

Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth

Gothenburg, 17 November 2017

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND: 60 YEARS OF INVESTING IN PEOPLE

WHAT?

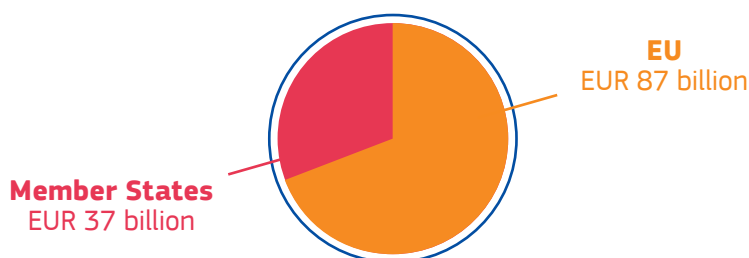


The European Social Fund was established in 1957 with the Treaty of Rome. It is Europe's **main instrument to directly invest in people, helping them to get better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens.**

It aims to achieve the following:

- Sustainable and quality employment
- Better education
- Social inclusion and increased standards of living
- Modern public administration

BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND FOR 2014-2020: EUR 120 BILLION



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND IN PRACTICE



In 2014 and 2015¹, there were:

- **2.7 million participants** in training schemes, including 1.6 million unemployed and 700 000 economically inactive persons;
- 235 000 participants were in employment **following a European Social Fund or Youth Employment Initiative project**;
- 181 000 had **gained a qualification** with the help of the Social Fund;
- 100 000 participants were **in education or training** thanks to the Fund's support.

1/ Latest data available. More data up until end 2016 will be available in the Strategic report to be published in December 2017.

HOW?



- ▶ **Operational Programmes** per region or Member State to match the overall objectives with specific local needs;
- ▶ **Implementation** is managed by the relevant authorities in each country.

— THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND IN ACTION —



Access to employment: In Croatia, the *EkoBiz project* is showing young people that they do not have to move to the city to enjoy a bright future. More than 70 people ended up taking the training and were helped to develop viable business plans. EkoBiz also encouraged 10 schools and 10 nurseries to develop small-scale projects related to organic farming and agriculture.



Investing in skills: The *Diritti a Scuola* project in Italy reached over 200 000 children and is making a positive contribution to their schooling. As a result, the school drop-out rate in Puglia decreased from 30% in 2004 to 19% in 2011.



Fostering social inclusion: The *Academy of Social Economy Development* project in Poland's Małopolskie region has created a flourishing social economy to the benefit of many of its most disadvantaged citizens. More than 1 700 people have so far benefited from the project's activities, along with 245 social economy organisations and 126 local partners.