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EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENTARY
RESEARCH
SERVICE

GUIDE
TO EU FUNDING
2014-2020

European Parliament

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICE

GUIDE TO EU FUNDING 2014-2020

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND PROGRAMMES

AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility (for Transport Infrastructure)
CF	Cohesion Fund
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
COSME	Europe's programme for small and medium-sized enterprises
DEVCO	European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EaSI	EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECHO	EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
EEEF	European Energy Efficiency Fund
EEPR	European Commission's European Energy Programme for Recovery
EFSI	European Fund for Strategic Investments
EGF	European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
EIAH	European Investment Advisory Hub
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
EIP-AGRI	European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability
EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
ELENA	European Local Energy Assistance
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

EMN	European Migration Network
ENRD	European Network for Rural Development
EPALE	Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe
ERASMUS+	EU programme for education, training, youth a sport
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ESPON	European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
EURES	European jobs network
EUSAIR	EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region
EUSALP	EU Strategy for the Alpine Strategy
EUSBSR	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region
EUSF	EU Solidarity Fund
EVS	European Voluntary Service
FEAD	Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived
FPI	Foreign Policy Instruments
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
GNI	Gross National Income
H2020	European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Innovation
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INEA	Innovation and Networks Executive Agency
INTERREG	European Territorial Cooperation

IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IPARD	Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development
ISF	Internal Security Fund
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
JASPERS	Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions
JESSICA	Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas
JRC	European Commission's Joint Research Center
LEADER	Links between the rural economy and development actions ('Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale')
LIFE+	EU's financial instrument for the environment
NEET	Young person 'Not in Education, Employment or Training'
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PROGRESS	EU Programme for employment and social policies
R&I	Research and innovation
RDP	Rural Development programmes
REA	Research Executive Agency
RFCS	Research Fund for Coal and Steel
RTP	Research and Training Programme
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
URBACT	EU Programme for integrated urban development
VCS	Voluntary Coupled Support (in farming)
VET	Vocational Education and Training
YEI	Youth Employment Initiative

INTRODUCTION

This funding guide constitutes a basic introduction to funding opportunities for regional and local authorities, NGOs, businesses, professionals and citizens. Its objective is to list the most important EU funds in a simple way, and to provide appropriate information to potential beneficiaries on the opportunities they offer. As new funding elements emerge on a continuous basis, the guide will be updated regularly in order to keep up with the changes.

The main funding themes are divided in subsections in order to facilitate research. A number of hyperlinks in blue colour have been included in the text in order to make access to the source of funding information easier.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) usually receive funding from a number of programmes such as the European Social Fund, CREATIVE EUROPE, Europe for Citizens , Horizon 2020, HUMANITARIAN AID and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the Connecting Europe Facility Programme.

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) may be able to secure funding in a number of EU programmes (COSME, Connecting Europe Facility, Horizon 2020, REGIONAL and Agricultural Policy funds, The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund).

However, funding opportunities may also be found in other areas. Much depends on the nature of the project submitted, its scope and priorities.

Although this guide provides a first overview of EU funding opportunities in different policy areas, applying for EU funds can be a bureaucratic and difficult process, which may require the advice of specialised staff. There are also possibilities to receive funding through a combination of financial sources.

In each section, a list of major potential beneficiaries is mentioned in order to facilitate the reader. However, the list is not an exhaustive one.

EU REGIONAL POLICY: EU-FUNDED PROJECTS IN ALL EU REGIONS

Beneficiaries may vary according to the priority strands of each project and the major priorities set by each Member State.

Regional Policy targets all regions and cities in the EU in order to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and to improve citizens' quality of life.

It is delivered through three main funds:
1. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
2. The Cohesion Fund (CF)
3. The European Social Fund (ESF)

Together with the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), they make up the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds. Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 lays down their common provisions, basic rules and priorities.

Potential beneficiaries:

> Local, regional and national authorities and administrative bodies;

> Social, cultural and educational institutions;

> Workers' and employers' organisations, as well as organisations providing training, support for workers, labour market support;

> NGOs and charities;

> Public administrations and municipal institutions;

> Companies, SMEs including micro-enterprises and Social Economy Enterprises and associations.

Potential beneficiaries should contact the Managing Authority responsible for coordinating EU Structural Funds in their country for information.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The ERDF focuses its investments on several key priority areas. This is known as "thematic concentration":

> innovation and research;

> the digital agenda;

> support for SMEs;

> the low-carbon economy.

ERDF resources allocated to these priorities will depend on the category of region: In more developed regions, at least 80 % of funds must focus on at least two of these priorities, 60 % in transition regions and 50 % in less developed regions.

Some priorities have acquired considerable importance. For instance, part of ERDF resources must be channelled specifically towards low-carbon economy projects: 20 % in more developed regions, 15 % in transition regions and 12 % in less developed regions.

Sustainable urban development has also become increasingly important. At least 5% of ERDF resources are set aside for this field, through "integrated actions" managed by cities.

Areas that are naturally disadvantaged from a geographical viewpoint (remote, mountainous or **sparsely populated areas**) may benefit from special treatment, as do the outermost areas, in order to address the possible disadvantages due to their remoteness.

Potential beneficiaries:

> Local, regional and national authorities and administrative bodies;

> NGOs, associations and foundations,

> Enterprises and SMEs

Cohesion Fund

The Cohesion Fund is intended for Member States with a Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant of less than 90 % of the EU average. It aims to **reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development**.

The Cohesion Fund mostly focuses on activities mostly related to the environment and to transport.

> **Transport:** Attention is given to trans-European transport networks, notably priority projects of European interest as identified by the EU. The Cohesion Fund also supports infrastructure projects under the Connecting Europe Facility.

> **Environment:** Support is given to energy or transport projects that clearly benefit the environment in terms of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodality or strengthening public transport, among other things.

Investment priorities of the Cohesion Fund

a. **Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors by:**

> promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources;

> promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises;

> supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector;

> developing and implementing smart distribution systems that operate at low and medium voltage levels;

> promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures;

> promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand.

b. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management by:

> supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches;

> promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.

c. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency by:

> investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs for investment, identified by the Member States, beyond those requirements;

> investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs for investment, identified by the Member States, beyond those requirements;

> (protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure;

> taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures.

d. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures by:

> supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T;

> developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility;

> developing and rehabilitating comprehensive, high quality and interoperable railway systems, and promoting noise-reduction measures.

e. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the Cohesion Fund.

Potential beneficiaries:

Every **Member State with a GNI less than 90 % of the EU average** is eligible for support from the Cohesion Fund. In the funding period 2014-2020, these countries are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Cyprus (Phasing-out), Latvia, Lithuania, Greece, Hungary Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

European Social Fund (ESF)

The ESF is Europe's main instrument for supporting jobs, helping people get better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens. It works by investing in Europe's human capital – its workers, its young people and all those seeking a job. ESF investments cover all EU regions. The ESF also includes the Youth Employment Initiative. The European Commission and EU countries in partnership set the ESF's priorities and how it spends its resources. In addition, 20 % of ESF investments will be committed to activities for the promotion of **social inclusion and combating poverty**.

For the 2014-2020 period, the ESF will focus on four of the cohesion policy's thematic objectives:

1. promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
2. promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
3. investing in education, skills and lifelong learning
4. enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration

Potential beneficiaries:

> Organisations of workers and employers and organisations providing training, support for workers;

> NGOs and charities, foundations and organisations of a social character;

> Government, municipal and regional authorities;

> Companies and associations.

ESF funding is available through the Member States and regions. The ESF does not fund projects directly from Brussels.

> Organisations interested in ESF funding for a project should contact the ESF Managing Authority in their country or region. To find the relevant ESF contact address, visit the "Support in your country" section.

> Individuals interested in participating in ESF projects can find the relevant ESF contact address in their country in the "Support in your country" section. National and regional ESF websites, as well as local employment services are also a good source of information on opportunities proposed by the ESF.

Youth Employment Initiative

The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) is funded by the ESF and was launched to provide extra support to young people aged below 25 and living in regions where youth unemployment was higher than 25% in 2012. It supports, in particular, young

people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), including long-term unemployed youngsters or those not registered as job-seekers.

The aim is to ensure that in parts of Europe where the challenges are most acute, young persons can receive targeted support. The YEI typically supports the provision of **apprenticeships, traineeships, job placements and further education leading to a qualification**.

The Youth Employment Initiative is one of the main EU financial resources to support the implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes. Under the Youth Guarantee, Member States should put in place measures to ensure that young people up to the age of 25 receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of leaving school or becoming unemployed.

Potential beneficiaries:
> Organisations of workers and employers and organisations providing training, support for workers;
> NGOs and charities, foundations and organisations of a social character;
> Government, municipal and regional authorities;
> Companies and associations.

Other facilitating instruments

Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS)

JASPERS is a **technical assistance** partnership between the European Commission, the EIB and the EBRD. It provides independent advice to beneficiary countries to help prepare high quality major projects to be co-financed by two EU Structural and Investment Funds (European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund)

JASPERS' assistance may cover:
> Project preparation support, from identification to submission of the request for EU grant finance
> Independent Quality Review of projects
> Post-submission appraisal function for all major projects submitted directly to the EU Commission
> Horizontal assignments and strategic support

> Capacity building, including a Competence Centre
> Implementation support
> Connecting Europe Facility projects, mainly in the rail and road sectors
> European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) through the screening and handling of requests

JASPERS targets assistance on infrastructure projects which are defined as "major" projects in the Common provisions Regulation - for example, roads, rail, water, waste, energy and urban transport projects. In the case of small countries where there will not be many projects of this size JASPERS concentrates on the largest projects.

Instruments of urban development

The 2014-2020 period has put the urban dimension at the very heart of Cohesion Policy. At least 50% of the ERDF resources for this period will be invested in urban areas. This could increase even further, later in the period. Around € 10 billion from the ERDF will be directly allocated to **integrated strategies for sustainable urban development**. Urban development is funded by various funds such as the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund. Certain other instruments that may help policy makers to set up urban development strategies are:

TAIEX REGIO PEER 2 PEER

The TAIEX REGIO PEER 2 PEER tool is designed to share expertise between bodies that manage funding under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund.

Urban Development Network

The Urban Development Network is made up of more than 500 cities and urban areas across the EU responsible for implementing integrated actions based on Sustainable Urban Development strategies financed by ERDF in the 2014-2020 period.

Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas (JESSICA)

JESSICA supports sustainable urban development and regeneration through financial engineering mechanisms.

European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA)

ELENA covers up to 90% of the technical support needed to prepare, implement and finance investments in sustainable energy. This could include feasibility and market studies, programme structuring, energy audits and tendering procedure preparation. ELENA can be used for instance, to retrofit public and private buildings, sustainable building, energy-efficient district heating and cooling networks, environmentally-friendly transport etc.

URBACT III

URBACT is the EU's Programme for integrated urban development. It enables cities across Europe to develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies. It is a Cohesion Policy instrument, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the 28 Member States, Norway & Switzerland.
After the success of URBACT I and II, URBACT III (2014-2020) was financially strengthened and expanded in order to continue promoting sustainable integrated urban development and contributing to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy. It is organised around four main objectives:

1. **Capacity for policy delivery:** To improve the capacity of cities to manage sustainable urban policies and practices in an integrated and participative way.
2. **Policy design:** To improve the design of sustainable urban policies and practices in cities.
3. **Policy implementation:** To improve the implementation of integrated and sustainable urban strategies and actions in cities.
4. **Building and sharing knowledge:** To ensure that practitioners and decision makers at all levels have access to knowledge and share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban development policies.

These objectives will be reached through transnational exchange, capacity-building and capitalisation & dissemination.

Potential beneficiaries:
Cities, municipalities, infra-municipal tiers of government, political and administrative institutions with policy-related authority.

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (INTERREG)

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg, is one of the two goals of cohesion policy (the other one being Investment for Growth and Jobs) and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States. Its overarching objective is to promote a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole. Interreg is built around three strands of cooperation:

1. Cross-border cooperation (Interreg A);
2. Transnational cooperation (Interreg B);
3. Interregional cooperation (Interreg C).

For the current period, INTERREG V (2014-2020) is running, with a budget of € 10.1 billion invested in over 100 cooperation programmes between regions and territorial, social and economic partners. This budget also includes the ERDF allocation for Member States to participate in EU external border cooperation programmes.

The interregional co-operation programme (INTERREG Europe) and three networking programmes (Urbact III, Interact III and ESPON) cover all 28 Member States of the EU. They provide a framework for exchanging experience between regional and local bodies in different countries.

INTERREG EUROPE

Interreg Europe helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. By creating an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions, it aims to ensure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impact for people and places. Any actions developed with financial support from Interreg Europe must fall into one of the following four categories:

4. Research and innovation;
5. SME competitiveness;
6. Low-carbon economy;
7. Environment and resource efficiency.

Potential beneficiaries:

> Public authorities – local, regional and national;
> Managing authorities/intermediate bodies in charge of the Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes, or European Territorial Cooperation;
> Agencies, research institutes, thematic and non-profit organisations: although not the main target group, these types of organisations can also work with Interreg Europe by first engaging with their local policymakers in order to identify options for collaboration with Interreg Europe

Networking programmes

INTERACT offers services and products (harmonised tools, innovative ways to collaborate) to support the cooperation and exchange network for territorial cooperation programmes.

ESPON, the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion, studies and predicts developments in European territory.

URBACT enables cities across Europe to develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges by networking and exchanging good practices (more information in the previous section).

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) is a legal instrument that facilitates and promotes territorial cooperation by enabling Member States, regional/local authorities, associations and any other public body to set up cooperation

groupings with a legal personality. Recourse to an EGTC is optional. A list with current EGTCs can be found here. The EGTC is governed by Regulation 1302/2013, which is complemented by national provisions adopted by each EU Member State.

Macro-regional strategies

A "macro-regional strategy" is an integrated framework that addresses common challenges faced by Member States and third countries located in a same geographical area, which would benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. They are endorsed by the European Council, which may be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds, among others.

Several macro-regions are being identified throughout the European territory, covering large areas across national borders. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) was adopted in October 2009; the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) started its implementation in June 2011; and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was endorsed by the European Commission in 2012. The EU Strategy for the Alpine Strategy (EUSALP) has been also adopted in 2015.

There is no standard definition for a macro-region. Generally it alludes to an area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges. The idea behind EU Macro-Regional Strategies is to add value to interventions, whether by the EU, national or regional authorities or the third or private sectors, in a way that significantly strengthens the functioning of the macro-region. EU Macro-Regional Strategies do not rely on any additional funding. In this respect, one of the challenges is to find ways to better use existing resources, legislation and structures for the benefit of the whole region.

Potential beneficiaries:

> National and decentralised administration;
> Regional and local government structures and policy-making bodies;
> NGOS, civil society organisations, research institutes

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Funding for agricultural programmes comes from two funds that form part of the EU's general budget:

> the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF), which primarily finances direct payments to farmers and measures to regulate agricultural markets, and

> the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which co-finances the rural development programmes of the Member States.

Farmers' incomes are supported by the European Union by means of direct payments. In return, farmers are obliged to carry out agricultural activity and to respect a number of standards regarding food safety, environmental protection, animal welfare and the maintenance of land in good environmental and agricultural condition.

Rural Development funding helps to improve the competitiveness of farming and forestry, to protect the environment and the countryside, to improve the quality of life, to diversify the rural economy and to support locally-based approaches to rural development.

The EAGF and EAFRD are implemented in shared management between the Member States and the Union. This means, among other things, that the Commission does not make payments directly to the beneficiaries of aid; this task is delegated to the Member States.

Direct income support for farmers and market measures

Direct payments are payments granted annually directly to farmers' bank accounts, as income support and to provide a safety net. Market measures are included in the single Common Market Organisation (CMO), which sets out the parameters for intervening in agricultural markets and providing sector-specific support (e.g. for fruit and vegetables, wine, olive oil, school schemes).

Farmers are likely to be eligible to receive direct payments, the major form of EU funding in agriculture. Direct payments are granted to farmers under certain European Agricultural Guarantee Fund support schemes. Each EU country, through its ministry of Agriculture, establishes the conditions for support in individual operational programmes and is responsible for managing the funds on its own territory.

Direct payments are administered through paying agencies appointed by national authorities. There are various direct payment schemes such as the Basic Payment Scheme, the Small Farmers Scheme. Young farmers may be eligible for a top-up payment worth 25 % of the direct payment they receive. The top-up payment applies to farmers under the age of 40 and is provided by the EAGF.

An important component of direct payments is the greening one, an additional support to compensate for the costs of providing environmental public goods not remunerated by the market, through three environmentally-friendly farm practices: crop diversification, maintenance of an ecological focus area and the protection of permanent pasture. Member States have to use 30% of their national direct-payment envelopes to fund the greening component

Under the new rules, farmers receiving payments help conserve the environment and contribute to address greenhouse emissions by:

> making soil and ecosystems more resilient by growing a greater variety of crops;

> conserving soil carbon and grassland habitats associated with permanent grassland;

> protecting water and habitats by establishing ecological focus areas.

There are also various market support measures, as agriculture is more weather- and climate-dependent than many other sectors. Furthermore, in agriculture there is an inevitable time gap between demand signals and the possibility for supply responses,

and small changes in the amounts produced can have big effects on prices as our consumption of food is largely constant compared to other products. Member States may grant voluntary coupled support (VCS) to types of farming/specific sectors that are particularly important for economic/social/environmental reasons and undergo certain difficulties.

Rural Development

Funding for rural development is drawn partly from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and partly from national/ regional and sometimes private sources.

EU rural development policy is implemented on the basis of national or regional multiannual rural development programmes (RDPs) designed and managed by EU Member States or regions and approved by the European Commission. Each programme constitutes a specific strategy that has to meet the needs of the country/ region concerned while respecting EU priorities for rural development.

Member States will have to build their rural development programmes (RDPs) based upon at least four of the **six common EU priorities**:
1. Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
2. enhancing the viability/competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management;
3. promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture;
4. restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry;
5. promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
6. promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

In turn, each rural development priority identifies more detailed areas of intervention ("focus areas"):
7. Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas:
   - fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas;
   - strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and

research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance;
   - fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

8. Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests:
   - improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification;
   - facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal.

9. Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture:
   - improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and organisations and inter-branch organisations;
   - upporting farm risk prevention and management.

10. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry:
   - restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints, and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes;
   - improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management;
   - preventing soil erosion and improving soil management.

11. Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors:
   - increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture;
   - increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing;
   - facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes and residues and of other non-food raw material, for the purposes of the bio-economy;
   - reducing greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture;

- fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry;
- facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation;
- fostering local development in rural areas;

12. Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

Within their RDPs, Member States/regions set quantified targets against these focus areas, on the basis of an analysis of the needs of the territory covered by the RDP. They then set out which measures they will use to achieve these targets and how much funding they will allocate to each.

Potential beneficiaries:
- Administrative bodies;
- Local Regional authorities institutions;
- Institutes, educational institutions;
- NGOs;
- Companies, SMEs and associations.

Research and innovation opportunities in agriculture

For setting up projects on innovation in agriculture, food and forestry, the EIP-AGRI brochure on funding opportunities may be of assistance. It sets out the "how, what, where" of a wide range of options from the EAFRD to H2020 to LIFE+.

Farmers may also benefit from support in the H2020 area of food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy. Funding opportunities relating to food and diet are listed on the Participant Portal.

Farmers can benefit from some actions of the COSME Programme, managed by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). See the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan for detailed information.

The EAFRD also supports knowledge transfer and innovation via the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-Agri).

Other opportunities related to farming

The LEADER approach is an area-based, bottom-up method of delivering support to local communities that design and implement local development strategies themselves. It is a compulsory feature of all Member State RDPs, and at least 5% of EAFRD national envelopes must be devoted to LEADER measures.

The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) builds upon current experiences and knowledge with a view to guide the design and the implementation of the future rural development programmes.

Funding is also available under the European Social Fund for improving employment conditions in rural areas.

EAGF funding may also be granted to public bodies involved in the School Milk Scheme, the School Fruit Scheme or promoting farm products in the EU and in third countries.

TRANSPORT

The list of the selected projects, and the respective amounts of EU financial support, is submitted for approval to a committee formed by Member States representatives (the "CEF Committee"). Following approval by the CEF Committee, the Commission adopts individual financing decisions for each of the selected projects, detailing the conditions under which the EU funds will be disbursed, including a set of milestones and deadlines to be reached.

The Commission manages CEF funding directly through the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA).

Potential beneficiaries:
Proposals can be submitted by one or more Member States or, with the agreement of the Member States concerned, by international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States.

Calls for proposals for projects in the field of transport can be found here.

EU funding for TEN-T

TEN-T is the major policy project for transport.
Its objectives foresee:
› completion of the Core Network by 2030, structured around nine multimodal Core Network Corridors;
› completion of the Comprehensive Network by 2050 in order to facilitate accessibility to all European regions.

At EU level, two sets of funding instruments make financial support available to projects implementing the TEN-T:
› the Connecting Europe Facility
› the Cohesion Fund and the European Regional Development Fund.

On the basis of the annual and multiannual work programmes, the Commission launches calls for proposals for project applications for EU grant support. The Commission selects the projects to which financial support will be allocated on the basis of a competitive selection process.

TOURISM

Various EU funding instruments may help to boost the prospects of tourism and to address its challenges. These may be used to encourage activities which may focus on building travel infrastructures - e.g. ports/airports, updating energy efficiency of hotels, revitalising areas for recreation, financing the diversification of SMEs and much many other activities.

Many legal persons (any public body, companies and SMEs, research organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations, tourism clusters initiatives etc.) may benefit from EU funding opportunities depending on the pre-requisites that each EU funding programme sets. There is no concrete EU tourism Fund. However, a number of funding opportunities for projects related to tourism can be explored though the already existing EU Funds that are described below.

The list is only an indicative one as further opportunities may rise in other funding instruments in the future. It also important to check the Operational Programmes of each EU Member State in order to see the priority areas for financing in each EU country.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Some of the tourism-related actions that may be supported by the ERDF are the following : tourism-related research, technological innovation, clusters, development of ICT programmes, development of high value added products related to niche markets (e.g. ecotourism, health cultural, gastronomy and sport tourism), activities of connecting coastal regions to the hinterland, measures to improve energy efficiency, small scale sustainable tourism infrastructure, promotion of entrepreneurship and vocational training activities.

Cohesion Fund

The Cohesion Fund (CF) is aimed at Member States whose Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90 % of the EU average. It aims to reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development. The CF focuses on transport and environment infrastructure. When it comes to transport, it can support trans-European transport networks, notably priority projects of European interest as identified by the EU. It can also support infrastructure projects under the Connecting Europe Facility. In the field of environment, the CF can also support projects related to energy or transport, as long as they clearly benefit the environment in terms of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodality, strengthening public transport, etc.

Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

EAFRD can be used in rural areas and aims amongst others to contribute to the diversification of farmers into non-agricultural activities, the development of non-agricultural SMEs in rural areas and engaged in sustainable & responsible tourism and the restoration / upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages and rural landscapes. Some EAFRD funded activities include: skills acquisition, setting up advisory services, drawing up of local development plans, investment in recreational infrastructure, creation of clusters and networks.

European Social Fund (ESF)

ESF can be used to support training workers to help companies having to cope with restructuring or a lack of qualified workers, training people in difficulty and those from disadvantaged groups to get better skills and jobs. It can also support mutual learning, establishing networks, and disseminating and promoting good practices and methodologies in the domain of social innovation

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

EMFF supports the promotion of economic growth, social inclusion, creation of jobs and supporting labour mobility in coastal communities and aims for the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy. It can also support studies, conferences, networking activities and the acquisition of new professional skills enabling professionals of the fisheries sector or their life partners to enter into tourism activities or to carry out complementary activities in the field of tourism.

LIFE Programme

LIFE is the financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. The priority areas of its sub-programme for environment are: environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity, environmental governance. Areas of particular ecological may be protected. In addition, projects may be developed in areas that face considerable environmental issues.

Creative Europe Programme

The Creative Europe Programme consists of three sub-programmes: the "Culture sub-programme" for cultural & creative sectors, the "Media sub-programme" for the audio-visual industries and the Cross-sectoral strand for joint projects between the cultural/creative sectors and the audio-visual industries. The setting of transnational projects and cooperation networks are encouraged. The European Capitals of culture is also part of the programme.

COSME

COSME facilitates access to finance for SMEs through the "Loan Guarantee Facility" and the "Equity Facility for Growth" promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture, notably thanks to the Erasmus for young entrepreneurs exchange scheme. Therefore, companies that are active in the field of tourism may profit from its provisions.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education and Training. Therefore, educational activities which are related to tourism may benefit from Erasmus+ funding. The programme may be also used to support the organisation of European Sports events.

Horizon 2020

Research projects and other academic activities that are related to tourism can be implemented through the Horizon 2020 programme.

Employment and Social Innovation" (EaSI) programme

EaSI brings together: PROGRESS (Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity), EURES (European job mobility) and the EaSI Guarantee Financial Instrument (dedicated to microfinance and social entrepreneurship finance). PROGRESS supports analytical work useful for policy-making, social innovation and social policy experimentation. EURES supports workers' mobility and helps companies recruiting in another European country via mobility schemes. EaSI Guarantee Financial Instrument may be used to help the setting up or development of small businesses / social enterprises, including for investment, leasing, and working capital needs, as well as the acquisition of licenses and other start-up costs. Made of many different players with different needs, the sector has received support from various programmes over time. There are a number of funds that potential beneficiaries may explore in order to realise projects that are related to tourism.

> To facilitate gathering information about the programmes and possibilities, the European Commission prepared a special "Guide on EU funding for the tourism sector (2014-2020)".

Potential beneficiaries:
> Tourist businesses;
> SMEs;
> Regions, local authorities.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

The main objectives of the fisheries structural policy are to adjust fleet capacity to potential catches, in order to relieve the problem of overfishing, modernise fleets and make them competitive by removing surplus capacity and orient the industry towards support for the coastal regions which are heavily dependent on fisheries.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) helps fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing, supports coastal communities in diversifying their economies, finances projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts, and makes it easier for applicants to access financing.

The EMFF is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. It is grounded in the following three main axes:

1. **Environmentally sustainable EU fisheries**
   - Investment in more selective fishing gear to eliminate discards and thus manage the impact of the obligation to land all catches imposed by the CFP reform as of 2015
   - Priority for data collection and controls through a substantial increase in the share of the EMFF allocated for this purpose;
   - Implementation of measures to preserve stocks such as biological rest periods, as well as temporary stops to compensate the fishermen concerned;
   - Freezing subsidies for operators who do not comply with CFP rules.

2. **A competitive EU fisheries sector**
   - Entry aid (up to € 75 000 investment in vessels under 12m) for fishermen under 40 with at least five years' professional experience in the sector;
   - Support for diversification of fishermen's income via ancillary activities (for example, pesca-tourism).
   - On-board investment to better manage catches and improve their quality, as well as investments in port infrastructure to meet the landing obligation;
   - Support for innovation, including the development of more modern and environmentally friendly vessels;
   - Keeping storage aid as a means to regulate the market;
   - Support for production and marketing plans drawn up by producers' organisations;
   - Final-exit aid for scrapping of vessels in order to reduce capacity and fishing effort of the fleet (targeted at segments of fleet at overcapacity, to end by 2018);
   - Support with engine replacement to reduce power and CO2 emissions (conditional on decreasing engine power for vessels between 12 and 24 metres);
   - Investment in sustainable aquaculture: support for starting operators, development of infrastructure, and promotion of extensive aquaculture and better environmental practices.

3. **Better social conditions**
   - Investments to improve health, hygiene and safety on board;
   - Vocational training for fishermen;
   - Setting up a mutual insurance fund to cover natural disasters and environmental or health-related accidents (covering fishermen, as well as oyster farmers for blight).

To see if a project is eligible for EMFF support, potential beneficiaries have to check with the national authority in charge of managing the operational programme in each EU country.

Potential beneficiaries:

> Professional fishermen;
> Regional, national and municipal institutions and administrative bodies;
> Institutions, associations;
> NGOs;
> Companies, SMEs.

EUROPEAN FUND FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS (EFSI)

The Investment Plan for Europe aims to drive investment in strategic projects across the EU. Backed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), a joint initiative of the European Commission and the EIB Group (EIB and EIF), the Plan aims to unlock investment of at least € 315 billion over three years. All EFSI operations are implemented within existing EIB Group structures and are subject to standard due diligence and approval by the EIB's governing bodies. The Investment Plan for Europe consists of:

> The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) aiming at mobilising at least EUR € 315 billion in additional investment;
> The improvement of the European regulatory environment;
> Supporting the investment environment in Europe through the European Investment Advisory Hub and the EU Investment Project Portal.

It will focus mostly on the following sectors:

> **Strategic infrastructure** including **digital, transport and energy**
> **Education, research, development** and **innovation**
> Expansion of **renewable energy** and **resource efficiency**
> Support for **smaller businesses** and **midcap companies**

EFSI is demand-driven and will provide support for projects everywhere in the EU, including cross-border projects. There are no geographic or sector quotas. Projects will be considered based on their individual merits. To benefit from EFSI resources deployed through the EIB, your projects need to undergo the standard EIB due diligence process, in order to verify if it is eligible for EIB financing and for a possible backing of EFSI.

In particular, projects need to:

> Be economically and technically sound;
> Refer to at least one of the EFSI eligible sectors as defined in Article 9 the EFSI Regulation;
> Contribute to EU objectives, including sustainable growth and employment;
> Be mature enough to be bankable;
> Be priced in a manner commensurate with the risk taken.

Following a positive outcome of the due diligence process, projects are submitted for approval by the relevant EIB Group Governing Bodies and, for operations under the IIW, to the EFSI Investment Committee, for inclusion in the EFSI portfolio partially guaranteed by the EU budget.

Project promoters should follow the usual EIB loan application procedures in order to present projects for financing.

For more information:

> The official website of the EIB.
> EFSI list of projects that have been approved so far.
> European Investment Project Portal (EIPP), the online market place where worldwide investors and EU project promoters meet.
> European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH), Europe's gateway to investment support. For information on how to apply for a loan under EFSI see the EIB's page "How does a project get EFSI financing?"

Potential beneficiaries:

> Large companies;
> Investors and SMEs.

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, INCLUSION

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

The European Social Fund is Europe's main instrument for supporting jobs, helping people get better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens. It works by investing in Europe's human capital – its workers, its young people and all those seeking a job.

The EU distributes ESF funding to the Member States and regions to finance their operational programmes. These programmes fund employment-related projects which are run by a range of public and private organisations called beneficiaries. These projects benefit their participants – usually individuals, but also companies or organisations.

ESF funding is available through the Member States and regions. The ESF does not fund projects directly from Brussels.

> Organisations interested in ESF funding for a project should contact the ESF Managing Authority in their country or region. To find the relevant ESF contact address, visit the "Support in your country" section.
> Individuals interested in participating in ESF projects can find the relevant ESF contact address in their country in the "Support in your country" section. National

and regional ESF websites, as well as local employment services are also a good source of information on opportunities proposed by the ESF.

Examples of ESF funding in each Member State can be found here.

Potential beneficiaries:
> Social, cultural and educational organisations
> Organisations of workers and employers and organisations providing training, support for workers, support on the labour market
> NGOs and charities
> Government authorities and municipal foundations
> Companies and associations

EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is a financing instrument at EU level to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions. EaSI is managed directly by the European Commission. It brings together three EU programmes managed separately between 2007 and 2013: PROGRESS, EURES and Progress Microfinance.

PROGRESS

The PROGRESS axis of EaSI helps the EU and its countries to modernise employment and social policies in three thematic sections:
> employment, in particular to fight youth unemployment;
> social protection, social inclusion and the reduction and prevention of poverty;
> working conditions.

Potential beneficiaries:
> National, regional and local authorities;
> Employment services;
> National statistical offices;
> NGOs and social partners;
> Higher education institutions and research institutes;
> Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment.

EURES

The aim of the EURES axis is to strengthen EURES, a European job mobility network that provides information, guidance and recruitment or placement services to employers, jobseekers and any citizen wishing to take advantage of freedom of movement for workers.
> It covers three thematic sections:
> transparency of job vacancies, job applications and any related information for applicants and employers;
> development of services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment;
> cross-border partnerships.

Potential beneficiaries:
> national, regional and local authorities;
> employment services;
> social partner organisations and other interested parties

The EURES network is a useful tool for private individuals (students, unemployed persons) looking for work and for bodies interested in learning more about the opportunities provided by the free movement of workers in the EEA.

Progress Microfinance

The Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship (MF/SE) axis supports actions in two thematic sections:
> microcredit and microloans: The aim is to increase access to, and the availability of, microfinance for vulnerable groups who want to set up or develop their business and micro-enterprises, and to build up the institutional capacity of microcredit providers.
> social entrepreneurship: Support the development of social enterprises, in particular by facilitating access to finance.

The European Commission does not directly finance entrepreneurs or social enterprises, but enables selected microcredit providers and social enterprise investors in the EU to increase lending.

Potential beneficiaries:
Public and private bodies established at national, regional or local level and providing microcredit for persons and microenterprises and/or financing for social enterprises in these countries.

Other instruments

COSME

COSME stands for Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. Managed by the European Commission, it is a new programme specifically designed to support SMEs. COSME aims to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access finance in all phases of their lifecycle – creation, expansion, or business transfer. Thanks to EU support, businesses have easier access to guarantees, loans and equity capital. EU "financial instruments" are channelled through local financial institutions in EU countries. Potential beneficiaries who wish to find a financial institution in their respective country should visit the Access to Finance portal.

Social finance guide

The social finance guide designed for practitioners such as social enterprises, investors, social finance intermediaries, market builders and social enterprise support organisations, this publication provides a step by step guidance through the process of designing and implementing initiatives to develop social finance instruments and markets. There is no tried-and-tested formula or recipe.

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund provides support to people losing their jobs as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, e.g. when a large company shuts down or production is moved outside the EU, or as a result of the global economic and financial crisis.
The EGF has a maximum annual budget of € 150 million for the period 2014-2020. It can fund up to 60 % of the cost of projects designed to help workers made redundant find another job or set up their own business. As a general rule, the EGF can be used only where over 500 workers are made redundant by a single company (including its suppliers and downstream producers), or if a large number of workers are laid off in a particular sector in one or more neighbouring regions. EGF cases are managed and implemented by national or regional authorities.

The EGF can co-finance projects including measures such as:

- help with looking for a job
- careers advice
- education, training and re-training

- mentoring and coaching
- entrepreneurship and business creation
- training allowances, mobility/relocation allowances, subsistence allowances or similar support.

The EGF does not co-finance social protection measures such as pensions or unemployment benefit.

Individual workers made redundant can benefit from EGF projects. Over the period 2014-2020 this can include the self-employed, temporary workers and fixed-term workers.
The EGF cannot be used to keep companies in business or to help them modernise or restructure.

The rules on intervention criteria, eligible beneficiaries, eligible applications, measures and so on are set out in the EGF Regulation.

Potential beneficiaries:
- Individual workers that have been laid off.
- Member States can make an application after a major incident (bankruptcy of a major company, closure of a factory etc).

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) supports EU countries' actions to provide material assistance to the most deprived. This includes food, clothing and other essential items for personal use, e.g. shoes, soap and shampoo. Material assistance needs to go hand in hand with social inclusion measures, such as guidance and support to help people out of poverty. National authorities may also support non-material assistance to the most deprived people, to help them integrate better into society.

The Commission approves the national programmes for 2014-2020, on the basis of which national authorities take the individual decisions leading to the delivery of the assistance through partner organisations (often non-governmental). EU countries may choose what type of assistance (food or basic material assistance, or a combination of both) they wish to provide, depending on their own situation, and how the items are to be obtained and distributed.

National authorities can either purchase the food and goods themselves and supply them to partner organisations, or fund the organisations so that they can make the

purchases themselves. Partner organisations which buy the food or goods themselves can either distribute them directly, or ask other partner organisations to help. The partner organisations are public bodies or non-governmental organisations selected by national authorities on the basis of objective and transparent criteria defined at national level.

Potential beneficiaries:

> Public bodies; Regional - local administrations
> NGOs and charities;
> Welfare organizations;

ASYLUM, MIGRATION, INTEGRATION

In order to promote the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) has been set up for the period 2014-20, with a total of € 3.1 billion for the seven years.

This Fund will contribute to the achievement of four specific objectives:

> **Asylum:** strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System by ensuring that EU legislation in this field is efficiently and uniformly applied;
> **Legal migration and integration:** supporting legal migration to EU States in line with the labour market needs and promoting the effective integration of non-EU nationals;
> **Return:** enhancing fair and effective return strategies, which contribute to combating irregular migration, with an emphasis on sustainability and effectiveness of the return process;
> **Solidarity:** making sure that EU States which are most affected by migration and asylum flows can count on solidarity from other EU States.

This Fund will also provide financial resources for the activities and future

development of the European Migration Network (EMN). EMN aims to respond to EU institutions' and to EU State authorities' and institutions' needs for information on migration and asylum by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable data, with a view to supporting policy-making.

The largest share of the total amount of the AMIF (approximately 88%) will be channeled through shared management. EU States will implement their multiannual National Programmes, covering the whole period 2014-20. These programmes are prepared, implemented, monitored and evaluated by the responsible authorities in EU States, in partnership with the relevant stakeholders in the field, including the civil society. Around 11% of the funding under shared management will be allocated for Specific Actions (implemented under the national programmes of EU States, but responding to specific Union priorities), and to support the Union Resettlement Programme. The remaining 12% of the total amount will be divided between Union actions and Emergency assistance, to be implemented through direct management, in the framework of annual work programmes.

Concrete actions to be funded through this instrument can include a wide range of initiatives, such as the improvement of accommodation and reception services for asylum seekers, information measures and campaigns in non-EU countries on legal migration channels, education and language training for non-EU nationals, assistance to vulnerable persons belonging to the target groups of AMIF, information exchange and cooperation between EU States and training for staff on relevant topics of AMIF.

Ongoing calls for proposals can be found here.

Potential beneficiaries:
> State and federal authorities;
> Local public bodies;
> NGOs and humanitarian organisations;
> Private and public law companies;
> Education and research organisations.

All EU States except Denmark participate in the implementation of this Fund.

SECURITY, BORDERS, POLICE

To promote the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders, the Internal Security Fund (ISF) has been set up for the period 2014-20 and its total budget amounts to approximately € 3.8 billion. The Fund will ensure that EU States are provided with adequate Union financial support to ensure progress towards the policy objectives and to address important challenges in the area of internal security. The ISF is composed of two instruments:

> Borders and Visa (ISF Borders and Visa)
> Police cooperation, preventing and combatting crime, and crisis management (ISF Police)

Activities which will be implemented through the ISF Borders and Visa instrument will cover activities which were supported by the specific programmes Prevention of and Fight against Crime (ISEC) and Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security-related Risks (CIPS) in the 2007-13 period.

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This interactive map contains information on of funding allocations per fund and per country on issues of migration and security.

Ongoing calls for proposals can be found here.

Potential beneficiaries:
All EU States except Denmark and the United Kingdom participate in the implementation of the ISF Police. Examples of beneficiaries of the programmes implemented under this Fund: State and federal authorities, local public bodies, NGOs, and private and public law companies.

CIVIL PROTECTION, PROTECTION FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

EU Civil Protection Mechanism

In 2001, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was established, fostering cooperation among national civil protection authorities across Europe. The Mechanism was set up to enable coordinated assistance from the participating states to victims of natural and man-made disasters in Europe and elsewhere. The Mechanism currently includes all 28 EU Member States in addition to Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Turkey has recently signed the agreements to join the Mechanism. Its legal framework can be found here.

Potential beneficiaries:
Any country in the world can call on the EU Civil Protection Mechanism for help. Since its launch in 2001, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has monitored over 300 disasters and has received more than 200 requests for assistance. It intervened in some of the most devastating disasters the world has faced, like the earthquake in Haiti (2010), the triple-disaster in Japan (2011), typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines (2013), the floods in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014), the Ebola outbreak (2014), the conflict in Ukraine (2014), the earthquake in Nepal (2015), and the refugee crisis in Europe.

European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)

The EU Solidarity Fund was set up to respond to major natural disasters and express European solidarity to **disaster-stricken regions** within Europe. The Fund was created as a reaction to the severe floods in Central Europe in the summer of 2002. Since then, it has been used for the relief of many disasters covering a range of different catastrophic events including floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms and drought.

Applications have to be received by the Commission within 12 weeks of the date of the first damage caused by the disaster. It is strongly recommended that the body responsible for preparing an application establishes early direct contact with the service in charge in DG Regional Policy who can offer a range of advice that will help to speed up the application procedure as much as possible.

The EUSF is not a rapid response instrument; financial aid is only granted to applying States following an application and budgetary process which can take several months to complete.

The brochure "Funding opportunities to support disaster risk prevention in the cohesion policy 2014-2020 period" highlights funding opportunities for risk prevention from cohesion policy till 2020. It also showcases a number of examples and explains how potential beneficiaries can get support.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, EUROPEAN IDENTITY, YOUTH, SPORT

CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the culture and audiovisual sectors. It supports:

> European networks, to help the cultural and creative sectors to operate transnationally and to strengthen their competiveness.
> Activities that recognise and celebrate the contribution refugees and migrants make to cultural diversity in Europe. Culture can be a means for refugees and migrants to meet, communicate with and become part of existing communities.
> Initiatives for the translation and promotion of literary works across EU markets, with the aim of increasing access to and readership of high quality European literature.
> Platforms for cultural operators promoting emerging artists and stimulating a truly European programming of cultural and artistic work.

Creative Europe has two sub-programmes (Culture and MEDIA) and a cross-sectoral strand.
The Culture sub-programme helps cultural and creative organisations to operate

transnationally and promotes the cross-border circulation of works of culture and the mobility of cultural players. It provides financial support to projects with a European dimension aiming to share cultural content across borders. Funding opportunities cover a diverse range of schemes: Cooperation projects, Literary Translation, Networks or Platforms. The supported activities aim to enable cultural and creative players to work internationally.

The MEDIA sub-programme supports the audiovisual and multimedia sector, in particular:

> Initiatives that promote distribution of works and access to markets;
> The development of projects or a set of projects (slate funding);
> The production of television programmes or video games;
> Activities to increase interest in and improve access to audiovisual works;
> Activities promoting films, such as cinema networks or film festivals;
> Measures that facilitate international co-production and strengthen the circulation and distribution of works;
> Activities to build the skills and capacities of audiovisual sector professionals.

The cross-sectoral strand serves three primary functions:

1. The establishment of a Guarantee Facility targeting the cultural and creative sectors, and designed to facilitate access to finance for micro, small, and medium sized organisations in the sector, as well as to improve the risk-assessment capacities of participating financial intermediaries.

2. The promotion of Transnational policy cooperation activities designed to support the exchange of know-how relating to new business and management models, as well as:

   > Collecting market data, studies, analyses of labour, skills, market needs, and policies, and support statistical surveying;
   > Paying the contribution fee for European Union membership of the European Audiovisual Observatory;
   > Testing new and cross-sector business approaches to funding, distributing, and monetising creation;
   > Organising conferences, seminars, and policy dialogue, including in the field of cultural and media literacy and the promotion of digital networking.

3. Supporting a network of Creative Europe Desks, designed to:

   > Provide information about and promote the Creative Europe programme in their country;
   > Provide basic information on other support on the programme to the cultural and creative sectors;

> Stimulate cross-border cooperation within the sectors;
> Provide assistance in participating countries;
> Support the Commission in communicating and disseminating the results and impacts of the programme;
> Communicate and disseminate information concerning funding awarded to and results in a participating country.

Potential beneficiaries can find more detailed information on funding opportunities and application procedures, the application process is available on the website of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

Europe for Citizens Programme

The aim of the Europe for Citizens Programme is to:

> Raise awareness of the common history and values of the EU and of its aim to promote peace and the well-being of its peoples.
> Encourage the democratic and civic participation of citizens at EU level by developing their understanding of the EU policy-making process, and stimulate interest and involvement in EU policy making.

Potential beneficiaries:

1. **European remembrance- the EU as a peace project:** The programme supports NGO/think tank/foundation, local and regional government initiatives which reflect on the causes of the totalitarian regimes that blighted Europe's modern history, look at its other defining moments and reference points, and consider different historical perspectives.

2. Democratic engagement & civic participation - getting citizens involved through the following actions:

   c. **Town twinning:** Projects will bring together citizens from twinned towns to debate issues from the European political agenda, and develop opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at EU level.

   d. **Networks of towns:** Towns are encouraged to cooperate with one another on a long-term basis to share resources or interests, gain influence or face common challenges.

   e. **Civil society projects:** These projects give citizens an opportunity to participate concretely in the EU policy-making process. They stimulate debates in order to propose practical solutions through cooperation at European level.

Visit the EACEA website for information on how to apply for funding and the conditions

and procedures for the selection of beneficiaries. For more information, contact the Europe for Citizens Point in your country. The "Europe for Citizens" programme guide 2014-2020 is available in all EU languages.

ERASMUS +

Erasmus+ aims to modernise and improve higher education across Europe and the rest of the world.

Studying abroad is a central part of Erasmus+. The programme also provides opportunities for **teaching** staff to spend time teaching at an education institution abroad. These opportunities are available to both staff working in the education sector (in teaching and non-teaching capacities) and to individuals working outside the sector, who are invited to share their knowledge and experience.

Erasmus+ helps also gain valuable experience in the workplace by supporting **traineeships abroad** for higher education students and recent graduates, as well as **vocational education** and training students, apprentices and recent graduates. Training periods abroad can consist of job shadowing, observation periods or specific training courses abroad.

Erasmus+ is open to all young people, not just those currently enrolled in education or training. With Erasmus+, beneficiaries can volunteer across Europe and beyond or participate in a youth exchange abroad.
Erasmus+ also supports the professional development of youth workers through training or networking periods abroad. Periods abroad can consist of training courses, study visits, job shadowing or observation periods at relevant organisations and more.

It gives students and teaching staff opportunities to develop their skills and boost their employment prospects. Good practices will be shared between universities and businesses in Knowledge Alliances. Higher education institutions from participating countries can also work with those from neighbourhood countries, non-EU Balkan countries, Asia, African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and Latin America to develop their educational systems.

Potential beneficiaries:
Opportunities for students to learn abroad, including:

> Studies, including at Master's level. With Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD), beneficiaries can receive a full degree scholarship for a Master-level international study programme.

> Traineeships in businesses.
> Erasmus+ Master loans

Opportunities for staff for professional development, including:
> Training or teaching;
> Attending workshops delivered by businesses.

Cooperation between institutions:
> Deliver joint **masters' programmes** in a consortium of higher education institutions from participating countries.

Cooperation with businesses:
> Companies and higher education institutions can work together to share knowledge.

Cooperation outside the EU in neighbourhood countries, African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, Asia, and Latin America through projects that increase an organisation's competencies or expertise through:
> Joint **projects** to modernise teaching methods, materials and curricula;
> **Structural projects**, including the involvement of national authorities.

Partnerships between schools or other organisations:
> Establish European strategic partnerships to co-operate on issues of shared interest.

Online cooperation between schools (eTwinning):
> Teachers can network and run joint classroom projects with colleagues in Europe, access learning resources and take part in professional development opportunities.

Opportunities are available to the following organisations in participating countries:
> Students at higher education institutions;
> Higher education institution staff (academic and non-academic);
> Private companies.

Higher Education Institutions in neighbouring countries, non-EU Balkan countries, Asia, African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and Latin America can participate in projects that take place outside the EU.

Organisations wanting to participate in Erasmus+ may engage in a number of development and networking activities, including strategic improvement of the professional skills

of their staff, organisational capacity building, and creating transnational cooperative partnerships with organisations from other countries in order to produce innovative outputs or exchange best practices. In addition, organisations which facilitate the learning mobility opportunities for students, staff, trainees, apprentices, volunteers, youth workers and young people can benefit from the programme.

- Key Action 1: Learning mobility of individuals
- Key Action 2: Innovation and good practices
- Key Action 3: Support for policy reform
- Key Action 4: Jean Monnet Opportunities for teaching, research, and policy debate on the EU and its policies
- Key Action 5: Sports - Designed to develop and implement joint activities to promote sport and physical activity, identify and implement innovative activities in the field of sport, and manage not-for-profit events to increase participation in sport.

ERASMUS + for Research

Jean Monnet Activities consist of six Actions that aim to promote excellence in teaching and research on EU studies around the world. The Actions are also designed to foster dialogue between academic and policy-makers on EU policies. The Jean Monnet activities support programmes that include: modules, academic Chairs, Centres of Excellence, Networks, associations and projects.

European Voluntary Service

The European Youth Portal explains what different types of volunteering there are, shares inspiring stories from previous volunteers, and provides information about the European Voluntary Service (EVS) and EU Aid Volunteers, including a search engine for volunteering projects.

Socio-cultural associations may benefit from hosting volunteers who are reimbursed by the programme. Volunteers can gain considerable experience in the field they wish to work in.

Youth exchanges

Youth exchanges take place outside the school environment. On a youth exchange, one can expect to participate in activities such as workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, outdoor activities and more. Participants' learning experiences are recognised through a Youthpass. Youth exchanges last between **5 and 21 days**, excluding travelling time, and are open

to people between the ages of **13 and 30**. To be a group leader in a youth exchange, one must be at least 18 years old.

The EU grant supports travel as well as practical and activity-related costs necessary for the exchange. To participate in a youth exchange, one cannot apply directly for a grant as an individual. Applications must be made by an organisation or a group of young people who in turn selects who will participate in the exchange.

In order to find a suitable participating organisation or for any other questions, potential beneficiaries can contact the Erasmus+ National Agency in each EU country.

European Youth Portal

The European Youth Portal also provides information and opportunities for young people.
- Specific projects focusing on the topic "Creating chances for youth" may inspire potential applicants.
- Funding opportunities available under Education and Culture.
- A set of "Youth on the move" success stories of young people benefiting from the programme.
- Eurodesk is an information provider for young people and those who work with them.

Vocational Education and Training

Erasmus+ supports traineeships (work placements or study periods abroad) for students currently enrolled in vocational education and training (VET). These opportunities are also open to company-based apprentices and to recent graduates. Beneficiaries will be hosted either in a workplace or in another VET institution with periods of work-based learning as part of the studies of the participant.

To receive Erasmus+ support as recent graduate, the traineeship must occur within **1 year of graduation**. The participant organisation or institution and the receiving organisation must be established in Erasmus+ Programme countries. One cannot apply directly for a grant as an individual. Applications must be made by organisations who in turn select candidates for traineeships abroad.

Adult learning

Erasmus + aims to improve the quality of adult learning across Europe. It provides opportunities for adult learning professionals to learn from each other and develop

strategic partnerships. It focuses on common challenges, such as the recognition of skills learnt outside the formal education system. Erasmus+ will help make adult learning more accessible and improve the knowledge and skills of citizens across Europe.

Potential beneficiaries:

Exchange of staff within adult education organisations, including:

- Teaching/training assignments
- Structured course or training events;
- Job shadowing or observation.

Cooperation between institutions and organisations to:

- Exchange experiences and best practice;
- Develop regional strategies;
- Develop, test, and validate new curricula;
- Implement European policy on adult education.

Cooperation with business:

- Job shadowing;
- Collaboration on curricula;
- Training courses and seminars.

Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE):

- Professionals in adult learning - including educators, policy makers, training providers and researcher - can collaborate, learn from each other, keep up to date about latest developments, access professional resources and exchange good practices online.

Potential Beneficiaries:

Any public or private organisation active in the field0,6 mm of adult learning;

- Local/regional authorities active in the field of adult education.

COSME Programme: ERASMUS for Young Entrepreneurs

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme is designed for entrepreneurs who started a business within the last 3 years and aspiring entrepreneurs who are able to move to a European country for 1 to 6 months in order to train in a successful business in order to acquire experience and know-how. They are given the chance to network with successful entrepreneurs in other EU countries and to acquire the skills needed to

improve or establish their own business.

The programme is open to all young entrepreneurs planning to start up their own business who have a viable business plan.

Other related information:

Actions for young people are also included in other EU programmes. For example, the European Social Fund has an official website for activities targeting young people, such as the European Youth Initiative.

Sports

Actions in the field of sport are designed to promote participation in sport, physical activity, and voluntary activities. They are also designed to tackle threats to the integrity of sport, promote dual careers for athletes, improve good governance, and foster tolerance and social inclusion, as well as contribute to the implementation of the European Week of Sport.

The Actions the EU takes are usually related to Collaborative Partnerships and Small Collaborative Partnerships:

1. **Collaborative Partnerships**

Designed to develop and implement joint activities to promote sport and physical activity, as well as deal with threats to the integrity of sport (such as doping or match-fixing), promote dual careers for athletes, improve good governance, and foster tolerance and social inclusion.

2. **Small Collaborative Partnerships**

Designed to promote sport and physical activity through innovative practices, as well as the creation and development of transnational networks in the field of sport. They aim to:

- increase participation in sport and physical activity
- promote dual careers for athletes
- combat doping
- combat match-fixing
- promote voluntary activity in sport
- support new approaches to tackle violence, racism, discrimination and intolerance in sport
- improve good governance in sport

> encourage social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport.

Erasmus+ provides the opportunity for organisations to develop, transfer and implement innovative practices in the field of sport between organisations, authorities and others.

Collaborative and Small Collaborative Partnerships are designed to promote the creation and development of European networks in the field of sport, and can include a variety of activities, such as:
> networking among key stakeholders
> development, identification, promotion and exchange of best practices
> preparation, development, and implementation of education and training modules and tools
> increasing the skills of multipliers in the field of sport
> developing monitoring and benchmarking of indicators in the field of sport
> raising awareness of the added value of sport and physical activity
> promoting synergies between sport, health, education, training, and youth
> improving the evidence-base for sport
> organising conferences, seminars, events and meetings

Not-for-profit European Sport Events
Erasmus+ provides opportunities for organisations to carry out activities that:
> support the implementation of EU strategies in the field of sport.
> encourage participation in sport and physical activity
> support the implementation of the European Week of Sport.

Specific activities covered include:
> preparation of the event
> organisation of educational activities in the run-up to an event
> event organisation
> organisation of side-activities to a sporting event (such as a conference or seminar)
> implementation of legacy activities such as evaluations or the drafting of sustainability plans
> communication activities linked to the topic of the event.

Potential beneficiaries:
Athletic Associations, NGOs, Youth

CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES, JUSTICE

Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020

The Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme contributes to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons, as enshrined in the Treaty, the Charter and international human rights conventions, are promoted and protected. Its nine specific objectives are to:
> Promote non–discrimination
> Combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance
> Promote rights of persons with disabilities
> Promote equality between women and men and gender mainstreaming
> Prevent violence against children, young people, women and other groups at risk (Daphne)
> Promote the rights of the child
> Ensure the highest level of data protection
> Promote the rights deriving from Union citizenship
> Enforce consumer rights

Types of actions funded

> Training activities (staff exchanges, workshops, development of training modules)
> Mutual learning, cooperation activities, exchange of good practices, peer reviews, development of ICT tools
> Awareness-raising activities, dissemination, conferences
> Support for main actors (key European NGOs and networks, Member States' authorities implementing Union law)
> Analytical activities (studies, data collection, development of common methodologies, indicators, surveys, preparation of guides)

Justice Programme

This programme contributes to the further development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust. It promotes:

> Judicial cooperation in civil matters, including civil and commercial matters, insolvencies, family matters and successions, etc.
> judicial cooperation in criminal matters
> judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture
> effective access to justice in Europe, including rights of victims of crime and procedural rights in criminal proceedings
> initiatives in the field of drugs policy (judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects)

Types of actions funded

> Training activities (staff exchanges, workshops, development of training modules)
> Mutual learning, cooperation activities, exchange of good practices, peer reviews, development of ICT tools
> Awareness-raising activities, dissemination, conferences
> Support for main actors (key European NGOs and networks, Member States' authorities implementing Union law)
> Analytical activities (studies, data collection, development of common methodologies, indicators, surveys, preparation of guides)

You can find information on open calls for tender here.

Potential beneficiaries:

> The programme is open to all EU member states and further partner countries, further specified under Article 6 of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme Regulation.
> Public bodies;
> NGOs and civil society.

In addition, NGOs working in the fields of social inclusion, **gender equality and equal opportunities** may benefit from European Social Fund (ESF) support. The managing authorities of an operational programme in a region or in a member country eligible for support from the Cohesion Fund shall ensure that an appropriate amount of ESF resources is allocated to capacity building for non-governmental organisations (Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Gender Equality

There is no single budget line in the EU budget concerned with the equal treatment of men and women. Rather, gender equality and gender mainstreaming are financed through a vast array of actions under several EU funding programmes, certain of which are particularly important for gender equality. ESI Funds have funded various actions in order to promote gender equality. In addition, childcare facility infrastructure has been also funded through the ESI Funds. Other activities that have promoted gender equality were funded from other programmes such as Horizon 2020, EaSi, COSME, Erasmus +, AMIF etc. The following European Parliament Study link provides an explanatory note on the issue of gender mainstreaming in EU Funds and the way various funds have been used so far.

The Strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019 sets the framework for the Commission's future work towards improving gender equality.

The Strategic engagement focuses on the following five priority areas:
1. Increasing female labour market participation and equal economic independence;
2. Reducing the gender pay, earnings and pension gaps and thus fighting poverty among women;
3. Promoting equality between women and men in decision-making;
4. Combating gender-based violence and protecting and supporting victims;
5. Promoting gender equality and women's rights across the world.

Actions that are related to the above mentioned fields can be carried out through all

EU funds. In addition, as of 2014, the Commission has been running calls for proposals and calls for tenders under the following programmes:

> **Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme** funds NGOs, governments and networks;

> **Justice Programme**: funds organizations that improve victims' access to justice and the correct implementation of relevant EU legislation on protection orders.

Funding for gender related issues may be also found in the European Social Fund and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) when it comes to external action.

Potential beneficiaries:
Public bodies; institutions dealing with issues of gender equality;
NGOs and civil society.

ENVIRONMENT

LIFE is the European Union's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the Union and in some candidate and neighbouring countries. LIFE contributes to sustainable development and to the attainment of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and supports the application of other EU strategies and plans for the environment and climate. Through the LIFE programme measures and projects with European added value for the Member States are financed. The LIFE programme for the 2014-2020 funding period includes two sub-programmes, one for the environment and one for climate action.

The environment strand of the new programme (75 % of the budget) covers three priority sectors:

> Environment and resource efficiency

> Nature and biodiversity

> Environmental governance and information

The climate action strand (25 % of the budget) covers:

> Climate change mitigation

> Climate change adaptation

> Climate governance and information.

These programmes offer funding opportunities through grants (see the grants page in this section). The Commission also organises procurement tenders (see the calls for tender page in this section).

Other sources of environment funding:
Funding opportunities from other Commission Directorates General include the following:

> Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogues EU-USA
> Research projects with an environment component
> Grants in the field of energy
> Calls for tender in the field of rural development and agriculture
> Calls for projects and proposals in the field of education and training
> The youth in action programme
> The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) provides funds to promote cohesion and risk prevention in EU Member States
> The Civil Protection Financial Instrument
> Calls for tender in the field of Climate change

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme – Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (CIP-EIP) supports projects in eco-innovation through three initiatives: financial instruments, network of actors and pilot and market replication projects.

Potential beneficiaries:
Proposals may be submitted by legal persons (entities) registered in the EU. Applicants may fall into three types of beneficiaries: (1) public bodies, (2) private commercial organisations and (3) private non-commercial organisations (including NGOs).

For support from the protection of natural disasters see section:
PROTECTION FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

RESEARCH, INNOVATION, ICT, ENERGY

Horizon 2020 is the new EU funding programme for research and innovation running from 2014 to 2020 with a €80 billion budget. H2020 supports SMEs with a new instrument that runs throughout various funded research and innovation fields, enhances EU international research and Third Country participation, attaches high importance to integrate social sciences and humanities encourages to develop a gender dimension in projects.

Various other EU programmes offer research related opportunities such as the European Structural and Investment Funds, COSME, Erasmus +, LIFE programme, Connecting Europe Facility and the EU's Health programmes.

The current main Horizon 2020 work programme comprises an introduction, 18 thematic sections and the general annexes describing general rules such as standard admissibility conditions and eligibility criteria, types of action, selection and award criteria, etc. Each thematic section is self-contained, and describes the overall objectives, the respective calls for proposals, and the topics within each call. For more detailed information see programme sections.

This Horizon 2020 work programme is complemented by the separate work programmes for the European Research Council, Euratom, the Joint Research Centre and the Strategic Innovation Agenda for the European Institute of Innovation and technology (EIT).

Horizon 2020

- Excellent Science
- European Research Council
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions
- Research Infrastructures, including e-Infrastructures
- Industrial Leadership
- Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies
- Space
- Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and Biotechnology
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Access to risk finance
- Innovation in SMEs
- Societal Challenges
- Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing
- Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy
- Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
- Smart, Green and Integrated Transport
- Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials
- Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
- Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens
- Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation
- Science with and for Society
- Cross-cutting activities (focus areas)
- Fast Track to Innovation Pilot
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- Euratom
- Smart Cyber-Physical Systems

Other research opportunities

The European Research Council (ERC) also supports individual researchers of any nationality and age wishing to pursue frontier research. It particularly welcomes proposals with cross-disciplinary boundaries, pioneering ideas that address new and emerging fields, and applications that introduce unconventional, innovative approaches."Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions" are open to researchers in all disciplines, from life-saving healthcare to "blue-sky" science. The activities are implemented by the Research Executive Agency (REA).

As mentioned above, a considerable number of research opportunities may be found within the H2020 programmes as well as with the Erasmus + programmes. Other research opportunities may be found in the calls of the various EU agencies of the EU as well with the European Research Council schemes.

Euratom Research and Training Programme

The Euratom Research and Training Programme (RTP) is organised in three areas:
- nuclear safety, security and standardisation, supporting the policies of the EU and implemented mainly by the JRC;
- nuclear fission, including safety of nuclear systems, nuclear waste management, radiation protection and medical applications of radiation;
- nuclear fusion, on the feasibility of fusion as a power source, supporting research activities complementing the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project in this field.

Galileo

Galileo is the European initiative to develop a global satellite navigation system. To date, ten of the system's 30 satellites have been launched into orbit. Funding for space R&I activities is provided through Horizon 2020. However, the Regulation providing for Galileo allows the programme to fund R&I activities pertaining to fundamental elements of the satellite system, such as electronic components and receivers.

Copernicus

In 2010, the EU, in cooperation with the European Space Agency, established the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme. In 2014, this programme was renamed Copernicus in the Regulation establishing its funding for the 2014-20 period. The objective of Copernicus is to provide accurate and reliable

information and data in the fields of the environment and security, using space and in situ infrastructure. The Copernicus Regulation allows use of the funds to support research and innovation activities in the field of earth observation. Several projects funded under Horizon 2020 also complement existing Copernicus activities, in the fields of marine observation or climate monitoring for example.

Research Fund for Coal and Steel

The Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) provides funding for high quality research projects which support the competitiveness of the European Coal and Steel industries. The programme covers core production processes; new products and applications, quality control, utilisation and conversion of resources, safety at work, environmental protection by reduction of emissions from coal use and steel production, and social issues.

ICT and broadband

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are managed locally by managing authorities and can be combined with financial instruments in order to promote ICT activities. This is also the case for the European Fund for Strategic Investment. Information on how to combine European Structural and Investment Funds with the EFSI may be found here. Public funds available at local, regional and national government levels may also be of use. In this context state aid rules might apply. Further information can be found on this link on main financing tools.

CEF Telecom

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) broadband supports EIB blending activities such as structured finance, guarantees or project bonds. The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) in Telecom is a key EU instrument to facilitate cross-border interaction between public administrations, businesses and citizens, by deploying digital service infrastructures (DSIs) and broadband networks. Supported projects will contribute to the creation of a European ecosystem of interoperable and interconnected digital services that sustain the Digital Single Market.

- Calls for Proposals
- How to apply
- Beneficiaries Info Point
- Projects
- Policy background

ENERGY

The EU provides various funding programmes for projects that contribute to ensure a competitive, sustainable and secure energy supply in the EU. Grants and lending schemes help companies, regions, and countries to successfully implement energy projects.

Potential beneficiaries:

- public and private entities acting on behalf of those authorities (utilities, public transportation providers, social housing associations, energy service companies, etc)
- municipal, local and regional authorities
- citizens

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Energy

Upgrading the EU's ageing energy infrastructure, in order to prepare it for future challenges (demand for energy, security of supply, large-scale supply of energy from renewable sources), requires huge investments. As some energy projects are not commercially viable, CEF grants are of particular importance. Grants are allocated following competitive calls for proposals.

European Energy Programme for Recovery

The European Commission's European Energy Programme for Recovery (EEPR) finances key energy projects. Under the EEPR, the European Commission has also launched the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF). The EEEF offers financial products such as senior and junior loans, guarantees, or equity participation to energy efficiency investments made by local, regional, and national authorities.

Horizon 2020

The EU's Research and Innovation Programme Horizon 2020 provides € 5.9 billion in funding towards energy projects between 2014 and 2020.
Call for funding for innovative energy efficient technologies
Energy Research under Horizon 2020
Energy Research under FP7

NER 300

The NER 300 programme uses money from the sale of carbon allowances to fund demonstration projects for carbon capture and storage (CCS) and renewable energy in Europe. These projects are designed to demonstrate the commercial viability of technologies such as concentrated solar power, smart grids, bioenergy, and post-combustion CCS.

Cohesion Fund

The EU's Cohesion Fund aims to reduce economic and social disparity between EU countries and promote sustainable development. The Fund supports energy-related projects that benefit the environment such as by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the use of renewable energy or improving energy efficiency. Part of the Cohesion Fund will go in to implementing the EU's plans for Energy Union with the help of the Energy and Managing Authorities Network. Another part of the Cohesion Fund also goes into supporting the Connecting Europe Facility.

European Investment Bank

The European Investment Bank helps finance energy projects by providing companies with loans and other financial instruments. The EIB also provides advice and expertise on administration and project development. Energy projects financed by the EIB include renewable generation, infrastructure, and new technologies.

For further information regarding the projects of the EIB, please check the European Investment Bank website

Useful links

> More information regarding energy instruments in regional policy (DG Regional Policy)
> The EU has a range of financing opportunities that can support sustainable energy projects in cities. Find out more about financing local sustainable energy.
> Technical Guidance "Financing the energy renovation of buildings with Cohesion Policy Funding"
> EU support schemes and initiatives to accelerate energy efficiency investments.

Third Health Programme

The Third Health Programme will run from 2014 to 2020. The programme has 4 overarching objectives:

> To promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles, taking into account the 'health in all policies' principle.
> To protect EU citizens from serious cross-border health threats.
> To contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems.
> To facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens.

It supports actions that complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States to improve the health of EU citizens and reduce health inequalities by promoting health, encouraging innovation in health, increasing the sustainability of health systems and protecting Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats.

The Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA) is in charge of implement the Health Programme, mainly through financing three types of actions: projects, joint actions and operation grants. These actions should have a

special European dimension, meaning that a minimum of partners from different EU countries have to be involved in the project plan.

Potential beneficiaries:
> Research foundations and universities
> Public authorities;
> NGOs;
> Commercial undertakings

Drug prevention

Four EU financial programmes provide funding for drug-related projects between 2014-2020, to help implement the objectives set by the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 and to foster cross-border cooperation and research on drug issues:

> The Justice Programme, which aims at contributing to the further development of a European area of justice, funds projects relating to drugs, in particular on policy coordination, judicial cooperation on drug-related issues, and new psychoactive substances.
> The Internal Security Fund, which supports the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, can provide funding for projects relating to drug supply. This includes cross-border cooperation against drug production and trafficking, and the development of innovative approaches to improve the understanding of drug markets and improve the effectiveness of drug law enforcement.
> The Health Programme, whose objective is to promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles, will support health-related drug projects.
> Horizon 2020 is the EU's Research and Innovation programme. Its "Health, demographic change and well-being" component will provide funding to research relevant to drugs – for instance to develop innovative approaches to assess the risks of new drugs, to treat addiction and reduce the harms caused by drugs.

Potential beneficiaries:
> Depending on the strand of each programme:
> National, regional and local authorities;
> NGOs, foundations, universities, research centres.

DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID

Ngos can get funding under most of the thematic or regional programmes managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO). Depending on the requirements of individual calls for proposals, they can participate on their own or together with other co-applicants or affiliated organisations.

NGOs are also eligible for funding for humanitarian aid and civil protection activities. The Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) provides funding to NGOs, international organisations and United Nations agencies which implement humanitarian action on the ground.

The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), a European Commission department that works closely with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and EU delegations around the world, regularly publishes open calls for tender.

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) invests in the future of the EU candidate countries and the EU itself by supporting reform in areas linked to the enlargement strategy, such as democracy and governance, the rule of law, and growth and competitiveness. Farmers in candidate countries are helped through a specific

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD), which is part of IPA II.

The EU Aid Volunteers programme offers opportunities for European citizens to become EU Aid Volunteers in humanitarian projects worldwide.

Grants - Contracts
Grants are direct financial contributions provided to organisations, or to projects carried out by them. Most of the time, the Commission attributes them through calls for proposals.
More information on grants
Contracts are awarded through tendering procedures to purchase services, supplies or works.
Both contracts and grants are awarded for activities contributing to specific development goals.
More information on contracts

Budget Support
Budget support is an important tool to finance partner countries' development strategies. It consists of financial transfers to the national treasuries, and also involves policy dialogue and measures to assess the use made of these funds.
Budget support helps to deliver aid adapted to the needs identified by the countries themselves.
To benefit from budget support, a beneficiary country must demonstrate commitment to the fundamental values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
More information on budget support policy

Potential beneficiaries:
NGOs, international organisations, associations, development-foreign aid workers, volunteers

EU budget in numbers

The amounts available from some of the 2014–20 programmes are set out below:
(Commitments, current prices, in billion euro):

Heading and programmes**	Total*** amount 2014-20
Competitiveness for growth and jobs	
European satellite navigation systems (EGNOS and Galileo)	6.96
Horizon 2020	77.02
Competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs (COSME)	2.25
Education, training, youth and sport (Erasmus +)	14.79
Employment and social innovation	0.93
Customs, Fiscalis and anti-fraud	0.90
Connecting Europe Facility	33.25
Economic, social and territorial cohesion	
Youth Employment Initiative (specific top-up allocation)	3.21
Regional convergence (less developed regions)	182.21
Transition regions	35.32
Competitiveness (more developed regions)	54.37
Territorial cooperation	10.20
Cohesion Fund	63.40
Outermost and sparsely populated regions	1.56
Sustainable growth: natural resources	
European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) - market-related expenditure and direct payments	309.35
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	98.3
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)	6.40
Environment and climate action	3.46
Security and citizenship	
Asylum and Migration Fund	3.14
Internal Security Fund	3.73
IT Systems	0.13

Heading and programmes**	Total*** amount 2014-20
Justice	0.38
Rights. equality and citizenship	0.44
Civil Protection Mechanism	0.22
Europe for Citizens	0.18
Food and feed	1.89
Health	0.50
Consumer protection	0.19
Creative Europe	1.47
Global Europe	
Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)	11.56
European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)	15.58
European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)	1.33
Instrument for Stability and Peace	2.30
Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)	2.33
Partnership Instrument (PI)	0.96
Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)	19.56
Humanitarian aid	6.80
Civil Protection and European Emergency Response Centre (ERC)	0.14
European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps EU Aid Volunteers (EUAV)	0.15
Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)	0.33
Macro-financial assistance	0.53
Guarantee fund for external action	1.18

Source: EU Commission, A Beginner's Guide to EU Funding

FURTHER READING

Beginner's guide to EU funding
European Commission, 2016

European Commission page on public contracts and funding:
http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants

Overview of EU Funds for Research and Innovation
Briefing by EPRS, 2015

European Parliament