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A7-0250/ 001-124

AMENDMENTS 001-124

by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Report

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European Social Fund

A7-0250/2012

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2011)0607 – C7-0327/2011 – 2011/0268(COD))

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Regulation (EU) No [...] on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union lays down the general principles with regard to the implementation of the annual budget of the Union. It is therefore necessary to ensure consistency between that Regulation and the provisions governing the ESF.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2) The ESF should ***improve*** employment opportunities, promote education and life-long learning and ***develop*** active inclusion policies in accordance with the tasks

(2) The ESF ***must provide the support required for policies to promote and improve*** employment opportunities ***based on related rights, playing a major role in***

entrusted to the ESF by Article 162 of the Treaty, and thereby contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 of the Treaty. In accordance with Article 9 of the Treaty, the ESF should take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health.

strengthening social inclusion, fighting poverty, supporting the creation of sustainable and quality jobs, avoiding the support of precarious employment, to promote education and life-long learning and to support active, comprehensive and sustainable inclusion policies, in accordance with the tasks entrusted to the ESF by Article 162 of the Treaty, and thereby contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 of the Treaty. In accordance with Article 9 of the Treaty, the ESF ***should*** take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection ***that is accessible to all***, the fight against social exclusion ***and inequality***, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) The European Council of 17 June 2010 called for all common policies, including cohesion policy, to support the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". In order to ensure the full alignment of the ESF with the objectives of this strategy, particularly as regards employment, education, and the fight against social exclusion, the ESF should support Member States in implementing the Council recommendations on broad guidelines for economic policies of the Member States and the Union and the Council decisions on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States adopted in accordance with Articles 121 and 148(4) of the Treaty. It should also ***contribute to*** the implementation of the flagship initiatives, with special regard to the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs", "Youth on the Move", and

Amendment

(3) The European Council of 17 June 2010 called for all common policies, including cohesion policy, to support the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". In order to ensure the full alignment of the ESF with the objectives of this strategy, particularly as regards employment, education, ***training*** and the fight against social exclusion, ***poverty and discrimination*** the ESF ***must*** support Member States in implementing the Council recommendations on broad guidelines for economic policies of the Member States and the Union and the Council decisions on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States adopted in accordance with Articles 121(2) and 148(4) of the Treaty. It should also ***support*** the implementation of the flagship initiatives, with special regard to the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs", "Youth

the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion". It **will also support** the activities in the "Digital Agenda" and the "Innovation Union" initiatives.

on the Move", and the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion". It **should also contribute to** the activities in the "Digital Agenda" and the "Innovation Union" **flagship** initiatives **as well as to the 'Youth Opportunities Initiative'**.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(4) The European Union is confronted with structural **and demographic** challenges arising from economic globalisation, technological change and an increasingly ageing workforce and growing skills **mismatches** and labour shortages in some sectors and regions. They have been compounded by the recent economic and financial crisis, which has resulted in increased levels of unemployment, hitting in particular young people and other vulnerable groups, such as migrants, **minorities and people living in disadvantaged micro-regions**. The ESF **must** aim to promote employment, **paying particular attention to those who are the furthest from the labour market, to** support **voluntary** labour mobility **and to** invest in education, skills and life-long learning, **all of which will contribute to greater** social inclusion and poverty **reduction**. In promoting the better functioning of labour markets by enhancing the transnational geographical mobility of workers, the ESF should, in particular, support European Employment Services (EURES activities) **and related EURES activities, especially the EURES cross-border partnerships, to complement national employment services**, in relation to recruitment and the related information, advice and guidance services at national and cross-border level, **and pre-professional support and supplement the financial resources provided in the**

Amendment 5

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) The ESF has the potential to add value, especially in the current economic climate, by focusing on improving employment opportunities and investing in skills. The ESF must not support actions that go beyond its legal basis to other social policy areas, but it is more important to refocus the fund to support growth and job creation, which will, among other benefits, result in greater inclusion and poverty reduction.

Amendment 6

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) In addition to ***these*** priorities, in ***the less developed*** regions and Member States, and with a view to ***increasing economic*** growth and employment opportunities, the efficiency of public administration should be improved and the institutional capacity of stakeholders delivering employment, education and social policies should be strengthened.

(5) In addition to ***the thematic*** priorities of ***Article 9 in the Regulation (EU) No (CPR...)***, in regions and Member States, and with a view to ***achieving sustainable*** growth and employment opportunities, the efficiency of public administration ***at national and regional level, as well as the ability of a public administration to act in a participative matter***, should be improved and the institutional capacity of stakeholders delivering employment, education, ***training, socio-cultural*** and social policies, ***as well as working in the field of anti-discrimination***, should be strengthened, ***with special emphasis on NGOs.***

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) At the same time, it is crucial to support the development **and** competitiveness of European small and medium-sized enterprises and to ensure that people can adapt, through acquiring appropriate skills and through lifelong learning opportunities, to new challenges such as the shift to a knowledge-based economy, the digital agenda, and the transition to a low-carbon and more energy-efficient economy. By pursuing its primary thematic objectives, the ESF should contribute to addressing these challenges. In this context, the ESF should support the labour force transition towards **greener** skills and jobs, in particular in the energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport sectors, taking into account the Union's intention to increase the proportion of the EU budget that is related to climate mainstreaming to at least 20%, with contributions from different policy fields.

Amendment

(6) At the same time, it is crucial to support the **on-going** development, competitiveness **and pan-European mobility** of European **micro-, small and medium-sized** enterprises, **including cultural and creative undertakings, in order to create quality and sustainable jobs and to** ensure that people can adapt, through acquiring appropriate skills and through lifelong learning opportunities, **to changing economic and social conditions** as well as new challenges such as the shift to a knowledge-based economy, the digital agenda, and the transition to a low-carbon and more energy-efficient economy. By pursuing its primary thematic objectives, the ESF should contribute to addressing these challenges. In this context, the ESF should support the labour force transition **from education to employment** towards **sustainable** skills and jobs **and addressing growing skills shortages, thereby creating employment opportunities**, in particular in the energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport sectors, taking into account the Union's intention to increase the proportion of the EU budget that is related to climate mainstreaming to at least 20 %, with contributions from different policy fields. **The ESF should also contribute to cultural and creative skills in order to optimize labour market competitiveness.**

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) Prior to the drafting of partnership

contracts and Operational Programmes, the Commission and the Member States should jointly work out guidelines on how the ESF is to deliver on the poverty reduction target through integrated and socially inclusive approaches.

With the aim of making progress towards the achievement of the poverty reduction target and ensuring a real monitoring of this target, Member States should be required to set the indicators used in the ESF Operational Programmes in line with the ones of the Social OMC. Each year, Member States should report in their National Reform Programmes underpinned by the National Social Reports and the National Roma Strategies the initiatives taken at national level through the ESF to contribute to the delivery on the poverty reduction target.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) The ESF **should** contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy, ensuring greater concentration of support on the priorities of the European Union. The ESF **should** in particular increase its support for the fight against social exclusion and poverty, through a minimum ring-fenced allocation. According to the level of development of the supported regions, the choice and number of investment priorities for ESF support **should** also be limited.

Amendment

(7) The ESF **must** contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy, ensuring greater concentration of support on the priorities of the European Union **and support the Member States in implementing the reforms set out in their National Reform Programmes. A minimum share for the ESF for each category of regions is established in accordance with Article 84 (3) of Regulation (EU) No...(CPR...), resulting in a minimum overall share for the ESF of 25 % of the budget allocated to cohesion policy.** The ESF **must** in particular increase its support for the fight against social exclusion and poverty, through a minimum ring-fenced allocation **of 20 % of the whole ESF resources of each Member State.** According to the level of development of the supported regions, the choice and number of investment

priorities for ESF support **must** also be limited.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7a) The ESF should increasingly support gender equality through investment in care services, employment opportunities for women, education and skills upgrading, and the combating of violence against women. The ESF should also redress the multiple discrimination faced by, among others, migrant women, Roma women, women with disabilities, lesbians and older women.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) As monitoring and evaluation are vitally important for the ESF, an extended and well-founded set of indicators is needed which clearly show where progress has been achieved and which also demonstrate areas where the use of funds has not contributed to the achievement of the goals and objectives. Evaluation of the achievement of goals and objectives should also take into consideration alternative national reports prepared by NGOs. In this respect, not only data concerning employment and education, but also statistics on the different faces of poverty and social exclusion, such as unequal access to information, goods and services, and the changes in the conditions linked to them are needed. These are necessary at Member State level in order to complement Laeken indicators as an

*approach for poverty mapping.
Furthermore, disaggregated data
concerning the situation of the Roma are
also necessary.*

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(9) Efficient and effective implementation of actions supported by the ESF depends on good governance and partnership between all relevant territorial and socio-economic actors, **taking into account those who act at the regional and local levels**, in particular the **umbrella associations representing local and regional authorities, organised civil society, economic and social partners by granting them a defined part of allocation which may take the form of a global grant**. Member States **shall ensure** the participation **and the activation** of social partners and non-governmental organisations in the **strategic governance of ESF, from shaping priorities for operational programmes, including programmes whose management is entrusted to an intermediate body, to implementing and evaluating ESF results. Besides that, Member States shall allocate an appropriate level of financial allocations of Technical Assistance under the ESF pursuant to Article 52 of Regulation [...] [CPR] directly to all the partners referred to in Article 5 in Regulation [...] [CPR], in particular to social partners and civil society organisations, in order to facilitate the involvement and participation of these partners in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and operations and to support their capacity building in accordance with the European Code of**

Conduct on Partnership.

Amendment 13

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9a) Taking into consideration the fact that, in order to assure employment and social cohesion, an integrated and holistic approach is needed, the ESF should support cross-sectoral and transnational cooperation and territorial-based partnerships.

Amendment 14

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 10**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(10) The Member States and the Commission should ensure that the implementation of the priorities financed by the ESF contribute to the promotion of equality between women and men in accordance with Article 8 of the Treaty. Evaluations have shown the importance of taking the gender aspect into account in all dimensions of programmes, while ensuring that specific actions are taken to promote gender equality.

(10) The Member States and the Commission should ensure that the implementation of the priorities financed by the ESF contribute to the promotion of equality between women and men in accordance with Article 8 of the Treaty. Evaluations have shown the importance of taking the gender ***equality objectives*** aspect into account in all dimensions ***and in all stages of the planning, preparation, monitoring and implementation*** of programmes ***in a timely and consistent manner***, while ensuring that specific actions are taken to promote gender equality ***and economic independence of women***.

Amendment 15

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11**

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) In accordance with Article 10 of the Treaty, the implementation of the priorities financed by the ESF should contribute to combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The ESF should support the fulfilment of the obligation under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with regard inter alia to education, work and employment and accessibility. The ESF should also promote the transition from institutional to community-based care.

Amendment

(11) In accordance with Article 10 of the Treaty, the implementation of the priorities financed by the ESF should contribute to combating discrimination based on sex, ***gender identity***, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation ***by paying particular attention to those facing multiple discriminations; and it should also contribute to promoting equal opportunities***. The ESF should support the fulfilment of the obligation under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with regard inter alia to education, work and employment and accessibility. The ESF should also promote the ***implementation of the relevant Union policies and the*** transition from institutional to community-based care.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Support for social innovation is crucial for making policies more responsive to social change and to encourage and support innovative social enterprises. In particular, testing and evaluating innovative solutions before scaling them up is instrumental in improving the efficiency of the policies and thus justifies specific support from the ESF.

Amendment

(12) Support for social innovation is crucial for making policies more responsive to social change and ***promote voluntary corporate social responsibility. Particular attention should be paid to the participation of vulnerable groups. The ESF should*** encourage and support innovative social enterprises ***and entrepreneurs and projects taken on by non-governmental organisations and other actors within the social economy. Social innovation should provide responses to social current and future needs that are unmet or insufficiently met in terms of combating poverty and social exclusion, promoting a high level of quality employment and decent work, guaranteeing adequate and poverty preventing social protection, and***

improving working conditions, thereby contributing to social progress. In particular, testing and evaluating innovative solutions before scaling them up is instrumental in improving the efficiency of the policies and thus justifies specific support from the ESF. ***Further, successful social policy experimentations, financed through the Programme for Social Change and Innovation, should be pursued on a wider scale with financial support from the ESF.***

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13a) Part of the 20 % of the ESF budget allocated to ‘promoting social inclusion and combating poverty’ shall be used to fund exchanges concerning transnational social inclusion experiments aimed at excluded groups in society. These experiments shall be carried out at regional level as part of initiatives involving public authorities, the social partners and voluntary associations in the regions concerned.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13b) The European Social Fund should promote popular sports.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) The mobilisation of regional and local stakeholders is necessary to deliver the Europe 2020 Strategy and its headline targets. Territorial pacts, local initiatives for employment and social inclusion, community-led local development strategies and sustainable urban development strategies may be used and supported to involve more actively regional and local authorities, cities, social partners and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of programmes.

Amendment

(14) The mobilisation of regional and local stakeholders is necessary to deliver the Europe 2020 Strategy and its headline targets. Territorial pacts, local initiatives for employment and social inclusion, **sustainable** community-led local development strategies and sustainable urban **as well as rural** development strategies **should** be used and supported to involve more actively regional and local authorities, cities, social partners and non-governmental organisations in the **programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation** of programmes.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) With a view to simplifying the use of the ESF and reducing the risk of errors, and with regard to the specificities of the operations supported by the ESF, it is appropriate to lay down provisions which complement Articles 57 and 58 of Regulation (EU) No [...].

Amendment

(16) With a view to simplifying the use of the ESF and reducing the risk of errors, and with regard to the specificities of the operations supported by the ESF, it is appropriate to lay down provisions which complement Articles 57 and 58 of Regulation (EU) No [...]. **Improving implementation and quality of spending**

should constitute the guiding principles for achieving the objectives of the programme, ensuring optimal use of the financial resources.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) The use of lump sums and standard scales of unit costs, as provided for in Articles 116 and 116a of the Financial Regulation, should lead to simplification for the beneficiary and should lower the administrative burden for all ESF project partners. Potential residual balances of lump sums should remain with the project partner.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16b) It is important to ensure the sound financial management of the programme and its implementation in the most effective and user-friendly manner possible, while also ensuring legal certainty and the accessibility of the instrument to all participants. Since activities with the ESF are carried out under shared management, Member States should refrain from adding additional rules which complicate the use of funds for the beneficiary.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) The Member States and regions should be encouraged to leverage the ESF through financial instruments ***in order to support for example students, job creation, mobility of workers, social inclusion and social entrepreneurship.***

Amendment

(17) The Member States and regions should be encouraged to leverage the ESF through financial instruments ***if this helps to increase the effectiveness of actions or completes actions of other Union instruments such as the PSCI, the EGF and the ERDF.***

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17a) The ESF 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 ESF, other Union programmes and the Structural Funds, in particular the Programme for Social Change and Innovation.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) The power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission ***for*** establishing the definition of standard scales of unit costs and lump sums and their maximum amounts according to different types of operations and ***for*** defining the specific rules and conditions of policy-based guarantees. It is of particular importance that the Commission carries out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert

Amendment

(18) The power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission ***in respect of*** establishing the definition, ***which should be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulation,*** of standard scales of unit costs and lump sums and their maximum amounts according to different types of operations and ***in respect of*** defining the specific rules and conditions of policy-based guarantees. It is of particular importance that the

level. The Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, should ensure the simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and the Council.

Commission carries out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level. The Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, **must** ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and to the Council.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18a) In its resolution of 8 June 2011 "Investing in the future: a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe", Parliament considered that "one of the great challenges facing the European Union is that of maintaining its competitiveness, increasing growth, combating high unemployment, focusing on properly functioning labour markets and on social conditions to improve employment performance, promoting decent work and guarantee workers' rights throughout Europe as well as working conditions and reducing poverty";

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18d) Regional policy is an essential means of fostering economic and social cohesion, as it enables the Union to take measures to reduce regional disparities, promote real convergence, and stimulate development, high-quality employment, and social progress, while also benefiting less developed regions.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18f) Not just the Structural and Cohesion Funds, but all Union policies and actions should be consistent with the goal of economic, social, and territorial cohesion. It is therefore necessary to take into account how the enforcement of economic and monetary policies, and of policies to liberalise domestic and international markets, is making itself felt in terms of cohesion and convergence policy, especially as regards micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in the individual Member States.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18 g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18g) The ESF aims to reduce disparities in living conditions in terms of Member States and regions with a view to promoting economic and social cohesion. Funding criteria need to be revised so as to enable the ESF to be used more readily by financially weaker Member States.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation Recital 19 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(19a) The effect of ESF investments on equal opportunities, equal access and integration of the marginalised groups has to be examined and reported concerning all Operative Programmes. The Member States should report ESF-funded initiatives with regard to marginalised Communities and migrants in their National Social Reports annexed to National Reform Programmes. Member States should detail in their National Roma Strategy the contribution of the ESF to the social-economic integration of Roma people and report annually the initiatives taken in this field in the National Social Reports annexed to the National Reform Programmes.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Mission

Missions

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The ESF shall promote high levels of employment and job quality, support the geographical and occupational mobility of workers, **facilitate their adaptation to change**, encourage a high level of education and training, **promote gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, enhance social inclusion and combat poverty, thereby contributing to the priorities of the European Union** as regards **strengthening** economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Amendment

1. The ESF shall promote high levels of employment, **job creation, adaptation and preservation** and job quality, support the **voluntary** geographical and occupational mobility of workers, encourage a high level of education and training **that is available to all age groups, enhance the transition between education and employment for young people, and facilitate workers' adaptation to change in companies and production systems needed for sustainable development. The ESF shall also contribute to enhancing** economic, social and territorial cohesion **in the Union, to combating poverty and social exclusion, to promoting gender equality and equal opportunities and to fighting against discrimination.**

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

2. It shall do so by supporting Member States in pursuing the **priorities and** headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth **and by allowing Member States to address their specific bottlenecks with regard to achieving the Europe 2020 objectives.** The ESF shall support the design and implementation of policies and actions **in connection with its missions**, taking account of the integrated guidelines for the economic and employment policies of Member States and the Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes **and the strategies, as well as progress reflected in the National Social**

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The ESF shall benefit people, **including** disadvantaged **groups** such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, migrants, **ethnic** minorities, marginalised communities and people facing social exclusion. The ESF shall also provide support to enterprises, systems and structures with a view to facilitating their adaptation to new challenges and promoting good governance and the implementation of reforms, in particular in the fields of employment, education and social policies.

Amendment

3. The ESF shall benefit people, **providing support, among others, for individuals and groups systematically excluded from the labour market and from education and training, being at risk of poverty**, such as the long-term unemployed, **young people who have left school without acquiring any qualifications or young people who have been unemployed longer than four months, children living in poverty**, people with disabilities, migrants **and asylum-seekers, refugees**, minorities, marginalised communities and people **of all ages** facing social exclusion **and poverty**. The ESF shall also provide support to **workers, enterprises, including actors in the social economy, and entrepreneurs, as well as to** systems and structures, with a view to facilitating their adaptation to new challenges, **including growing skill mismatches**, and promoting good governance, **social progress** and the implementation of reforms, in particular in the fields of employment, education and social policies **and initial and continuing vocational training**.

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Under the thematic objectives listed below, and in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...], the ESF shall support the following investment priorities:

Amendment

1. Under the thematic objectives in Article 9, **points (8), (9), (10), (11)** of Regulation (EU) No [CPR...], **listed accordingly below in (a), (c), (b) and (d), and in accordance with its mission**, the ESF shall support the

following investment priorities:

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a - introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility through:

Amendment

(1) (a) ***For the thematic objective 'Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting voluntary labour mobility'*** through:

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point (i)

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(1) (i) Access to employment for job-seekers ***and the long-term unemployed, stimulating access to employment for inactive people or people who are far from the labour market***, including local employment initiatives and support for ***voluntary*** labour mobility;

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(2) (ii) Sustainable integration of young people not in employment, education or training, ***especially from marginalized communities and without qualifications***, into the labour market;

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point ii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3) (iia) Integration of people with disabilities into employment, education or training;

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iii) Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation;

(iii) Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation **through a labour market policy that is close to businesses, small and micro-enterprises, of all kind**

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iv

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

(iv) **Reconciliation** between work, **family** and private life **and equality between men and women in access to employment, career progression, entrepreneurship and promotion of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;**

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point vi

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

(vi) **Improvement of the quality of employment, working conditions, the working environment and health and**

safety at work and support for healthy and active ageing;

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point (vii)

Text proposed by the Commission

(vii) Modernisation and strengthening of labour market institutions, including actions to enhance transnational labour mobility;

Amendment

(vii) Modernisation and strengthening of labour market institutions, **public and private employment services**, including actions to enhance transnational labour mobility **including networking of relevant stakeholders**;

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b - introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(i) Reducing **and preventing** early **school leaving** and promoting equal access to **good quality inclusive** early-childhood **development programs**, primary and secondary education, **and informal and non-formal learning opportunities, allowing them to rejoin education and training pathways**;

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(ii) Improving the quality, efficiency, ***interconnection*** and openness of tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels ***and promoting equal access for disadvantaged social groups***;

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(iii) Enhancing ***non-discriminatory*** access to lifelong learning, upgrading the skills, ***formal and informal knowledge, qualifications*** and competences of the workforce and increasing the labour market relevance of education and training systems ***for all age groups as well as creating and developing dual learning systems, including apprenticeship*** ;

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation

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

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iiia) Improving the matching to the needs of the labour market of education and training systems, youth services, vocational training, the networking of higher education establishments, training and research centres and companies, better transition between education, vocational training and employment, including through the development of tools for anticipating required skills, the

reaction capacity of education and training systems and education and career guidance;

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty through:

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

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point (i)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(i) Active inclusion;

(i) Active inclusion ***of all persons***;

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point i a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ia) Combating poverty of persons at risk, regardless of their age, with a focus on prevention and early identification;

Amendment 56

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point i b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ib) Promoting children rights and well-being, so as to protect children at risk and combat child poverty;

Amendment 57

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point i c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ic) Promoting active ageing without poverty, with particular regard to women;

Amendment 58

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

(ii) ***Comprehensive socio-economic integration*** of marginalised communities such as the Roma;

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

(iii) Combating ***all forms of*** discrimination and ***promoting the rights of people suffering discrimination*** based on sex, ***gender identity***, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation ***and ensuring equal opportunities***;

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point iv

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iv) Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest;

(iv) Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality ***public*** services ***including community-based services***, including health care, ***early***

childhood education and social services of general interest;

Amendment 61

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point v

Text proposed by the Commission

(v) Promoting the social economy and social enterprises;

Amendment

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

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point vi

Text proposed by the Commission

(vi) Community-led local development strategies;

Amendment

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

Amendment 63

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c – point vi a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(via) Promoting creativity and innovation by supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in leading sectors, including the cultural and creative sectors, and certain non-governmental and cooperative organisations;

Amendment 64

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 65

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) (i) Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance;

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

Amendment

(5) (i) Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services ***at national, regional and local level*** with a view to reforms, better regulation and ***good*** governance.

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

Amendment 66

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(ii) Capacity building for stakeholders, ***including social partners and non-governmental organisations delivering education, lifelong learning, training and*** employment and social policies, ***including by means of*** sectoral, ***national*** and

territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at national, regional and local level;

Amendment 67

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 68

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies, through the development of digital literacy, investment in e-inclusion, e-skills and related entrepreneurial skills;

Amendment

(b) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies, through the development of digital literacy, investment in e-inclusion, e-skills and related entrepreneurial skills, **including in applications intended to promote, and to make better use of, tangible and intangible cultural heritage and cultural tourism**;

Amendment 69

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation, through the

Amendment

(c) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation **including**

development of post-graduate studies, the training of researchers, networking activities and partnerships between higher education institutions, research and technological centres and enterprises;

innovatory networks in the socio-cultural and creative sector, through the development of post-graduate studies ***and business skills***, the training of researchers, networking activities and partnerships between higher education institutions, research and technological centres and enterprises;

Amendment 70

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, through promoting the adaptability of enterprises and workers and increased investment in human capital.

Amendment

(d) Enhancing the competitiveness ***and long-term development*** of small and medium-sized enterprises, through promoting the adaptability of enterprises, ***senior managers*** and workers and increased investment in human capital ***and support for bodies providing practical vocational training including training for young people and learning schemes***.

Amendment 71

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

1. Member States shall ensure that the strategy and actions set out in the Operational Programmes are consistent and ***respond to*** the challenges identified in ***their national strategies that aim to fight unemployment, poverty and social exclusion, such as their*** National Reform Programmes, ***National Social Reports, National Roma Strategies, National Employment Strategies, National Disability Strategies and*** the relevant Council Recommendations made under Article 148(4) of the Treaty, in order to contribute to achieving the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy on

employment, education and poverty reduction.

Amendment 72

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 3 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) For more developed regions, Member States shall concentrate 80 % of the ESF allocation to each operational programme on up to four of the investment priorities set out in Article 3(1).

Amendment

(a) For more developed regions, Member States shall concentrate 80 % of the ESF allocation to each operational programme on up to four of the investment priorities set out in Article 3(1) ***or, in response to specific needs, on up to six thereof provided that investment priorities are identified after consulting the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No[...];***

Amendment 73

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) For transition regions, Member States shall concentrate 70 % of the ESF allocation to each operational programme on up to four of the investment priorities set out in Article 3(1).

Amendment

(b) For transition regions, Member States shall concentrate 70 % of the ESF allocation to each operational programme on up to four of the investment priorities set out in Article 3(1) ***or, in response to specific needs, on up to six thereof, provided that investment priorities are identified after consulting the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No[...];***

Amendment 74

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 3 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) For less developed regions, Member

Amendment

(c) For less developed regions, Member

States shall concentrate 60 % of the ESF allocation to each operational programme on up to four of the investment priorities set out in Article 3(1).

States shall concentrate 60 % of the ESF allocation to each operational programme on up to four of the investment priorities set out in Article 3(1) ***or, in response to specific needs, on up to six thereof, provided that investment priorities are identified after consulting the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No[...];***

Amendment 75

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

Common indicators as set out in the Annex to this Regulation and ***quantitative and qualitative*** indicators ***established in the context of the various operational programmes*** shall be used in accordance with Article 24(3) and 87(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All indicators shall be expressed in absolute numbers ***and, whenever applicable, data shall be broken down by gender.***

Amendment 76

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 77

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 78

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 79

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 80

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

The Member States and the Commission shall promote equality between men and women through mainstreaming ***throughout the preparation and implementation of the programmes***, as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...]. ***The ESF shall also support*** specific targeted actions as referred to in Article,3, ***and, in particular, in Article 3***(1)(a)(iv), with the aim of increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment, reducing gender-based segregation in the labour market, combating gender stereotypes in education and training, ***combating gender-specific stereotypes of occupational profiles and professions, addressing the feminisation of poverty***, promoting reconciliation of work and personal life for all and ***equal sharing of care responsibilities between women*** and

men.

Member States shall ensure that gender equality is promoted at all stages of the operational programmes by means of gender budgeting assessments.

Amendment 81

Proposal for a regulation Article 8

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

The ESF must not support any actions that strengthen social inequalities or favour segregation.

Amendment 82

Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 83

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 84

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 3**

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

3. The Commission shall facilitate capacity building for social innovation, in particular through supporting mutual learning, establishing networks, disseminating **and promoting** good practices and methodologies, **including as regards common criteria for the award of social labels to enterprises on a voluntary basis**.

Amendment 85

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

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Member States shall support transnational cooperation with the aim of promoting mutual learning and thereby increasing the effectiveness of policies supported by the ESF. Transnational cooperation shall involve partners from at least two Member States.

Amendment

1. Member States shall support transnational cooperation with the aim of promoting mutual learning and thereby increasing the effectiveness of policies supported by the ESF. Transnational cooperation shall involve partners, ***which may include local and urban authorities***, from at least two Member States.

Amendment 86

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

2. In order to identify areas and forms of transnational cooperation corresponding to their specific needs, Member States ***shall consult the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No [...] and*** may select themes from a list proposed by the Commission and endorsed by the ESF Committee ***provided for in Article 163(2) of the Treaty.***

Amendment 87

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 3**

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

timing of actions, and common methodological approaches for monitoring and evaluation, with a view to facilitating transnational cooperation.

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

Amendment 88

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. By way of derogation from Article 110(3) of Regulation (EU) No [...], the maximum co-financing rate for a priority axis shall be increased by ten percentage points, but not exceeding 100%, where the whole of a priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or a combination of both.

Amendment

2. By way of derogation from Article 110(3) of Regulation (EU) No [...], the maximum co-financing rate for a priority axis shall be increased by ten percentage points, but not exceeding 100 %, where the whole of a priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or a combination of both *or refer to Article 6(1), or where parts of programmes are managed by non-governmental organisations or social partners.*

Amendment 89

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

Does not affect English version

Amendment 90

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

1. The ESF *should* support community-led local development strategies, as referred to in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No [...], territorial pacts and local initiatives for employment, *including youth*

inclusion, as well as Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) as referred to in Article 99 of Regulation (EU) No [...].

employment, education and social inclusion, as well as Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) as referred to in Article 99 of Regulation (EU) No [...].

Amendment 91

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

2. Complementing ERDF interventions as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF], the ESF may support sustainable urban **and rural** development through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental and social challenges affecting urban areas of cities **and rural areas** which are listed in the partnership contract. ***To ensure complementarity with the ERDF and to facilitate access to Structural Funds for small NGOs, the ESF may be used as lead fund for integrated social inclusion projects combining social infrastructures and accompanying services in deprived areas.***

Amendment 92

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

For this purpose the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 16 concerning the type of operations covered, the definitions of the standard scales of unit costs and lump sums and their maximum amounts, which may be adjusted according to the applicable commonly agreed methods.

Amendment

For this purpose the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 16 concerning the type of operations covered, the definitions of the standard scales of unit costs and lump sums and their maximum amounts, which may be adjusted according to the applicable commonly agreed methods, ***taking due account of experience gained during the previous programming period.***

Amendment 93

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Grants reimbursed on the basis of the eligible cost of operations, determined in the way of flat-rate financing, standard scales of unit costs and lump sums as referred to in Article 57(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...] may be calculated on a case-by-case basis by reference to a draft budget agreed ex ante by the Managing Authority, where the **public support** does not exceed EUR 100 000.

Amendment

3. Grants reimbursed on the basis of the eligible cost of operations, determined in the way of flat-rate financing, standard scales of unit costs and lump sums as referred to in Article 57(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...] may be calculated on a case-by-case basis by reference to a draft budget agreed ex ante by the Managing Authority, where the **amount co-financed by the Union** does not exceed EUR 100 000.

Amendment 94

Article 14 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Grants for which the **public support** does not exceed EUR 50 000 shall take the form of lump sums or standard scales of unit costs in accordance with paragraph 1 or Article 57 of Regulation (EU) No [...], except for operations receiving support within the framework of a state aid scheme.

Amendment

4. Grants for which the **amount co-financed by the Union** does not exceed EUR 50 000 shall take the form of lump sums or standard scales of unit costs in accordance with paragraph 1 or Article 57 of Regulation (EU) No [...], except for operations receiving support within the framework of a state aid scheme.

Amendment 95

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Amendment 96

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 16 *to define* the specific rules and conditions for the applications of Member States, including ceilings, for policy-based guarantees, ensuring in particular that their use does not lead to excessive levels of debt of public bodies.

Amendment

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 16, ***defining*** the specific rules and conditions for the applications of Member States, including ceilings, for policy-based guarantees, ensuring in particular that their use does not lead to excessive levels of debt of public bodies. ***Those delegated acts shall comply with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No [...] on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union.***

Amendment 97

Proposal for a regulation
Annex 1 – point 1 – paragraph 1 – point 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· persons below 25 years of age, who are either in a job, education or (re-)training within four months after leaving school

Amendment 98

Proposal for a regulation
Annex 1 – point 1 – paragraph 1 – point 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· persons above 54 years of age suffering from severe material deprivation

Amendment 99

Proposal for a regulation
Annex 1 – point 1 – paragraph 1 – point 11

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· migrants, people with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the

migrants, **asylum seekers, refugees,** people with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised

Roma)**

communities such as the Roma)**

Amendment 100

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 1 – paragraph 1 – point 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· people or persons from the most disadvantaged microregions, at risk of poverty (median income) or suffering from severe material deprivation

Amendment 101

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 1 – paragraph 1 – point 12 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· homeless people

Amendment 102

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 1 – paragraph 1 – point 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· from rural areas

Amendment 103

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 1 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Common indicators concerning the administration of ESF funds in the Member States:

· number of staff committed to managing, granting and controlling ESF-Funds in the respective Member States

All data are to be broken down by the

corresponding NUTS levels.

Amendment 104

Proposal for a regulation Annex – point 1 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

These data on participants entering an ESF supported operation are to be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 44(1) and (2) and Article 101(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All data are to be broken down by gender.

Amendment

These data on participants entering an ESF supported operation are to be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 44(1) and (2) and Article 101(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All data are to be broken down by gender **and by NUTS level.**

Amendment 105

Proposal for a regulation Annex 1 – point 2 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

· number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations

Amendment

· number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations **or other stakeholders**

Amendment 106

Proposal for a regulation Annex – point 2 – point 1a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

· number of projects targeting public

Amendment

· **number of projects that increase the sustainable participation and advancement of women in employment**

Amendment 107

Proposal for a regulation Annex 1 – point 2 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

· number of projects targeting public

Amendment

· number of projects targeting public

administrations or public services

administrations or public services *at national, regional and local level*

Amendment 108

Proposal for a regulation Annex 1 – point 2 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

· number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises **supported**

Amendment

· number of **supported** micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, **cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy which are under female leadership or having a majority of women in the executive or supervisory board**

Amendment 109

Proposal for a regulation Annex 1 – point 2 – point 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· **number of projects in poorest districts**

Amendment 110

Proposal for a regulation Annex 1 – point 2 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

These data are to be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 44(1) and (2) and Article 101(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...].

Amendment

These data are to be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 44(1) and (2) and Article 101(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. **All data without specific gender relevance shall also be broken down by gender and by NUTS level.**

Amendment 111

Proposal for a regulation Annex 1 – point 3 – point 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· percentage of participants and service users from disadvantaged groups of people in education, training , gaining qualifications, in employment or in voluntary work upon leaving

Amendment 112

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 3 – point 4 b(new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· participants lifted above the relative poverty line and out of severe material deprivation

Amendment 113

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 3 – point 4 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· women remaining in a precarious jobs situation

Amendment 114

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 3 – point 4 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· percentage of disabled participants in employment, after receiving support

Amendment 115

Proposal for a regulation

Annex – point 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

These data are to be provided in the annual

These data are to be provided in the annual

implementation reports as specified in Article 44(1) and (2) and Article 101(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All data are to be broken down by gender.

implementation reports as specified in Article 44(1) and (2) and Article 101(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All data are to be broken down by gender **and by NUTS level**.

Amendment 116

Proposal for a regulation Annex – point 4 – point 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· statistics indicating a reduction in gender-based segregation in the labour market

Amendment 117

Proposal for a regulation Annex 1 – point 4 – point 3 b(new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· participants, one year after leaving, in an improved labour market situation, in part-time, full-time employment or in self-employment

Amendment 118

Proposal for a regulation Annex 1 – point 4 – point 3 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· participants, 1 year after leaving, lifted above and living above the relative poverty line or lifted out of severe material deprivation

Amendment 119

Proposal for a regulation Annex – point 4 – point 3 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· statistics indicating that gender stereotypes in education and training are being successfully combated

Amendment 120

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 4 – point 3 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· participants who became independent from benefits

Amendment 121

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 4 – point 3 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· women, one year after leaving, who remain in precarious job situations or being economically independent

Amendment 122

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 4 – point 3 g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· percentage of persons above 54 years of age suffering from severe material deprivation

Amendment 123

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – point 4 – point 3 h (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

· percentage of disabled participants in employment after one year receiving

Amendment 124

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

Text proposed by the Commission

These data are to be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 44(4) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. They are to be collected based on a representative sample of participants within each priority axis. Internal validity of the sample should be ensured in such a way that the data can be generalised at the level of priority axis. All data are to be broken down by gender.

Amendment

These data are to be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 44(4) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. They are to be collected based on a representative sample of participants within each priority axis. Internal validity of the sample should be ensured in such a way that the data can be generalised at the level of priority axis. All data are to be broken down by gender ***and by NUTS level.***