ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) initiative will be implemented under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) on the basis of the existing Regulation. It is up to the Member States and regions to include the initiative in their ESF+ Operational Programmes for 2021-2027. Negotiations are still ongoing, but so far, more than half of the Member States have declared their intention to programme ALMA, dedicating an estimated EUR 270 million to the programme. The total funding made available for ALMA will only be known once all ESF+ Programmes are adopted. In addition, an EU-wide call for ALMA projects will be published in 2022 as part of the ESF Social Innovation+ initiative. EUR 15 million are available for this call.

Several information sessions on ALMA have already taken place, including a public high-level online event on 12 May 2022, with an introduction by the Vice-President of the European Commission for Promoting our European Way of Life, the participation of the Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, testimonials from beneficiaries of ESF actions in favour of young people, and support statement by several Ministers. Further information on ALMA has been provided in the ESF+ Committee, as well as in a number of technical meetings, with the aim of promoting the initiative’s implementation among Member States. The Commission is available to present the main components of the ALMA initiative on request.

As it involves mobility to another Member State, ALMA can also be implemented in the form of cross-border exchanges. Galicia has already committed to implementing the initiative, while the Portuguese authorities are still exploring the option to implement ALMA.