

European Social Fund & European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 – Examples of Projects Briefing - August 2020

Main Messages:

- The [European Social Fund 2014-2020](#) and the [European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020](#) have funded projects in the field of disability ranging from employment, education, transition to community-services, early intervention, training of staff and much more.
- These funded projects can serve as ideas and examples for how the upcoming ESF+, ERDF and REACT-EU (2021-2027) could be used to support Disability Services

Care Services

- **Belgium** – *ESF* - Helping carers cope with the stress of caring
 - Impact: Project research, which included a survey of 200 care workers, has led to the development of an action plan and tools to help care centre managers assess moral distress in staff
 - ESF Contribution: € 112 222 out of total €226 712
 - Beneficiaries: Howest University College & Woonzorggroep GVO
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=2218>
- **Bulgaria** – *ESF* - Large scale de-institutionalisation project for children and young people with disabilities
 - Impact: closure of orphanages and the construction of 149 new accommodation centres and 36 sheltered homes across the country. & development of community-based structure of social services.
 - ESF Contribution: € 9 996 000 out of total budget of EUR 11 760 000
 - Beneficiary: State Agency for Child Protection
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=2457>
- **Finland** – *ERDF*- Improving wellbeing services for south-eastern Finland’s elderly population



- **Impact:** business model for health and wellbeing services. Ten new wellbeing services and two education programmes were developed, which are aimed at providing positive, long-term physical benefits for elderly people.
- **ERDF contribution:** € 906, 928 out of € 1, 357, 980
- **Beneficiary:** South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences
- **More information:**
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Finland/improving-wellbeing-services-for-south-eastern-finlands-elderly-population

- **Poland - ERDF - Good Support: Boosting care, social services for Polish neighbourhoods**
 - **Impact:** digital technologies, like software applications for mobile devices, to deliver smart and inclusive care services in Poland's West Pomerania province
 - **ERDF contribution:** € 2, 006, 860 out of € 2, 361, 009
 - **Beneficiary:** Regional Center of Social Policy of the West-Pomeranian Voivodeship
 - **More information:**
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Poland/good-support-boosting-care-social-services-for-polish-neighbourhoods

- **The Netherlands – ESF - “Keeping it safe” leads to acceptance and support**
 - **Impact:** Allow staff to share important de-escalation techniques with clients at a residential facility in the Netherlands, leading to a better living environment for everyone.
 - **ESF Contribution:** € 10, 000 out of € 20, 000
 - **Beneficiary:** Foundation Bartimeus
 - **More information:**
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3024>

- **Austria & Switzerland – ERDF - INTESI: An integrated approach to providing public services to the Alpine region**
 - **Impact:** the project implemented a pilot action that provided mobile social and health care services to elderly people. Elderly people living on their own were provided with technical devices for monitoring and tracking their health. This information was then provided to the mobile care service provider and medical doctors for analysis and care planning. As a result, ICT support has now been integrated into the daily routine of the region's mobile care provider and the elderly population is benefiting from better, more convenient healthcare.
 - **ERD contribution:** € 1, 501, 473 out of total € 1, 938 ,639

- Beneficiary: LP Swiss Centre for mountain regions and other 9 PPs in 5 Alpine countries
- More information:
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Austria/ntesi-an-integrated-approach-to-providing-public-services-to-the-alpine-region

Employment

- **Austria** – *ESF* - Recycling success
 - Impact: Help the long-term unemployed and people with disabilities to reintegrate the job market. After eight weeks of training, they can be employed for up to nine months. Participants have to be between 18-60 years of age and be a registered long-term unemployed person in Vienna, or at least 50% disabled.
 - ESF Contribution: € 358, 798 out of € 2, 144, 490
 - Beneficiary: Demontage- und Recycling-Zentrum
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=264>
- **Belgium** – *ERDF*- Boosting employment among disabled people in Brussels
 - Impact: Dev'Up Team aims to develop or diversify the activities of 11 Brussels-based adapted work companies in order to help keep disabled people employed and develop dynamics within these companies that will lead to new economic opportunities and, therefore, enhance employment for this type of employee
 - ERDF contribution: € 300, 000 out of € 720, 365
 - Beneficiary: FEBRAP
 - More information:
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Belgium/dynamiser-emploi-de-personnes-en-situation-de-handicap-a-bruxelles
- **Belgium** – *ESF* - Uniting three social enterprises that promote access to employment
 - Impact: Helping people facing particular difficulties in getting work, such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities and recent immigrants.
 - ESF Contribution: € 675 000 out of total of € 1 671 598
 - Beneficiary: Job&co
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=297>

- **Croatia** – *ESF* - Planting the seeds of employment success
 - Impact: Offer to people aged over 50 and people with disabilities the chance to learn new skills in an up-and-coming industry.
 - ESF Contribution: € 96, 596. 01 out of 113, 765.71
 - Beneficiary: Šibenik
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3623>

- **Denmark** – *ESF* - New employment strategies lead to social inclusion
 - Impact: Help people who have been unemployed for a long time to get back into work focusing on an inclusive partnership of social partners and socially responsible companies.
 - ESF Contribution: € 3, 691, 192 out of € 1, 382, 384
 - Beneficiary: Projektsekretariatet ApS
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3518>

- **Estonia** – *ESF* - Raising employers' awareness gets more people into work
 - Impact: Work with both employers and potential employees to raise awareness of the issues and maximize people with disabilities' employability.
 - ESF Contribution : €110, 000, 665. 80 out of €129, 412, 548
 - Beneficiary: Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3630>

- **France** - *ERDF* - In Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, young people with disabilities try work-linked training
 - Impact: It allows young people with disabilities to discover work-linked training for themselves by testing out courses at the Apprentice Training Centre (CFA) and spend time in a company.
 - ERDF contribution: € 67, 866 out of € 150, 815
 - Beneficiary: PEP CBFC
 - More information:
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/France/en-bourgogne-franche-comte-les-jeunes-porteurs-de-handicap-testent-lalternance

- **Luxembourg** – *ESF* - Promoting inclusion for people with disabilities
 - Impact: Bring together people from different companies and organisations to raise awareness of disabilities in the workplace, promote accessibility, and share information and best practice.

- ESF Contribution: € 80, 000 out of € 160, 000
- Beneficiary: IMS Luxembourg
- More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3078>

- **Malta** – *ESF* - Access to Employment brings hundreds back into work
 - Impact: Employers in Malta are being encouraged to employ people who have not worked for six months or more – especially those from less-employed groups such as people aged over 50, single parents and people with disabilities – with a project that offers incentives to bring people back into work
 - ESF Contribution: €10, 000 out of € 20, 000
 - Beneficiary: Jobsplus
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3721>

- **Spain** – *ESF* - Employment Training for young people with learning disabilities:
 - Impact: Not available
 - ESF Contribution: € 4,861,796 out of total budget of € 5,290,887
 - Beneficiary: ONCE Foundation
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3139>

- **Spain** – *ESF* - Creation of a jobs portal specially tailored to needs of persons with disabilities
 - Impact: 30,000 disabled persons have found work through the job’s portal, 8,000 people have enrolled in training courses and employment workshops, free of charge
 - ESF contribution: €700,000 out of total budget of 1 million
 - Beneficiaries: ONCE Foundation and FSC Inserta
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=1503>

- **Poland** - *ERDF* - Upgrading the St Celestine Association’s workshop for the disabled, in Mikoszków
 - Impact: A minibus, a tractor, a new furnace and air conditioning for the ceramics workshops: improvements and purchases made with ERDF support are facilitating the work performed at and by a Silesian vocational activity centre for persons with disabilities. They enabled the centre to diversify its training offer, allowing it to accept more mentees for internships.

- ERDF contribution: € 73, 854 out of € 106, 784
- Beneficiary: Stowarzyszenie Świętego Celestyna
- More information:
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Poland/upgrading-the-st-celestine-association-s-workshop-for-the-disabled-in-mikoszow-poland
- **Sweden** – *ESF* - Increasing independence...cultivating confidence
 - Impact: Supporting young people with disabilities to find work by offering accompanied internships in other countries
 - ESF Contribution: € 653, 267. 42 out of € 979, 348. 19
 - Beneficiary: Activa Foundation
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=2757>

Education

- **Croatia** – *ESF* - Fostering effective inclusion of persons with disabilities into the labour market
 - Impact: Open new opportunities for people with disabilities by setting up training courses in tailoring, web administration, office management and bookkeeping, along with other subjects, through collaboration with ten enterprises.
 - ESF Contribution: € 110, 120
 - Beneficiary: The Autonomous Center
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=484>
- **Greece** – *ESF* - Additional support to make classrooms more inclusive
 - Impact: Additional support teacher alongside main classroom teach in classes in almost 5000 schools across Greece
 - ESF contribution: € 7.695.878 of a total of € 121,489,913
 - Beneficiary: ESPA Executive Unit – Education Sector of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3463>
- **Greece** - *ERDF* - New special needs school built in Zakynthos
 - Impact: The works covered the construction of a new 1 371 m2 building and modifications and improvements to an existing building, which houses the Centre for Special Education in Zakynthos. The new school building is

designed to meet the needs of children with a range of intellectual and physical disabilities. It includes 10 classrooms, a multifunctional hall, a sport hall, a dining room, four laboratories, a library and an internal activities room.

- ERDF contribution: € 1, 043, 981 out of € 1, 304, 977
- Beneficiary: KTYP S.A.
- More information:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Greece/new-special-needs-school-built-in-zakynthos-greece

- **Italy** – *ESF* - Cultivating new skills on the Social Farm

- Impact: The Social Farm is part of an "intervention for the training of disabled citizens" project, created especially for disabled people aged 18 to 35. The aim is for participants to learn skills in agriculture, livestock and forestry, but to do so with a support network especially designed for their needs.
- ESF Contribution: € 1, 055, 000 out of € 2, 105, 000
- Beneficiary: Basilicata region
- More information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3004>

- **Lithuania** – *ESF* - Access to higher education brings dreams closer

- Impact: Improve access to higher education for students with disabilities or special needs. It ensures equal opportunities for students and helps them to integrate into the academic environment more easily.
- ESF Contribution: € 7, 240, 500 out of € 7, 240, 500
- Beneficiary: State Studies Foundation
- More information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3060>

- **Poland** - *ERDF* - New, inclusive school in Rychwał

- Impact: This EU-funded project extended the Special School and Educational Centre in Rychwał, Poland, and equipped six classrooms with technology and resources to accommodate disabled pupils. The result is a modern, inclusive school providing all pupils with the learning conditions they need to succeed.
- ERDF contribution: € 166, 173 out of € 209, 032
- Beneficiary: Powiat Koniński
- More information:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Poland/new-inclusive-school-in-rychwa-poland-equipped-for-disabled-children

- **Spain** - *ERDF* - Digital tablets distributed to special education centres in Valencia region
 - Impact: Children with special educational needs in Valencia, Spain are using innovative digital technologies to help them learn and integrate into society, thanks to a project backed by the European Regional Development Fund. A total of 159 digital tablets have been delivered to the region's 23 Special Educational Centres. Children with autism, visual impairment, difficulties with communication and other disabilities are using the tablets and their tailored software to get more out of school life.
 - ERDF contribution: € 20, 567, 292 out of € 41, 134, 584
 - Beneficiary: Generalitat Valenciana - Conselleria de Hacienda y Modeo Económico - Dirección General de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones
 - More information:
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Spain/digital-tablets-distributed-to-special-education-centres-in-spains-valencia-region

Digital

- **Czech Republic** – *ESF* - Quietly breaking down communication barriers
 - Impact: Purchase around 50 tablets and install an application called Quiet Line, which offers online sign language interpreting and transcriptions in order to facilitate the communication between the deaf community and local authorities
 - ESF Contribution: € 128, 096 out of € 150, 701
 - Beneficiary: Quiet World
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3198>
- **Italy** - *ERDF* - Italian tourism website provides holiday accommodation for people with disabilities
 - Impact: An online platform has been created in Sicily, Italy, to help disabled people find and book accommodation that caters to their special needs. The site encourages fair, non-discriminatory access to tourism and culture.
 - ERDF contribution: € 162, 791 out of € 298, 153
 - Beneficiary: BOOKINGBILITY S.r.l.s.
 - More information:
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Italy/italian-tourism-website-provides-holiday-accommodation-for-people-with-disabilities
- **Poland** - *ERDF* - Online financial aid applications make life easier for disabled

- **Impact:** SOW allows the disabled to easily submit applications for financial aid from the PFRON, the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of Disabled People, in order to help them return to the labour market. It significantly improves cooperation with those business entities who are potential employers for people with disabilities.
- **ERDF contribution:** € 3, 697, 831 out of € 4, 369, 925
- **Beneficiary:** Państwowy Fundusz Rehabilitacji Osób Niepełnosprawnych
- **More information:**
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Poland/online-financial-aid-applications-make-life-easier-for-disabled-in-poland

Community based services

- **Poland - ERDF - Community centre upgrade improves village life in Lower Silesia**
 - **Impact:** The expansion and modernisation of a community centre in the Lower Silesian village of Kryniczno has increased the scope of services available to local residents and improved access for people with disabilities. The upgrade and equipping of the centre mean it can now be used to host a range of sporting and cultural activities, training sessions and conferences.
 - **ERDF contribution:** € 145, 153 out of € 226, 802
 - **Beneficiary:** Municipal Office in Środa Śląska
 - **More information:**
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Poland/community-centre-upgrade-improves-village-life-in-lowe-silesia-poland

Access to services

- **Cyprus – ESF - Reducing bureaucracy to improve quality of life**
 - **Impact:** Help people with disabilities thanks to a new system of assessing disability and functioning. They will access all the reports and certifications commonly accepted by public services, as well as suggestions for the most appropriate supportive interventions.
 - **ESF Contribution:** € 3, 600, 000 out of € 4, 200, 000
 - **Beneficiary:** Cypriot Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities
 - **More information:**
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3620>

Art and Culture

- **Slovenia** – *ESF* - From readers to writers
 - Impact: helping people with disabilities to integrate into society – and eventually into employment – by offering a range of workshops with a creative, cultural emphasis
 - ESF Contribution: € 650, 000 out of € 850, 000
 - Beneficiary: Slovene Book Agency
 - More information:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=2837>

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