



EUROPEISKA UNIONEN
Europeiska socialfonden

Vi förändrar arbetsmarknaden

Date of decision
2016-05-03

Reference number
2016/00282

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European Social Fund in Sweden

The ESF supports projects that combat social exclusion and promote skill development.

A coordinated transnational call for proposals in the field of: Social Economy, Inclusion, Youth Employment and Migrants

The Swedish ESF-Council, the managing authority of the ESF in Sweden, is launching this call in order to promote project cooperation and mutual learning among the member states of the European Union. The aim is to apply or develop methods in a transnational context together with at least one partner from another member state (preferably at least two), within the following themes:

- Social Economy,
- Inclusion,
- Youth Employment or
- Migrants.

Specific priority will be given to projects addressing the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and projects demonstrating social innovation.

The call is a part of the Swedish ESF-programme priority 2 *Increase transition to work*, sub-theme 2.3, *Apply and develop methods for women and men who are far from the labour market*.

The amount launched is 63 million SEK (approximately 7 million Euros) to be allocated among the themes. The projects will be financed 100 per cent and therefore no co-financing is needed from the projects themselves. Eligible costs are: Swedish activities taking place in Sweden and abroad according to the transnational agreement. Covering costs for the other transnational partners are not approved.

This call opens today the 3rd of May 2016 and ends the 30th of September 2016. Starting date for the projects will be in January 2017 and the latest finalizing date is the 31 December 2019. Projects can last between 18-36 months.

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Svenska
ESF-rådet



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Background

Transnational cooperation is an “easy” way for projects to develop innovation strategies. Good practices from other member states can have a powerful impact in stimulating reflection from other organizations. Social innovations are not only good for society but also increase the individual's ability to act since they are based on participation and empowerment.

In the previous programming period there was a lack of coordination among the member states regarding the calls which hindered projects transnational cooperation. In response to that the Common Framework was established in order to have coordinated calls on specific themes. This also meant that funding has been set aside in several member states for their projects participation. Not all member states have opted for participating or are just participating in some themes, but you can still cooperate with partners from all EU-countries as long as they have funding (ESF or other) for their participation.

A database is set up in order to help finding partners. It can be found on this address: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/transnationality> (It will be activated in May.) Regardless if you already have a partner you will have to register as part of the application process, since it will be used by the member states to monitoring the matchmaking. The partnership has to be established and a transnational partnership agreement has to be drawn up before applying.

Sweden has chosen the following themes: Social Economy, Youth Employment, Inclusion and Migrants. For a description of what type of projects we expect see below. Our aim is to have projects within all themes and an indicative budget has been assigned each theme. **Only one theme per application is allowed.**

Expected results and effects of the projects

The funding for this call is from the subtheme 2.3 and from that follows that all projects should apply or develop methods for women and men who are far from the labour market regardless of subtheme. For all projects we expect a suitable transnational partnership should be established in order to achieve this objective.

For specific expected results and effects see each subtheme described below.

Social Economy

The indicative amount allocated to this theme is: 12 million SEK

The Swedish organisations and enterprises of social economy and civil society have much in common with the European counterparts. We encourage projects and organisations to

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establish transnational partnerships in order to together tackle the challenges within the field.

The organisations of social economy and civil society need to build major alliances in order to coordinate the resources. The transnational partnership is therefore an important factor in finding alternative ways to existing national arrangements or solutions.

The contribution from civil society organisations/social economy is very wide and comprise interventions that contribute to four important aspects; mobilising, supporting, educating and job creation. The entrepreneurship and enterprising of the sector encompasses different businesses, products and services even though not all are work-integrated social enterprises, the social aspect is highly vivid and integrated.

The objective of this theme is:

- New or improved sustainable solutions for the social economy and civil society in order to contribute to the EU 2020 strategy and to deliver high levels of employment productivity and social cohesion.

During the programming period of 2007-2013 Sweden was part of the transnational network on social economy. Two major result reports and several peer review PMs have been produced and are available at <http://www.socialeconomy.pl> The projects should take into account the achievements so far and build on results achieved.

In the Swedish ESF-Programme and the National ESF Action Plan one of the priorities is the role of social economy and civil society in the labour market both as an employability policy advocate and as an important employer. Some themes which could be of interest to develop together with transnational partners are; Ecological sustainability - green entrepreneurship, consolidation and growth of work - integrated social enterprisers through the use of social franchising, sustainable models for measuring social added value of the sector or social impact, cooperation between the social economy and public care in health issues etc.

We foresee that the projects are an alliance of several organisations in the civil society and social economy. The projects should engage the organisations themselves, the employed and members as well as unemployed and people from disadvantage groups (the final beneficiaries). The expected results need to include sharing and exchanging knowledge of methods, products and/or solutions to increase employability and participation in the labour market of disadvantaged groups.

The expected results of the projects:

- Establishing well-functioning transnational partnerships, that brings the individual



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closer to the labour market or self-support/empowerment.

- New solutions or products that will be implemented.

Youth Employment

This subject is divided in two parts, projects targeting NEETs in general and one part where the aim is to implement the method mobility that was developed within the previous programme period.

NEETs

The indicative amount allocated to NEETs: 17 million SEK

The term NEET is used to describe young people who are not engaged in any form of employment, education or training. In 2011, some 14 million young people under the age of 30 years were not in employment, education or training across the EU as a whole. The EU average of youth (age 14-24) NEETs is 13.0 percent varying between 5.0 percent in (Luxembourg) to 22.2 percent (Italy)¹ Even though male NEET rates increased sharply between 2007 and 2013, young women's rates (15–29) remain higher in the majority of EU28 countries, reaching 17.7% in the EU28 average for 2013, compared to 14.1% for young men. Female NEET rates are particularly high (above 20%) in eastern European (BG, HR, RO, SK and HU especially) and southern European (EL, IT and ES) countries. Only in some countries (ES, HR, CY) are NEET rates for males slightly higher than for females due to the increase in unemployment among young men. NEET rates and gender gaps are higher among young non-nationals (i.e. citizens of another country) than among young nationals.²

Those with low levels of education are three times more likely to be NEET than those with third-level education. The risk is 70 percent higher for young people from an immigration background than nationals while having a disability or health issue is also a strong risk factor. There are high economic costs involved but that is not the only cost. NEETs are at higher risk of being socially and politically alienated. There are also large gender differences in the reasons for not seeking employment. Family responsibilities are a key issue for young women, while the proportion of young inactive discouraged NEETs (i.e. those who consider it not worthwhile to seek employment because of the lack of opportunities) was almost twice as high among young men as among young women.

¹ Eurostat Labour Force Statistics, (youth_empl_150).

² http://www.gendercop.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/youth-and-gender-in-the-esf_chantal-samek.pdf



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The EU Member States have tried a number of measures to prevent young people from becoming NEETs and to reintegrate those who are NEETs. The involvement of a range of stakeholders in the design and delivery of youth employment measures is essential. Successful policies need to be innovative. They introduce new ways of reaching out to their target groups, with outreach activities forming an important part of efforts to engage disfranchised young people, while incentives and marketing campaigns can be useful in the context of more universal youth employment services. The NEETs population is heterogenic and it needs to be addressed when designing projects and policies.

Expected results of the projects are:

- To develop, adjust or transfer methods between partners in order to promote mutual learning on the topic prevention of NEETs or reintegration. The target group should be women and men ages 18-30 that are far from labour market.
- To develop or adjust methods of outreach work in order to reach the NEETs target group.

Mobility

The indicative amount allocated to mobility: 12 million SEK

Projects within the current call should build on a common EU standard developed in the previous TLN Mobility (see <http://www.tln-mobility.eu/EN/Home/home.html> for more information). The project should therefore consist of a preparatory phase, a foreign work placement and then a follow-up phase. The participants in the projects should be youth in isolation. The aim is to create favorable conditions for the participants to break with a negative social context through work experience in another EU country. After the internship the projects cooperate with the employment service in order to build on the new experience of the participant. By drawing from that momentum of the internship it helps the participant to gain access to the labour market, or entering into studies. The target group: Women and men ages 18-30 that are unemployed or that are far from the labour market.

Expected results of the projects are:

- That women and men aged 18-30 years strengthen their self-esteem after the internship abroad.

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- The projects should help women and men ages 18-30 that are far from labour market to enter work or studies.

Inclusion

The indicative amount allocated to this theme is: 12 million SEK

The Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth sets targets to lift at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion and to increase employment of the population aged 20-64 to 75 percent. The ESF focuses on employment as a means to eliminate discrimination, exclusion and poverty. Poverty depends on the organization of and interlinks between all sectors of society: the labour market, the family, social security systems, political life, the functioning of democratic institutions, etc. The structural dimension of poverty is closely related to its gender dimension, which goes beyond the statement that women are a potentially vulnerable group of citizens³.

Social exclusion arises when, for a variety of reasons, an individual, or a group, faces difficulties or discrimination in some aspects of their everyday lives. For example, a disabled man or woman who cannot get a job because employers doubt their abilities and they are 'excluded' from labour market. Ex-offenders, recovering drug abusers, ethnic minorities such as Roma, people with poor language skills – these are all examples of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups who are at risk of social exclusion and the poverty that can accompany it.

Expected results of the projects are:

- To develop or adapt methods to prevent discrimination, promote equal opportunities and equality between women and men and to get disadvantaged people, such as Roma, closer to the labour market. Particular attention should be devoted to those facing multiple discrimination.

Migration

The indicative amount allocated to this theme is: 10 million SEK

A total of 229 000 persons were granted refugee status in the EU-28 in 2015, 56 000 subsidiary protection status, and 22 000 authorization to stay for humanitarian reasons. 83

³ Please see: http://www.gendercop.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/poverty-and-gender-in-the-esf_stratigaki.pdf for more information.



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percent of the asylum seekers in the EU-28 in 2015 were less than 35 years old those in the age range 18–34 years accounted for slightly more than half (53 %) of the total number, while 29 percent applicants were minors aged less than 18 years old.

The distribution of asylum applicants by gender shows that more men than women were seeking asylum. Among the younger age groups, males accounted for 55 percent of the total number of applicants in 2015. In the age gaps 14–17 or 18–34 years old, around 80 percent of the applicants were male, with this share dropping back to two thirds for the age group 35–64.⁴

The economic crisis has worsened discrimination against minorities and migrants and increased the employment gap between ethnic minorities and the majority population. Even if Sweden is highly ranked when it comes to immigrants formal possibilities there are vast differences in unemployment between immigrants and individuals from Swedish origin, specifically women. On average, it takes 7 to 10 years for half of the immigrants to establish themselves on the labour market: for men approximately 2-7 years, and for women 9-11. With the current situation with 160 000 people applying for residence permits it's important to address this.

Also age, education level and origin of the country's level of development and where in Sweden you live are factors determining the time it takes for someone to enter the labour market. Studies also show that the reason for immigration is an important explanatory factor. One explanation for the establishment of the new arrivals take longer in Sweden than in comparable countries is that Sweden receives a significantly larger proportion of refugees.

There are high demands on language proficiency in the Swedish labour market as well as on the level of education and few jobs are available that does not require this. The current measures involve language training, civic education and labour market measures – which has shown a low rate of success. The measures are criticized for not involving close relations with the actual labour market which means that the target group rarely has contact with employers because they are engaged in the modules mentioned above full time.

The labour market demand is focused on welfare services, where many professions are authorized. This increases the need for knowledge- and profession validation measures, supplementary education and sufficient language proficiency. Studies have shown that early integrated combinations consisting of proper validation, language training-professional Swedish and above all – consistent contact with employers have very positive effects on employment of newly arrived.

⁴ Information från Eurostat http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics



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In order to be the target group for this measure you need to have a residence permit in Sweden.

Expected results of the projects are:

- To develop or adjust innovative methods to facilitate establishment in the labour market for newly arrived women and men, based on individual approaches.
- To further develop and adjust methods of work based training in order for the migrants to get faster access to the labour market.
- To develop or adjust innovative methods in order to integrating newly arrived with entrepreneurial skills.

Description of the analysis- and preparation phase, implementation and finalising phase.

The project period is between 18-36 months. You need to divide the time allocated into an initial analysis and preparation phase as well as taking into account that it will take time to finalize the project. Therefore project is divided into an initial analysis and preparation phase, an implementation phase and a finalisation phase. Individual phases and the project can be extended for a shorter period of time if agreed upon between the Swedish ESF-council and the project. These phases are also reflected in the budget and have its own allocations. There is one budget for initial analysis and preparation and one combined budget for the completion phase and the finalization phase.

Possible activities in the initial phase are meetings, analysis, mapping, establishing the organisation structure of the project on national and transnational level. The phase must be a minimum of three months and a maximum of nine months. The result of the analysis and preparation phase will be presented to the Swedish ESF-council in a report. The report has to problematize the issues the project will work with; defined target group for the project; include a plan for project implementation (including scheduled activities); address the plan for evaluation and for monitoring; include a final risk-assessment analysis and a specified final budget. If the report is not approved the project may be discontinued.

In the implementation phase the project carries out activities according to the project plan in an effort to reach the goals and effects of the project. Monitoring and evaluation is carried out in close collaboration with the Swedish ESF-council and the project evaluator.

The finalization phase can be a maximum of three months. Suggested activities are a

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finalization of the final report, finalization of the evaluators report, activities for dissemination and a final financial report.

The application should contain a description of the underlying problems and needs that the project will tackle. The application should also include a description of a possible solution for these problems and how to project will provide this solution. The activities in the project will be stated in the Transnational Cooperation Agreement so each part has to agree on it. The targets and activities of the projects shall be based on gender statistics in order to provide for gender inclusive strategies. The labour market is highly gender-segregated, with men unevenly distributed between the public, private and civil society sectors, and women and men performing different tasks and a lasting wage gap.

The Swedish part of the project can have cross financing activities related to European Regional and Development Fund.

Integrated measure for gender equality, accessibility for people with limited abilities and non-discrimination, “horizontal principles”

The projects must demonstrate how they will contribute to combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation by paying particular attention to those facing multiple discrimination. And promote equal opportunities and to the promotion of equality between women and men according to ESF regulations Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013

The principles are to guarantee an inclusive project, where participants regardless of gender, limited abilities or of any other reason, are included in project activities on an equal basis. To ensure that all can grow and be empowered in order to gain access to work, study or entering into a labour market programme in their own terms.

The Social Fund projects should promote gender equality non-discrimination and equal opportunities on the basis of the Operational program's objectives, targets and priorities. This is done by the project having expertise internally or through external support. An analysis of the core thematics from a gender equality and discrimination perspective should be under taken and the results included in the definition of the specific problem that the project addresses. The activities should also take into account gender mainstreaming in line with the analysis, and that the gender perspective should be included in the evaluation of the project.



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Please do not contact the support structure ESI-support when making your application: helpdesk@esisupport.se. They have an in-depth knowledge and experience with the horizontal principles. You can find more information on: <http://standard.gendercop.com>

Monitoring and evaluation

All projects financed by the European Social fund have to be monitored and evaluated.

Monitoring differs from evaluation in that it is based on documentation and regular follow-ups. Baselines, indicators and status reports are important parts of monitoring. The projects are to describe how they will monitor and evaluate the results and actions taken.

Both the national and transnational parts of the project must be evaluated and therefore it is important to include transnational travels for the evaluators.

Project evaluation aims to contribute knowledge to the management of the project and project / steering committee on how the results will be incorporated in organizations' development needs. Regardless of the type of project, however, the evaluation should contribute to the knowledge and benefits on several levels. It is up to both the evaluator and project management to ensure that relevant stakeholders will benefit from the evaluation. The evaluation will study both processes and results and impacts of the project connected to the call.

In the application form there should briefly be described:

- How the evaluation and its results will be used and how it contributes to the implementation of the project and how it strengthens the development of the participating organizations.
- How the project will be evaluated concerning gender equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunities.
- Resources earmarked for monitoring and evaluation and feedback of results.

The concrete evaluation plan for a project should be designed in consultation with the Swedish ESF Council. The project evaluation should primarily be called off from the Swedish ESF Council's framework of procurement. The purpose of the framework agreement is to ensure the quality of evaluation and to simplify the procurement process for the projects.

In anticipation of the Swedish ESF Council framework agreements to be finalized the projects themselves may procure evaluators after consultation with the Swedish ESF Council.



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Conditions surrounding the evaluation will be clarified during the assessment process of the application.

See also www.esf.se for tutorials and more information on evaluation.

Selection criteria

The project must fulfil the Swedish selection criteria, please visit see www.esf.se. At the time of finalising the application a transnational agreement (in English) must be enclosed. The template (please visit www.esf.se) must be filled and signed by all parties. The Swedish ESF Council prefers to have the application in English to ensure it can be read by all transnational parties.

The Swedish ESF council has a special assignment to take into consideration the European Baltic Sea Strategy and priority will be given to projects cooperation in that geographical area in line with the strategy. We specifically want to see cooperation of this sort within the Youth theme.

Social innovation addresses the risk of organizations to develop its own solutions in ignorance of developments elsewhere, so transnational cooperation is suited for transfer of good ideas across Europe. Transnational cooperation is an “easy” way for organizations to develop innovation strategies. Good practices from other member states can have a powerful impact in stimulating reflection by an organization. Therefore priority will be given to projects demonstrating a degree of social innovation.

Conditions for the implementation of the projects

Standardised costs

The Swedish ESF-Council acknowledges the flat rate and standardised costs according to the delegated act (EU) 2015/2195. For more information see: www.esf.se

When Swedish parties are budgeting they have to use these costs. If other parties are to be reimbursed, their costs are to be registered as “Services (externa tjänster)” in the Swedish budget.

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Eligible costs are: Swedish activities taking place in Sweden and abroad according to the transnational agreement. **Covering costs for the other transnational partners are not approved.**

State aid

ESF is regulated by the state aid rules, please visit www.esf.se. A list of grants that have been categorised as state aid must be provided including de minimis (minor grants that add up to 1 678 000 Swedish crowns (or 200 000 euros).

Cost efficiency and procurement

If a public actor is administratively responsible for the project, its buying of products and services are regulated by the law of public procurement (Swedish LOU). The law is valid for local, regional, national and transnational activities.

Other organisations, private or NGOs, are to follow the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, mutual acknowledgement, proportionality and equal standing when procuring products and services on local, regional, national and transnational level. A preliminary plan of procurement and cooperation agreements must be attached to the application. Please visit <http://www.konkurrensverket.se/upphandling/om-upphandlingsreglerna/om-lagstiftningen/upphandlingsprinciperna/> (in Swedish).

Webb-based application in “Projektrummet” and the partnership database

If you are applying for the first time, you need to open an account in “Projektrummet” (www.esf.se) and in the partner search database (<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/transnationality>). You can find a template for the Transnational Cooperation Agreement on www.esf.se and you also need to indicate your partners in the partnership database. More information on this will be published as soon as the database has been released. The signed (by all partners) transnational cooperation agreement and other attachment are to send by e-mail to esf@esf.se or by post to Svenska ESF-rådet, Box 471 41, 100 74 Stockholm.

For more information please contact:

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