

Cohesion policy 2007-2013

European Social Fund

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The European Social Fund

Investing in people

Part of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community in 1957.

The aim was:

- **to promote employment**
- **increase opportunities for workers.**

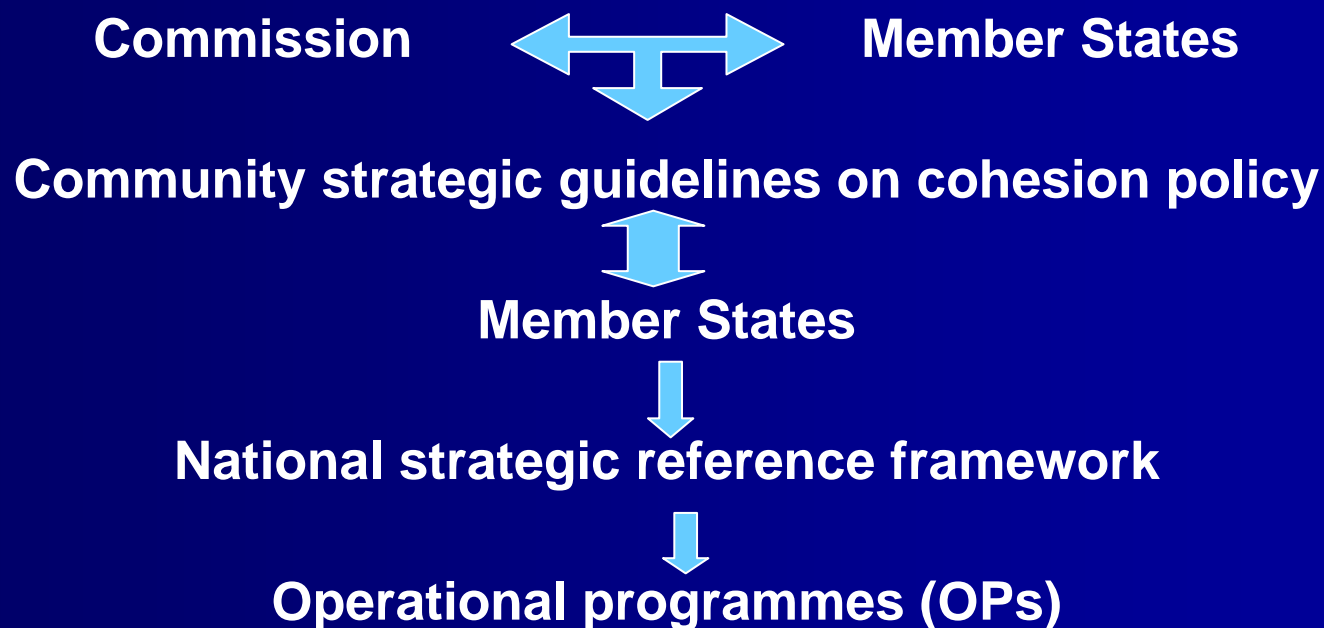
Fifty years later employment is still a top priority, only the Fund has evolved to meet new challenges.



Cohesion policy 2007-2013

More strategic vision

Stronger links between cohesion policy and the Lisbon agenda for growth and jobs



Simple, more efficient structure

■ 3 objectives

- convergence,
- regional competitiveness and employment,
- European territorial cooperation

■ 3 financial instruments

- ERDF
- ESF
- Cohesion Fund



The new European Social Fund

Major innovations

- **Supporting social partners – appropriate consultation with non-governmental stakeholders must be assured.**
- **Strengthening administrative capacity (incl. training, networking, strengthening social dialogue) – a priority given to convergence regions.**
 - ➔ **Better regulation, good governance**



New European Social Fund

Major innovations

- **Focus on innovation and transnational and interregional cooperation**



To stimulate transnational cooperation co-financing can be increased by 10%.

- **A list of non-eligible expenditure in the regulation**



Member States have more freedom to determine their own eligibility rules.



5 new priorities under both objectives

- **Increasing adaptability of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs**
- **Enhancing access to employment and the sustainable inclusion in the labour market of job seekers and inactive people**
- **Reinforcing social inclusion of disadvantaged people**
- **Enhancing human capital**
- **Promoting partnerships, pacts and initiatives through networking of relevant stakeholders**



2 new priorities under the convergence objective

- **Expanding and improving investment in human capital**
- **Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and services at national, regional and local level**



Reinforced links with the EES

- **Strengthen economic and social cohesion by supporting MS policies aiming at**
 - full employment,
 - quality and productivity at work,
 - social cohesion and social inclusion (including reduction of regional employment disparities)
- **Take account of EU objectives in the field of social inclusion and gender equality**
- **Concentration on the employment recommendations**



The new ESF – Principles

Concentration

A more strategic approach - geographical – thematic

- Simplification
- Clarification of responsibilities
- Stronger role for regions and local players

■ **COMMUNITY ADDED VALUE:**

- Partnership
- Programming over 7 years
- Shared management
- Quality and performance



New principles in action

- **Proportionality = the obligation of MS in line with the total expenditure on the OP**
- **Partnership = extended, partners are involved at every stage of programming (setting up, follow-up, evaluation)**
- **Equality and non-discrimination**
- **Sustainable development**
- **Focus on Lisbon strategy priorities**



New elements: eligibility and flexibility

- **National eligibility rules (exc. negative list)**
- **Community contribution determined on OP level***
- **ESF-ERDF flexibility:**
 - ***‘The ERDF and the ESF may finance, in a complementary manner and subject to a limit of 10% of each priority axis of an operational programme actions falling within the scope of assistance from the other Fund, provided that they are necessary for the satisfactory implementation of the operation and are directly linked to it’ (Art. 34. (2) Gen. Reg)***



From Community strategic guidelines to ESF assistance

Commission in close cooperation with the Member States put forward the Community strategic guidelines (CSG) on cohesion policy



On the basis of CSG Member States prepare their national strategic reference framework



Result: greater interaction between Community level, national level and the implementation of programmes



National strategic reference framework – as a new system programming instrument

The main points which the NSRF must consist of:

- **Partners and actors involved in preparation**
- **Analysis of the socio-economic situation**
- **Definition of the chosen strategy, a list of OPs**
- **The contribution of the NSRF to the Lisbon priorities**

For convergence regions: coordination with the EAFRD and the EFF



Relevant partners

Member States should ensure the relevant partners take an active, broad and balanced part in the process

In Article 11(1), the indicative list of partners refers to regional, local and other public authorities, economic and social partners, any other appropriate body representing civil society, environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality between men and women, equal treatment and the right of non-discrimination of ethnic minorities



Analysis of the socio-economic situation

The analysis provides the basis for the development of the strategy

Highlights: socio-economic development disparities and takes account of:

- **trends in the European and world economy,**
- **social disparities and disadvantaged groups,**
- **urban areas, diversification of rural economies and areas dependent on fisheries.**



Defining the strategy

Coverage: 2007-13 programming period

Identification of strategic priorities and objectives

The priorities are implemented through one or more operational programmes (OPs) or priority axes



Contribution of the NSRF to the Lisbon objectives

The NSRF should indicate how the operational programmes contribute to the Lisbon process.

Each operational programme should indicate in percentages of total expenditure under the programme its contribution to the EU priorities of promoting competitiveness and creating jobs



Strategic follow up

Did not exist in the preceding period

Major change compared to the previous period:

New dialogue with the Council to adapt cohesion policy to the priorities retained within the framework of the Lisbon strategy



Reporting

Annual and final reports shall include summary on:

- **Gender mainstreaming**
- **Participation of migrants in employment**
- **Integration and social inclusion of minorities**
- **Integration of other disadvantaged groups**
- **Innovative activities**
- **Trans-national actions**



Operational programmes (OPs)

- Programming focuses more on EU priorities
- Operational programmes = more strategic documents, no descriptions of measures but focus on the strategy and priorities
- One OP = one objective* = the support of a single fund



Main points of an OP

- Analysis of the eligible area
- Justification of the priorities*
- Specific objectives of the key priorities
- Funding plans
- Implementation of the programmes**
- An indicative list of large projects***



Contact your national, regional or local authorities

The ESF is managed at national or regional level, the national, regional or local authorities should provide the necessary information and support facilities.

For a list of **managing authorities** for structural funds in MS visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/



What are the main sources of funding available to me?

Funding is available:

- programmes run by national and local authorities which are financed through structural funds,
- under Commission-run programmes (Progress)



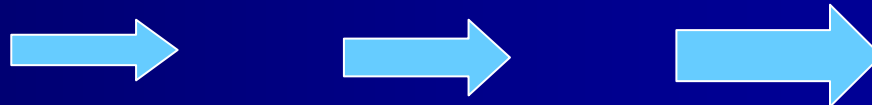
What are the main sources of funding available to me?

➤ structural funds are managed at national or the national or regional level



➤ applications are submitted to and evaluated by national or regional authorities;

› for EU grants:



➤ application procedures are set out in the calls for proposals for specific programmes, and you will apply directly to the European Commission or an executive agency which runs the programme in question.



Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/

