



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

**Annual work programme for grants and procurement for the European Union
Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ("EaSI") for 2018.**

[Commission implementing decision C (2017)8347 of 13 December 2017]

SUMMARY

DG EMPL's 2018 annual work programme for grants and procurement for the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ("EaSI"), serving as financing decision

This draft Implementing Decision constitutes DG EMPL's 2018 annual work programme for grants and procurement for the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ("EaSI"), serving as financing decision. It determines the essential details of the actions which will involve expenditure from the 2018 budget, and its purpose is to allow the selection procedures to be launched so that individual decisions on the award of grants and contracts could be taken from the beginning of 2018.

This draft Implementing Decision covers the budget lines managed by DG EMPL in Direct Management mode under EaSI.

This draft Implementing Decision relates to the following budget lines:

- 04 03 02 01: PROGRESS – Supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Union employment and social policy and legislation on working conditions
- 04 03 02 02: EURES – Promoting workers' voluntary geographical mobility and boosting employment opportunities
- 04 03 02 03: Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship – Increasing access, and the availability of, financing for legal and physical persons, especially those furthest from the labour market, and social enterprises

The appropriations available under these budget lines will be used for:

Calls for Proposals in EMPL's field of activities;

Awarding direct grants (including to bodies with a *de jure* monopoly, such as the Member States holding the Presidency of the Union for the co-financing of conferences in DG EMPL's fields of activity and to bodies, like International Organisations, on account of their technical competence and high degree of specialisation);

Public procurement;

Financial instruments; and

Subdelegation to other DGs for actions of common benefit.

The Annex to the draft Implementing Decision sets out, for each budget line concerned, the details of the various actions scheduled by DG EMPL for 2018.

ANNEX

European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) Work Programme for 2018

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PART I - General Overview

1. Overall socio-economic context for the 2018 EaSI work programme

A number of trends determine the socio-economic context of the 2018 work programme for EaSI.

- **Employment on the rise, pushing back poverty**

The Employment and Social Developments in Europe Annual Review 2017¹ highlighted that in 2016 employment in the EU surpassed its pre-crisis rate and level. Around 215 million people between 20 and 64 years were in employment in 2016, a historical high. The number of Europeans at work was the highest ever measured, reaching more than 232 million in 2016. Last year, three million jobs were created, most of them permanent. In 2016, unemployment continued to fall in the EU, yet remained above pre-crisis levels. The number of unemployed people (between 15 and 74 years) reached 20.9 million, compared to more than 26 million in 2013. The drop in unemployment in 2016 was the biggest since the beginning of the recovery. Yet, 7.8% of the Europeans are still unemployed (as recorded in April 2017).

Full-time employment effectively protects people against poverty and social exclusion in most cases. The share of the EU population at risk of poverty or social exclusion (23.7 %) is the lowest in five years but still too high and too far from the goal set in the Europe 2020 Strategy. In spite of recent progress, a lot remains to be done to tackle the negative impact of the crisis on employment, on poverty and income inequality and on cohesion among Member States. In the post-crisis years (2008-2013) it has been difficult to return to employment: only about one in eight unemployed people managed to find permanent full-time employment within three years. The youth unemployment rate was 16.7% in April 2017, which remains a major concern as are long-term unemployment and unemployment of the elderly and immigrants.

- **Changing world of work**

Working life is being radically transformed by the combined effect of technological progress, globalisation and the growth of the services sector. These transformations are also coupled with increasing digitalisation of the economy, notably through the emergence of digital platforms and the collaborative economy which will offer new work opportunities, currently mostly in the form of self-employment. New forms of work and operating models may challenge the traditional work structures, industrial relations, employment and working conditions and the current social protection arrangements. Yet, while ICT jobs have grown by 2 million since 2006, many more ICT vacancies remain unfilled. Investment in skills is crucial to reap the full benefits of digitalisation leading to higher growth and also ensuring the long-term sustainability of social protection systems. The changes due to digitalization and the new work opportunities can have an influence on labour legislation, social security and pension schemes and their delivery methods.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8030&furtherPubs=yes>

- **Convergence and divergence in the EU**

Europe has always meant convergence towards higher living standards. It is through convergence that the EU becomes more cohesive and more stable. There are encouraging signs of renewed convergence, after significantly increased disparities following the deep recession of 2009. Yet major differences remain and labour markets and social protection policies and institutions across the EU performed very differently in the face of economic shocks. In this context, abusive practices in flexible forms of employment together with the disparities they create should be examined with the objective of exchanging best practices in preventing abuses and in introducing measures to mitigate any adverse effects on social rights.

- **Integration of refugees and migrants in societies and labour markets**

In 2015 and 2016, almost 2.6 million asylum applications were submitted to Member States. Migrants and refugees in general face obstacles when integrating into local labour markets, due to various factors such as lower levels of education and/or insufficient language skills. Upskilling and, particularly, improving language skills can significantly help migrants and refugees and their families integrate on the labour market in the host country. Special attention should continue to be paid to women and young people as well as partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society in the integration process. The removal of integration obstacles through early labour market access, improved recognition of qualifications and combatting discrimination are keys to unlock their potential and thus will contribute to boost the EU's human capital against the background of ageing societies. Under the 2016 work programme the EaSI financed an important call for proposals aiming at stimulating labour market integration of asylum seekers, refugees and their family members.

2. Overall political and policy priorities

As the 2017 Annual Growth Survey highlighted, there is a need to achieve an economic recovery which benefits all, strengthens fairness and the social dimension of the single market. This message was further strengthened in the Rome declaration of 27 March 2017 of the Heads of State and Government of the EU calling for a stronger social Europe *"based on sustainable growth, promotes economic and social progress as well as cohesion and convergence"*.

These political orientations are at the core of the EaSI political objectives. The programme is therefore central for achieving the political goals of the EU in the employment and social policies and for further deepening of the internal market. Furthermore, as of 2018 the programme will accompany the implementation of the proposal for a European Pillar of Social Rights ("the Pillar") and the associated legislative and non-legislative initiatives related to work-life balance, providing information to workers, access to social protection and working time. The Pillar is part of the efforts to launch a new process of convergence. While it is notably conceived for the euro area, it is addressed to all Member States wishing to be part of it. The Pillar is an illustration of the conviction that convergence towards better social-economic outcomes, social resilience and fairness is the necessary foundation for a more integrated and stable EU.

On the basis of these overall political objectives, the 2018 work programme will support a number of policy priorities:

- ✓ Investing in supportive conditions for greater labour market participation, more quality jobs and effective training and upskilling;
- ✓ Modernizing social protection systems;
- ✓ Improving the reconciliation of work and private life;
- ✓ Developing adequate responses for dealing with influx of migrants including refugees beyond the immediate short-term needs;
- ✓ Continuing to fight youth unemployment and long term unemployment;
- ✓ Redesigning social protection systems to ensure that they contribute effectively and efficiently throughout the life-cycle to social inclusion, labour market integration and social cohesion;
- ✓ Fostering tax and benefits schemes that provide adequate support and work incentives;
- ✓ Better reflecting growing life expectancy in national pension systems

3. Priorities per axis

The table below shows the indicative distribution of the resources per axis²:

	DB 2018	EFTA*	CA P0**	Credits Appropriations: total
PROGRESS	€ 77.589.483	€ 1.807.835	€ 1.496.500	€ 80.893.818
EURES	€ 23.734.000	€ 553.002		€ 24.287.002
Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship	€ 26.989.000	€ 32.387	€ 553.500	€ 27.574.887
	€ 128.312.483	€ 2.393.224	€ 2.050.000	€ 132.755.707

*Proportionality factor for the 2018 Budget: 2.21 % for Norway, 0.12 % for Iceland and 0.04% for Liechtenstein.

**Financial contributions from candidate countries and, if applicable, the Western Balkan potential candidates and certain partner countries (Article 21 of the Financial Regulation: External assigned revenues).

PROGRESS

The overall funding of the Progress axis in 2018 will increase from the 2017 level by EUR14.3M.

3.1 In the area of social protection and inclusion, the programme will support a number of overarching themes including the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the promotion of work-life balance, job creation, the reduction of poverty and social exclusion.

The following actions are highlighted:

² The resources are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2018, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths

- a. Innovative solutions to promote a better work-life balance and access to social protection including development of tools to model reforms of national policies will be addressed in a multi-strand call for proposals with special attention to candidate and potential candidate countries;
- b. A set of selected actions will continue extending support to: the mutual learning activities within the social policy open method of coordination, MISSOC, the European Social Policy Network, the High level group on pensions, conferences and workshops on inequalities in Europe, modelling of access to social protection and to the EU level Social NGO Networks;
- c. The programme will deepen the cooperation with the Council of Europe and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) through specific grants for actions to improve Roma inclusion (the Council of Europe Romact) and integration of refugees (IOM) as well as with the OECD;
- d. Support will continue to underpin evidence-based policy making through activities linked to data collection and data analysis such as support for EUROMOD, the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) and the Labour Force Survey;
- e. The political dialogue with international partners on employment and social policy will be supported ahead of international meetings requiring EU coordination;
- f. The electronic information exchange system in the social security field (EESSI) will continue to be supported by the programme to promote labour mobility across the EU

3.2 In the areas of employment and working conditions the following key actions are highlighted as recipients of support:

- a. A call for proposals in the field of posting of workers;
- b. A new call for proposals will be developed to incentivise the deployment of skills assessment in the context of the implementation of the upskilling pathways;
- c. the implementation of the youth guarantee and the long term unemployment recommendation (supporting networks, events, studies and data collection) together with a series of meetings and events bringing together the PES, groups of experts in labour law, the EU platform on undeclared work and meetings on posting of workers;
- d. the consolidation of the mutual learning activities in employment policy including on the upskilling pathways will continue with Member States and with other stakeholders and within the European centre of expertise in the field of labour law, employment and labour market policies;
- e. the work of OECD on new forms of work and the underlying challenges;
- f. in 2018 the funding devoted to health and safety will increase with the view to support the development of European statistics on occupational accidents and diseases and the mutual learning among Member States. The traditional grants to the International Commission on non-ionizing radiation protection, the International agency for research on cancer and WHO will be continued;
- g. In 2018, the programme will lend its support to the multi-donor fund *Vision Zero Fund* of the ILO on occupational health and safety in global supply chains.

3.3 Support to the microfinance providers

The Progress axis traditionally supports activities for the networks of microfinance providers that cannot be financed under the third axis but are essential for its overall effectiveness. This will be supported with a call for proposals 'transaction costs to support social financial intermediaries' and capacity building designed for social enterprises finance providers.

EURES

In 2018, the projected funding for the Eures axis will be EUR € 24.3M and it will support the following key actions coherent with the EURES Regulation 2016/589:

- a. a set of actions aiming at supporting the implementation of the EURES Regulation 2016/589 by developing the functionalities of the EURES Portal on transparency, information and matching, by ensuring a good governance of the EURES network, organising training and communication activities and further developing mobility analysis;
- b. a call for proposals with three strands supporting the cross-border partnerships, the cooperation with the social partners and with the EEA countries;
- c. a call for proposals *Your first Eures job*.

Following the call for proposals in 2017, EURES organisations will continue to support the occupational strand of the European Solidarity Corps throughout 2018.

MICROFINANCE AND SOCIAL ENTREPREUNERSHIP

In 2018, the funding available for the financial instruments under the third axis will decrease to EUR 27.5M while it reached EUR 43.5M in 2017. The split between the microfinance part and the social enterprises part is EUR 12M for the former and EUR15.5M for the latter, among which EUR 24M are for Financial Instruments.

In addition, in view of the high uptake of the EaSI guarantee financial instrument and the strong demand which resulted in full utilisation of the EaSI budget under its microfinance window, the Commission intends to top-up the budget of the Guarantee Facility by EUR 100 million with funds from the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI). This will enable an increase in financing available to vulnerable groups, microenterprises and social enterprises and thus further address the identified financing gap.

Part II - Grant, Procurements, Indirect Management, Financial Instruments and Other Actions

1. INTRODUCTION

On the basis of the objectives given in legal basis mentioned under the different appropriations this work

Programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2018 as follows:

- | |
|--|
| - for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): EUR 65 415 000 |
| - for prizes (implemented under direct management (1.3.) N/A |
| - for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.4): EUR 42 675 411 |
| - for actions implemented under indirect management mode (1.5): N/A |
| - for Financial instruments (indirect management) (1.6): EUR 23 888 296 |
| - for other actions (1.7): EUR 777 000 |

Any action under this work programme shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

1.2 GRANTS

Indicative budget breakdown:

Budget Line	Amount
04.030201 EaSI - PROGRESS — Supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Union employment and social policy and legislation on working conditions 1.2.1 to 1.2.21	EUR 49 225 000
04.030202 EaSI – EURES – Promoting workers geographical mobility and boosting employment opportunities 1.2.21 to 1.2.26	EUR 13 190 000
04.030203 EaSI – MICROFINANCE AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP - Increasing access and the availability of, financing for legal and physical persons, especially those furthest from the labour market, and social enterprises 1.2.27	EUR 3 000 000
TOTAL	EUR 65 415 000

LEGAL BASIS

04.030201 EaSI - PROGRESS — Supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Union employment and social policy and legislation on working conditions.

Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ('EaSI') and amending Decision No 283/2010/EU establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion (OJ L 347, 20/12/ 2013, p. 238–252).

Directive 2014/67/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ('the IMI Regulation') (OJ L 159, 28.05.2014, p.11)

Decision (EU) 2016/344 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on establishing a European Platform to enhance cooperation in tackling undeclared work (OJ L 65, 11.03.2016, p. 12)

1.2.1 Grants for the organisation of Presidency Events

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Conferences will be organised to support the EU objectives under both EU Presidencies in 2018. The topics will be related to promoting a high level of quality and sustainable employment, future of work, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions. The Commission intends to co-fund these conferences that will address on the one hand, issues in relation with social security coordination, public employment services and cooperation between labour inspectorates and on the other hand topical issues in relation with both Presidency priorities and Commission Work Programme to be defined a few months before the start of each Presidency in agreement with the Commission.

DG EMPL will support ten presidency events in the frame of both 2018 Presidencies which cost will range from 50.000€ to 300.000€ per event.

Description of the activities

The Presidency conferences and meetings will notably take place on the subjects of: Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC), Public Employment Services (PES) and Committee Senior Labour Inspectorates Committee (SLIC) meetings for exchange of good practices. Besides, thematic topics supporting the implementation of the EU Presidencies priorities and as well as the Commission Work Programme and Priorities will be discussed in 2018.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Grants to be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Art. 190.1 (c) Rules of Application of the Financial Regulation (RAP).

These events, which are highly political in nature and which need representation at the highest level both from national Authorities and European representatives, are to be organised exclusively by the Member State holding the Presidency. Given the unique role of the Presidency in the framework of EU activities, the Member State responsible for the organisation of the event is considered as a de jure monopoly.

The potential beneficiary shall be invited to submit an application, which shall be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

-The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value.

-The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-effectiveness ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_106 2018_04.030201_107 2018_04.030201_139 2018_04.030201_84	2018 Q1-Q4	EUR 850.000

1.2.2 Direct grant to OECD: Project for a multi-country database on benefit recipients

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Analytical activities to support employment and social policy initiatives. The EU (Eurostat) collects detailed and harmonised information on social protection expenditure and financing (ESSPROS), but this does not include information on beneficiaries (except in the area of pensions). Such data are essential to evaluate the effectiveness of the spending. The OECD has established and refined the data methodology to support the EU in this task. The aim of the project is to update existing data and to promote the integration of the methodology in the ESSPROS system.

Description of the activities to be funded

The activities will include the update of data series, organise exchange and transfer of knowledge and methodology to the EC.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190.1.(f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body, in this case the OECD, on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;

– The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_76	2018 Q3	EUR 400.000

1.2.3 Direct grant to OECD: Tax Wedge and Effective Tax Rates on Labour

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The grant builds on existing EC - OECD cooperation on the calculation of tax wedges and effective tax rates on labour with a view to providing an uninterrupted time series of indicators fully consistent with existing measures. This EC-OECD cooperation yields vital results for DG EMPL's work, in particular as the indicators are essential variables that are monitored in the European Semester and are also part of Country-Specific Recommendations. The information is also used in the Quarterly Review on the Employment and Social Situation in the EU and the Annual Review on Employment and Social Developments in Europe.

Description of the activities to be funded

The OECD will maintain and provide annual updates of the set of standard indicators on tax burdens and work incentives, provide backward/forward looking assessments of past/future policy reforms, and analytical work. The activities foreseen include e.g. the provision of core indicators, modelling policy changes, the production of analytical reports, knowledge transfer, training and capacity building.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190.1.(f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body, in this case the OECD, on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiary shall be invited to submit an application which shall be evaluated according to the following main criteria:

– The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;

– The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_74	2018 Q3	EUR 900.000

1.2.4 Sub - delegation to EUROSTAT – Direct grant to National Statistical Institutes (NSI) and other designated National Authorities for the Labour Force Survey 2019 ad-hoc module on work organisation and working time arrangements

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

European statistics are needed for the programming and implementation of EU policies in the area of employment, skills, social affairs and labour mobility. The priorities in 2018 will include the continued cooperation with EUROSTAT based on an MoU to further develop the analytical capacity of the DG's priorities for quality statistics allowing monitoring of developments and trends in the EU in the following areas: employment and labour markets, poverty and social exclusion, health and disability, efficiency and effectiveness of the welfare state, skills and training. In this context, timeliness of the data, as well as availability of data on dynamic aspects of labour markets and poverty is of particular importance. The data collected provide input to the European Semester and the work of EMCO and SPC, and the collection of labour market policy statistics and expansion of the data collection cover new arising needs.

Description of the activities to be funded

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is an important source of information on the situation and trends in the EU labour market. The LFS ad hoc modules aim to provide users with statistics on a specific topic concerning the labour market by adding each year a set of variables to supplement the core EU-LFS. National questionnaires are used to collect the EU-LFS data. The LFS survey is directed to households, designed to obtain information on the labour market and related issues through a series of personal interviews. The LFS 2019 ad-hoc module will feed into the purpose of monitoring progress towards the common objectives set out in the Europe 2020 strategy. The Commission should receive from the Member States a comprehensive set of data on work organisation and working time arrangements that allows comparisons to be made between Member States.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be National Statistical Institutes (NSI) and other National Authorities as designated by the Member States members and being members of the European Statistical System.

- be properly constituted and registered in one of the EU Member States or EFTA countries.

According to Article 190.1.(f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

The individual award decisions substantiating the specific characteristics of the action and the particular technical competence, high degree of specialisation or administrative power of the beneficiaries will be adopted at a later stage by EUROSTAT.

Award criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year
- The extent to which the proposed outputs present added value
- Reasonable and realistic budget and sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Through a cross delegation to another DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 70%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_72	2018 Q1	EUR 2.000.000

1.2.5 Sub - delegation to EUROSTAT: Direct Grant to Members States for the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The activity supports the development of the ESSPROS (European system of integrated social protection statistics) data collection with a focus on improvements in timeliness, the links between ESSPROS and National Accounts, on methodological questions. In addition, the possibility of collecting data on beneficiaries of benefits other than pensions should be explored. The aim is to produce better data for the monitoring of social protection policies in the Member States, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems. Such information is particularly relevant for the European Semester.

Grants will be awarded to Member States, candidate countries and EFTA countries to help them improve the quality of ESSPROS statistics (delivery of ESSPROS data, including early estimates, to the agreed voluntary deadlines and links with National Accounts).

Description of the activities to be funded

The activities may include projects for improving the timeliness of the data and enhancing the integration and consistency of social protection statistics and national accounts. In particular the activities planned are:

- Projects for more efficient data compilation and data transmission;
- Early estimates of the main ESSPROS aggregates;
- Further work on validation rules based on comparison of ESSPROS data with National Accounts;
- Further work on clarifications concerning the distinction between social protection, education and other borderline cases.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Implementation of grants by Eurostat is possible via restricted invitations to members of the European Statistical System, in accordance with Article 5 of the Regulation (EC) 223/2009.

According to Article 190.1.f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to particular bodies for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

The individual award decisions substantiating the specific characteristics of the action and the particular technical competence, high degree of specialisation or administrative power of the beneficiary will be adopted at a later stage by EUROSTAT.

Selection criteria: N/A

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiaries will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives pursued and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;
- The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget, as well as its sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Through a cross delegation to another DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_42	2018 Q3	EUR 1.500.000

1.2.6 Direct grant to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs Programme

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Support the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in order to continue to provide authoritative, up-to-date evaluations of environmental and occupational exposures that may present carcinogenic hazards to human beings, and to disseminate the results world-wide as printed books and in electronic form by online internet access.

This initiative supports the goals set out in the of EU-OSH Strat. FW (COM(2014)332) - This activity supports the Commission in collecting up-to-date scientific information on occupational carcinogens.

Description of the activities to be funded

Support of up to 3 meetings per year composed of 15 to 20 international experts to evaluate up-to-date environmental and occupational exposure data related to cancer causing agents and working conditions, the results of which are disseminated world wide as printed books and in electronic form by online internet access.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190.1.(f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The IARC Monographs are of high value to the work of SCOEL (Scientific Committee on Occupational limits) by providing updated and reliable scientific evaluations on risks derived from exposure to carcinogenic substances. SCOEL produces Recommendations on limit values for chemicals based on IARC Monographs (among other relevant literature). The SCOEL Recommendations are further used by the Commission to propose European objectives in the form of indicative occupational exposure limit values for the protection of workers from chemical risk. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according to the following award criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;
- The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 5%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
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2018_04.030201_94	2018 Q1	EUR 60.000
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1.2.7 Direct Grant to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This activity supports the existing Directive (2013/35/EU) on EMF. - Providing information and up-dated scientific information to maintain Directive 2013/35/EU adapted to the scientific developments.

Description of the activities to be funded

Dissemination of information and advice on the potential health hazards of exposure to non-ionising radiation.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190.1.(f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

ICNIRP is an independent organization consisting of high level internationally recognized multinational experts. ICNIRP has a unique expertise and it gives recommendations on limiting exposure for the frequencies in the different non-ionising radiation (NIR) subgroups. It develops and publishes Guidelines, Statements, and reviews which are used by national and international bodies, such as the European Commission (for Electromagnetic Fields Directive 2013/35/EU, for example) and World Health Organization. WHO does not have sufficient expertise in this area as they also use information produced by ICNIRP. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiary shall be invited to submit an application which shall be evaluated according to the following award criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;
- The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 55%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_95	2018 Q2	EUR 25.000

1.2.8 Direct grant to the WHO - International Programme on Chemical Safety

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Support the International Chemical Safety Programme of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in order to continue to provide authoritative, up-to-date evaluations of environmental and occupational exposures to hazardous chemicals, and to disseminate the results world-wide. These may be used as appropriate by the Commission for developing evidence based policy in the field of workers' health protection against chemical risks.

This initiative supports the goals set out in the of EU-OSH strategy (COM(2014)332) - This initiative develops and updates information relevant to prevent occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Description of the activities to be funded

Development of authoritative risk assessment documents, in particular:

- International Chemical Safety Cards (IPCS)
- Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)
- Running the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190.1.(f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

The World Health Organization, through its International Programme on Chemical Safety, makes a valuable contribution to the work of SCOEL (Scientific Committee on Occupational limits) by providing updated and reliable scientific evaluations on risks derived from exposure to chemicals. SCOEL produces Recommendations on limit values for chemicals using the WHO evaluations, among other relevant literature. The SCOEL Recommendations are further used by the Commission to propose European objectives in the form of indicative occupational exposure limit values for the protection of workers from chemical risks. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according to the following award criteria:

–The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;

–The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_96	2018 Q1	EUR 165.000

1.2.9 Call for proposals on social innovation and national reforms

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The European Pillar of Social Rights has set out key principles and rights for a renewed process of upward convergence towards better working and living conditions, including work-life balance and the right to adequate social protection. Most of the tools required to deliver on the Pillar are in the hands of local, regional and national authorities, social partners and the civil society at large. The call for proposals aims to support governmental, non-governmental actors and social partners in delivering on the rights and principles set out in the Pillar through social innovation and national policy reforms, in particular as regards reconciling work and private life, promoting access to social protection and developing adequate social protection systems.

Lot 1: Work-life balance

Description of the activities to be funded

Activities to be funded should test, develop and/or implement innovative work-life balance strategies.

These strategies will notably encompass flexibility of work organisation, adapting working hours to workers' needs, family-conscious human resources policies, on-site corporate childcare, etc.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Eligibility of the applicants (lead and co-applicants)

- Lead applicant must be a public body (such as national, regional and local authorities, employment services)
- Co-applicants must be public bodies or for profit or non-profit-making private entities

- Lead applicants and co-applicants must be properly established and registered in one of the EaSI-PROGRESS participating countries.
- The action must involve a consortium of at least 3 applicants (1 Lead applicant + 2 co-applicants).
- At least one co-applicant must be a social partner organisation at European, national or local level.
- At least one co-applicant must be properly established and registered in a EaSI-PROGRESS participating country other than a EU-Member State.
- Affiliated entities are not eligible under this call.

Selection criteria:

The applicant and co-applicants must have the financial and operational capacity in the field to complete the proposed action.

- Financial capacity: the applicant and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to participate in its financing it as necessary. The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies or to international organisations.
- Operational capacity: the applicant and co-applicants must have the professional competencies, qualifications and experience required to complete the action.

Award criteria:

1. Relevance to purpose, objectives and priorities of the call
2. Overall design of the action,
3. Methodology, activities and expected outcomes
4. Appropriateness of the impact/outcomes evaluation method
5. Sustainability of the project
6. Cost-efficiency of the proposal

Lot 2: Access to Social Protection

Description of the activities to be funded

Activities to be funded should test, develop and implement innovative actions to facilitate the access to information on social protection entitlements for people with diverse careers and employment statuses, notably through development of web-based accounts of individual entitlements to social protection benefits and services.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Eligibility of the applicants (sole or lead applicant and co-applicants)

- Sole or Lead applicant and co-applicants must be properly established and registered in one of the EaSI-PROGRESS participating countries.
- Sole or Lead applicant must be the competent national public authority, such as the ministry responsible for social protection, or a public agency expressly mandated in writing by the competent national authority to assume responsibility for the implementation of the action
- Co-applicant(s) must be public bodies, for profit or non-profit-making private entities
- The action may involve consortia
- Affiliated entities are not eligible under this call.

Selection criteria:

The Sole or Lead applicant and co-applicants must have the financial and operational capacity in the field to complete the proposed action.

- Financial capacity: the sole or lead applicant and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to participate in its financing it as necessary. The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies.
- Operational capacity: the applicant and co-applicants must have the professional competencies, qualifications and experience required to complete the action.

Award criteria:

1. Relevance to purpose, objectives and priorities of the call
2. Overall design of the action
3. Methodology, activities and expected outcomes
4. Appropriateness of the impact/outcomes evaluation method
5. Sustainability of the project
6. Cost-efficiency of the proposal

Lot 3 : National reform support

Description of the activities to be funded

The activities supported should aim to prepare and/or implement national policy reforms aimed at strengthening the adequacy of social protection systems. In particular, they can include:

- development of modelling tools to support national social protection reforms;
- pension reforms, notably integrated development of public and supplementary pension schemes;

- social protection reforms aimed at improving access for people in non-standard work or self-employment.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Eligibility of the applicants (sole or lead applicant and co-applicants)

- Sole or Lead applicant and co-applicants must be properly established and registered in one of the EaSI-PROGRESS participating countries.
- Sole or Lead applicant must be the competent national public authority, such as the ministry responsible for social protection, or a public agency expressly mandated in writing by the competent national authority to assume responsibility for the implementation of the action
- Co-applicant(s) must be public bodies, for profit or non-profit-making private entities
- The action may involve consortia
- Affiliated entities are not eligible under this call.

Selection criteria:

The sole or lead applicant and co-applicants must have the financial and operational capacity in the field to complete the proposed action.

- Financial capacity: the applicant and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to participate in its financing it as necessary. The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies.
- Operational capacity: the sole or lead applicant and co-applicants must have the professional competencies, qualifications and experience required to complete the action.

Award criteria:

1. Relevance to purpose, objectives and priorities of the call
2. Overall design of the action
3. Methodology, activities and expected outcomes
4. Appropriateness of the impact/outcomes evaluation method
5. Sustainability of the project
6. Cost-efficiency of the proposal

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
Lot 1 2018_04.030201_128	2018 Q1	EUR 20.000.000
Lot 2 2018_04.030201_137		
Lot 3 2018_04.030201_140		

1.2.10 Direct grant to OECD: 1) Identifying ways of raising effective retirement ages supporting pension adequacy of supplementary schemes; 2) Improving coverage, quality and sustainability of social protection including long-term care and health care

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to explore how social protection systems are affected by labour market changes and how they need to evolve to ensure coverage, quality and sustainability of income and in-kind security for all. Investigate new ways of raising effective retirement ages, of addressing the inequalities of access to social protection and of financing social protection schemes.

Description of the activities to be funded

Knowledge production (including socio-economic analysis, macro- and micro-economic simulation, development of indicators, statistical analysis) for use in EU policy making and EU policy support for EU member states in the context of the European Semester and the Social Open Method of Coordination (OMC).

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190.1.f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to particular bodies for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence; its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The grant is to be awarded to the OECD, as it is the only international body with the technical capacity for carrying out this research. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiaries will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives pursued and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;
- The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget, as well as its sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_138	2018 Q3	EUR 2.000.000

1.2.11 Direct grant to OECD: Database on affordable housing

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Completing and maintaining the database on affordable housing built up with the OECD, and drafting an analytical report on the basis of the data collected. The analysis could help to identify effective and cost-efficient social policies for housing and to better target policy-making efforts.

The database and related analysis would support implementation of several policies including not only housing but also homelessness, child poverty, Roma inclusion, Urban Agenda, etc.

Description of the activities to be funded

This action will continue the 2016 OECD action "Study on integrated housing and social services" aiming up setting up a database and analysis on affordable housing.

The action aims at (i) extending the quantitative and qualitative scope of the indicators currently included in the housing database, (ii) improving the quality and comparability of available data, (iii) maintaining and updating available information displayed on the dedicated OECD public website, and (iv) providing thematic analysis by crossing data, which may inform EU policy-making and the use of EU Funds in particular in the domains of homelessness and housing exclusion.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190.1.f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to particular bodies for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence; its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The grant is to be awarded to the OECD, as it is the only international body with the technical capacity for carrying out this reasearch. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiaries will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

– The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives pursued and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;

– The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget, as well as its sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_157	2018 Q4	EUR 500.000

1.2.12 Call for proposals to support EU level Social NGO Networks to contribute to Europe 2020 Strategy

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The call aims at providing specific annual operating grants to organisations in the area of the promotion of social inclusion and poverty reduction having previously signed a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the Commission.

The networks support the Commission in its outreach activities at EU, national and local level with the aim of ensuring awareness, contribution to and implementation of EU level policies and initiatives in the areas of the promotion of social inclusion and poverty reduction, as foreseen among others, under the EaSI Progress axis, the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Social Investment Package (SIP), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Description of the activities to be funded

The activities to be funded through the annual operating grants include, among others, analytical activities, outreach activities, mutual learning among members, research activities and input for policy design. The work programmes may also include activities aimed at helping to improve the organisational capacities and management of the selected networks, as well as their advocacy and campaigning skills to support EU objectives and priorities at EU and national level in the areas mentioned above.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

– The call is restricted to networks having previously signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the Commission.

Award criteria:

- Coherence and consistency, i.e. the extent to which the proposed programme (i) takes into consideration the relevant EaSI objectives, (ii) responds appropriately to actual needs for the

period concerned, and (iii) ensures coherence between the multiannual and the annual work programmes.

– added value and relevance at European level of the programme proposed as well its dissemination and availability to all countries involved in the EaSI Programmes;

– quality and impact of the programme and each of its modules;

– efficiency and feasibility of the work organisation / methodology including a clear description of the allocation of human resources in relation to the individual tasks or activities and the timetable;

– financial quality of the programme, including the existence of a clear, detailed, and reasonable budget which is coherent with the actions proposed.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_146	2018 Q3	EUR 9.500.000

1.2.13 Direct Grant to International Organisation for Migration: Supporting the integration of refugees in society and in the labour market through capacity building for local authorities

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This action aims at consolidating and complementing the work done through the 2016 preparatory action, the main objective of which is to increase the capabilities of local administrations in dealing with the multiple aspects related to the integration needs of migrants at local level.

The project aims at helping municipalities receiving refugees and to enable them to address the challenges associated with welcoming and integrating this vulnerable group. The project will therefore enhance the capacity of local governments to develop sustainable strategies for the successful social and economic integration of refugees from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Description of the activities to be funded

This will be done with a series of trainings and mentoring activities for the front-line workers dealing with the specific needs and situations of migrants. The training areas will focus on the 3 pillars of active inclusion:

- Income support

- Access to the labour market

- Access to social services

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190 f) of the RAP, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The International Organisation for Migration has a unique expertise in dealing with migrants and refugees integration. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according the following main award criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value;
- The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 95%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_143	2018 Q2	EUR 1.000.000

1.2.14 Direct grant to Council of Europe: Building capacity at local level for the integration of Roma

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This capacity building programme aims at promoting structural reforms at local level and at improving the absorption of EU funds for that purpose. Local public authorities are encouraged to change their social policy approach and move from the delivery of passive social benefits towards social investment, through an integrated provision of inclusive services and benefits in the areas of education, healthcare, employment, social housing and infrastructure. Thanks to these reforms, citizens will benefit from more inclusive, personalised and integrated benefits, better responding to their needs.

Description of the activities to be funded

Continuation and expansion of the on-going ROMACT capacity building programme to help local authorities implementing social investment strategies for most disadvantaged people, notably to address poverty migration issues.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190 f) of the RAP, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The Council of Europe has a unique expertise in dealing with capacity building for Roma integration. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according to the following main criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;
- The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 90%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_145	2018 Q2	EUR 700.000

1.2.15 Call for proposals in the field of posting of workers

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The specific objectives of this call for proposals are the following:

- a) To promote transnational cooperation among public authorities and stakeholders, including the promotion of the use of Internal market information system (IMI) and sharing experiences and best practices in this respect.
- b) To increase the accessibility, transparency and quality of the information concerning the terms and conditions of employment to be respected and the existing practices in the Member States to monitor and enforce the provisions of the Posting of Workers Directive.
- c) To promote the evidence basis through the collection and evaluation of original data, analysis and information specific to the posting process, including through the collaboration between universities across various disciplines, research centres and institutes, and stakeholders.

Description of the activities to be funded

The call supports the implementation, application and enforcement of the Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of provision of services and its Enforcement Directive 2014/67/EU. Activities aim at supporting competent authorities in Member States and social partners in administrative cooperation as well as in increasing access to essential information for posted workers.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants (lead and co-applicants) must be properly constituted and registered legal entities, having their registered office established in:

- one of the Member States of the European Union;
- one of the EFTA/EEA countries, in accordance with the EEA Agreement, participating in the EaSI Progress Axis 2016 (Iceland and Norway);
- Albania, FYROM, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey.

To be eligible, lead applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities must fall in one of the following categories:

- Public authorities;
- International organisations;
- Non-profit organisations (private or public);
- Research centres/institutes;
- Higher education establishments;
- Civil society organisations,
- social partner organisation at European, national or regional level (in application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met).

To be eligible, actions must have the involvement of lead applicant and co-applicants established in at least four different EU Member States or other eligible EaSI-Progress participating countries [Iceland, Norway, Albania, FYROM, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey], i.e. lead applicant and at least 3 co-applicants.

Selection criteria:

- Financial capacity: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary. (The verification of financial capacity shall not apply to public bodies).

- Operational capacity to complete the proposed action: applicants must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed action, as well as the ability to implement it. Applicants must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call objectives;
- Quality of the methodology and of the activities proposed;
- Impact of the proposal;
- Visibility of the proposed activities;
- Cost efficiency of the operation.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_59	2018 Q2	EUR 3.000.000

1.2.16 Call for proposals in the field of undeclared work

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The priority for this call is to co-finance actions fostering joint activities and cross-border projects of enforcement authorities improving their technical capacity in the field of preventing and deterrence of undeclared work. This will further enhance on-going cooperation between Member States enforcement authorities in line with Decision (EU) 2016/344 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on establishing a European Platform to enhance cooperation in tackling undeclared work.

Cooperation may cover the following areas:

1. Common training courses for staff involved in enforcement activities;
2. Joint inspections and exchange of staff of enforcement authorities;
3. Provision of technical assistance;
4. Information exchange systems;
5. Collaborative work in form of sharing of information and mutual learning between enforcement authorities.

The main objective of this call for proposals is to develop and fund initiatives which shall contribute to enhancing the implementation, application, knowledge and better enforcement of EU and national law in the area of undeclared work, thus contributing to the reduction of undeclared work and to the transition into formal jobs. The knowledge gained from these projects should also help building up evidence-based knowledge for better policy design.

The expected results are the improved transnational cooperation between Member States' different authorities to prevent and deter undeclared work, increased mutual trust among the stakeholders and the increased public awareness on the urgency of action and encouraging Member States to step up their efforts in dealing with undeclared work.

Description of the activities to be funded

The call targets actions fostering joint activities and cross-border projects of enforcement authorities preventing and deterrence of undeclared work. This will further enhance on-going cooperation between Member States in line with Decision (EU) 2016/344 .

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible, applicants (lead applicants and co-applicants) must:

- be legal entities properly constituted and registered in an EU Member State or another EaSI-PROGRESS participating country. Organisations of social partners without legal personality under the applicable national law are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met (Art. 131 of the Financial Regulation);

- be non-profit making, and;

- Fall into one of the following categories:

1. Public enforcement authorities such as labour inspectorates, social security inspectorates, tax authorities, customs authorities, migration bodies, ministries in charge of tackling undeclared work, the police and the public prosecutor's office.

2. Social partners. Social partners which are entitled by law or institutional agreement to carry out enforcement tasks can be lead-applicant . Other social partners can be co-applicants.

Lead applicants must be officially appointed by Member States to the European Platform tackling undeclared work or must present a letter of support issued by the respective senior representative in the Platform appointed by a Member State.

Selection criteria:

Only organisations with the necessary financial and operational capacity may be awarded a grant.

Financial capacity: the applicants and co-applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary. (The verification of financial capacity shall not apply to public bodies).

Operational capacity: the applicants and co-applicants must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed action, as well as the ability to implement it.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call objectives, in particular innovative character
- Quality of the methodology and of the activities proposed;

- Impact of the proposal;
- Visibility of the proposed activities;
- Cost efficiency of the operation.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_65	2018 Q2	EUR 1.000.000 ³

1.2.17 Support networks active in the area of social enterprise / microfinance support

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The networks support the Commission in its outreach activities at EU, national and local level with the aim of ensuring the implementation of the financial instruments for microfinance and social entrepreneurship support under the EaSI axis on microfinance and social entrepreneurship.

The work programmes of the networks contain certain tasks like exchanges of good practices and research activities that the Commission needs and would otherwise have to carry out (or contract out) on its own.

Moreover, the networks voice the concerns and expectations of its members, providing DG EMPL with input for policy design in the area of the demand or supply side of microfinance or social enterprise finance markets.

Description of the activities to be funded

The call aims to provide specific operating grants to the organisations that have signed a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreement, i.e. networks in the areas of microfinance and social enterprise support.

The activities to be funded contain, among others, outreach activities, mutual learning among members, research activities and input for policy design.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Restricted to networks that have signed a framework partnership agreement with the Commission.

³ The budget of this call is indicative and it may include additional unspent appropriations provided for in the 2017 work programme.

Selection criteria:

The selection criteria will enable the Commission to assess the applicant organisation's financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed work programme.

- Financial capacity: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action.
- Operational capacity: applicants must have a sound administrative and financial management structure, the operational resources (technical, management, etc.) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed work programme, as well as the ability to implement it. The applicants or their members must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field.

Award criteria:

- coherence and consistency, i.e. the extent to which the proposed programme (i) takes into consideration the relevant EaSI objectives, (ii) responds appropriately to actual needs for the period concerned, and (iii) ensures coherence between the multiannual and the annual work programmes;
- added value and relevance at European level of the programme proposed as well as its dissemination and availability to all countries involved in the EaSI Programme;
- quality and impact of the programme and each of its modules;
- efficiency and feasibility of the work organisation / methodology including a clear description of the allocation of human resources in relation to the individual tasks or activities and the timetable;
- financial quality of the programme, including the existence of a clear, detailed, and reasonable budget which is coherent with the actions proposed.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80 %

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_14	2018 Q3	EUR 1.500.000

1.2.18 Call for proposals to support the deployment of skills assessments in the implementation of "Upskilling Pathways"

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The overall objective is to support the upskilling of adults with low basic skills via the implementation of the "Upskilling Pathways" Recommendation (December 2016), as part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, launched by the Commission on 10 June 2016. This should be done in particular by putting in place the first of the three key steps of the "Upskilling pathways initiative": skills assessments.

The call for proposals aims at supporting the deployment of individual skills assessments for low-skilled adults in the context of the implementation of Upskilling Pathways. The skills assessments will identify the individual's existing skills and any upskilling needs, and inform the design of a learning offer adapted to the results of this assessment. Screening tools for detecting 'gaps' in individuals' literacy, numeracy or digital skills are an important component.

Skills assessments should be embedded in programmes or interventions targeting low-skilled adults, to facilitate their orientation towards a suitable offer of learning, and to make visible the skills they have acquired throughout their lives, through formal, non-formal or informal learning.

More generally, the aim is to mobilise and engage stakeholders in the delivery of Upskilling Pathways and therefore to increase the take up of upskilling opportunities by low-skilled adults.

This action will complement the support targeted on low-skilled adults through the European Social Fund and Erasmus+, by assisting participating countries to develop coherent strategies for increasing the skills levels and qualifications for adults without an upper secondary education. This action should concentrate on a given Member State as it is aimed to be a support to the implementation of "Upskilling Pathways" and complement related activities (ongoing or future) taking place at national, regional or local levels.

Description of the activities to be funded

Supporting the deployment of individual skills assessments, embedded in upskilling pathways targeting low-skilled adults through:

- developing skills assessments tools or procedures;
- piloting and/or testing skills assessments tools or procedures;
- adapting existing provision to the needs of low-skilled adults;
- encouraging employers to provide skills assessments for employees in low-skilled jobs;
- creating and improving mechanisms for coordination and cooperation among stakeholders involved in the provision or design of skills assessments (adult education and training providers, labour market stakeholders and social policy stakeholders, etc.).

In the case of an action to be implemented by a transnational consortia, the application must make clear which country will be the focus of the project.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants

To be eligible, the applicants must:

- be legal persons properly constituted and registered in one of the EaSI participating countries.

Sole or Lead applicants (in case of consortia) must be:

- public entities in charge of national or regional policies and actions for upskilling adults.

Any co-applicants must be:

- public or private entities (profit or non-profit making) involved in the organisation, financing or provision of services such as skills assessment, validation, education and training and guidance targeted to adults.

Selection criteria:

- Financial capacity – Lead and co-applicants shall have access to sufficient funding to maintain their activities throughout the implementation period of the action.

The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies.

- Operational capacity – lead and co-applicants shall possess operational resources (e.g. technical, management) and adequate professional skills and qualifications necessary for proper implementation of the action. The applicants shall also have a strong experience and competences in the field of adult education, in particular those without an upper secondary education.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the call;

- Quality of the methodology;

- Expected Impact and sustainability;

- Cost efficiency.

Taking into account the quality of the proposals, only one grant may be awarded per focus country.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_31	2018 Q2	EUR 1.500.000

1.2.19 Direct grant to the OECD: Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competences (PIAAC)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to support the update and improvement of survey instruments intended for the next wave of PIAAC survey as well as the analysis of the results, implementation processes and the policy impact of previous waves of the survey. The result will be a report on the development and analysis activities carried out.

Description of the activities to be funded

The project aims to analyse data from the previous round of the survey as well as preparatory activities to launch of a new round of international survey of adult skills supporting the Commission in monitoring of guidelines on skills. The preparation of the survey was also supported in previous years.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Art. 190.1 (f) of the RAP, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The OECD has the expertise, legitimacy and contacts with the data providers (MS administrations) to support the EU in this project. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according the following main criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;
- The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_32	2018 Q3	EUR 500.000

1.2.20 Sub-delegation to DG ECFIN: Direct grant to Euronews for reporting on employment and social affairs related issues via Real Economy Magazine (2018)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Horizontal objectives and specific target groups:

How to fight against youth unemployment; specific target groups are: young unemployed, employers, youth organisations, youth workers, people working in public employment agencies.

The need for high quality vocational education and training in the EU; specific target groups are young people, apprentices, enterprises / SMEs, teachers, trainers, training schools, trade unions, public authorities, NGOs.

The European Pillar of Social Rights focusing on future challenges in the field of employment and social policy; specific target groups are workers, employers, young people, families, trade unions, public authorities, companies, civil society NGOs.

These are EMPL's proposed themes and objectives. Euronews is free to adapt these objectives and target groups to the editorial concept of the Real Economy Magazine.

Description of the activities to be funded

The action will take the form of an action grant concluded under the framework partnership agreement with Euronews and is intended to present, and raise awareness among the general public of DG EMPL related activities, and topics in 2018 in the TV magazine "Real Economy". The planning of the episodes to be broadcasted will be done in close cooperation with Euronews and the other participating DGs (ECFIN, REGIO) who are also contributing to finance the magazine "Real Economy".

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

A direct grant will be awarded to Euronews in accordance with the Article 190 (1)(f) of RAP of the FR in order to cover the production of episodes for the Real Economy Magazine, that will illustrate topical issues and impact of EU policies and funding in the area of employment and social affairs.

The justification of Euronews being selected for its technical competence and high degree of specialisation in relation to the objective pursued will be elaborated in the award decision.

Award criteria:

The potential beneficiary shall be invited to submit an application which shall be evaluated according to the following award criteria:

- the extent to which the proposal is in line with and relevant for EMPL communication priorities 2018;
- the extent to which the proposed outputs present an added value for the EU;
- the impact of the proposed action on citizens.

Implementation: Cross sub-delegation to DG ECFIN which is the lead DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 95%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_1	2018 Q3	EUR 150.000

1.2.21 Direct grant to International Labour Office (ILO): Trade, supply chains and labour

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is addressing decent work deficits in global supply chains and improving effectiveness of labour provisions in trade and investment agreements and in evolving trade context since new US administration.

Fair and open trade is a key priority. According to EU data 31 million jobs in EU depend on external trade and according to International Labour Office (ILO) data 1 in 3 jobs in EU are directly or indirectly affected by global supply chains.

The initiative will include analysis and identification of good practises and will focus on EU and international stakeholders and selected third countries.

Description of the activities to be funded

Analysis, data collection and identification of good practices on the implementation of recent trade and investment agreements in relation to labour provisions. Analysis, data collection and identification of good practices on decent work deficits in global supply chains. The initiative will include analysis and identification of good practices and will focus on EU and international stakeholders and selected third countries.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

According to Article 190.1 (f) of the Rules of Application of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according the following main criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities of the EU on Harnessing Globalisation as indicated in the EC paper adopted on 10th May 2017;
- The financial and operational quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 95%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030201_71	2018 Q1	EUR 175.000

1.2.22 Direct grant to International Labour Office (ILO) - Vision Zero Fund (VZF) on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The VZF has been established by the G7 and it is managed by the International Labour Office (ILO). The European Commission is part of the steering committee. The **Vision Zero Fund (VZF)** helps the EU achieve objectives to promote a level playing field and to address decent work deficits across global supply chains as established by the Council conclusions on 12 May 2016 the 2015 Commission Communication "Trade for All: Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy" and the Commission reflection Paper on Harnessing Globalisation of 10 May 2017. It is also in line with commitments the EU undertook in G7 (2015) and G20 (2017) contexts. In addition, the VZF helps the Commission "to address, notably jointly with the ILO, OSH deficits in the global supply chain and contribute to G20 initiatives on safer workplaces in this regard" according to the "EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020".

Description of the activities to be funded

The activities will cover those decided by the **Vision Zero Fund (VZF)** steering committee. This will include research, identification and development of good practices, advice to legislators, implementing authorities, social partners and private sector actors, information and training manuals, outreach, training and capacity building.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

- According to Article 190.1 (f) of the Rules of Application of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The direct award will be duly substantiated in the individual award decision which will be adopted at a later stage.

Award criteria:

The beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according the following main criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities of the EU on OSH, responsible supply chains and harnessing globalisation as indicated in the relevant EU policy papers;
- The financial and operational quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 95%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
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2018_04.030201_155	2018 Q1	EUR 1.800.000
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EURES

LEGAL BASIS

04.030202 EaSI - EURES — Promoting workers’ voluntary geographical mobility and boosting employment opportunities

Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Union (OJ L 141, 27.5.2011, p. 1).

Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (‘EaSI’) and amending Decision No 283/2010/EU establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion (OJ L 347, 20/12/ 2013, p. 238–252).

Regulation (EU) 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2016 on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets, and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 107, 22.04.2016, p. 1)

1.2.23 Call for proposals for EURES Cross-border partnerships

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Support fair mobility for frontier workers in the cross-border regions. The activities will provide concrete data on obstacles to mobility in the cross-border region as well as improve the cross-border labour market. The activities will contribute to the national work plan of the NCOs of the countries involved and their result will be part of the annual activity report of the NCOs involved.

Description of the activities to be funded

The activities cover support services to employers, frontier workers and jobseekers: 1) guidance on working and living conditions in cross-border areas and on the specific situation of frontier workers; 2) labour market intelligence in cross-border regions including on mobility obstacles; 3) pre/post-recruitment services, matching, placement; 4) employer engagement in cross-border regions.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible, applicant organisations:

- must be legal persons properly constituted and registered in one of the EU Member States or in one of the countries participating in the EURES axis of the EaSI programme at the time of launching the call;
- In application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met.

Eligibility of applicants - Strand 1:

Lead applicants must be the relevant National EURES Coordination Office(s) as designated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/589 (EURES Regulation) and/or the EURES partner(s) of the regions involved with the endorsement of the National Coordination Office.

Co-applicants must be EURES members and/or partners. In addition, social partners; public or private employment services, third sector organisations or other relevant actors active on the EU/EEA labour market can be involved as co-applicants, affiliated entities or associated partners.

Eligibility of applicants - strand 2

Applicants (lead and co-applicants) must fall in one of the categories listed below:

- the relevant National EURES Coordination Office(s) as designated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/589 (EURES Regulation);
- the EURES partner(s)/member(s) of the regions involved with the endorsement of the National Coordination Office;
- social partners;
- public or private employment services;
- third sector organisations;
- other relevant actors active on the EU/EEA labour market.

Eligibility of applications – Strands 1 and 2

To be eligible applications must have the involvement of entities established in at least two neighbouring Member States.

Selection criteria:

Selection criteria for applicants and co-applicants:

- Financial capacity: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary. (The verification of financial capacity shall not apply to public bodies).
- Operational capacity: applicants must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed action, as well as the ability to implement it. Applicants must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call objectives;

- Quality of the methodology and of the activities proposed;
- Impact of the proposal;
- Visibility of the proposed activities;
- Cost efficiency of the operation.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 90%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030202_55	2018 Q1	EUR 4.540.000 ⁴

1.2.24 Call for proposals on EURES support to social partners

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Better coordination of the social partners activities in the EURES network by the European level Social Partners organisations should lead to stronger involvement of national, regional and local employers organisations and trade unions in EURES, to better and increased EURES services provided by social partners organisations, to fair mobility in the cross-border regions as requested by the EP, the identification and abolishment of mobility obstacles, and the better functioning of cross-border labour markets, thus contributing to economic growth.

Description of the activities to be funded

This activity is supporting those social partners who are represented in the Advisory Committee on Free Movement and are observers in the EURES Coordination Group for ensuring cooperation in matters concerning the freedom of movement of workers and EURES.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants (lead and co-applicants) must be social partners, established at European level and represented in the Advisory Committee on Free Movement of Workers, i.e.:

- The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC);
- The Confederation of European Business (BusinessEurope);
- European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME);

⁴ The budget of this call is indicative and it may include additional unspent appropriations provided for in the 2017 work programme.

- European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest (CEEP).

Selection criteria:

- Financial capacity: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary.
- Operational capacity: applicants must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed action, as well as the ability to implement it. Applicants must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call objectives;
- Quality of the methodology and of the activities proposed;
- Impact of the proposal;
- Visibility of the proposed activities;
- Cost efficiency of the operation.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 90%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030202_57	2018 Q2	EUR 150.000

1.2.25 Call for proposals on Support to cooperation with EEA countries

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Support intra-EU labour mobility in the EEA countries. Participation of the EEA countries in the EURES network will result in a better implementation of worker mobility in the EEA as well as in a better functioning of the EEA labour market.

Description of the activities to be funded

Continuation to facilitate labour mobility between Member States and the EEA countries and support the implementation and operation of the EURES network in the EEA countries.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Eligible lead applicants must be the National EURES Coordination Offices of Norway and Iceland.

Co-applicants may be EURES members and/or partners from those countries. In addition, social partners, public or private employment services, third sector organisations or other relevant actors active on the EEA labour market can be involved as co-applicants, affiliated entities or associate organisations

Selection criteria:

- Financial capacity: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary. (The verification of financial capacity shall not apply to public bodies).

- Operational capacity to complete the proposed action: applicants must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed action, as well as the ability to implement it. Applicants must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call objectives;
- Quality of the methodology and of the activities proposed;
- Impact of the proposal;
- Visibility of the proposed activities;
- Cost efficiency of the operation.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 90%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030202_56	2018 Q2	EUR 300.000

1.2.26 Call for proposals on Targeted mobility scheme: Your first EURES job

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The action is aimed to support the implementation of customised employment services and innovative working methods to foster the placement and integration of mobile young workers in the host country(ies), combined with financial incentives. The activities will be outcome driven, i.e. the expected outcome must be quantified in terms of expected placement/integration numbers and hard to fill vacancies involved. The overall objective is to ensure around 2000 placements over the duration of the action in economic sectors with hard to fill vacancies.

The action being strongly result-oriented, it may contribute to: a) enhance the service catalogue of the EURES organisations; b) foster public-private partnerships and, c) address labour market needs in line with the bottom lines of the EURES reform.

Description of the activities to be funded

The action aims to help young people aged 18-35 to find a job, traineeship or apprenticeship in another EU/EEA country. The action targets the filling of hard to fill vacancies as identified in national/EU labour market studies or data sources. The call targets at least 3,500 placements.

The activities will cover the provision of direct services to young jobseekers or job changers and employers notably:

- information, recruitment, matching and placement;
- pre- and post-placement support to customers (e. g. profiling and pre-selection of candidates, language training or other training needs, mentoring support for trainees and apprentices);
- direct financial support to young jobseekers and SMEs (interview or relocation trip costs, language trainings, recognition of qualifications, induction training programmes by SMEs).

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

Eligible applications:

- Be presented by a consortium composed of a minimum of five organisations established in at least five different EU28 Member States or EaSI-EURES participating countries. At least three of these organisations must be EURES member organisations. Besides the lead applicants members of the consortium can be co-applicants and associate organisations;
- Demonstrate that the proposed activities are fully carried out in the EU28 Member States or EaSI-EURES participating countries and ensure the implementation of the action in at least five different eligible countries;

To be eligible, lead applicants and co-applicants must be:

- legal entities properly constituted and registered in an EU Member State or another EaSI-EURES participating country.

To be eligible, lead applicants must be:

- EURES National Coordination Offices which are placed in organisations whose main mission is to ensure the provision of employment and placement services to jobseekers, job changers, trainee/apprentice candidates and employers covering jobs and/or work-based trainings. Those services must include information, recruitment, matching and pre- and post-placement support.

To be eligible, co-applicants must be:

- EURES member organisations (i.e. National Coordination Offices, EURES Members and Partners), public or private labour market actors (including the third sector);

- Providing the same services as lead applicants and/or complementary customer-oriented services in other expertise fields such as information, training, education, career guidance, mentoring, legal advice, integration support or other equivalent.

Selection criteria:

Selection criteria for applicants and co-applicants:

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: the applicant must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary. (The verification of financial capacity shall not apply to public bodies).
- Operational capacity to complete the proposed action: the applicant must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed action, as well as the ability to implement it. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call;
- Quality of the methodology and of the proposed activities;
- Impact of the proposal;
- Visibility of the action;
- The cost-effectiveness of the action.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 95%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030202_53	2018 Q2	EUR 8.200.000 ⁵

MICROFINANCE AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LEGAL BASIS

04.030203 –Increasing access, and the availability of, financing for legal and physical persons, especially those furthest from the labour market, and social enterprises

⁵ The budget of this call is indicative and it may include additional unspent appropriations provided for in the 2017 work programme.

1.2.27 Call for proposals: Transaction costs to support social finance intermediaries

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

- The underlying objective is to further support the development of the social investment market and facilitate access to finance for social enterprises through grants to intermediaries in the social enterprise finance field to partially cover the transaction costs, complementing financial instruments, e.g. under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) SME Window equity product.
- The envisaged activities are based on the fact that the most important funding gap for social enterprises is below EUR 500 000. However, the transaction costs for such small tickets can be high which gives an incentive to social impact fund managers to focus on higher amounts in order to preserve the fund's sustainability. This can lead to a mismatch between needed and sustainable ticket sizes.
- This activity allows for a combination of grants with financial instruments to address a market failure by catalysing smaller risk-capital investments, of below EUR 500 000 in particular, in social enterprises that would otherwise not happen.

Description of the activities to be funded

The grant is aimed to support financial intermediaries that undertake long term risk capital investments in ticket sizes of less than EUR 500 000 in the form of equity, preferred equity, hybrid instruments, other type of mezzanine financing to social enterprises in the EaSI Participating Countries. It will serve to lower the transaction costs, such as travel cost, lawyers' fees, costs for carrying out the due diligence and business development support e.g. to coach enterprises if they still need help with business plan support, etc. for these small investment tickets and thus help overcome a market failure in the social investment market.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible, the applicant (lead and co-applicants in case of a consortium) must be:

- be a legal entity properly constituted and registered in a one of the EaSI Participating Countries.
- be an investment fund, a Fund-of-Funds, a special purpose vehicle, in any form, established or to be established or a (co-) investment scheme in any form (including managed accounts and other types of contractual arrangements) established or to be established.

Selection criteria:

Only organisations with the necessary financial and operational capacity may be awarded a grant.

Award criteria:

The beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according to the following main criteria:

- A. Relevance for the objectives of the call and added value;

- B. Quality of the activities and expected outcomes;
- C. Development potential and sustainability;
- D. Cost-effectiveness.

Implementation: Directly by the DG. The grants will be implemented with simplified cost options.

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible total costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Reference	Date	Amount
2018_04.030203_15	2018 Q3	EUR 3.000.000

1.4 PROCUREMENT

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2018 amounts to EUR 42.675.411:

- Budget line 04.030201 (PROGRESS): EUR 30.941.818
- Budget line 04.030202 (EURES): EUR 11.047.002
- Budget line 04.030203 (Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship): EUR 686.591

PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES FOR PROGRESS

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council from 11 December 2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ('EaSI') and amending Decision No 283/2010/EU establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion (OJ L 347, 20/12/ 2013, p. 238–252).

Budget Line

04.030201 EaSI - PROGRESS — Supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Union employment and social policy and legislation on working conditions.

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged

In 2018, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (call for tenders and framework contracts) or administrative arrangements to support the following priorities:

1.4.1 - Thematic Section: Employment

The actions under this thematic section have as objective to support analytical, mutual-learning, exchange of good practices, awareness raising, communication, dissemination and capacity-

building activities in relation with the implementation of the EU 2020 strategy on national and Union's employment policies.

The actions will be mainly in the area of youth employment (i.e. Youth Guarantee), long term-unemployment, job creation, entrepreneurship, skills, including mutual recognition and transparencies of competences, occupations and qualifications) expert networks, Public Employment Services and are expected to provide data, information, statistics to strengthen and better target employment policies.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 32 (2018 Q1 to Q4)
- Contract Renewal: 2 (2018 Q2-Q3)
- Direct contract: 5 (2018 Q1-Q2)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL.

1.4.2 Thematic Section: Working Conditions

The actions under this thematic section have the objective to support analytical (including evaluation), mutual-learning, exchange of good practices, communication, dissemination and capacity-building activities in relation to Health and Safety at work (including occupational diseases), EU labour law, undeclared work, posting of workers, labour inspectors (SLIC).

The expected results include the availability of data, awareness raising, contribution to better working conditions in the EU and refining and improving legislation on working conditions in the Member States.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 4 (2018 Q1-Q3)
- Direct contract: 1 (2018 Q2)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL.

1.4.3 Thematic Section: Social Protection

The actions under this thematic section have the objectives to support analytical (research, policy advice), mutual-learning, exchange of good practices, awareness raising, communication, dissemination and capacity-building activities in relation with the implementation of the EU 2020 strategy on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the social innovation needs, the identification of new social needs, income distribution, alleviation of poverty, modernisation and reforms of social protection systems including pension (adequacy and sustainability of pensions) and long term care systems.

The expected results are an improvement and alignment of the social protection and pension systems responding to challenges of the new reforms of works in the Member States.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 25 (2018 Q1-Q3)
- Direct contract: 8 (2018 Q1-Q2)
- Contract Renewal: 2 (2018 Q1-Q3)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

1.4.4 Thematic Section: Cross-cutting issues

Investment priorities under EaSI which combine one or more thematic sections such as studies supporting policy analysis and the writing of the quarterly and annual reviews of the employment and social situation.

The actions under this thematic section have the objectives to: a) monitor and evaluate the performance of the EaSI programme; b) ensure the data and document storage and management of the DG; c) cover the Communication activities of the DG (publications, web, etc...) and d) dialogue and conferences with third countries or regional organisations.

The expected results are a better monitoring and management of the EaSI programme by the Commission and better management of the communication and information about employment and social policies.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 69 (2018 Q1 to Q4)
- Direct contract: 5 (2018 Q3)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL. In addition, one action of EUR 70.000 will be subdelegated to DG DIGIT.

PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES FOR EURES

Legal basis

Articles 19 to 24 Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013

Budget Line

04.030202 - Promoting workers' voluntary geographical mobility and boosting employment opportunities

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged

In 2018, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (call for tenders and framework contracts) or administrative arrangements to support in the following priorities:

1.4.5 - Thematic Section: Development of services

The actions under this section for services for recruiting and placing of workers have the following objectives: communication and promotion of EURES as well as the maintenance of the networks through the organisation of conferences with relevant stakeholders.

The expected results are a better communication and promotion of EURES.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 21 (2018 Q1-Q4)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL.

1.4.6 - Thematic Section: Transparency of job vacancies

The actions under this thematic section have the objectives to ensure notably the management and functioning of the EURES portal and helpdesk, web communication, translations and relevant trainings in relation to EURES.

The expected results are a good dissemination of and access to information, quality translation and trainings.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 43 (2018 Q1-Q3)
- Direct contract: 2 (2018 Q1-Q3)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL.

1.4.7 - Thematic Section: Cross-cutting issues

The actions under this thematic section have the objective to support the communication activities of EURES (through web, intranet, videos...) as well as the audit activities on EURES.

The expected results are to get good and various communication products and have a control through audit on EURES activities.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 3 (2018 Q1-Q2)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL.

PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES FOR MICROFINANCE AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Legal basis

Articles 25 to 31 Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013

Budget Line

04.030203 –Increasing access, and the availability of, financing for legal and physical persons, especially those furthest from the labour market, and social enterprises

1.4.8 - Thematic Section: Social Entrepreneurship

The actions under this thematic section have the objective to support main actors in the area of social enterprise finance providers.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 1 (2018 Q1-Q2)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL.

1.4.9 - Thematic Section: Cross-cutting issues

The actions under this thematic section focus on the communication activities related to Microfinance (publication, web, intranet, etc...). Their overall objectives are to combat long-term unemployment and fight against poverty and social exclusion.

The expected results are the promotion and communication of the microfinance activities managed by DG EMPL and the adaptation of relevant IT tools to the need of DG EMPL for implementing the third axis of EaSI.

Type of contracts: Service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged:

- Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 5 (2018 Q1-Q3)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL. In addition, one action of EUR 15.000 will be subdelegated to DG DIGIT.

1.5 INDIRECT MANAGEMENT N/A

1.6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Legal basis

Articles 25 to 31 Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013

Budget Line

04 03 02 03 – Increasing access, and the availability of, financing for legal and physical persons, especially those furthest from the labour market, and social enterprises

The objectives of these financial instruments have been described in the Regulation 1296/2013 and can be found under Article 4: General objectives:

e) promote employment and social inclusion by increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable people who wish to start up a micro-enterprise as well as for existing micro-enterprises, and by increasing access to finance for social enterprises.

These objectives are further specified under Article 26: Specific objectives:

(a) increase access to, and the availability of, microfinance for:

(i) vulnerable persons who have lost or are at risk of losing their job, or have difficulty in entering or re-entering the labour market, or are at risk of social exclusion, or are socially excluded, and are in a disadvantaged position with regard to access to the conventional credit market and who wish to start up or develop their own micro- enterprises;

(ii) micro-enterprises in both start-up and development phase, especially micro-enterprises which employ persons as referred to in point (i);

(b) build up the institutional capacity of microcredit providers;

(c) support the development of the social investment market and facilitate access to finance for social enterprises by making equity, quasi-equity, loan instruments and grants of up to EUR 500

000 available to social enterprises with either an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 30 million, or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 30 million which are not themselves a collective investment undertaking.

1.6.1 - Social entrepreneurship finance instrument, EaSI microfinance and capacity-building activities for microfinance and/or social entrepreneurship actors

Objectives to be fulfilled and the foreseen results

Financial instruments dedicated to microfinance

Objectives:

(a) increase access to, and the availability of, microfinance for:

(i) vulnerable persons who have lost or are at risk of losing their job, or have difficulty in entering or re-entering the labour market, or are at risk of social exclusion, or are socially excluded, and are in a disadvantaged position with regard to access to the conventional credit market and who wish to start up or develop their own micro- enterprises;

(ii) micro-enterprises in both start-up and development phase, especially micro-enterprises which employ persons as referred to in point (i).

(b) build up the institutional capacity of microcredit providers

Financial instruments in support of social enterprises.

Objectives:

Support the development of the social investment market and facilitate access to finance for social enterprises by making e.g. equity, quasi-equity, loan instruments and grants of up to EUR 500 000 available to social enterprises with either an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 30 million, or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 30 million which are not themselves a collective investment undertaking.

The amount allocated to the financial instrument: **EUR 23 888 296**

Implementation mode: Indirect management by the European Investment Fund.

Indicative timetable: 2018 Q1 – Q4

In addition, in view of the high uptake of the EaSI guarantee financial instrument and the strong demand which resulted in full utilisation of the EaSI budget under its microfinance window, the Commission intends to top-up the budget of the Guarantee Facility by EUR 100 million with funds from the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI). This will enable an increase in financing available to vulnerable groups, microenterprises and social enterprises and thus further address the identified financing gap.

1.7. OTHER ACTIONS

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ('EaSI') and amending Decision No 283/2010/EU establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion (OJ L 347, 20/12/ 2013, p. 238–252).

Budget line

04.030201: PROGRESS — Supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Union employment and social policy and legislation on working conditions

1.7.1 Subdelegation to EUROSTAT – Development of European Statistics on Occupational Diseases (2018_04.030201_110)

Description and objective of the implementing measure

Regulation (EC) 1338/2008 specifies in art. 2: "Member States shall supply to the Commission (Eurostat) statistics on the following domains: (...) occupational diseases and other work-related health problems and illnesses, as defined in Annex V". Annex V has so far not been put into force mainly because of the poor quality of the underlying data on occupational diseases. The difficulties encountered indicate that EODS data collection would require first a convergence of concepts and a simplification of the data collection to cover all MSs to allow for a better comparability of data in line with the action foreseen in the EU OSH Strategic FW 2014-2020. The amount sub-delegated in 2018 will both serve the methodological work on the simplified EODS data collection (establishing a short list of diseases recognised in all MS and simplified list of causal agents) as well as certain ESAW developments (work on under-reporting and under-coverage), in line with the EU OSH Strategic FW 2014-2020.

Amount: **187.000 EUR**

Type of contract: Service contract.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1

Implementation: Subdelegation to DG EUROSTAT.

Indicative timetable: 2018 Q1

1.7.2 Reimbursement of Expert-Evaluators (2018_04.030201_153)

Description and objective of the implementing measure

DG EMPL has more than 10 Calls for Proposals to implement in Direct Management each year in highly technical fields requiring a very specific and specialized knowledge.

Therefore, DG EMPL has put in place a cross-cutting "AMI-type" list like other DGs in order to be able to assist its Calls'evaluation committees with assessors with highly technical expertise.

A call for expression of interest has been published, in view to open to registration to natural persons as potential remunerated external experts, for assisting the DG EMPL in the evaluation of grants. In the frame of this procedure, the registration to specific lists of experts, will be open for a maximum duration of 5 years. All relevant description of lists and skills, participating conditions and fixed remunerations has been announced in the call for interest.

On the basis of the specific lists of experts, DG EMPL may select remunerated external experts following Art. 287 RAP for assisting the evaluation of complex and highly technical projects.

Amount: **200.000 EUR**

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL.

Indicative timetable: 2018 Q2

1.7.3 Sub - delegation to JRC - Support to EUROMOD Regular maintenance of the EUROMOD tax-benefit microsimulation model and preparation of its transfer to the European Commission. Use of EUROMOD micro-simulation. (2018_04.030201_44 - 2018_04.030201_136)

Overall objective and purpose of the action

The action contributes to a gradual transition of EUROMOD from its current host organisation, the University of Essex, to the Commission. EUROMOD is a microsimulation tool that has become increasingly important for various Commission services to assess the impact of tax-benefit reforms and, in the future, for obtaining more timely data on income distribution and poverty thanks to flash estimates to be produced by Eurostat.

The action is planned to allow JRC to continue to work on a number of countries in close cooperation with the University of Essex, thereby ensuring the continuity of EUROMOD.

Implementation: Cross delegation to JRC

Indicative amount: **140.000 EUR**

Indicative timetable: 2018 Q3-Q4

1.7.4 Subdelegation to OPOCE - Communication Publications activities (OPOCE)

(2018_04.030201_9)

Overall objective and purpose of the action

OPOCE distribution and storage printing.

Amount: **200.000 EUR**

Implementation: Sub-Delegation to OPOCE.

Indicative timetable: 2018 Q1

EURES

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 19 to 24 Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013

Budget line

04.030202 - Promoting workers' voluntary geographical mobility and boosting employment opportunities

1.7.5 EURES External experts evaluators (2018_04.030202_54)

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This activity will help to evaluate the proposals received under the Calls launched in 2016 under EURES following Art. 287 RAP.

Amount: **50.000 EUR**

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL.

Indicative timetable: 2018 Q2