to all bodies, actors and institutions designated by a Member State or the Commission which fulfil the conditions for participating in the EURES network, as set out in Commission Decision 2003/8/EC¹⁹. Such bodies and organisations shall include in particular:

Amendment 144

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) Social partner organisations and **other interested** parties.

Amendment

(c) Social partner organisations and **relevant** parties **including regional and local authorities**.

Amendment 145

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Commission shall put in place an accreditation and monitoring system in order to ensure that all participants comply with the EURES principles in general and the principle of fair mobility in particular.

Amendment 146

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 21a

Thematic sections and financing

1. The Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis shall support actions in one or more of the sections listed in points (a) and (b). Over the entire period of the Programme, the breakdown of the allocation referred to in Article 5(2)(c) between the different sections shall respect the following minimum percentages:

(a) Microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises: 45 %;

(b) Social entrepreneurship: 45 %.

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 26e, concerning the allocation of funds to individual sections within the axis. In particular, those delegated acts may decrease by up to 5 percentage points the allocations to sections (a) and (b) referred to in paragraph 1, taking due account of specific needs and policy priorities in the areas covered by the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis.

3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 26e defining the thematic sections for which unallocated funds may be used in accordance with the Financial Regulation.

(The provision on the use of unallocated funds will be finalised once agreement is reached on the Financial Regulation)

Amendment 147

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) persons who have lost or are at risk of losing their **jobs**, or **who** have difficulty in entering or re-entering the labour market, **persons** at risk of social exclusion and **vulnerable persons who** are in a disadvantaged position with regard to access to the conventional credit market

Amendment

(a) **vulnerable** persons who **wish to start up or develop their own micro-enterprise, including through self-employment, and who** have lost or are at risk of losing their **job**, or have difficulty in entering or re-entering the labour market, **or are** at risk of social exclusion, **or are socially excluded,**

and who wish to start up or develop their own micro-enterprises;

and are in a disadvantaged position with regard to access to the conventional credit market;

Amendment 148

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) micro-enterprises, especially *those* which employ persons as referred to in point (a);

Amendment

(b) micro-enterprises ***in both start-up and development phase***, especially ***micro-enterprises*** which employ persons as referred to in point (a);

Amendment 149

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 1 – point 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. Support the setting up and development of micro-enterprises benefiting from micro-finance, inter alia, by ensuring accompanying mentoring and training.

Amendment 150

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Support the development of social ***enterprises, in particular by facilitating*** access to finance.

Amendment

3. Support the development of ***the*** social ***investment market and facilitate*** access to finance ***for social enterprises that have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.***

Amendment 151

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. In order to ensure complementarity, the Commission and the Member States shall, in their respective areas of competence, closely coordinate these actions with those undertaken in the framework of cohesion policy.

Amendment 152

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) microfinance for persons and micro-enterprises;

(a) microfinance for persons and micro-enterprises; ***and/or***

Amendment 153

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The Commission shall ensure that the axis is accessible, without discrimination, to all public and private bodies in the Member States.

Amendment 154

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. To reach out to the final beneficiaries and create ***competitive***, viable micro-enterprises, public and private bodies that carry out activities as referred to in paragraph 1(a) shall cooperate closely with organisations representing the interests of the final beneficiaries of microcredit and with organisations, in particular those supported by the ESF, which provide mentoring and training programmes to

2. To reach out to the final beneficiaries and create viable micro-enterprises, public and private bodies that carry out activities as referred to in paragraph 1(a) shall cooperate closely with organisations, ***including civil society organisations***, representing the interests of the final beneficiaries of microcredit and with organisations, in particular those supported by the ESF, which provide mentoring and training programmes to such final

such final beneficiaries.

beneficiaries.

Amendment 155

Proposal for a regulation Article 23 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Public and private bodies that carry out activities as referred to in paragraph 1(a) shall adhere to high standards concerning governance, management and customer protection in line with the principles of the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision and shall seek to prevent persons and undertakings from becoming over-indebted.

Amendment

3. Public and private bodies that carry out activities as referred to in paragraph 1(a) shall adhere to high standards concerning governance, management and customer protection in line with the principles of the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision and shall seek to prevent persons and undertakings from becoming over-indebted ***as a result of the granting of loans to them at very high interest rates or on terms likely to result in their insolvency.***

Amendment 156

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Except in the case of joint actions, the financial appropriations allocated to the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis shall cover the full cost of the actions implemented through financial instruments, including payment obligations towards financial intermediaries, such as losses from guarantees, management fees for the ***international*** financial institutions managing the Union's contribution and any other eligible costs.

Amendment

1. Except in the case of joint actions, the financial appropriations allocated to the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis shall cover the full cost of the actions implemented through financial instruments, including payment obligations towards financial intermediaries, such as losses from guarantees, management fees for the financial institutions managing the Union's contribution and any other eligible costs.

Amendment 157

Proposal for a regulation Article 25 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. In order to implement the instruments and grants referred to in Article 6(5), the

Amendment

1. In order to implement the instruments and grants referred to in Article 6(5), the

Commission may conclude agreements with the entities listed in Article 55(1) (b) (iii) and (iv) of Regulation XXX/2012 [New Financial Regulation 2012] on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union, and in particular with the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund. Such agreements shall set out detailed provisions on implementing the tasks entrusted to those financial institutions, including provisions specifying the need to ensure additionality and coordination with existing Union and national financial instruments and to apportion the resources in a balanced way among the Member States and the other participating countries. Financial instruments, *such as* risk-sharing instruments, equity instruments and debt instruments, may be *delivered through investment in a dedicated investment vehicle*.

Commission may conclude agreements with the entities listed in Article 55(1) (b) (iii) and (iv) of Regulation XXX/2012 [New Financial Regulation 2012] on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union, and in particular with the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund. Such agreements shall set out detailed provisions on implementing the tasks entrusted to those financial institutions, including provisions specifying the need to ensure additionality and coordination with existing Union and national financial instruments and to apportion the resources in a balanced way among the Member States and the other participating countries. Financial instruments - *that is, funded* risk-sharing instruments, *guarantees and counter-guarantees*, equity instruments and debt instruments - may be *provided by a fund, which can be co-financed by financial institutions, or by direct conversion of the Programme funds into financial instruments such as guarantees*.

Amendment 158

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The fund shall provide loans, risk-sharing instruments and equity capital for intermediaries or direct financing for social enterprises or both. Equity capital can be provided inter alia in the form of open equity participations, dormant holdings, shareholder loans and combinations of different types of equity participations issued to the investors.

Amendment 159

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1b. The conditions, such as interest rates, for micro-credits directly or indirectly supported in the framework of this axis shall be reasonable and proportionate with regard to underlying risks and the actual costs related to a credit.

Amendment 160

Proposal for a regulation Article 25 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. Agreements as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall provide for an obligation on the ***international*** financial institutions to re-invest the resources and proceeds, including dividends and reimbursements, in actions as referred to in Article 6(5) for a period of ten years from the starting date of the Programme.

2. Agreements as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall provide for an obligation on the financial institutions to re-invest the resources and proceeds, including dividends and reimbursements, in actions as referred to in Article 6(5) for a period of ten years from the starting date of the Programme.

Amendment 161

Proposal for a regulation Article 25 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. In accordance with ***Article 18(2)*** of the Financial Regulation, revenues and payments generated by one financial instrument shall be assigned to that financial instrument. For financial instruments already set up in the previous multiannual financial framework, revenues and payments generated by operations started in the previous period shall be assigned to the financial instrument in the current period.

3. In accordance with ***the relevant provisions*** of the Financial Regulation, revenues and payments generated by one financial instrument shall be assigned to that financial instrument, ***as long as that financial instrument is in place***. For financial instruments already set up in the previous multiannual financial framework, revenues and payments generated by operations started in the previous period shall be assigned to the financial instrument in the current period.

Amendment 162

Proposal for a regulation Article 25 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. On the expiry of the agreements concluded with the **international** financial institutions or after the termination of the investment period of the specialised investment vehicle, the proceeds and balance due to the Union shall be paid into the general budget of the Union.

Amendment 163

Proposal for a regulation
Article 25 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. The **international** financial institutions and, where relevant, the fund managers shall conclude written agreements with the public and private bodies referred to in Article 23. Such agreements shall lay down the obligations of the public and private providers to use the resources made available under the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis in accordance with the objectives set out in Article 22 and to provide information for drafting the annual reports provided for in Article 26.

Amendment 164

Proposal for a regulation
Article 26 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The **international** financial institutions and, where relevant, the fund managers shall send the Commission annual implementation reports setting out the activities granted support and covering their financial implementation and the allocation and accessibility of funding and investment by sector and type of beneficiary, applications accepted or rejected and contracts concluded by the public and private bodies concerned, actions funded and the results, including in

Amendment

4. On the expiry of the agreements concluded with the financial institutions or after the termination of the investment period of the specialised investment vehicle, the proceeds and balance due to the Union shall be paid into the general budget of the Union.

Amendment

5. The financial institutions and, where relevant, the fund managers shall conclude written agreements with the public and private bodies referred to in Article 23. Such agreements shall lay down the obligations of the public and private providers to use the resources made available under the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis in accordance with the objectives set out in Article 22 and to provide information for drafting the annual reports provided for in Article 26.

Amendment

1. The financial institutions and, where relevant, the fund managers shall send the Commission annual implementation reports setting out the activities granted support and covering their financial implementation and the allocation and accessibility of funding and investment by sector, **geographical area** and type of beneficiary. **Those implementation reports shall also set out the** applications accepted or rejected **with regard to each specific objective** and **the** contracts concluded by

terms of social impact, employment creation and sustainability of the businesses support granted.

the public and private bodies concerned, ***the*** actions funded and the results, including in terms of ***its*** social impact, employment creation and sustainability, of the businesses support granted. ***The Commission shall send those reports to the European Parliament for information.***

Amendment 165

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The information provided in these annual implementation reports shall feed into the ***biennial*** monitoring reports provided for in Article 13. Such monitoring reports shall include the annual reports provided for in Article 8(2) of Decision No 283/2010/EU.

Amendment

2. The information provided in these annual implementation reports shall feed into the monitoring reports provided for in Article 13. Such monitoring reports shall include the annual reports provided for in Article 8(2) of Decision No 283/2010/EU ***and detailed information on communication activities.***

Amendment 166

Proposal for a regulation Chapter III a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

***Chapter III a (new)
Youth Initiative Axis***

(Youth Initiative Axis)

Amendment 167

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26a

Thematic sections and financing

1. The Youth Initiative axis for people aged under 25 shall support actions in one or more of the thematic sections listed in points (a), (b), (c) and (d). Over the

entire period of the Programme, the breakdown of the allocation referred to in Article 5(2a) between the different sections shall respect the following minimum percentages:

(a) Preventing early-school leaving especially through reintegration into training: 30 %;

(b) Developing skills that are relevant to the labour market in order to bring together more closely the worlds of employment, education and training: 20 %;

(c) Supporting access to the labour market through obtaining a first job and on-the-job training in order to offer the opportunity to young people to acquire both relevant skills and work experience: 20 %;

(d) Improving quality of traineeships and apprenticeships: 20 %;

2. Within the activities in the three thematic sections, at least 25 % of the allocation referred to in Article 5(2a) shall be spent on social policy experimentation over the entire period of the programme.

3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 26e, concerning the allocation of funds to individual sections within the axis. In particular, those delegated acts may decrease by up to 5 percentage points the allocations to sections (a), (b), (c) and (d) in paragraph 1, taking due account of specific needs and policy priorities in the areas covered by the Youth Initiative axis.

4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 26e defining the thematic sections for which unallocated funds may be used in accordance with the Financial Regulation.

(Youth Initiative Axis)

(The provision on the use of unallocated funds will be finalised once agreement is reached on the Financial Regulation)

Amendment 168

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26b

Specific objectives

In addition to the general objectives set out in Article 4, the specific objectives of the Youth Initiative axis shall be to:

(a) Support the creation of specific innovative programmes in order to fight youth unemployment and promote the transition of young people from education to decent employment in particular in deprived areas and regions with exceptionally high youth unemployment, paying special attention to young people with fewer opportunities, including young women, young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and young people from ethnic minorities, who might all face multiple discrimination;

(b) Support the exchange of best practice and mutual learning in the field of fighting youth unemployment, including the possibility of introducing a youth guarantee which would offer every young person in Europe a job, further education or work-focused training, at the latest four months after leaving education or after becoming unemployed, thereby improving the quality of traineeships and apprenticeships and reducing early school leaving;

(c) Provide policy-makers with financial support to test social and labour market policy approaches designed to fight youth unemployment, to promote the transition of young people from education to decent employment, improve the quality of traineeships and apprenticeships, reduce early school leaving and make the relevant knowledge and expertise accessible;

(d) Provide Union, national and regional organisations with financial support to increase their capacity to develop, promote and support activities in order to fight youth unemployment, to promote the transition of young people from education to decent employment, improve the quality of traineeships and apprenticeships, reduce early school leaving and make the relevant knowledge and expertise accessible.

(Youth Initiative Axis)

Amendment 169

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26c

Participation

1. Participation in the Youth Initiative axis shall be open to the following countries:

- (a) Member States;*
- (b) EFTA and EEA member countries, in accordance with the EEA Agreement;*
- (c) Candidate and potential candidate countries, in accordance with the general principles and the general terms and conditions laid down in the framework agreements concluded with them on their participation in Union programmes.*

2. The Youth Initiative axis shall be open to all public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, and in particular:

- (a) National, regional and local authorities;*
- (b) Public employment services;*
- (c) The social partners;*
- (d) Youth organisations and other non-governmental organisations at all levels;*
- (e) Higher education institutions and research institutes;*

(f) Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment;

3. For the purpose of the implementation of the Youth Initiative axis, the Commission shall establish cooperation with the Union Agencies referred to in Article 16(2a). The Commission may also establish cooperation with the international organisations that are referred to in Article 16(3) and with third countries not participating in the Programme, as provided for in Article 16(4).

(Youth Initiative Axis)

Amendment 170

Proposal for a regulation Title II a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Title IIa

Delegated and implementing powers and final provisions

Amendment 171

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26d

Multiannual work plans and Annual work programmes

1. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 26f establishing multiannual work plans for the Programme. The multiannual work plans shall lay down medium-term policy and funding priorities.

2. Commission shall adopt implementing acts, establishing annual work programmes to carry out the multiannual work plans. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the

examination procedure referred to in Article 26i(3).

3. The multiannual work plans and annual work programmes shall cover all axes of the Programme.

Amendment 172

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26e

Allocation of funds to the individual thematic sections within the axes

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 26f, concerning the allocation of funds to the individual thematic sections within the axes as stipulated in Articles 14a, 19a, 21a and 26a, [and the definition of areas for the use of unallocated funds in accordance with the Financial Regulation].

(The provision on the use of unallocated funds will be finalised once agreement is reached on the Financial Regulation)

Amendment 173

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26f

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Articles 26d and 26e shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of seven years from ...*.

3. The delegation of power referred to in Articles 26d and 26e may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or

by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or on a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

5. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Articles 26d and 26e shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

** OJ please insert the date of entry into force of this Regulation.*

Amendment 174

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26g

Strategic Advisory Board

1. The Commission shall establish a strategic advisory board to advise it, in a consultative capacity, in steering the implementation of the Programme, as well as its monitoring and evaluation. Where necessary the advisory board may set up working groups on specific aspects of the Programme.

2. The strategic advisory board and the working groups shall be chaired by the Commission and composed of representatives of Member States and other participating countries, trade unions, employers' organisations and civil society organisations, organised at Union level, which are directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of Programme activities.

3. Each Member State, other participating country and relevant organisation of trade unions, employers and civil society, organised at Union level, shall appoint a representative and an alternate to represent it on the strategic advisory board. In the absence of one member, the alternate shall be automatically entitled to take part in the proceedings.

4. The members and alternates shall be appointed for the period referred to in Article 1(2).

5. Where appropriate, the Commission shall endeavour to convene the meetings of the strategic advisory board in combination with the meetings of the committee referred to in Article 26i.

6. The strategic advisory board and the working groups shall:

(a) deliver its opinion on the draft multiannual work plans;

(b) deliver its opinion on draft annual work programmes;

(c) advise the Commission with regard to monitoring and evaluating the Programme, as set out in Articles 13 and 14 respectively.

7. The Commission may consult the strategic advisory board on questions other than those referred to in paragraph 6.

Amendment 175

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 26 h (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26h

Implementing powers conferred on the Commission

- 1. The annual work programme referred to in Article 26d shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 26i(3).**
- 2. All other measures necessary for the implementation of the Programme shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 26i(2).**

Amendment 176

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 26 i (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26i

Committee procedure

- 1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.**
- 2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.**
- 3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.**

Amendment 177

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 26 j (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 26j

Transitional measures

Actions referred to in Articles 4, 5 and 6

of Decision No 1672/2006/EC, which are initiated before 1 January 2014 shall continue to be governed by that Decision. With regard to those actions, the Commission shall be assisted by the Committee referred to in Article 26i of this Regulation.

Amendment 178

Proposal for a regulation Article 27 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall carry out a specific final evaluation of the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis no later than one year after the expiry of the agreements with the *international* financial institutions.

Amendment

2. The Commission shall carry out a specific final evaluation of the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis no later than one year after the expiry of the agreements with the financial institutions.