



## ENRF Briefing Note on the “Political agreement on the ESF+”



### European Social Funds - what it is and what it will provide

The European Parliament and the EU Member State reached an important agreement on the [EU Social Fund+ for 2021-2027](#), which has a fundamental role in the implementation of the principles from the [European Pillar for Social Rights](#), through actions in the area of employment, education & skills and social inclusion to improve and promote social inclusion, job opportunities and fighting poverty. The main aim of this agreement is to support and help the Member States to face up and overcome the economic crisis caused by the Corona virus pandemic, by reaching high employment levels, a resilient and qualified workforce able to start the transition to a green and digital economy.

**Nicolas Schmit**, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, said: *“The European Social Fund Plus invests in people. We need to create new job opportunities and grow a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the transition to a green and digital economy. The ESF+ will help Member States to rebuild a fairer and more inclusive society that tackles poverty and creates opportunities for everyone.”*

The ESF+ provides €90 billion allocated for the following topics:

#### 1. Supporting youth and children in countries with high risk of poverty

The agreement provides that 5% of ESF + resources will be allocated to EU countries with a high number of children at high risk of poverty with the aim of achieving equal access to health care and free education, decent housing and proper nutrition. In addition, Member States are expected to deal with youth unemployment which increases even more due to Covid-19. Among the measures proposed to overcome the problem are incentives for vocational training and education to facilitate the transition from school to the world of work.

#### 2. Food and basic material assistance

The European Parliament has foreseen that 3% of the budget will be invested to fight extreme poverty in the EU Member States. This part of the budget has been allocated to those States that need it most and plans to address the lack of food, basic material assistance and deprivation or the inability to pay the anticipated expenses.

#### 3. Supporting the social inclusion

The agreement requires Member States to make 25% of their ESF+ resources available to promote social inclusion and support the categories most at risk who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19, witnessing an automatic reduction in own income.

#### 4. Supporting social innovation

€ 676 million was allocated to create a new section called the "new occupation and social innovation strand of the ESF+" aiming to directly support the social innovation process.

**Rapporteur David Casa** (EPP, MT) said: *“I am confident that this money will target those who really need it: people without a job, those who want to improve their skills, children in poverty, and youth who should be given all the opportunities to work, train and study. This is a clear example of how the European Union makes a concrete, positive impact in the lives of its citizens.”*

[The EU long-term budget 2021-2027 and the NextGenerationEU](#) together, with a budget of € 1,8 trillion will help to raise Europe after the COVID-19 crisis with the aim of transforming it into a greener, more digitized and resilient country.

Nursing researchers are encouraged to work in a digital transformation environment that will allow them to advance in research and achieve great results. In this general framework, nurses and nursing research have the opportunity to play an important role. This agreement becomes a concrete hope for the achievement of a more just and inclusive society capable of valuing and welcoming others, which is the goal that nurses pursue every day through their skills, assistance and proximity to patients. Furthermore, the funds earmarked for professional training and education can be a great opportunity both for young people who want to become nurses and for improving the skills of those who already are managing to achieve greater resilience and competence so that we can face future adversities and challenges that will arise.

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