

Federal Ministry
for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
Funding Guidelines
"Strengthening the participation of older people – countering loneliness
and social isolation"
ESF Plus funding period 2021–2027
17 May 2022

Contents

1. Funding purpose, intended purpose of the allocation and legal foundations	2
1.1 Purpose of funding	2
1.2 Legal foundations.....	4
1.3 Applicable administrative provisions	4
2 Subject-matter of funding	4
2.1 Social innovative projects	4
2.3 Mandatory cooperation	6
2.4 Cooperation agreements.....	6
3. Recipients of allocations	6
3.1 The following are eligible to apply:	6
3.2 Transfer of the allocation (sub-projects).....	6
4. Special allocation requirements	6
4.1 Competence.....	6
4.2 Overall financing.....	7
4.3 Exclusion of funding for mandatory tasks	7
4.4 Exclusion of funding in the case of insolvency proceedings.....	7
4.5 No retroactive funding	7
4.6 Reduction of approved funds.....	7
4.7 Use of funds.....	7
4.8 Monitoring of funding.....	7
5. Type, scale and level of funding	7
5.1 Type of funding	7
5.2 Funding rates, co-financing and own contribution	8

- 5.3 Eligible expenditure..... 8
- 6. Other allocation provisions 10**
 - 6.1 Horizontal principles (cross-sectional goals) and environmental sustainability10
 - 6.2 Participation/data storage.....10
 - 6.3 Monitoring and evaluation of the programme10
 - 6.4 Transparency of funding11
 - 6.5 Communication.....11
 - 6.6 IT system.....12
- 7. Procedure 12**
 - 7.1 Declaration of interest.....12
 - 7.2 Submission of applications.....12
 - 7.3 Approval procedure.....13
 - 7.4 Request and disbursement procedures13
 - 7.5 Interim proof/proof of use.....13
 - 7.6 Provisions to be observed.....13
- 8. Advisory board..... 14**
- 9. Duration 14**

1. Funding purpose, intended purpose of the allocation and legal foundations

1.1 Purpose of funding

The European Social Fund (ESF) is Europe's main instrument for funding employment and social inclusion. It helps people to find a job, to integrate disadvantaged groups into society and to create better opportunities for everyone.

The main goal of ESF Plus in the funding period 2021-2027 (ESF Plus) is to contribute to a more social Europe and to implement the European pillars of social rights in practice. ESF Plus invests in measures on the ground that help people to tackle economic and social challenges. This constitutes an opportunity more particularly to test innovative measures.

Advancing demographic development in Germany constitutes a special challenge. Over the next few years, too, it will lead to a further rise in the number of older people. It should be stressed that over a relatively short period of time – between 2018-2031 – around 13 million so-called baby boomers will reach retirement age. This term refers to the high-birth-rate years from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s.

This significant increase in the number of people leaving the labour force will place a major strain on existing municipal structures and services for encounters, counselling, education and engagement.

The very different life courses and work histories of baby boomers will exacerbate economic and social inequalities with the risk that more and more older people will feel left behind and social tensions will increase. It has also become apparent that a considerable number of older people are not very familiar or are not familiar at all with technical and digital support options. However, given the penetration of all areas of life by accelerating digitisation, the teaching of digital skills is essential. The transition to the post-employment phase is a crucial factor for later social integration into society. It impacts health, participation, engagement and, in some cases, the economic situation of older people too.

The ESF Plus programme "Strengthening the participation of older people – countering loneliness and social isolation" builds on the goals of the ESF German model programme for the ESF funding period 2014 - 2020 "Strengthening the participation of older people – preventing and fighting loneliness and social isolation in old age" that ran from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2022.

The ESF Plus programme is primarily aimed at workers aged 60 and over who are at risk of or are already affected by exclusion from the labour market. This may also include, for instance, people who are already receiving basic security benefits in line with Book XII of the Social Code, women who want to return to work after assuming family care responsibilities or employees with a migration background.

The programme aims to prevent and combat involuntary loneliness and social isolation, strengthen financial security in old age and support municipal participation structures for older people. Consequently, the funding aims to improve the income and living situation of older employees, both during their active working life and in the post-working phase, and to increase the social participation of older people.

Loneliness is a multi-faceted phenomenon that has different causes. While social isolation can contribute to loneliness, it need not necessarily do so. That's why it is important to distinguish between loneliness and isolation. Loneliness refers to a subjective feeling that arises when the degree of contact does not correspond to what a person wants. In contrast, social isolation can be objectively measured by the number of contacts a person has. Socially isolated people are deemed to be persons who spend a lot of time alone and have few contacts with other people.

The Corona pandemic that broke out in 2019 shed more light on the negative effects of a lack of social contact. A survey conducted in the summer of 2020 as part of the Federal German Ageing Survey revealed that the proportion of very lonely people aged 46 to 90 was just under 14 per cent, 1.5 times higher than in previous years.

Overall, it is expected that, as a consequence of the Corona pandemic, demographic trends and the rise in the number of elderly people, the number of lonely elderly and socially isolated people will continue to grow.

The ESF Plus programme promotes social innovative measures, namely new project concepts and forms that do justice to both social needs and challenges, and create new social relationships and cooperation.

1.2 Legal foundations

The ESF Plus programme is funded on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 (ESF Plus Regulation) and Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 (General Structural Funds Regulation). Every delegated act or implementing provision that is linked to structural fund financing and was or will be adopted, completes the legal foundations.

The ESF Plus Federal Programme for the funding period 2021-2027 is the legal foundation (CCI: 2021DE05SFPR001). Funding in accordance with these Funding Guidelines is attributed to the specific goal 4 "Innovative actions". It entails fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination, active participation and improving employability, in particular, for disadvantaged groups pursuant to Article 4(1)(h) of EU (Regulation) 2021/1057.

1.3 Applicable administrative provisions

The Federal Government makes allocations in accordance with these Funding Guidelines, sections 23, 44 of the Federal Budget Code (*Bundeshaushaltsordnung*, BHO) and the administrative provisions adopted in connection therewith as well as the Special Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Allocations for Project Funding under the ESF Plus Federal Programme in the funding period 2021-2027 (BNBest-P-ESF-Bund) and the Special Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Allocations for Project Funding to regional authorities and groupings of regional authorities under the ESF Plus Federal Programme in the funding period 2021-2027 (BNBest-Gk-ESF-Bund). Both can be accessed at www.esf.de. These Special Auxiliary Terms and Condition are an integral part of the notification of allocation.

The granting authority decides on the funding of the projects on the basis of the submitted documents within the scope of its dutiful discretion and the available budget funds. There is no legal entitlement to funding.

2 Subject-matter of funding

2.1 Social innovative projects

Funding can be granted for social innovative projects in the form of local or regional network projects for the active inclusion of older people aged 60 and over, including their spouses, civil partners or companions.

Social innovative measures can try out new ideas and concepts on the ground to prevent and counter loneliness and social isolation for people aged 60 and over. These measures are designed to foster new relationships and cooperation between stakeholders, for instance, by testing new ways of reaching target groups, by strengthening the digital autonomy of older people to help them overcome loneliness, and by promoting appropriate participation methods, etc. The goal of the creation of new regional networks and partnerships between the stakeholders of voluntary

welfare work (*Freie Wohlfahrtspflege*), the municipalities, other aid organisations and other stakeholders relevant for older people is to strengthen sustainable connections in society and create spaces where people can come into contact with each other.

Participation in the ESF Plus programme is, in principle, voluntary.

2.2 Eligible actions

The funding of network projects is only possible if they encompass all of the following individual goals A to C:

A) Expand the social participation options of older people

- The expansion and development of open local work for senior citizens through analogue and digital support, education, counselling, accompaniment, communication and encounter services;
- The expansion and development of care and support services to enable and help people stay in their own homes or familiar living environments;
- The expansion and development of regional networks for older people, for instance voluntary engagement;
- The expansion and development of intergenerational cooperation between younger and older people, for instance reciprocal learning, the teaching of digital skills, joint cultural or other leisure activities;
- Creation and expansion of schemes to ensure a sustainable social infrastructure such as meeting points for older people in public areas or cultural facilities;

B) Strengthen financial security in old age

- The expansion and development of an outreach counselling service for older people who are entitled to benefits (e.g. basic income support in old age) but do not claim them;
- The expansion and development of projects to refer older people to various counselling centres, such as debt counselling;
- The expansion and development of projects that help older people to find employment with compulsory social security contributions in the working and post-working phases.

C) Support municipal participation structures for older people

The innovative measures listed amongst the individual goals of letters A and B aim to improve the framework conditions for a self-determined, independent, participation-oriented and, as far as possible, co-responsible life of older people in the municipalities and, by extension, to help the municipalities strengthen their structures and services and the overall municipal policy engagement for older people. More particularly, the innovative measures are intended to encourage or support municipalities' structures for participation planning for older people. With the help of access to the target groups afforded in the measures, the municipalities are to be supported in their assessment of participatory needs and planning of offers together with older people, for instance in various formats for the participation of older people in the municipalities. The current stakeholders and offers are to be integrated into these formats.

2.3 Mandatory cooperation

Each project must be conducted with at least two cooperation partners (e.g. with a job centre, other non-profit voluntary welfare providers, other non-profit organisations, with digital and social enterprises or with federally funded projects aiming to promote the participation of older people and similar individual goals).

If possible, non-profit voluntary welfare providers and independent providers should conclude one of the two cooperation agreements with a municipality or a rural district, an independent urban municipality or a district in a city state in order to help strengthen the participation of older people in the long term.

2.4 Cooperation agreements

All cooperation agreements must be submitted to the granting authority as part of the application process (see section 7.3.1). The cooperation agreements must indicate whether the cooperation is with a municipality, an independent sponsor or with another institution. In addition, the distribution of tasks must be outlined.

3. Recipients of allocations

3.1 The following are eligible to apply:

- Non-profit voluntary welfare providers (*Freie Wohlfahrtspflege*) and independent non-profit providers in Germany and
- Municipalities, rural districts, independent urban municipalities and districts in a city state.

3.2 Transfer of the allocation (sub-projects)

A project can also be carried out in sub-projects.

The transfer of the allocation to sub-project partners in accordance with section 12 of the administrative provisions pertaining to section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) is only possible with the prior consent of the granting authority. To this end, each sub-project partner must meet the legal allocation requirements and the recipients of the allocations must demonstrate their *aptitude* to administer and transfer funding. The integration of the individual goals in letters A, B and C must be ensured for the entire duration of the project. The recipient of the allocation is responsible for the appropriate use of the funds transferred by them to the onward recipient.

4. Special allocation requirements

Proof of fulfilment of the following allocation requirements must be provided when submitting an application.

4.1 Competence

Applicants must provide proof of their technical and administrative competence to carry out a project.

4.2 Overall financing

The overall financing of the project must be ensured. A requirement for project funding is full proof of the applicant's own contribution to the project. A declaration of intent is initially sufficient in the notification of interest. The co-financing commitment must be submitted at the latest when the application is made.

4.3 Exclusion of funding for mandatory tasks

Funding cannot be provided for projects which are part of an applicant's mandatory tasks or for which there are already statutory or other public law funding regulations.

4.4 Exclusion of funding in the case of insolvency proceedings

Funding will not be granted to applicants whose assets are the subject of an application for or of already ongoing insolvency proceedings. The same applies to applicants who are obliged to provide a statement of assets in accordance with section 802c of the Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*, ZPO) or section 284 of the German Fiscal Code (*Abgabenordnung*) or who have had such a statement taken.

4.5 No retroactive funding

Retroactive funding is not possible. Allocations may only be granted for projects that have not yet started.

4.6 Reduction of approved funds

If, contrary to the co-financing commitment submitted with the application, the minimum own contribution stipulated in the notification of allocation is not made during the funding period, this will result in at least a pro rata reduction of the funds awarded. If total funding cannot be achieved due to the lack of an own contribution, the notification of allocation may be revoked, the project may be withdrawn from the programme and the allocation granted may be recovered.

4.7 Use of funds

The recipient of the allocation is required to use the funds sparingly and economically and for the intended purpose.

4.8 Monitoring of funding

The recipients of the allocations are required to monitor the funding of their project. Deficits in income must be offset by the recipient of the allocation.

5. Type, scale and level of funding

5.1 Type of funding

The allocation will be granted by way of project funding as partial financing in the form of a non-repayable grant for the period from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2027.

The project duration is, in principle, 60 months.

5.2 Funding rates, co-financing and own contribution

The amount of the ESF Plus allocation may amount to up to EUR 105,000 per year in more developed regions and up to EUR 135,000 euros in transition regions.

The intervention rates applicable to the ESF Plus target areas apply. The funding rates depend on the location of the funded project and amount to:

- up to 70 percent for the target area of more developed regions (this includes the old *Laender* with the *Land* of Berlin and the Leipzig region, excluding the regions of Lüneburg and Trier)
- up to 90 percent for the target area of transition regions (this includes the new *Laender* with the regions of Lüneburg and Trier, without the *Land* of Berlin and the region of Leipzig).
- basis of assessment for the respective intervention rate is the total expenditure eligible for allocations. At least
 - 30 per cent of the total eligible expenditure for the target area of more developed regions
 - 10 percent of the total eligible expenditure for the target area of transition regions
 - is to be provided by the applicants as their own contribution (co-financing).

As national co-financing, the recipients of the allocations must raise up to EUR 45,000 in more developed regions and up to EUR 15,000 per year in transition regions. Higher rates of co-financing are possible. The share of the ESF Plus allocation is then reduced accordingly.

The own contribution of the recipient of the allocation amounts to at least 10 percent of the total eligible expenditure per year.

The own contribution of the recipient of the allocation must, in principle, be made as a cash contribution. In addition, within the framework of these Funding Guidelines it is possible to recognise cash contributions from third parties (public and non-public funds from third parties, provided these funds do not originate from ESF Plus or other EU funds) as a substitute for own funds, as well as expenditure on personnel of the recipient of the allocation or of a sub-project organiser in groups 9b to 11 of the Collective Agreement for the Public Service (*Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst, TVöD*) working on the project.

The recipient of the allocation must explain a breakdown of the funding sources (ESF Plus funds and national public funds and/or private national funds) in the financing plan.

There is no national co-financing from federal funds of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).

Funding across different target areas is excluded.

5.3 Eligible expenditure

5.3.1 Direct staff expenditure

Direct staff expenditure and expenditure with no cash flow (staff provision) in levels 9b to 11 of the TVöD are granted on the basis of Article 53(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060 as unit

costs. Job shares of less than 25 percent of a full-time position are not, in principle, eligible for allocations.

5.3.1.1 Establishment of a staff position with a coordinating share

The recipient of an allocation is required to create a staff position (with a maximum of 50 percent of a full-time equivalent) as project coordinator, who acts as the project manager and central contact person. The project coordinator must have at least a degree from a university or a university of applied sciences (Bachelor's degree, diploma with the addition "university of applied sciences") or an equivalent degree. Proof of this must be submitted with the application.

The project coordinator is responsible for coordinating the projects carried out within the framework of the ESF Plus Programme and is the central contact person for the Federal Office of Family Affairs and Civil Society Functions (*Bundesamt für Familie und zivilgesellschaftliche Aufgaben*, BAFzA). On the basis of the existing structure of offerings, the project coordinator works on the customised development of offers under the individual goals set out in letters A, B and C.

5.3.1.2 Professional qualifications of project staff

The project staff employed to achieve the individual goals set out in letters A, B and C must have at least a degree from a university or a university of applied sciences (Bachelor's degree, diploma with the addition "university of applied sciences") or an equivalent degree. Proof of this must be submitted with the application.

5.3.2 Fees

Fees are settled on the basis of Article 53(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1060 according to the amount actually incurred. Only the fees paid in return for the activity are eligible for allocations. All material expenses (e.g. use of infrastructure, cost of materials) and travel expenses in connection with the fee-based service must be shown separately in the fee contract and in the invoice. These cannot be settled directly.

Freelancers may be employed to carry out partial tasks in the project. Fees may not exceed 25 percent of the applicant's expenditure on its own staff in the project.

Job shares or fees for board members and management are not eligible for funding.

5.3.3 Residual costs

All other eligible expenses will be covered at a flat rate of twenty percent of eligible direct staff costs in accordance with Article 56(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. For the purposes of this calculation, direct eligible staff expenses include fees (5.3.2), in addition to direct staff expenses (5.3.1).

Indirect project expenditure is covered by this flat rate and cannot be recognised as an own contribution.

5.3.4 Further procedural rules

The application of the residual cost flat rate does not release the applicant from compliance with other European or national legal provisions, in particular public procurement law.

No further expenses beyond the above-mentioned expenditure items are billable.

More details can be accessed in the funding principles for the granting of allocations from the ESF Plus in the funding period 2021-2027 (funding principles).

6. Other allocation provisions

6.1 Horizontal principles (cross-sectional goals) and environmental sustainability

In accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 in conjunction with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1057, the horizontal principles of gender equality and anti-discrimination must be integrated and/or ensured as a specific approach in all phases of programme planning and implementation, including the goal of environmental sustainability. Appropriate measures are to be taken to promote gender equality in particular. No-one may be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, colour or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Barriers to participation are to be removed and accessibility and inclusion are to be promoted.

In this context, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC, must be observed and respected in accordance with Article 15 in conjunction with Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. In compliance with Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 and Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFR) and the associated goal of safeguarding the fundamental rights of EU citizens must not be violated in programme planning and implementation.

6.2 Participation/data storage

The recipients of allocations and, if applicable, the bodies involved are required to cooperate within the framework of the financial control by the bodies mentioned in section 7.6 of these Funding Guidelines and to provide the necessary information. In submitting their application, the applicants agree to collect and store the necessary data for project monitoring, project appraisal/evaluation, project financial management and review/audit, and to forward this data to the commissioned bodies. Documents required for audit purposes that have not already been submitted electronically are to be submitted in electronic form when requested by the audit body. The fulfilment of reporting obligations and the collection and maintenance of data are the prerequisites for the drawdown of funding from the European Commission.

6.3 Monitoring and evaluation of the programme

The recipients of allocations are, in principle, required to collect the common output and result indicators for ESF Plus interventions in accordance with Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 along with other programme-relevant data, and to submit them to the granting body at specified times.

To this end, they collect these data from the participants and the stakeholders involved in a project. In particular, the recipients of allocations inform the participants in the project about the legal basis, the purpose and the scale of the data processing as well as the rights of the participants in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and document this in the specified IT system.

In addition, the recipients of allocations are required to cooperate with the bodies responsible for monitoring and evaluating the programme. In particular, they must regularly enter the project data required for financial and material control into the IT system set up for this purpose. The data collected form the basis for the ESF Managing Authority's reporting obligations to the European Commission.

6.4 Transparency of funding

In accordance with Article 49(3) of the General Structural Funds Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the recipients of allocations agree to make information publicly available (e.g. on the website of the ESF Managing Authority www.esf.de), including

- in the case of legal persons: name of the recipient
- name of the project
- purpose and expected and actual achievements of the project
- start date of the project
- expected or actual date of completion of the project
- total costs of the project
- specific objective concerned
- Union co-financing rate
- for projects with no fixed location or projects with several locations: Location of the recipient of which they are the legal entity or the region at NUTS 2 level if the recipient is a natural person
- postal code of the project or other appropriate location indicators
- type of intervention for the project in accordance with Article 73(2)(g) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

Furthermore, the recipients of allocations agree that, in order to ensure the legality and regularity of the expenditure and to prevent and detect fraud, they will record the data to be collected pursuant to Article 69(2) and Article 72(1)(e) of the General Structural Funds Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of Annex XVII Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 in the IT system set up for this purpose. These data include partly sensitive or personal data on the person or the company and, if available, on all beneficial owners and all contractors and their beneficial owners and contracts. In order to comply with the applicable data protection provisions, the requirements of the administrative authority for the fulfilment of the information obligation pursuant to Article 14 of the GDPR must be implemented.

6.5 Communication

On submitting their application, applicants undertake to comply with the requirements for information and publicity measures of recipients with regard to visibility and transparency pursuant to Article 46(a), Article 47 and Article 50 in conjunction with Annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, and to state that the programme/project is funded by ESF Plus.

6.6 IT system

The entire ESF Plus allocation procedure is handled electronically on the project funding portal Z-EU-S (<https://foerderportal-zeus.de>).

Transactions requiring the written form must be "signed" electronically. This is done for each submission required in writing using the electronic forms and proof of identity provided in Z-EU-S using the free eID service of Z-EU-S or – alternatively – by inserting a qualified electronic signature (QES) in the PDF export document of the submitted case using a corresponding QES signature solution (for details, please refer to the online help of Z-EU-S). In exceptional cases, a request may be submitted to the granting authority for the signature to be submitted later by post. The granting authority, in turn, normally uses a qualified electronic signature (QES) and the signed notifications are made available in Z-EU-S. In the event of a failure or unavailability of the technology, notification may also be sent in paper form in exceptional cases.

Information on how to register for the Z-EU-S funding portal and the help service is available on the homepage of the Z-EU-S funding portal www.foerderportal-zeus.de.

7. Procedure

The BMFSFJ manages the ESF Plus programme "Strengthening the participation of older people – countering loneliness and social isolation".

The BMFSFJ has commissioned the Federal Office of Family Affairs and Civil Society Functions (BAFzA) as the implementing agency to coordinate and implement the ESF Plus programme.

As the granting authority, it is incumbent on the BAFzA to inform and advise applicants on funding issues, review applications for allocations, approve the allocations, pay out the allocations to the applicants, check the use made of funds (review of proof of use) and report to the BMFSFJ.

The BAFzA also provides expert and content-related support for the programme.

The selection procedure for the projects takes place in two stages. It consists of a declaration of interest and an application.

7.1 Declaration of interest

In the first stage, declarations of interest must be submitted to BAFzA in electronic form via Z-EU-S. The deadline for submission was announced separately at www.esf.de.

This deadline for receipt is a cut-off deadline. No legal claim to a call for application can be derived from the submission of a declaration of interest.

7.2 Submission of applications

The BMFSFJ selects the declarations of interest suitable for funding. The participants in the declaration are informed in writing of the result of the selection.

The applicants selected from the declarations of interest are asked to submit a formal application for funding in electronic form on the funding portal Z-EU-S (<https://foerderportal-zeus.de>)

within a period of four weeks. The submission deadline is announced separately. This submission deadline is a cut-off deadline.

7.3 Approval procedure

The funding principles, which can be accessed at www.esf.de, must be complied with.

7.3.1 Proof of cooperation

Proof of cooperation agreements with at least two participating cooperation partners must be provided. The cooperation agreements must describe the agreed individual goals set out in letters A to C and the distribution within the cooperations.

7.3.2 Reservation as to approval

Reference is made to the explanations in section 1.3.

7.4 Request and disbursement procedures

In accordance with the Special Auxiliary Conditions for ESF-Plus allocations, federal funds are disbursed by way of reimbursement (reimbursement procedure). All project expenditure must, therefore, be pre-financed by the recipient or onward recipient of the allocation. The details are formalised in the funding principles (accessible at www.esf.de)

7.5 Interim proof/proof of use

Proof of use must be submitted no later than four months after the end of the project. Interim proof must be submitted annually, no later than four months after the end of the year.

Expenditure settled on the basis of flat rates pursuant to section 6.2.3 BNBEST-P-ESF-Bund and section 6.4.1. BNBEST-GK-ESF-Bund must be listed in one sum in the list of receipts. The recipient of the allocation confirms that expenses were actually incurred for the purpose for which the flat rate was granted and that the sparing and economic use of funds was observed.

If no confirmation of use is provided, the granting authority may revoke the notification of allocation in whole or in part in accordance with section 49(3) of the Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz, VwVfG*), also retroactively, and reclaim the allocation, even if it has already been used.

7.6 Provisions to be observed

Sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG), sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the General Administrative Regulations issued for this purpose apply to the approval, payment and billing of the allocation, as well as to the proof and examination of the use of the allocation and, if necessary, to the revoking of the notification of allocation and the reclaiming of the allocation granted unless deviations from the General Administrative Regulations have been permitted in these Funding Guidelines.

The Federal Audit Office is entitled to undertake audits pursuant to section 91 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO). The European Commission, the European Court of Auditors, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the ESF Administrative Authority and the Federal ESF Audit Authority, as well as their intermediary bodies pursuant to No. 7.4 BNBest-P-ESF-Bund, BNBest-Gk-ESF-Bund are also entitled to undertake audits.

8. Advisory board

An advisory board will be set up within the BMFSFJ to monitor the programme contents. The advisory board is composed of representatives of the BMFSFJ, the Federal Association of Voluntary Welfare Work (*Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege*, BAGFW), the participating member associations of BAGFW, the municipal umbrella organisations of the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations (*Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Seniorenorganisationen*, BAGSO), the Federal Office of Family Affairs and Civil Society Function (*Bundesamt für Familie und zivilgesellschaftliche Aufgaben*, BAFzA) and external experts.

The meetings of the advisory board are convened and chaired by the BMFSFJ in accordance with the rules of procedure to be issued by the BMFSFJ.

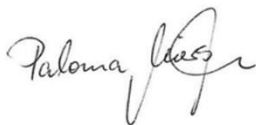
9. Duration

These Funding Guidelines enter into force on the day of their publication on the website www.esf.de and are valid up to 30 September 2027.

Berlin, 17 May 2022

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

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Paloma Miersch