



Welcome and introduction

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The ESF Plus: a renewed landscape for social investments

Objectives and role of the ESF Plus



The new ESF Plus:

- will deliver a *more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights*
- will focus on **investments in people** to respond to global challenges, maintain social fairness but also to drive Europe's competitiveness forward
- will be a more flexible and simpler version of the past ESF by merging a number of existing funds and programmes

Financial instruments

- under the ESF, they have demonstrated - even during the pandemic - to be a resilient funding mechanism: EUR 182 m disbursed to ca. **8000 final recipients**
- grants alone cannot address the significant investment gaps. The new CPR makes easier to combine grants and financial instruments
- the ESF Plus is well positioned to create **synergies between shared management financial instruments and InvestEU**

Supporting the social economy across the EU

Renewed commitment through ESF+ and InvestEU



- Strong, acknowledged **potential of the social economy and social enterprises to address societal challenges** such as climate change and growing inequalities
- The upcoming **Action plan for social economy**, will put forward concrete measures to mobilise the full potential of the social economy
- Thanks to the **support provided at EU and national level**, notably through the European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation, more intermediaries and investors are aware of social enterprises, and are providing repayable finance and business development support to address their needs
- Still, a **mismatch between the demand and supply of repayable finance** for social enterprises still exists in Europe. The **InvestEU programme** will tackle such financial and advisory gap



Thank you!

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