



ESF Plus Regional Programme

2021-2027

The **ESF Plus Regional Programme 2021-2027** is a document defining Emilia-Romagna's Programming Strategy for using the 2021-2027 budget resources of the **European Social Fund Plus** (ESF+). It is EU's and regions' main instrument for investing in people, improving employment opportunities and boosting local area attractiveness.

European Social Fund Plus in Emilia-Romagna

An unprecedented investment – over **1 billion euro** from the EU, the Italian Government and the Emilia-Romagna Region - in place for a new society to support socio-economic **recovery** and **employment** opportunities, guaranteeing the right to everyone who wants to play an active part in the society. The objective is to **upgrade skills of individuals and overall community**, building a society based on know-how, knowledge, rights and duties, jobs and companies, opportunities and sustainability.

Strategy

Being the main instrument implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Strategy is a result of a co-creating process between various regional bodies and social actors. It follows the priorities outlined in the national Partnership Agreement and the main regional framework strategies amongst which the Regional Pact for Work and Climate. Thus, the Regional Programme represents an important part of a **unified vision of programming tools for the European cohesion policy**.

Following previous programmes trend, the Regional Programme ESF Plus 2021-2027 introduces measures and actions to support the Region in its double transition – green and digital. The main goal is to create new wide-spread skills for a boosting society that is productive, equal and sustainable.

Programme

The ESF+ programme has four main Priorities:

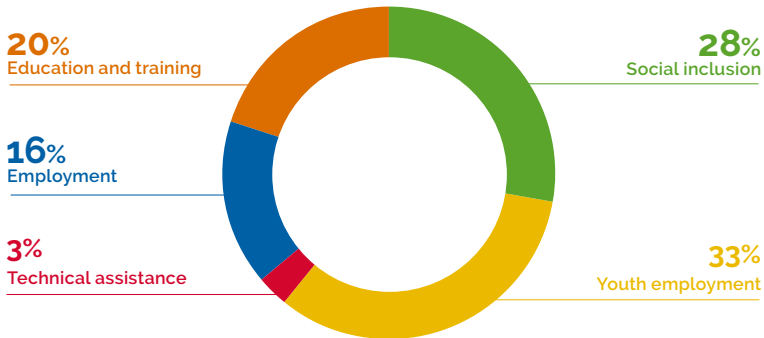
- **Employment**
- **Education and training**
- **Social inclusion**
- **Youth employment**

The list is completed by Technical assistance, fundamental element for an effective Programme management.

Enhancement of people's skills is seen as a **prerequisite for a growth path** capable of, on the one hand, **building a competitive, attractive, economically and socially innovative, open region** and, on the other hand, **promoting the participation** of all community members. It will help **ensure social mobility** and **foster equal distribution of the benefits** in economical, social, territorial, gender and generational terms.

Resources

A total of € 1,024,214,643 are available for the implementation of the ESF+ Emilia-Romagna Regional Programme.



More than half of the resources - **502 million euro** - will be invested in employment, in particular **youth and female employment** policies. **Social inclusion**, by supporting integrated policies and innovative actions and by fighting against inequalities and marginalisation, has been earmarked with **288 million euro**. This approach will ensure that **everyone can access quality educational services from early childhood**, attain the highest levels of education, develop life plans and work towards independence. **Education and training** will be crucial – with **202 million euro** – for the Emilia-Romagna Region along with universities, schools, education centres, companies - **to qualify and further strengthen the regional educational and training infrastructure**. The goal is to match people's expectations and the needs of the economic and production system, promoting quality jobs and ensuring new skills for a greener, more inclusive and digital economy.

Programme crosscutting principles

Regardless of the Priority in question, while implementing Programme actions, the following main horizontal principles are to be taken into consideration:

- **New generations as leading figures**
Goal: guaranteeing more space and value for young people – be it in companies, universities, the research system, institutions - by valorising merit and talent, combating early school leaving and promoting qualified placement at the labour market.
- **Fight against gender inequalities**
Goal: fully involving women for economic growth and stronger cohesion, pursuing quality jobs, countering cultural stereotypes, implementing reconciliation policies and strengthening the welfare network.
- **Full participation of all**
Goal: strengthening the leadership of local communities, with a special focus on internal and mountain areas, to reconcile inequalities and create uniform stable growth.
- **Simplified procedures and compliance requirements**
Goal: promoting and facilitating access to opportunities and services for citizens and companies.



Co-funded by
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Managing Authority
ESF+ Regional Programme

Directorate-General for Knowledge, Research, Employment, Enterprise

Sector for Education, Training, Employment
Sector for National and European Funds

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