



ESF+ EaSI strand Work Programme 2026

EaSI Technical Working Group, 30/09/2026

EaSI strand 2026 Work Programme

- EaSI invests in:
 - *evidence-based policymaking, social innovation and social experimentation, supports job mobility as well as capacity building of stakeholders*
- To support:
 - *implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) mainly in the areas of employment and skills, labour markets and labour mobility, social protection, active inclusion and working conditions*

EaSI strand 2026 Work Programme

Policy context

- Commission Political Guidelines for 2024-2029, in the areas of employment, social inclusion, education and skills :
 - creating a Union of Skills (05/03/2025);
 - developing the first ever EU Anti-poverty strategy (2026);
 - putting forward a Quality Jobs Roadmap (CWP 2025)
 - creating a European Affordable Housing Plan;
 - facilitating digital and green transitions;
 - launching a new Pillar Action Plan (CWP 2025);
 - launching new Pact for European Social Dialogue;
 - Strengthening the Child Guarantee;
 - Rolling out the Social Climate Fund;
 - Tackle the root causes of demographic change;
 - Reduce regional disparities.

Priorities for the EaSI strand in 2026

Enhancing analytical knowledge: Labour Force Survey (LFS), cooperation with international organisations (OECD, WHO, ILO), several studies, data collection, evaluations, impact assessments, ...

Information sharing, mutual learning, peer reviews: Public Employment Services (PES), Mutual learning and communication activities in the area of social protection, including long-term care and pensions,

Social experimentations and social innovation: European Competence Centre for Social Innovation (including calls)

Mobility of workers: EURES TMS, EURES portal, ESCO, EESSI,...

Institutional capacity building, EU level networking and dialogue (f) EU level Social NGO Networks, Public Employment Services (PES) Network,...

International social and Labour standards: Political dialogues with key partners for Bilateral cooperation, cooperation with ILO,...

Budget of the EaSI strand in 2026

- Total Budget: € 121,4 m.
- Grants: € 36,7 m.
- Procurement: € 38 m.
- Transnational cooperation for social innovation: € 10,4 m.
- Indirect Management: 28,8 m.
- Other actions: 7,5 m.

EaSI strand in 2026 – Grants - Calls

- Annual operating grants to support EU level social NGO networks: promoting social inclusion and combating poverty by providing financial support (second annual operating grant of Framework Partnership Agreement 2026-2029) to EU-level networks of civil society organisations active in this area at local, regional, national and transnational level.
- EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme (TMS): to tackle labour shortages and hard-to-fill vacancies, combining tailor-made recruitment, matching, training and placement services with financial incentives.
- Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information

EaSI strand in 2026 – Direct Grants

- Events organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU (OSH, PES, MISSOC)
- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs Programme
- International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)

EaSI strand in 2026 – Procurement

- IT projects : ESCO, EESSI, EURES
- Expert Network for Analytical Support in Social Policies
- European centre of expertise in the field of labour law
- PES (Public Employment Services) network support
- Scientific studies
- Evaluations, Studies, Impact Assessments and data collection (in particular one study on in work poverty and in work benefits)
- Mutual Learning and capacity building (in particular in relation to anti-poverty and homelessness)
- Communication and awareness raising (flagship event, communication campaign, ...)

EaSI strand in 2026 – Transnational cooperation initiative for Social innovation

The transnational cooperation initiative for social innovation includes two work streams:

- A **grant program** supporting transnational projects focused on developing, validating, scaling-up and implementing social innovations, in particular addressing the **anti-poverty strategy and the European Child Guarantee**;
- The **European Competence Centre for Social Innovation**, which facilitates transnational cooperation and capacity building for ESF+ Managing Authorities and other relevant stakeholders. It will also collect, assess, develop, validate, and disseminate knowledge, tools, and methods for social innovation.

EaSI strand in 2026 – Indirect Management

Contribution Agreements with

- OECD:
 - Mainstreaming employment, skills, and social aspects in clean energy policies at international level
 - Job-to-job transitions and employment outcomes in the context of the Clean Industrial Deal: country-specific & econometric analysis
 - Analytical work on social protection in old age
 - Global Deal to promote capacity building for social dialogue and collective bargaining in third countries (Phase III)
 - Monitoring inequalities for inclusive policy responses
 - Inclusive and Social entrepreneurship
- CEB:
 - Strengthening national homelessness strategies

EaSI strand in 2025 – Indirect Management

Contribution Agreements with

- WHO:
 - International Programme on Chemical Safety
- ILO:
 - Ensuring decent work in global supply chains via due diligence and the promotion of international labour standards
 - Vision Zero Fund (VZF) on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in global supply chains (Phase IV)
 - Advancing decent work worldwide including through formalization and social dialogue
 - Just transition & **quality jobs**

EaSI strand in 2025 – Indirect Management

Contribution Agreements with

- CEB:
- Strengthening national homelessness strategies
 - Technical assistance to Member States. The objective is to translate existing national homelessness strategies into concrete project pipelines, with a particular emphasis on **Housing-First** and housing-led approaches

EaSI strand in 2026 – Other

Work with other Commission entities

- SLA with Joint research center (JRC): Support for data collection, analysis, training, studies and evaluations (in particular "Nowcasting of estimates of income and poverty – EUROMOD")
- SLA with European Chemicals Agency (ECHA): Scientific support for evaluation of chemicals at work
- Co-delegation to PMO and OP: Various meetings of standing, ad-hoc committees and other events and Publications

Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](#) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide **xx: element concerned**, source: [e.g. Fotolia.com](#); Slide **xx: element concerned**, source: [e.g. iStock.com](#)