



Investing in Social Inclusion Experiences from social services

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Huge investment needs



- Transition to **community-based services**, focusing on the personal needs of each individual; backed-by:
 - **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (ratified by the EU);
 - **European Pillar of Social Rights** (Concept of enabling services).
- This will require **major investment** into:
 - **Job creation**, to guarantee well-trained staff with decent career paths and working conditions;
 - New community-based **social infrastructure** (accessible housing, day-care centres, etc.);
 - **Technology and digitalization** in the social sector.
- High level Taskforce on Social Infrastructure estimates **investment gap** in social infrastructure in social services, health, education and social housing at **€150 billion** per year.
 - This does not include **staffing costs which represent up to 80%** of the costs of social service provision.



ESF & Social Services



- **ESF is crucial to the development of social services** in many countries; going far beyond just funding innovation.
- **ESF grants are the preferred/best option** and for good reasons:
 - More in sync with the sector's needs, functioning and culture.
- Use of **ESF financial instruments is still under-explored**, yet could help in certain situations:
 - Test innovative or very specific projects;
 - Leverage additional resources;
 - Accelerate access to capital.
- Supporting **access to loans** for social service providers should be the biggest priority when it comes to financial instruments!



Barriers to EU Financial Instruments



- EASPD Study “Investing in Social Care and Support – a European Imperative” highlights 3 main barriers to loans:
 - **Misconceptions and poor communication** between investors and social service providers;
 - **Expertise gap and lack of capacity** on both sides: investors and social service providers;
 - **Unsuitable tools and instruments:** wrong thresholds, wrong target group, etc..



Unlocking Investment in Social Services



- EASPD Study “Investing in Social Care and Support – a European Imperative” recommends setting up:
 - a **dedicated or earmarked fund**, suited to the investment needs and reality of social service providers;
 - a **European Advisory Committee** for Quality Social Investment;
 - **national/regional** social investment platforms.





financial instruments revolving capacity building
 added value **ERDF** funding agreement **ESF** EU guidance
 governance ex-ante assessment
 technical support seminars **leverage** financial intermediaries **microfinance**
 co-financing **ESIF** case studies
investments **fi-compass** final recipients
 business plan **Thank you** thematic objectives
 advisory services **guarantees** banks **loans** **EaSI** equity
 private investors life cycle combination of support
EAFRD conferences factsheets
fund of funds **EMFF** investment strategy **CF**
 managing authorities manuals



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