

Are you looking for funding?

If you want to get ESF Plus funding in the framework of a funding programme, you can contact a local ESF Plus project directly.

Information on how you can get support under ESF Plus is available in the “Service” section in the FAQ list (“FAQ”: www.esf.de/faq) under item 3 on the ESF internet portal.

More information on the specific work of ESF Plus projects and testimonials of persons who have benefited from ESF Plus are available online at the [ESF social media channels](#) and in the ESF Plus newsletter (www.esf.de/newsletter).

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THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PLUS IN GERMANY 2021-2027

The European Union and the Federal Government
promote programmes and projects in Germany
through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF Plus).



Co-funded by
the European Union

What is the ESF Plus?

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the European Union's most important labour market policy instrument for promoting employment in Europe.

The Fund was established in 1957 when the European Economic Community was founded. Since then, it has been improving access to employment opportunities, supporting people with skills training and acquisition of qualifications and helping to reduce labour market disadvantages.

In the 2021 to 2027 funding period, the ESF - as **"ESF Plus"** will enhance Europe's social dimension. The ESF Plus will help implement the European employment and social policy principles agreed in 2017 (European Pillar of Social Rights) so that more and better jobs are created. In particular, it will help integrate disadvantaged groups into the labour market.

With the ESF Plus, the European Union is pursuing the goal of giving people career prospects. The focus is on the (long-term) unemployed, (disadvantaged) young people, and migrants, but also start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises and their employees.

The ESF Plus is bringing Europe to life in Germany. It promotes equal opportunities.

What does the ESF Plus fund?

ESF Plus is not an employment agency. It therefore does not advertise jobs. What it does is to support tens of thousands of local and regional labour market-related projects across the EU. These vary widely in terms of type, size, objectives and target groups.

The ESF Plus funds practical projects that have a direct local impact. It generates ideas to get the labour market ready for the future.

Getting people into jobs

To give people in Europe better opportunities in the labour market, the ESF Plus funds skills acquisition, training and job placement. It also supports people starting their own business on their path to self-employment. Enterprises receive help in dealing with demographic, digital and ecological change, in maintaining their competitiveness and finding skilled workers.

Social inclusion

The ESF Plus funds projects for active inclusion and combating poverty. To counteract social exclusion, disadvantaged groups receive comprehensive support for (re)integration into the labour market.

The ESF Plus makes it possible for people to take charge of their professional future. Even when they are in difficult circumstances or when they are trying to make second attempt.

Better education

The ESF Plus promotes the improvement of education and training. The focus is on young people making the transition from school to work. The aim is to integrate lower-performing young people into vocational training and to bolster in-company vocational training. The central concerns of the ESF Plus include further training of employees and strategies for lifelong learning.

How much ESF Plus funding is available?

In Germany, the Federal Government and the Federal States will receive a total of around 6.56 billion euros from ESF Plus over seven years. Around 2.2 billion euros will flow into the ESF Plus federal programme and around 4.36 billion euros into the ESF Plus activities of the Federal States.

The ESF Plus federal programme with specific measures for the funding period 2021-2027 is implemented under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with the participation of the following ministries:

- Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action
- Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building