



EU-OSHA Funding Guide 2015

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Introduction

The document 'EU funding opportunities for EU-OSHA stakeholders' (hereinafter 'the guide') aims to provide information on funding in the EU with regard to occupational safety and health (OSH). The guide will facilitate the identification of appropriate funding sources for EU-OSHA stakeholders. It is developed for the following diverse target groups that have been highlighted at the top of the guide's factsheets:

- national authorities (ministries of employment, national institutes for OSH, labour inspectorates, etc.);
- social partners at Member State level (employers' associations, trade unions);
- EU sectoral social dialogue partners;
- researchers/research institutes;
- OSH professionals (private experts/consultants, external prevention services, OSH networks, etc.); and
- other groups, such as public insurance organisations.

The aim of the guide is to provide a comprehensive overview of the possible EU funding sources providing financial support for activities, initiatives and projects related to OSH.

The guide is based on broad research of collected programme documents, a series of interviews conducted with EU project officers in Brussels and with managing authorities of structural funds in the Member States, and Welcomeurope's expert opinion. It does not represent an official European Commission (EC) document.

The guide concentrates on three funding streams:

- EU community programmes that are designed to implement a specific policy, such as 'factories of the future' (FoF), 'social dialogue at European level', or 'fourth industrial revolution'. These programmes are managed by the EC Directorates.
- The Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) and public-private partnership programmes that are co-funded by the EC and the Member States and implemented by dedicated industry platforms for manufacturing, FoF and JPI Ageing.
- European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) implemented by national authorities of the Member States to support economic growth at a national and a regional level. In this guide, only those instruments with a national coverage are taken into account; regional coverage is not included.

Background to the EU-OSHA funding guide

The guide illustrates the European funding opportunities identified during the first half of 2015. During the research and writing phase, which took place between April and June 2015, the relevance of using European grants and ESIF programmes to fund OSH projects was confirmed by the interviews that were conducted with programme officers for the respective funds.

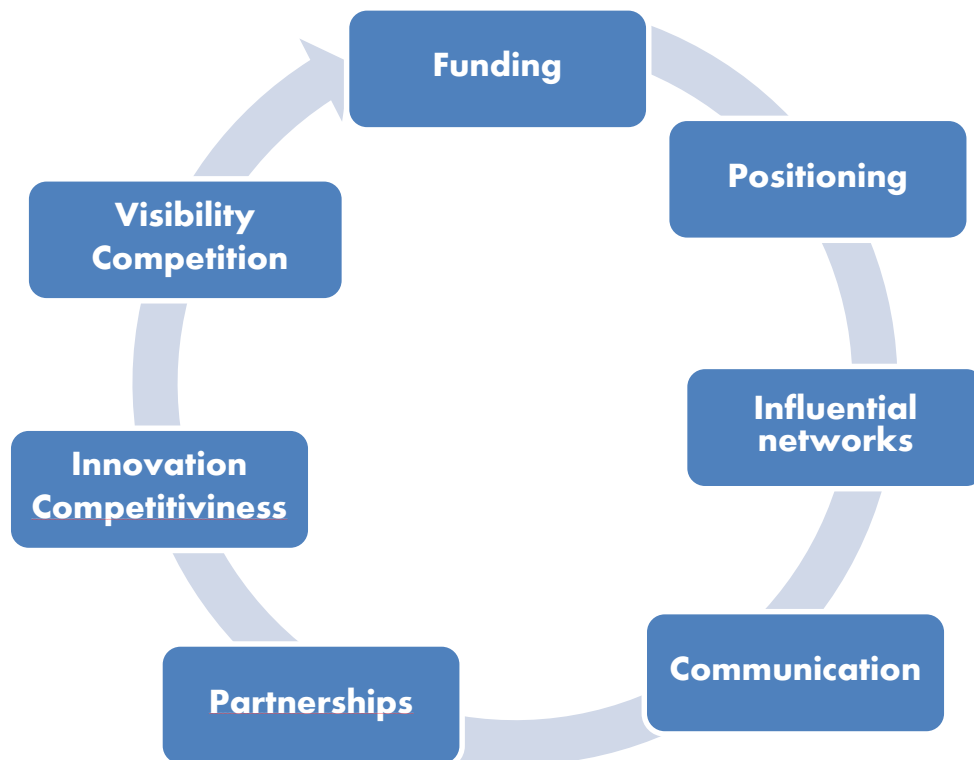
Desk research made it possible to structure the OSH fields of intervention that are presented and prioritised along the lines of the following key components included in EU funding objectives: **health and risks; technology; prevention; safety; promotion; education; awareness raising; working conditions; work policy; employability; employment; and social aspects of work.**

Safety and health at work is an important aspect of the EU's policy on employment and social affairs. Therefore, OSH activities have the highest probability of success for European grant applications under the Social Affairs programmes. However, mainstreaming OSH into national policies can also be eligible for funding under the European Health programme and under the HORIZON 2020 health, demography and wellbeing subprogramme.

OSH projects with an important technology component (for example, human-machine interfaces, robotics, side-effects of new materials) are key components in the Nanomaterials, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing (NMBP) programme, especially information and communication technology (ICT) and FoF opportunities. The Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) and Marie Skłodowska-Curie funds are interesting programmes because they have a bottom-up approach. Any excellent idea for research can be submitted; a link to a European research policy is not necessary.

The European programmes with a national scope (ESIF) are mostly measures that are intended to strengthen employability.

It should be noted that all opportunities need to be fully analysed before an application is made in order to adopt a profitable approach. In that sense, we strongly recommend that at least two or three goals for each selected opportunity are set out, as funding shall not be considered an exclusive benefit. The following figure shows the different benefits one can win from European project building.



Author: Welcomeurope

Funding programmes not been suitable for OSH projects include:

- Ambient assisted living: a programme focusing on ageing but not on the workplace;
- Information technologies: the Electronic Components and Systems for European Leadership partnership;
- Process industries: Sustainable Process Industries through Research and Energy Efficiency (SPIRE);
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) instruments focusing on small companies in high technology areas;
- Competitiveness of SMEs, an SME financial instrument providing loans and guarantees but no grants;
- ESIF operational programmes (OPs) for science, research and innovation, and OPs for employability and social inclusion that focus on jobseekers, youth employment or excluded social categories; and
- INTERREG V interregional cooperation programmes; these are assumed to be of very little interest for the OSH community. Their current priorities do allow networking between public authorities but the focus is on transport, innovation and low carbon rather than on improving working conditions.

(ii) Structure of the EU-OSHA funding guide

Part I contains funding factsheets describing the community programmes in a brief synthetic way: thematic priorities, type of activities funded, funding rates, application process.

For ease of reading, all factsheets mention the major **stakeholder organisations** eligible for the programme and the major **key expressions** related to the activities that can be initiated by the OSH community.

In this guide, we have identified all actual and forthcoming grant opportunities provided by the EC (Directorate General (DG) for Employment and Social Affairs, DG Public Health, DG Research, and executive agencies) that fit, in a broader sense, to different OSH-related topics.

The grants are allocated by way of annual calls for proposals (see below).

Part II contains the relevant **European structural and investment funds that are implemented** locally by national authorities. The programmes identified will finance national projects from the European Social Fund (ESF) to improve employment conditions in various sectors through selected OPs during 2015–2020. Some Eastern European countries have defined OPs on institutional upgrading of administrations, which can be interesting for national OSH institutes such as labour inspectorates.

Please note that the final draft of the text of the current publication was delivered at the end of June 2015. At this time, some of the OPs in the smaller countries were to be operational during the summer of 2015. Furthermore, only 15 of the 28 Member States had funds with relevant measures open for funding in 2015. They are presented in Part II: Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia. However, some national OPs were not yet published at end of June 2015.

How do EU funding programmes work?

It is necessary to understand how community programmes work before preparing an EC grant request.

The funding programmes are created by the EC to support European cooperation initiatives, to stimulate the creation of partnerships in all fields of economic and social life and, in particular, to find common European answers to current globalised challenges.

The general principles

A funding programme is a tool for **establishing European partnerships** that will offer gains at the EU level. The programmes also encourage both technological and methodological innovation (for example, new working methods).

The policies, and thereby the programmes, support not only large organisations (national authorities, state agencies and others) but also a **broad variety of micro-beneficiaries** (SMEs, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local bodies, universities, business associations, etc.). Increasingly, the programmes stress the creation of 'innovative' partnerships between various work cultures.

A European partnership involves **at least three eligible countries**. The eligible countries are EU Member States and, sometimes, associated countries, such as European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, EU candidate countries or potential candidate countries.

The **programmes cover as many areas as there are policies**. Thus, through financial support, they enable all players to carry out activities on a European scale, initiate community exchanges and participate in building the EU. Some programmes cover very specific target groups, such as social partners (for example, to facilitate the exchange of good practice between them).

Most of the programmes are customised for a **multi-annual period of 4 to 7 years**, from 2014 to 2020.

Each programme is based on a legal document. Adopted by the EC, this document (which may be a Decision, Regulation or Communication) describes the objectives and actions to be taken for the

complete duration of the programme. It can be completed by an Annual Work Programme or an Annual Action Programme, which is more precise in its definition of priority actions.

The funding programmes are based on a co-financing principle. A European grant can cover approximately 50 % of the project's eligible costs. Therefore, applicants will have to find other means of financial support (national or regional public authorities, private financing or self-financing).

In addition, **it is prohibited for two European programmes to finance the same project.**

The programmes are directly managed by the EC (DG in Brussels). An operational unit within the DG or an executive agency is responsible for publishing the calls, assessing the proposals and monitoring the projects.

The 'call for proposals' text

To make a funding programme operational, the technical unit in charge plans to publish a call for proposals, also called a 'call for projects'. This call procedure is necessary to launch and to select projects that are in line with the priorities of the funding objectives of the programme.

When a programme is multi-annual, a call for projects is usually published once a year (see the example, 'health programme 2014–2020', below). Applicants must be aware that the priority actions of a programme may evolve from year to year. That is why applicants must **keep themselves informed about the next year's annual work plan for the respective executive unit at the EC.**

The text of the call for proposals specifies the expectations of the EC, which reflects the programme's decision. Therefore, the call determines, in detail, **the participation criteria and the annual priority topics or sectors.** The information and instructions outlined in the call must be followed closely and project ideas that do not fit the funding call exactly should be submitted only after validation by the programme officer. A call for proposals is not a spontaneous process but rather a framework to inform applicants of the types of projects expected. Nevertheless, everything is open to interpretation. Applicants should not hesitate to contact the person responsible for the call in the event of any questions.

Structuring an application on the basis of the components of the call text allows applicants to assess the eligibility of their organisation and the feasibility of the project:

Beneficiaries: eligible organisations, countries/geographic zones covered, minimum number of partners, exclusion criteria.

Actions: actions eligible for funding, such as research studies and seminars.

Budget: global call budget, minimum/maximum grant amount, percentage of co-financing.

Timetable: deadline for submitting the proposal, project start date, project duration, monitoring the application, pre-proposal.

Procedure: selection criteria, allocation criteria, where to find documents concerning the programme.

Contact: e-mail address of the unit.

If applicants cannot find complete information in the call text or in the guide for applicants, it can be obtained from the programme officer.

However, to obtain a grant, meeting the eligibility criteria is not sufficient. The applications are evaluated according to the quality of their project proposals. Only the most innovative and interesting proposals that remain within the limits of the available budget are likely to be funded.

List of abbreviations

CA	coordination action
CEB	Council of Europe Bank
DG	Directorate General
EaSI	Employment and Social Innovation
EC	European Commission
ECAS	European Commission Authentication Service
EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
ERDF	European Regional Development Funds
ESF	European Social Fund
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
FET	Future and Emerging Technologies
FoF	Factories of the Future
HE	host entrepreneur
HTA	health technology assessment
IA	innovation action
ICT	information and communication technology
IO	intermediary organisation in Erasmus programme
IT	information technology
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
KA	Key Action
MSCA	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action
NE	new entrepreneur
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NMBP	Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing
OMC	open method of coordination
OP	operational programme
OSH	occupational safety and health
RIA	research and innovation action
RISE	Research and Innovation Staff Exchange
SME	small and medium-sized enterprises
SPIRE	Sustainable Process Industries through Research and Energy Efficiency
VET	vocational and educational training

How to read this Funding Guide

For each EU funding programme that matches occupational safety and health (OSH) policy areas, a factsheet gives an overview of the most important information of the respective scheme. It allows applicants to assess the relevancy of the programme for their organisation.

At the top of the page, coloured labels highlight the targeted groups (the absence of a label means that the programme is not dedicated to the corresponding group).

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

EMPLOYMENT – VULNERABLE GROUPS – WORKABILITY – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STRATEGIES

Key words corresponding to OSH and showing which parts of the project should be highlighted in the application are also outlined.

Employment and social innovation – PROGRESS – Social protection – Inclusion

Programme name – subsection

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

Here, applicants will find all the relevant information on what type of projects the programme is looking for. It gives the policy context and includes a short summary and the budget line.

Objectives

General multi-annual programme objectives.

Annual thematic priorities

Here, the priority areas from the available annual work programme (mostly for the year 2015) are listed.

Eligible organisations

Here, a detailed list of organisations eligible under the programme is given; see also the coloured labels at the top of the factsheet. Attention is drawn to instances in which small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are relevant.

Eligible countries

Countries or groups of countries eligible to apply for funding are listed in each section: EU Member States.

EU candidate countries: Montenegro, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey.

*Potential EU candidate countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo⁽¹⁾.
European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.
European Economic Area (EEA) countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.
European Neighbourhood Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Ukraine.
Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia.
Other worldwide countries as specified in the particular programme.*

Eligible actions

Here, activities eligible for financing are outlined, for example, collaborative research, studies, seminars, exchange of best practice.

Criteria for partnership

Additional criteria might be specified, for example the number (and origin) of participants; for some projects it is necessary to set up a joint project with at least two other partners from different Member States. Other programmes may require more specific conditions for the project, such as duration, starting period, allowable costs, etc.

Amount awarded per project

Information about financing is noted here, for example the maximum amount funded, the average amount funded, the co-financing rate.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	March 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

Contact for programme implementation.

URL for programme or call page.

Comments – Recommendations

This section details added-value elements for the project or for the beneficiary, tips, recommendations and prerequisites as well as an evaluation of the feasibility and risks for the stakeholder groups.

⁽¹⁾ The asterisk indicates that this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and the International Court of Justice opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

1 Part I: Funding at EU level

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS – SOCIAL DIALOGUE

1.1 Social dialogue

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

This annual programme (budget line: 04-03-01-08) provides grants for promoting social dialogue at cross-industry and sectoral level. The funding call is for projects directly supporting the actions of social partner organisations that address the overarching EU employment and social policy challenges, as laid down in the European Commission (EC) communications in the area, by information exchange, consultation, negotiation and joint actions.

Objectives

Developing measures and initiatives related to the adaptation of social dialogue to changes in employment and work-related challenges. These include:

- health and safety at work;
- modernisation;
- quality of work;
- active ageing and healthier and longer working lives;
- decent work;
- anticipation, preparation and management of change and restructuring;
- reconciliation of work and family life;
- gender equality;
- action in the field of anti-discrimination;
- active inclusion;
- greening of the economy; and
- other measures, such as modernisation of the labour market, flexicurity, skills, (intra-EU) labour mobility, migration, youth employment, social protection systems.

Annual thematic priorities

- To contribute to the priorities and activities of European social dialogue, including those that form part of the EC's commitment to relaunch and strengthen social dialogue.
- To strengthen the involvement of social partners in the European Semester and enhance their contribution to EU policy-making projects that address the employment and social and economic dimensions of EU priorities relating to the recovery from the economic crisis and that work on social convergence between Member States.

No specific sectors are targeted.

Eligible organisations

- European-level social partner organisations.
- National or regional social partner organisations.

As partner only:

- non-profit-making organisations/research centres/institutes, universities;
- non-profit-making networks of companies or of workers' organisations;
- international organisations.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.

EU candidate countries.

Eligible actions

- Measures to prepare European social dialogue, such as preparatory surveys, meetings and conferences.
- Measures regarded as part of a social dialogue within the context of Articles 154 and 155 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, such as negotiations, preparatory meetings for negotiations or activities relating to the implementation of negotiated agreements and other negotiated outcomes.
- Measures to implement the European social partners' work programmes (such as the organisation of round tables, exchanges of experience and networks of key actors).
- Measures to monitor and follow up European social dialogue activities and outcomes, such as initiatives to disseminate and evaluate the results of European social dialogue through European or national events, or through studies and (paper or electronic) publications (including translations).
- Measures to improve the coordination, functioning and effectiveness of European social dialogue, including through the identification and development of joint approaches by social dialogue committees, such as the exchange of good practice and related joint training events.
- Measures to strengthen the capacity of social partners to contribute to European social dialogue with particular attention to new Member States and candidate countries (such as information and training seminars).
- Measures by social partners that contribute to the process of relaunching and strengthening of social dialogue initiated by the EC, with regard to, in particular, the involvement of social partners in the European Semester and their contribution to EU policy-making.
- Measures by social partners that contribute to the employment and social and economic dimensions of the Europe 2020 strategy, including the monitoring and analysis of its impact on labour markets.
- Measures to support the contributions made by European social partners and social dialogue committees to impact assessments of the employment and social dimensions of EU initiatives.

Criteria for partnership

Projects are proposed **jointly by employers' and workers' organisations** that aim to implement (parts of) the work programme of European social dialogue. The lead applicant must be a **social partner organisation at European, national or regional level**. The EC welcomes, in particular, projects that provide for a **full project cycle, including preparatory, implementation and dissemination, follow-up and reporting activities**. Therefore, the duration of activities can be up to **24 months**.

Amount awarded per project

Not less than EUR 108 000; up to 90 %, and sometimes up to 95 %, of the eligible budget.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	March 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission – Directorate General (DG) EMPL/B.1

E-mail: empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=329&langId=en>

Comments – Recommendations

This programme finances consultations, meetings, negotiations and other activities designed to achieve and to promote actions that are outlined in the EC's communication on the European social dialogue, a force for innovation and change. Applications must contain work on a policy level.

This programme appears to be one of the most suitable opportunities for OSH stakeholders and joint actions and initiatives at European level.

Measures that mainly aim to **improve expertise in the field of social dialogue, including through analysis and research** and through promoting the exchange of information and experience among relevant actors, are not covered by this budget line.

Usually, there is no information or contact point available before the specific publication of a call.

	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

SOCIAL DIALOGUE – SOCIAL ASPECTS OF WORK

1.2 Information, participation and consultation of representatives of undertakings

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

This annual programme (budget line: 04-03-01-06) is renewed every year. Its purpose is to fund operations that aim to **develop employee involvement in undertakings** – meaning any mechanism, including information, consultation and participation, through which employee representatives may exercise **an influence on decisions to be taken within the company – in particular by raising awareness about exercising their rights** and contributing to the application of EU law and policies in this area.

Objectives

- To promote actions designed to prepare the setting up of transnational information, consultation and participation bodies and mechanisms arising from the application of EU law to employee involvement.
- To promote the exchange of information and good practice, aiming to create favourable conditions for the setting up of national information, consultation and participation bodies and mechanisms arising from the application of EU law to employee involvement.
- To promote actions that aim to familiarise the social partners and actors at company level with the content of EU law on transnational employee involvement and to enable them to exercise their rights and their duties in this regard.
- To promote initiatives to strengthen transnational cooperation between workers' and employers' representatives in respect of information, consultation and participation of employees within companies operating in more than one Member State.
- To promote transnational actions involving representatives of the new Member States and of candidate countries in the field of employee involvement.
- To promote actions that aim to familiarise the actors represented at company level with transnational company agreements and to strengthen their cooperation within the EU.
- To promote those operations fostering the development of employee involvement in undertakings (also, when necessary, taking into account possible specific needs of employees with disabilities) as well as those following up on the findings of the 'Fitness check' on EU acts in the area of Information and Consultation of Workers.
- To promote innovative actions relating to employee involvement, with a view to support the anticipation of change and the prevention and resolution of disputes in the context of corporate restructuring, mergers, take-overs and relocation in EU-scale undertakings and groups of undertakings.
- To strengthen cooperation between the social partners for the development of employee involvement in the design of solutions addressing the consequences of the economic crisis, such as collective redundancies or the need for a shift towards an inclusive, sustainable and low-carbon economy.

- To develop expertise across Member States, promoting cooperation between relevant authorities and stakeholders and fostering relations with EU institutions to support the implementation, and improve the effectiveness, of EU law on employee involvement.

Annual thematic priorities

Every year, the budget heading is intended to finance new **specific transnational cooperation projects**.

Eligible organisations

- EU social partners.
- National social partners: employers'/workers' organisations.
- Non-profit training or research bodies.
- Commercial companies (if the project has a non-commercial character).

Eligible countries

EU countries.

EU candidate countries.

Eligible actions

- Conferences, seminars, short training actions, manuals and exchange of information and good practice involving workers' and/or employers' representatives.
- Analysis papers on quantitative and qualitative aspects and results on subjects related to workers' and employers' representation and social dialogue at undertaking level in a transnational cooperation context.
- Websites, publications, newsletters and other means for the dissemination of information.
- The usual operating costs of organisations are not included.
-

Criteria for partnership

Only organisations from Member States can be applicants; candidate countries may be co-applicants (partners). Partnership is compulsory. Participants in projects should be representatives of workers or employers. As an exception, applicants may also be technical bodies, such as non-profit training or research bodies and commercial companies, only if the aim of the project is non-commercial.

The project's duration can be up to 24 months.

Amount awarded per project

The requested EU funding per project will not be less than EUR 108 000.

The project may be co-financed for up to 90 % of the total eligible costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	March 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission

DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion/B1, B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>

Comments – Recommendations

Projects must aim to strengthen cooperation between workers' and employers' representatives in respect of information, consultation and participation within undertakings and to operate in more than one Member State. Projects involving only one information and consultation body should be submitted as joint projects from representatives of workers and employers.

Projects that concern innovative measures or new subjects in relation to information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings and add value to the existing situation or include a high level of promotion of joint participation of employers and workers have a better chance of success.

	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

EMPLOYMENT – SOCIAL DIALOGUE – SOCIAL ASPECTS OF WORK

1.3 Information and training measures for workers' organisations

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

This annual programme (budget line: 04-03-01-05) supports workers' organisations that implement projects that consider the European employment and social policy challenges as laid down in the European policy documents. These have, most recently, been highlighted in the Juncker Agenda ⁽²⁾.

Objectives

Various measures and initiatives aim to strengthen the capacity of workers' organisations to address, at EU/transnational level, changes in employment and work, and social dialogue-related challenges, such as:

- the modernisation of the labour market;
- quality of work;
- anticipation, preparation and management of change and restructuring the greening of the economy;
- flexicurity;
- skills;
- (intra-EU) labour mobility;
- migration;
- youth employment;
- health and safety at work;
- modernisation of social protection systems;
- reconciliation of work and family life;
- gender equality;
- action in the field of anti-discrimination;
- active ageing;
- healthier and longer working lives;
- active inclusion; and
- decent work.

Thematic priorities

- Contributions to the priorities and activities of European social dialogue.
- Stronger EU cross-industry and sectoral social dialogue committees.
- Measures that contribute to addressing the employment, social and economic dimensions of EU priorities relating to the recovery from the economic crisis, taking into account the need for social

⁽²⁾ Juncker, Jean-Claude. *A new start for Europe: my agenda for jobs, growth, fairness and democratic change*, Political Guidelines, Strasbourg, 14 July 2014, URL: http://ec.europa.eu/news/eu_explained/140715_en.htm.

convergence between Member States, as well as to reaching the objectives and targets of the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives, will be particularly welcome.

Eligible organisations

- European, national or regional social partner organisations **representing workers**.
- Social partners without legal personality.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.

EU candidate countries.

Iceland

Eligible actions

- Conferences, campaigns, seminars and exchange of information and good practice involving workers' representatives.
- Studies, benchmarking, analysis papers on quantitative and/or qualitative aspects and results on subjects related to workers and employment policy.
- Short training actions, capacity building, workshops.
- Information and awareness-raising actions: sector-based or specific target group-based guidelines and manuals.
- Development of models, mapping actions.

Criteria for partnership

There is no obligation for partnership. The lead applicant must be a **social partner organisation** representing workers, and co-applicants must have their registered office in one of the Member States or candidate countries.

Amount awarded per project

- Not less than EUR 108 000.
- Up to 90 % of total eligible costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	March 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission

DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion/B1, B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel. +32 2 299 52 83

E-mail: empl-vp-info-training@ec.europa.eu

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>

Comments – Recommendations

Projects should refer to challenges that are written in the 'European 2020' and flagship initiatives policy documents; see also above.

European-wide and innovative communication and publication actions can make the difference to selection. In the past, successful projects have been submitted by European social partners.

List of selected projects:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=632&langId=en>

See for example: TUC project 'Implementing a European trade union strategy to support the development of workers' skills in manufacturing and beyond' ⁽³⁾.

⁽³⁾ European Commission, Grants awarded as a result of the call for proposals VP/2014/002, 2015, p. 2, URL: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13494&langId=en>.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS – WORK DIALOGUE – ENVIRONMENT – RISK ASSESSMENT

1.4 Expertise in industrial relations

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

This annual programme (budget line: 04-03-01-08) provides grants for improving expertise in the field of industrial relations. The call for projects states a direct intention to support industrial relations, in particular those designed to develop expertise and the exchange of EU-relevant information, and to improve knowledge of industrial relations institutions and practices across the EU. 'Industrial relations' concern the collective – rather than individual – aspects of the employment relationship between workers, employers and their respective representatives.

Objectives

To improve expertise and knowledge of industrial relations, in particular through activities of analysis and research at EU level, as well as in comparative terms (through identifying convergences and differences in the industrial relations systems in place in EU Member States and in candidate countries).

Annual thematic priorities

- Measures and initiatives linked to the adaptation of industrial relations systems to changes in employment and work-related challenges.
- Strengthening synergies and exchanges between European social partners and academic and research centres is a horizontal objective.

Eligible organisations

- European-level social partner organisations.
- National or regional social partner organisations.
- Public authorities.
- Non-profit-making organisations/research centres/institutes, universities.
- Non-profit-making organisations and networks in the field of industrial relations organisations.
- International organisations.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
EU candidate countries.

Eligible actions

- Activities to further deepen the analysis on topics/key findings that were examined in the EC's Industrial Relations in Europe series, including coordination of collective bargaining across different levels and territories; industrial relations in the public sector; industrial relations in Central and Eastern European countries; social partner involvement in social security; the role of social dialogue in fostering economic performance and the transition towards a low-carbon economy; and the role of social dialogue in promoting youth employment. Activities that include the presentation, discussion or dissemination of the results of the industrial relations in Europe series are particularly welcome.
- Research activities including preparatory studies, surveys and other forms of data collection, monitoring exercises and studies.
- Initiatives to enhance the collection and use of (comparative) information on industrial relations systems in EU Member States and on developments at European level. Analyses focusing on the context of the European Semester and Economic and Monetary Union will be especially welcome.
- Measures to identify and exchange information in the area of industrial relations, including through the activities of networks between industrial relations parties and/or experts.
- Initiatives to promote knowledge on quality and effectiveness of industrial relations practices, at both national (including in comparative terms) and European level, including successful forms of worker participation, particularly with regard to the anticipation, preparation and management of change.
- Measures to reinforce, by the means of analytical contributions, capacity-building processes in the field of industrial relations, in particular in those Member States with difficulties in promoting social dialogue.
- Activities to disseminate such findings in publications, round tables, seminars, conferences, training measures and training tools.

Criteria for partnership

The EC welcomes, in particular, projects that build on key findings of the EC's Industrial Relations in Europe series and/or that provide potential contributions to future analysis on industrial relation systems. The duration of activities can be up to 24 months.

Amount awarded per project

Not less than EUR 108 000. Up to 90 % of the eligible budget.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	April 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission

DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion/B1, B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

E-mail: empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>

Comments – Recommendations

Projects should have a strong research/analysis focus.

The EC welcomes, in particular, projects that provide for a full project cycle, including preparatory, implementation and dissemination, follow-up and reporting activities. It should be noted that establishing a realistic timetable avoids the need to request a grant agreement amendment.

This programme appears to be one of the most suitable opportunities for OSH projects and joint actions and initiatives at European level.

AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

EMPLOYMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS – WORKABILITY – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STRATEGIES

1.5 Employment and social innovation – PROGRESS – Social protection – Inclusion

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

PROGRESS is supporting the modernisation of employment and social policies. The programme (budget line: 04-03-02-01) is implemented through thematic calls for proposals and tenders (social inclusion, posting of workers, hazards at the shop floor, skills centres, etc.), within three main areas: (i) employment, in particular youth unemployment; (ii) **social protection, social inclusion** and the reduction and prevention of poverty; and (iii) **working conditions**. The programme contains support for international organisations for policy development and support for operational-level exchange of best practice between administrations. **Social innovation** is a new focus area in the calls for 2015–2016.

This guide includes two separate factsheets on the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme, on the two different areas of social protection and inclusion, as well as on working conditions. For the programme axis of employment/youth unemployment, there was no programme in operation at the time of finalising this publication (June 2015).

Objectives

Social protection area: providing the framework for steering and monitoring EU countries' economic and social reforms to reach the Europe 2020 targets; see Europe 2020 policy.

Political cooperation of EU countries through the Social Protection Committee using the open method of coordination (OMC) in the areas of social inclusion, health care, long-term care and pensions (social OMC). This OMC aims to streamline social policy at Member State level.

Annual thematic priorities

- Social protection, inclusion, reduction and prevention of poverty, development of appropriate policy advice, research and analysis relating to the three strands of the OMC (social protection, social inclusion and long-term care).
- Health and safety at work.
- Labour law.
- Equal opportunities for women and men.
- Protection against discrimination.

Eligible organisations

- European-level social partner organisations.
- National or regional social partner organisations.
- Public authorities or semi-state agencies at national or regional level.

- Non-profit private or public organisations active mainly in the area of social policy management of transitions on the labour market and labour market research.
- International organisations.
- Research centres and institutes, universities, education and vocational training institutions or networks.
- Civil society organisations.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.

EU candidate countries.

Potential EU candidate countries.

EFTA countries.

Eligible actions

- Development of appropriate policy advice, research and analysis relating to the three strands of the OMC (social protection, social inclusion and long-term care).
- Impact assessment of outcome policy measures through EUROMOD, a tax-benefit microsimulation model for the EU including the development of dynamic microsimulation modelling.
- Development of new topics for analytical work to address the social consequences of the economic crisis, such as the methodology for determining the financial and social return on investment for social policies.
- Development of a framework for assessing health care and the stock-taking exercise on housing and social services.
- Activities that support the new social policy experts' network, mutual learning through the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion.
- Testing of innovative social policy reforms, using social innovations to create efficiency gains aimed in particular at public authorities.
- Mutual learning, awareness and dissemination measures on social policy innovation.

Criteria for partnership

The list of eligible expenses contains, at least, staff costs, travel and subsistence costs and costs of services. Travel between EU and candidate countries is considered eligible. The maximum duration of a project is 12 months.

Amount awarded per project

Between 55 % and 80 % of the total eligible costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	March 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission

DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, B-1000 Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel. +32 229 58161

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1082&langId=en>

Comments – Recommendations

See the work programme for 2015 here:

https://www.google.es/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCgQFjAAahUKEwj8hK_P96_HAhXKORoKHQ6dBh8&url=http%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Fsocial%2FBlobServlet%3FdocId%3D13873%26langId%3Den&ei=47rRVbyHBsrzal66mvgB&usg=AFQjCNFkX9GMmo605AwvO08aQNXwp3eUNg&bvm=bv.99804247,d.d2s&cad=rja

Priority areas and detailed criteria for selection are included in the call for proposals. This programme appears to be a suitable opportunity for policy-makers developing working conditions policies that include OSH issues.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

EMPLOYMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS – WORKABILITY – OCCUPATIONAL

1.6 Employment and social innovation – PROGRESS – Working conditions

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

PROGRESS is supporting the modernisation of employment and social policies by supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EU's instruments and policies. The programme (budget line: 04-03-02-01) is implemented through thematic calls for proposals and tenders (social inclusion, posting of workers, hazards at the shop floor, skills centres, etc.) within three main areas: (i) employment, in particular youth unemployment; (ii) **social protection, social inclusion** and the reduction and prevention of poverty; and (iii) **working conditions**. The programme contains support for international organisations for policy development and support for operational-level exchange of best practice between administrations. It should be noted that priorities change every year.

This guide includes two separate factsheets on the EaSI programme, on the two different areas of social protection and inclusion, as well as on working conditions. For the programme axis of employment/youth unemployment, there was no programme in operation at the time of finalising this publication (June 2015).

Objectives

- Health and safety at work: general rights and obligations, workplaces, work equipment, specific risks and vulnerable workers.
- Equal opportunities for women and men: equal treatment at work, pregnancy, maternity leave, parental leave.
- Protection against discrimination based on sex, race, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation.
- Labour law: part-time work, fixed-term contracts, working hours, employment of young people, informing and consulting employees.
-

Thematic priorities

The priorities of a specific call in 2015 are outlined below. For future calls, applicants should check upcoming information.

2015 working conditions priority: to support the implementation of the European Platform to better prevent and deter undeclared work by bringing together all enforcement bodies involved in tackling undeclared work, such as labour and social security inspectorates and tax and migration authorities, as well as other stakeholders, such as EU-level representatives of employers and employees.

Eligible organisations

- National social partners.
- National, regional and local authorities.

- Employment services.
- Specialist bodies provided for under EU law.
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- Higher education institutions and research institutes.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
EU candidate countries.
Potential EU candidate countries.
EFTA countries.

Eligible actions

- Evaluating EU labour law legislations.
- Supporting the scientific committee of occupational exposure limits, launching a Eurobarometer on **working conditions or analysing the EU labour inspection systems** and the **promotion of the OSH strategy**.
- Supporting international organisations such as the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the International Labour Organisation or the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection in their **research activities** in order to strengthen the knowledge **base in the area of OSH**.
- Supporting the European labour law network to provide the EC with relevant information regarding the application of EU law in Member States, the work of the new EU platform on undeclared work, as well as the Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee.
- Promoting the exchange and training of relevant officials and social partners.
- Promoting the exchange of information and best practice, such as developing or updating websites containing general or sector-specific information concerning terms and **conditions of employment**.

Criteria for partnership

Detailed criteria are given in the call for proposals, and attention is drawn to the fact that highlighting adequate communication and dissemination of results is essential in ensuring the EU added value for the action and its sustainability after the funding has ended.

Amount awarded per project

Between 55 % and 80 % of the total eligible costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	May 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission,
DG Employment

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081>

Comments – Recommendations

This area is very relevant to OSH activities: in 2014 it covered a call about radiation protection. We recommend monitoring the publication of the annual work programme for grants and tenders that is published every year in April (first and second updated version). They will contain all funding actions to be realised in the respective year.

Another call for proposals was planned for the second quarter of 2015, for supporting the design and implementation of innovative social policy reforms. At the time of finalising this report, this call had not been published.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH PROMOTION – MOBILE WORK FORCE – e-HEALTH – VULNERABLE GROUPS – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STRATEGIES

1.7 Third health programme – Promoting health, preventing diseases and fostering supportive environments for healthy lifestyles

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The HEALTH programme 2014–2020 has an overall budget of EUR 450 million over 7 years, and, within this, an annual budget of EUR 27 million (budget line: 17-03-01) is dedicated to projects, joint actions and direct grants on prevention and awareness-raising actions relating to public health issues.

Structured by several main objectives, the different programme axes are presented in three separate factsheets. Each of the priorities contains some interesting topics for EU-OSHA stakeholders (e.g. safety, risks management, information systems, work force planning), including:

- promoting health, preventing diseases and fostering supportive environments for healthy lifestyles;
- protecting citizens from serious cross-border health threats;
- contributing to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems; and
- facilitating access to better and safer health care for EU citizens.

Objectives

To provide support for the implementation and scaling up of good practice in the areas of integrated care, frailty prevention, adherence to medical plans and age-friendly communities.

This action will facilitate the implementation and scaling up of good practice at local, regional or country level or the exchange of good practice between Member States, supporting the potential for innovation in health and social care by encouraging integration.

Annual thematic priorities

- Early diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis.
- Early diagnosis of tuberculosis.
- Common assessment methodology on quality, safety and efficacy of transplantation therapies.
- Gathering knowledge and exchanging best practice on measures to reduce the availability of alcoholic beverages.

Eligible organisations

- National public health authorities.
- Public sector bodies.
- Research and health institutions.
- Universities.
- Higher education establishments.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.

EEA countries.

As partners or subcontractors only: European Neighbourhood countries, Western Balkans.

Eligible actions

- Scaling up of good practice in the areas of integrated care, frailty prevention, adherence to medical plans and age-friendly communities.
- Building upon previous work conducted in these areas, the activities to be addressed will include (i) identification of benchmarks focusing on successful local interventions with high transferability potential and (ii) support for the twinning, coaching, and/or scaling up of identified good practices on integrating health and social care in age-friendly community settings; community programmes implementing tools and European guidance on age-friendly communities that use a participatory approach and respond to the needs of older people; integrated community-based approach programmes for the screening, assessment, prevention and management of frailty in older people, and the development of interventions for adherence to treatment and medical plans, in particular involving health-care professionals, care in the community, caregivers and community pharmacies.
- Making use of the potential of innovation for the prevention and management of major chronic diseases (e.g. diabetes, cardiovascular diseases).
- Promoting early diagnosis and screening of preventable chronic diseases.
- Developing innovative approaches to promote the professional reintegration of people with chronic diseases and to improve their employability.

Criteria for partnership

The programme provides project grants and joint action grants jointly undertaken by several Member States' health authorities and also directly awards grants to support organisations.

To submit a proposal for a project, applicants must use the electronic submission system – the so-called Participant Portal – of the HORIZON 2020 programme:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

Organisations must first register via the European Commission Authentication Services (ECAS; <https://ecas.ec.europa.eu>).

Amount awarded per project

Normally, 60 % of the eligible costs of the project can be covered by the EU contribution. Given the complementary and motivational nature of EU grants, at least 40 % of project costs, such as staff costs pertaining to national officials and other external resources, must be funded from partners' sources.

In cases of exceptional utility, projects can receive 80 % co-financing of eligible costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
September 2015	May 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission

Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA), DRB A3/042, L-2920 LUXEMBOURG

Email: Chafea@ec.europa.eu

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/health/index.html>

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/contacts/contacts.html>

Comments – Recommendations

The focus for 2015 projects for national authorities is health technology assessment (HTA) cooperation; prevention of frailty; market surveillance of medical devices; and rare cancers. In addition, in 2015 an important number of public procurement services will be launched on this topic. We recommend that applicants consider these opportunities as well. Check the abovementioned website for details. Europe-wide communication plans are much appreciated in the proposals.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH PROMOTION – MOBILE WORK FORCE – e-HEALTH – VULNERABLE GROUPS – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STRATEGIES

1.8 Third health programme – Protection from cross-border health threats

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The HEALTH programme 2014–2020 has an overall budget of EUR 450 million over 7 years, and, within this, an annual budget of EUR 27 million (budget line: 17-03-01) is dedicated to projects, joint actions and direct grants on prevention and awareness-raising actions relating to public health issues.

Structured by several main objectives, the different programme axes are presented in three separate factsheets. Each of the priorities contains some interesting topics for EU-OSHA stakeholders (e.g. safety, risks management, information systems workforce planning), including:

- promoting health, preventing diseases and fostering supportive environments for healthy lifestyles;
- protecting citizens from serious cross-border health threats;
- contributing to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems; and
- facilitating access to better and safer health care for EU citizens.

Objectives

- To protect EU citizens from serious cross-border health threats.
- To identify and develop coherent approaches and to promote their implementation for better preparedness and coordination in health emergencies.

Annual thematic priorities

No actions for cross-border health threats foreseen in 2015.

Eligible organisations

- National public health authorities.
- Public sector bodies.
- Research and health institutions.
- Universities.
- Higher education establishments.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.

EEA countries.

As partners or subcontractors only: European Neighbourhood countries, Western Balkans.

Eligible actions for 2015

No cross-border actions foreseen in 2015; in 2016 these actions will be called.

Criteria for partnership

The programme provides project grants, as well as joint action grants undertaken by several Member States health authorities, and also directly awards grants to support organisations.

To submit a proposal for a project, applicants must use the electronic submission system – the so-called Participant Portal – of the HORIZON 2020 programme:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

Organisations must first register with ECAS (<https://ecas.ec.europa.eu>).

Amount awarded per project

Normally, 60 % of the eligible costs of the project can be covered by the EU contribution. Given the complementary and motivational nature of EU grants, at least 40 % of project costs, such as staff costs pertaining to national officials and other external resources, must be funded from partners' sources.

In cases of exceptional utility, projects can receive 80 % co-financing of eligible costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
September 2015	May 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission

Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA), DRB A3/042, L-2920 LUXEMBOURG

Email: Chafea@ec.europa.eu

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/health/index.html>

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/contacts/contacts.html>

Comments – Recommendations

It is foreseen that no actions on cross-border health threats will be funded in the 2015 call. This topic is planned for 2016.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH PROMOTION – MOBILE WORK FORCE – e-HEALTH – VULNERABLE GROUPS – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STRATEGIES

1.9 Third health programme – Innovative sustainable health systems

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The HEALTH programme 2014–2020 has an overall budget of EUR 450 million over 7 years, and, within this, an annual budget of EUR 27 million (budget line: 17-03-01) is dedicated to projects, joint actions and direct grants on prevention and awareness-raising actions relating to public health issues.

Structured by several main objectives, the different programme axes are presented in three separate factsheets. Each of the priorities contains some interesting topics for EU-OSHA stakeholders (e.g. safety, risk management, information systems workforce planning), including:

- promoting health, preventing diseases and fostering supportive environments for healthy lifestyles;
- protecting citizens from serious cross-border health threats;
- contributing to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems; and
- facilitating access to better and safer health care for EU citizens.

Objectives

- **To support the implementation and scaling up of good practice in the areas of integrated care, frailty prevention, adherence to medical plans and age-friendly communities.** The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing ('The Partnership') was selected as a pilot project to tackle the challenge of an ageing population within the Innovation Union, one of the flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy, and it is now in the implementation phase.
- **To develop a common assessment methodology on the quality, safety and efficacy of transplantation therapies.** This action aims to build a common assessment methodology to allow academics, health professionals and authorities to assess and verify the safety, quality and efficacy of (new) transplantation therapies and/or other type of clinical applications of human tissues and cells (e.g. assisted reproductive technologies). An increasing number of discussions in the area of substances of human origin, especially in the tissue and cell transplantation sector, showed that there is an acute need to improve the common understanding of safety, quality and efficacy issues.
- **To promote HTA cooperation.** The objective of this action is to support voluntary cooperation at scientific and technical level between HTA bodies to validate the model for joint work to be continued after EU funding under the Health Programme ends. The cooperation between national and regional HTA bodies is essential to meet the provisions set out in Article 15 of Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border health care and to create synergy with the strategic HTA network set up under this directive.

Annual thematic priorities

The Partnership is one of the most important EU initiatives of the year. The aim of this action is to build on the preliminary results of The Partnership, in the areas of **integrated care, frailty prevention, adherence to medical plans** and **age-friendly communities**. This action will facilitate the

implementation and scaling up of good practice at local, regional or country level or the exchange of good practice between Member States, supporting the potential for innovation in health and social care.
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eipaha/>

Eligible organisations

- National public health authorities.
- Public sector bodies.
- Research and health institutions.
- Universities.
- Higher education establishments.
-

Eligible countries

EU Member States.

EEA countries.

As partners or subcontractors only: European Neighbourhood countries, Western Balkans.

Eligible actions for 2015

The implementation and scaling up of good practice in the areas of integrated care, frailty prevention and adherence to medical plans. Building upon previous work conducted in these areas, the activities to be addressed will include (i) the identification of benchmarks focusing on successful local interventions with high transferability potential and (ii) support of the twinning, coaching, and/or scaling up of identified good practices on integrating health and social care in age-friendly community settings; community programmes implementing tools and European guidance on age-friendly communities that use a participatory approach and respond to the needs of older people; integrated community-based approach programmes for the screening, assessment, prevention and management of frailty in older people, and the development of interventions for adherence to treatment and medical plans, in particular involving health-care professionals, patients in the community, caregivers and community pharmacies.

Developing a common assessment methodology on the quality, safety and efficacy of transplantation therapies. The activities should develop a framework for assessing and verifying the quality, safety and efficacy of therapies with human tissues and cells. They should include criteria, parameters and methodologies for evaluation. An important focus will be on implementation, that is, how these parameters and methodologies can be used by clinical actors in their daily practice to assess the quality, safety and efficacy of the clinical applications of tissues/cells. The activities should include testing and validation of the proposed framework through prospective and/or retrospective studies. They should include measures to ensure that such a framework can be made available to and shared among the clinical actors in the field. They should consult all interested stakeholders, including professional societies and Member States' competent authorities.

The **HTA** action will strengthen the production of scientific joint work resulting in reports, guidelines and joint scientific initiatives. This action will aim to address 50 health technologies per year, notably promising but high-cost technologies, with the number of projects receiving funding remaining low in the first years, but then growing over the course of this action. Combined teams of EU and national staff within the HTA bodies would (i) support the production of joint work; (ii) support the generation of evidence appropriate for HTA purposes, including early scientific advice to technology developers; (iii) ensure the quality of joint work by maintaining appropriate quality management and standards and promote the use of the results of joint work, in particular reports, in national and regional HTA activities; (iv) maintain and update relevant supporting tools, such as information technology (IT) tools, training and communication material; (v) provide administrative coordination support; and (vi) define working processes between the participating HTA bodies, including any possible legal adaptations that may be necessary to implement a mechanism sustainable without EU funding in due consideration of Article 15(7) of Directive 2011/24.

Criteria for partnership

The programme provides project grants and joint action grants jointly undertaken by several Member States health authorities and also directly awards grants to support organisations.

To submit a proposal for a project, the electronic submission system – the so-called Participant Portal – of the HORIZON 2020 programme must be used:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

Organisations must first register with ECAS (<https://ecas.ec.europa.eu>).

Amount awarded per project

Usually, 60 % of the eligible costs of the project can be covered by the EU contribution. Given the complementary and motivational nature of EU grants, at least 40 % of project costs, such as staff costs pertaining to national officials and other external resources, must be funded from partners' sources.

In cases of exceptional utility, projects may receive 80 % co-financing of eligible costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
September 2015	May 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

European Commission

Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA), DRB A3/042, L-2920 LUXEMBOURG

Email: Chafea@ec.europa.eu

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/health/index.html>

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/contacts/contacts.html>

Comments – Recommendations

The new topics for 2015 are published in June 2015. The most relevant topics for national authorities are:

- HTA cooperation;
- prevention of frailty;
- market surveillance of medical devices; and
- rare cancers.

This year, an important number of public procurement services are going to be launched. We recommend considering these opportunities as well.

To meet the quality appraisal requirements, we recommend that applicants add Europe-wide communication plans to their proposals.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.		OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONALS NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH AND RISKS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES, DEPRESSION AND WORK

1.10 HORIZON 2020 – Societal challenge – Health, demographic change and wellbeing

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The headline goal of the Health Societal Challenge is better health for all. Its main policy objectives are to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, to promote healthy and active ageing, to promote market growth, job creation and the position of the EU as a global leader in the health area.

The budget (budget line: 09-04-03-01) for 2016–2017 is nearly EUR 1 200 million. The Health Societal Challenge aims to deliver **evidence-based outcomes**, resulting from scientific research data, **information and communication technology (ICT) solutions and good practice in interventions** that aim to improve the efficiency and quality of health and care systems. This programme includes good opportunities for small businesses or public and private experts.

Objectives

The intention for **2016–2017 is to focus on applications of new and existing technologies for prevention measures, the promotion of mental wellbeing** and social inclusion. The overall strategic orientation will focus on promoting healthy ageing and personalised health care.

The challenges of this goal relate to the ageing European population and its lifestyle patterns, which, if not actively managed through a life-course approach, will increase the burden of chronic diseases on individuals, on existing health and care systems and on society. This will also result in an increase in public expenditure, coupled with labour force and productivity losses. Accordingly, the objectives of this programme are:

- to improve the understanding of the causes and mechanisms underlying health, healthy ageing and disease;
- to improve the ability to monitor health and to prevent, detect, treat and manage disease;
- to support older persons in remaining active and healthy;
- to test and demonstrate new models and tools for health and care delivery.

Annual thematic priorities

- Ageing: from early development to the elderly.
- Translational research into molecular characterisation of diseases, targeted disease prevention and therapy strategies for patients, including aspects related to the interaction of environment and health: exposures on **health and diseases**.
- Research into population health and health promotion, as well as sustainable health and care systems, with a focus on the following areas: **mental disorders, depression**, consumption and lifestyle.
- ICT for health (health-care delivery, e-health, considering the environment and community, big data new business models).

Eligible organisations

- National public health authorities.
- Research and health institutions.
- Universities.
- Higher education establishments.
- Private companies, SMEs.
- Local authorities.
- Not-for-profit organisations.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.

EU candidate countries.

Potential EU candidate countries.

EEA countries.

Israel.

Worldwide countries in some exceptional cases.

Eligible actions

Among the relevant areas that can be addressed in the field of **health and health promotion** are:

- the development of innovative interventions, tools and personalised medicine approaches that aim to promote health and wellbeing at individual and community levels;
- research and innovation activities that focus on the development and validation of effective interventions and new health promotion and disease-prevention strategies; and
- the development of ICT solutions, products and services, based on open platforms, for ageing well.

Research and innovation actions (RIAs) primarily consist of activities that aim to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of new or improved technologies, products, processes, services or solutions. For this purpose, they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, and testing and validation of small-scale prototypes in a laboratory or simulated environment.

Innovation action (IA) refers to an action primarily consisting of activities that directly aim to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose, they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication. Coordination actions (CAs) can involve partners for networking actions.

Criteria for partnership

An average partnership has between three and six countries and participants.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts depend on the funding scheme: CAs and RIAs 100 % funding; IAs 70 % funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	One global call is launched for 2016–2017 in October 2015	6 months minimum

Further information

DG Research and Innovation

Phone: +32 2 29 911111

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=enquiries>

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/health-demographic-change-and-wellbeing>

Comments – Recommendations

The facts given above are not published officially but are based on the draft papers for 2016–2017. This information may change until October 2015, when the official publication is ready. A list of research topics for 2016 is available from the national contact points. Applications should be submitted using the online participant portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

The programme focuses on technology and the exchange of ICT systems for health applications in different countries. This programme requires large partnerships between several countries and types of organisations.

Applications to this programme seem feasible for EU-OSHA stakeholders if project ideas encompass several national authorities and private experts focusing on e-health or ‘ageing’ tools.

Project examples: OSH of workers:

<http://www.cros-portal.eu/content/ecosh>

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/haw/>

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.		OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

AGEING WORKFORCE, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

1.11 Joint Programming Initiative – More Years, Better Lives – The potential and challenges of demographic change

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The aim of the new Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) is to make better use of Europe's limited research and development funds through enhanced coordination and cooperation of research programmes in strategic areas. JPIs target national public research and European programmes first. One of the five sectors very relevant to EU-OSHA stakeholders is **Work and Productivity**.

In order to respond to the challenges of an ageing society and its economic effects, policy-makers need more research to be undertaken in the field of demographic change in order to develop new policies.

Objectives

To support innovative and interdisciplinary research into the drivers of, and constraints on, extending working life. Research is expected to cross the traditional boundaries of government departments and occupational sectors and to examine the implications of extending working life for older workers (50+ years old), new labour markets, health, wellbeing and intergenerational equity.

Thematic priorities

The 'More Years, Better Lives' JPI identifies the following four main research domains, each corresponding to a cluster of policy issues. The 2015 call relates particularly to the topic of 'Extended working life and its interaction with health and wellbeing':

- modern work factors;
- longer working life and inequality;
- health challenges; and
- caring responsibilities.

Eligible organisations

- Public and private scientific, research, technological and innovation institutions.
- Universities.
- Research active industry.
- NGOs.
- Other institutions involved in research activities.

Eligible countries

Organisations from the only following countries are eligible for funding: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom.

Eligible actions

- Innovative interdisciplinary research proposals. Proposals seeking to address the substance of this call should be solution-driven and have a potential positive impact on issues relating to the call topics.
- Quantitative as well as qualitative research proposals from all social sciences, the humanities, engineering, natural sciences and the health research community are welcomed.
- Research outputs should be able to inform decision-making (including public, private and communities) and innovation (societal, organisational, institutional and technological), recognising the complexity of the associated decision-making processes and innovation challenges.

Criteria for partnership

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each proposal must involve a minimum of three eligible applicants from at least three different countries. Proposals should explain how projects will address the issues identified in the JPI strategic research agenda, and, in particular, the specific topic of 'a new labour market'.

Each consortium must nominate a principal investigator. The duration of the projects can be up to 3 years.

Amount awarded per project

Funding rates and grant amounts depend on national funding bodies.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
One global call is launched for 2016–2017	April 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

ZonMw

Laan van Nieuw Oost Indië 334, 2593 CE Den Haag, Postbox 93245, 2509 AE Den Haag, THE NETHERLANDS

Tel. +31 (0)70 3495242

E-mail: jpimybl@zonmw.nl

Applicants should first contact the national contact points: <http://www.jp-demographic.eu/>

Comments – Recommendations

This is a relevant opportunity for research organisations working on following topics:

- Modern work factors: new jobs and ways of working create new risks and opportunities both for individuals and for society at large. Some sectors and occupations are becoming more important, whereas others are declining. Some work is becoming more secure, whereas other work is becoming less so.
- Flexible working conditions and how new and emerging technologies bring new challenges but also opportunities for older workers.
- Longer working life and inequality factors, including health, domestic and caring responsibilities, migrant status, social position and gender.
- Health challenges: health factors have a major effect on individuals' ability and aspirations to work longer. Overall, the effect of health is complex; to some individuals good health can be a driver of a

long working life, whereas to others it can be a driver of early retirement. On the one hand, some jobs directly harm health or require physical or mental capabilities that decline with age. On the other hand, in some circumstances staying in work has a positive impact on health and wellbeing. Both good work design and appropriate technologies can contribute to enabling people to remain healthy and to continue to work.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

AGEING WORKFORCE, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

1.12 European Institute of Innovation and Technology – Health

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) Health is a consortium of more than 50 core partners and 90 associate partners from leading businesses, research centres and universities from across 14 EU countries. EIT Health was designated as a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC); it achieves its mission by fully integrating all three sides of the 'knowledge triangle' (that is, higher education, research and business) around KICs. By connecting European business and research, the private sector stands to gain as it will be given fresh opportunities to commercialise the most up-to-date and relevant research findings, with the aim of giving Europe first-mover advantage in the latest technological and non-technological fields as well as in open innovation.

Objectives

The goal of EIT Health is to contribute to increasing the competitiveness of European industry and improving the quality of life of Europe's citizens and the sustainability of health-care systems. The partnership aims to accelerate entrepreneurship and to develop innovations in healthy living and active ageing, providing Europe with new opportunities and resources. This will be achieved through delivering products, concepts and services, including educational programmes that will nurture talents and train the workforce of tomorrow.

Thematic priorities

EIT Health initiatives must address the challenges of demographic change and ageing societies; it will focus investments on innovative products and services that support patients, by supporting research, education and business projects in three areas:

- the promotion of healthy living: self-management of health, lifestyle intervention;
- providing support for active ageing: workplace interventions, overcoming functional loss;
- improving health care: treating and managing chronic diseases.

Eligible organisations

- Insurance companies and other institutions involved in research activities.
- Public and private scientific, research, technological and innovation institutions.
- Universities.
- Research health-care providers.
- Businesses.
- Education actors.

Eligible countries

This programme is dedicated to specific areas and only partnerships from the same geographical areas are eligible for funding.

Eligible actions

EIT collaborative projects are selected in annual competitive calls. They are 'solution-driven', meaning that a potential solution that either capitalises on an opportunity or addresses a specific problem presented by the ageing population must be identified.

Criteria for partnership

Partnership is required within the so-called 'co-location centre', that is, a regional cluster.

Amount awarded per project

Funding rates and grant amounts are not yet known.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Expected 2016	Up to 6 months

Further information**EIT Health**

E-mail: info@eit-health.eu

<https://www.eit-health.eu/>

Comments – Recommendations

This is a completely new network, which is combining innovative actions and investments in the education, research and business sectors. This programme seems to be of particular interest for the insurance sector.



HEALTH AND RISKS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES

1.13 HORIZON 2020 – Excellent Science – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) (budget line: 15-03-01-01) forms part of the HORIZON 2020 'Excellent Science' pillar, which is designed to give generous research funding for the career development of scientists in all scientific disciplines. The annual budget for RISE is EUR 80 million.

RISE funds short-term exchanges for staff to develop careers combining scientific excellence with exposure to other countries and other professional sectors. RISE enables more interaction between academic and non-academic organisations within Europe and worldwide.

Objectives

To share knowledge and skills, and to broaden the career development of research staff. This action is intended for organisations, such as universities, research centres or companies that propose short-term exchanges for their staff. Projects should focus on networking opportunities, sharing of knowledge and the skills development of staff members.

Thematic priorities

Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of joint research and innovation activities between the participants. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as intersectoral mobility, based on secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built return mechanism.

Eligible organisations

- National public authorities.
- Research institutions.
- Universities.
- Higher education establishments.
- Private companies, SMEs.
-

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
EU candidate countries.
Western Balkans
EEA countries.
Israel.
Worldwide countries in some exceptional cases.

Eligible actions

All research areas can be funded. Partners should propose a joint project. Proposals should highlight **networking opportunities**, the **sharing of knowledge** and the **skills development** of staff members.

Researchers of **any nationality** and **any career level** (postgraduate to experienced researcher) can apply. Applicants can also include administrative, managerial and technical staff involved in the research and innovation activities of the proposal.

Criteria for partnership

Proposals should include at least three partners, which can be universities, research institutions or non-academic organisations. SMEs are encouraged to participate. Partner organisations should be from three different countries. At least two of these should be from the EU or associated countries (see above for the list of eligible countries). Partners from elsewhere in the world are eligible. If the exchange happens between the EU or associated countries, it must be intersectoral. In worldwide partnerships, exchanges within the same sector are possible.

Amount awarded

The EC contribution is calculated using the 'researcher unit cost' (equivalent to one researcher month) of EUR 2000/month, in addition to the 'institutional unit cost' of EUR 2500/month (research and training costs of EUR 1800 + management and overhead costs of EUR 700).

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	January 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/contacts/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/navracsics/team_en

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/rise/index_en.htm

National contact points:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html

Comments – Recommendations

Applying for exchange fellowships can be very relevant for private and academic actors who wish to expand and strengthen their networks and gain new expertise. MSCA-RISE is an open, bottom-up, programme. This means that this programme provides opportunities particularly for research fields that are not highlighted in other programmes, such as other pillars of HORIZON 2020. The success rate in the last call (2014) was 41 %. Applicants can improve their chances for success with careful preparation. Compared with other research programmes, these fellowships are implemented with lump sums, which greatly facilitates financial management.



1.14 HORIZON 2020 – Excellent Science – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Individual Fellowships

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The MSCA Individual Fellowships (budget line: 15-02-02-00) form part of the HORIZON 2020 Excellent Science pillar, which is designed to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers (postdoctoral researchers) through advanced training and international and intersectoral mobility. The overall annual budget for fellowships is EUR 215 million.

Individual Fellowships are either European fellowships or global fellowships. European fellowships are open to researchers currently within or outside Europe who want to work in an EU Member State or associated country. The mobility rule applies to the Member State (that is, the researcher must not have lived, worked or studied in the Member State or associated country for more than 12 months during the 3 years prior to the deadline).

Objectives

To diversify researchers' competencies and to enable them to acquire new skills at a multi- or interdisciplinary level through advanced training and mobility. Only **experienced researchers** can apply. This means that applicants must either hold a PhD degree or have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience by the time of the call deadline. The host organisation (academic or non-academic) in an eligible country employs the awarded researcher.

Thematic priorities

This action is meant to support the **best, most promising, individual researchers** from anywhere in the world.

Eligible organisations

- National public health authorities.
- Research institutions.
- Universities.
- Higher education establishments.
- Private companies, SMEs.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
EU Candidate countries.
Western Balkans.
EEA.
Israel.
Worldwide countries in some exceptional cases.

Eligible actions

All research areas can be funded. Mobility across borders is a prerequisite. Cross-sector mobility is also encouraged. Fellowships are open to experienced researchers holding a PhD degree.

Criteria for partnership

The duration of the European fellowships is **1–2 years**. Global fellowships are 2–3 years in duration.

Amount awarded

The grant provides an **allowance to cover living, travel and family costs**. The grant is awarded to a host organisation, usually a university, research centre or company in Europe. The research costs and overheads of the host organisation(s) are also supported. The budget is calculated using the 'researcher unit cost' of EUR 4650/month (monthly allowance, adjusted by country, plus a mobility allowance of EUR 600/month and a family allowance of EUR 500/month, if applicable). In addition, EUR 800/month are provided for research costs and EUR 650/month for management costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
10 September 2015	March 2016	3 months minimum

Further information

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-mca/actions/ief/>
http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/contacts/index_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/navracsics/team_en
http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/rise/index_en.htm

National contact points:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html

Comments – Recommendations

Applications for Individual Fellowships can be very relevant for private and academic researchers who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training and mobility. The success rate in the last call (Framework Programme Number 7) was 12 %. Applicants can improve their chances of success with careful preparation. For details on different types of European fellowships, see the Guide for Applicants on the website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-mca/actions/ief/>



HEALTH AND RISKS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND MORE

1.15 HORIZON 2020 – Excellent Science – Future and emerging technologies – Open

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) programme (budget line: 08-02-01) supports collaborative research in order to extend Europe's capacity for advanced and paradigm-changing innovation. It aims to foster scientific collaboration **across disciplines on radically new, high-risk ideas** and to accelerate the development of the most promising emerging areas of science and technology.

The FET section includes the FET Open, FET Proactive and FET Flagships programmes. **FET Open is a bottom-up scheme that explores novel and visionary ideas without pre-conceived boundaries or proposal deadlines. FET Open, which will represent 40 % of the overall FET budget** in HORIZON 2020, is entirely non-prescriptive with regard to the nature or purpose of the technologies that are envisaged. FET Open covers all technological areas, and no budget is earmarked for ICT in FET Open.

Objectives

- To foster radically new technologies by exploring novel and high-risk ideas building on scientific foundations.
- To support a large set of early-stage, high-risk visionary science and technology collaborative research projects, which are necessary for the successful exploration of new foundations for radically new future technologies.
- To nurture fragile ideas, which requires an agile, risk-friendly and highly interdisciplinary research approach, expanding well beyond the strictly technological disciplines.
- To recognise and stimulate the driving role of under-represented groups, such as women, young researchers and high-tech SMEs, in research is also important for nurturing the scientific and industrial leaders of the future.

Thematic priorities

There are no specific priorities; all new directions for highly innovative technologies are welcome.

Eligible organisations

- Research centres.
- Universities.
- Private companies, SMEs.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
EU candidate countries.
Western Balkans.
EEA countries.
Israel.
Other worldwide countries in some exceptional cases.

Eligible actions

Research proposals must include the following aspects: long-term vision, breakthrough science and technology targets. Research must target scientifically ambitious and technologically concrete breakthroughs. The breakthroughs should establish a basis for a new line of technology not currently anticipated, Novel new ideas and concepts that are interdisciplinary are welcomed. Research and IA primarily consists of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose, actions may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, and testing and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

Criteria for partnership

An average partnership contains between three and six countries and participants.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts depend on the funding scheme: Research and Innovation Action (RIA) 100 % funding.

Submission period for applications

A new open call is launched for 2016–2017.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
Three evaluation dates per year	Open submission scheme	6 months minimum

Further information

Research Executive Agency (REA), Unit A.5

Fostering Novel Ideas: FET – Open, Place Rogier, 16, COV2-B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel. +32 2 295 68 38

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/future-and-emerging-technologies>

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/node/791>

http://ec.europa.eu/rea/contact/index_en.htm

Comments – Recommendations

The fund is highly technological and has medium relevancy for projects on the human or social aspects of safety and health at work.

Project examples:

- Innovative autonomous electrical biosensor synergistically assembled inside a passive direct methanol fuel cell for screening cancer biomarkers.
- NanoSmells: artificial remote-controlled odorants.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.		OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH AND RISKS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES, DEPRESSION AND WORK

1.16 HORIZON 2020 – Industrial leadership – Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

This industry-centred new programme for 2016 is called **Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing (NMBP)** and has an annual budget of more than **EUR 500 million** (budget line: 08-02-02).

The **NMBP 2016–2017 strategy will focus on EU manufacturing**, by developing and deploying technologies in order to ensure economic growth, job creation, climate and energy goals and environmental protection. This will be in the context of dramatic changes in working and living environments, often referred to as the **'Fourth Industrial Revolution'**, arising from the rapid development of IT infrastructure, the evolution of smart devices, and the linking of the physical and the virtual worlds.

Objectives

The general approach is to support 'Factories, process plants and buildings' of the future, and more specifically:

- to develop innovative technologies, bringing them to market;
- to facilitate solutions addressing societal challenges, which can in turn lead to further markets.

This will help the manufacturing sectors, especially SMEs, to adapt to global competitive pressure by improving their technological base. For SMEs in particular, it is important to ensure a full involvement in industrial value chains and access to pilot lines.

Thematic priorities

An extract from the 2016–2017 forecast highlights the following priorities:

- The factories of the future (FoF) initiative will help EU manufacturing enterprises, including SMEs, to adapt to global competitive pressures by developing and deploying the necessary **key enabling technologies to support EU manufacturing across a broad range of sectors. Meeting the increasing global consumer demand for greener**, more customised and higher quality products is key.
- The Sustainable Process Industries through Research and Energy Efficiency (SPIRE) initiative, based on an alliance of eight industrial sectors (cement, ceramics, chemicals, engineering, minerals and ore, non-ferrous metals, steel and water), will address industrial processing, reducing the consumption of energy and resources, and minimising waste across all process industry sectors.
- Advanced materials and **nanotechnologies** for high added-value products and process industries.

- 'Biotechnology-based industrial processes driving competitiveness and sustainability' aim to bridge the gap from laboratory to market. This includes new approaches to valorising new feedstock resources and increasing overall bioprocess efficiencies.

Eligible organisations

- National public authorities.
- Research centres.
- Universities.
- Higher education establishments.
- Private companies, SMEs.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.

EU candidate countries

Western Balkans.

EEA countries.

Israel.

Other worldwide countries in some exceptional cases.

Eligible actions

Some relevant areas that may be addressed are those **that rely on contractual public-private partnerships for the deployment of key enabling technologies:**

- FoF;
- SPIRE;
- sustainable low-carbon industry.

Funding will have to cover the whole innovation chain and help low- and medium-scale production as well as high-scale production in the field of key enabling technologies.

As for industrial activities with higher technological readiness, the programme will support demonstrator projects with a view to enhancing industrial and commercial take-up of research achievements. IA means an action primarily consisting of activities that directly aim to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose, they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication. CAs may involve many partners for networking actions.

Criteria for partnership

An average partnership is between three and six countries and participants.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts depend on the funding scheme: CA and RIA 100 % funding; IA 70 % funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
One global call is launched for 2016–2017	October 2015	6 months minimum

Further information

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/nanotechnologies-advanced-materials-advanced-manufacturing-and-processing-and>

Comments – Recommendations

The facts given above are not published officially and are based on the draft papers for 2016–2017. This information may change until October 2015, when the official call is published. A list of research topics for 2016 will be available from the national contact points in June 2015. Applications should be submitted using the online participant portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

Applying to this programme seems feasible for EU-OSHA stakeholders in instances in which the consortium comprises many industrial organisations.

Project examples:

Hazard identification and engineered nanoparticles (PEROSH):

<http://www.perosh.eu/research-projects/perosh-projects/hazard-identification-and-engineered-nanoparticles/>

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

LEARNING AND TRAINING ON THE JOB – e-LEARNING – SECTOR – EDUCATION

1.17 ERASMUS+ Key Action 2 – Sector skills alliances

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

One of the most relevant parts of the ERASMUS+ programme (budget line: 15-02-01) for EU-OSHA stakeholders is Key Action (KA) 2, which encompasses cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice. The sector skills alliances aim to tackle skills gaps and enhance the responsiveness of initial and continuing vocational and educational training (VET) systems to **sector-specific labour market needs** and demand for **new skills with regard to one or more occupational profiles**. Projects can be submitted by social partners together with businesses and training institutes.

Objectives

The 2015 objectives defined for this programme are:

- modernising VET and exploiting its potential to drive economic development and innovation, notably at local and regional levels, thereby increasing the competitiveness of the sectors concerned;
- strengthening the exchange of knowledge and practice between vocational education and training institutions and the labour market integrating work-based learning;
- facilitating labour mobility, mutual trust and increased recognition of qualifications at European level within the sectors concerned.

Thematic priorities

Sector skills alliances are transnational projects drawing on evidence of trends in a specific economic sector and the skills needed in order to perform in one or more professional field, including:

- manufacturing and engineering, for example advanced manufacturing, automotive manufacturing, aviation manufacturing or textile, clothing and leather manufacturing;
- commerce;
- ICT;
- environmental technologies (eco-innovation);
- cultural and creative sectors;
- health care;
- tourism.

The key features of these projects are:

- innovation in vocational education and training, in different economic sectors and related occupational profiles;
- an impact going beyond the project's lifetime and beyond the organisations involved in the alliance.

Eligible organisations

- Social partners or other representative of working life, including chambers of commerce, industry, craft/professional associations and trade unions.
- Intermediaries or associations that represent education, training or youth organisations.
- Research institutes.
- Inter-company training centres.
- Public or private, small, medium or large enterprises (including social enterprises).
- Public VET authorities at local, regional or national level.
- Associations that represent education, training or youth organisations.
- Careers guidance, professional counselling and information services.
- Bodies for recognition, accreditation, certification or qualification.

Eligible countries

EU Member States

EU candidate countries

Western Balkans.

EEA countries.

Worldwide countries in some exceptional cases.

Eligible actions

Defining skills and training provision needs in a given specific economic sector:

- identifying needs in terms of training provision, drawing on, where available, the occupational profiles of the classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations.

Designing joint curricula:

- integrating skills or occupational profiles into curriculum design, VET programmes and, possibly, qualification standards;
- the activities described above should apply the learning outcomes approach (e.g. using European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training, etc.) and should be underpinned by quality assurance principles (e.g. European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training).

Criteria for partnership

Sector skills alliances involve a minimum of nine participating organisations from at least three programme countries, including two Member States. An organisation can be involved in only one sector skills alliance application at the same time. Sector skills alliances must include at least one organisation from each of the following three categories in each of the countries involved in the alliance:

- public or private entities that provide vocational training;
- public or private entities that have sector-specific expertise and are representative for/in a given sector (at European, national or regional level);
- public or private entities that have a regulatory function for education and training systems (at local, regional or national level).

Amount awarded per project

Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 2-year Sector Skills Alliance: EUR 700 000.

Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 3-year Sector Skills Alliance: EUR 1 million.

Up to 80 % of the total eligible costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Deadlines for submitting applications April 2016	6 months

Further information**Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) helpdesk**E-mail: eacea-helpdesk@ec.europa.euhttps://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-2-cooperation-for-innovation-and-exchange-good-practices/sector-skills_en**Comments – Recommendations**

Project applications highlighting the following key aspects have increased chances of success: innovation capacity, socioeconomic environment of the professional sector, employability, creativity and new professional paths for specific target groups.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

LEARNING AND TRAINING ON THE JOB - EMPLOYABILITY

1.18 ERASMUS+ Key Action 2 – Strategic partnerships

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

One of the most relevant parts of the ERASMUS+ programme (budget line: 15-02-01) for EU-OSHA stakeholders is KA 2, which encompasses cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice. The strategic partnerships aim to support the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices as well as the implementation of joint initiatives promoting cooperation, peer learning and exchanges of experience at European level.

Objectives

To develop new approaches to strengthen the education and training paths of prospective and practising educators/youth workers by equipping them with all competencies and skills needed to deliver high-quality services and address increasingly diverse needs, for example, those posed by multicultural societies.

Thematic priorities

In VET:

- supporting the development of high-quality VET with a strong work-based learning component (including apprenticeships and dual learning models), involving strong partnerships between education and employment (in particular, companies and social partners);
- increasing the labour market relevance of VET provision and reducing skills mismatches and shortages in economic sectors through the timely adaptation of curricula and qualifications profiles and the establishment of stable partnerships between VET providers and economic actors, including social partners, development agencies, bodies in innovation systems, chambers of commerce;
- promoting the development of skills and competencies of teachers and trainers, with a particular focus on work-based teaching, partnerships between school teachers and in-company trainers, and training of in-company trainers.

Eligible organisations

- Social partners or other representatives of working life, including chambers of commerce, industry, craft/professional associations and trade unions.
- Intermediaries or associations that represent education, training or youth organisations.
- Research institutes.
- Inter-company training centres.
- Public or private, small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises).
- Public VET authorities at local, regional or national level.
- Associations that represent education, training or youth organisations.
- Careers guidance, professional counselling and information services.

- Bodies for recognition, accreditation, certification or qualification.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
EU candidate countries.
Western Balkans.
EEA countries.
Worldwide countries in some exceptional cases.

Eligible actions

- Activities that strengthen the cooperation between organisations with a view to establishing exchanges of practices.
- Activities that promote the development, testing and/or implementation of innovative practices in the field of education, training and youth.
- Activities that facilitate the recognition and validation of knowledge, skills and competencies acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning.
- Activities of cooperation between regional authorities to promote the development of education, training and youth systems and their integration in actions of local and regional development.
- Activities to support learners with disabilities/special educational needs to complete education cycles and facilitate their transition into the labour market, including by combating segregation and discrimination in education for marginalised communities.

Criteria for partnership

A Strategic Partnership is transnational and involves a minimum of **three organisations from three different** programme countries. There is no maximum number of partners. However, the budget for the management costs is capped to cover 10 partners.

Amount awarded per project

Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 2-year Strategic Partnership: EUR 300 000.

Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 3-year Strategic Partnership: EUR 450 000.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
Three times a year: February, April, October	February, April, October every year	3 months

Contact

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) helpdesk

Tel. 32 2 298 58 07

E-mail: eacea-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf
[page 109](#)

Comments – Recommendations

Project applications highlighting the following key aspects have an increased chance of success: innovation capacity, socioeconomic environment of the professional sector, employability, creativity and new professional paths for specific target groups, **mainstreaming OSH into training**.

Projects that support the development of new pedagogical approaches and, in particular, **e-learning tools and online collaborative platforms** where pupils, students and teachers will be able to learn, teach and co-create content of courses are relevant for EU-OSHA stakeholders.

**OTHERS PARTNERS:
INSURANCES, ETC.**

**OSH PROFESSIONAL
NETWORKS, PREVENTION
SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS**

ON-THE-JOB/OFF-THE-JOB TRAINING – HUMAN FACTORS

1.19 ERASMUS for Young Entrepreneurs

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (budget line: 02-02-77-02) is a cross-border exchange programme which aims to help new entrepreneurs (NEs) acquire the relevant skills for managing a SME in another EU Member State. They are hosted by host entrepreneurs (HEs) in another country.

Objectives

The general objective of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme is to facilitate exchanges of experience, learning and networking for new EU entrepreneurs by means of working with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU Member State. The exchange of experience takes place during a stay with the experienced entrepreneur, which helps the NE acquire the skills needed to run a small firm.

The host benefits from fresh perspectives on their business and receives opportunities to cooperate with foreign partners or learn about new markets.

Thematic priorities

- On-the-job training for new entrepreneurs in SMEs elsewhere in the EU in order to facilitate a successful start and development of their business ideas.
- Exchanges of experience and information between entrepreneurs on obstacles and challenges to starting up and developing their businesses.
- To enhance market access and the identification of potential partners for new and established businesses in other EU countries.
- To promote networking by building on knowledge and experience from other European countries.

Eligible organisations

- SMEs, NEs who firmly plan to set up their own business or who have already started one within the last 3 years.
- Experienced entrepreneurs who own or manage an SME in one of the participating countries.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
EU candidate countries.
EEA countries.

Eligible actions

- Matching an eligible NE with an appropriate HE.

- Facilitating contacts between the NE and HE by intermediary organisations (IOs) active in different countries.
- Coordinating the activities of the IOs by the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Support Office.
- Ensuring the agreement of the parties involved (that is, the selected NE, the HE and the IOs responsible) on the conditions of the stay abroad: the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs commitment, business/work/learning plan, tasks, responsibilities, financial conditions and legal implications.
- A duration of the stay abroad of 1–6 months, with the possibility to divide the stay into slots of a minimum of 1 week spread over a maximum of 12 months.
- An assessment and evaluation of the outcomes by the IOs responsible.

Criteria for partnership

The programme has appointed intermediary organisations to establish contacts between NEs and HEs.

Amount awarded per project

Grants take into account transport and accommodation costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
Applications can be submitted at any time	Applications can be submitted at any time	3 months minimum

Further information

<http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/>

Local contact point:

<http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/page.php?cid=5>

Comments – Recommendations

This programme for short-term fellowships is mainly designed for young SME start-ups. There is no topical guidance and the project could involve safety and occupational health aspects within the exchange programme. Applications can be made via the national contacts only. However, applications should be considered carefully; the programme might not always fit OSH topics perfectly.



1.20 Council of Europe Bank – Health

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The Social Development Bank in the Council of Europe Bank (CEB) is financing social investment projects that respond to emergency situations and contribute to improving the living conditions of the most disadvantaged population groups. Activities aim to strengthen social cohesion in Europe through four sectorial lines of action:

- strengthening social integration;
- managing the environment;
- supporting public infrastructure with a social vocation;
- supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to promote the creation and preservation of viable jobs by facilitating access to credit.

This strand finances projects concerning health and related basic infrastructure.

Objectives/priorities

In order to promote health, two main objectives/priorities are defined:

- improving the health sector in Europe;
- facilitating access for all to good health services.

Thematic priorities

No information available.

Eligible organisations

Private companies can apply but they or the project must be approved by public authorities.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
Western Balkans.
EFTA countries.

Eligible actions

- Construction and rehabilitation of hospitals and medical infrastructures (private or public), nursing homes for the elderly and welfare centres.
- Alterations to premises in order to facilitate access both inside and outside.

- Purchase of health and health management materials and equipment.
- Home help programmes.
- Programmes involving the training of specialised staff in the social and health sectors.
- Basic health infrastructures: water supply, collection and treatment of waste water and solid waste, including toxic waste, electricity and gas supplies.

Criteria for partnership

No partnership necessary.

Amount awarded per project

The project may be co-financed up to a maximum of 50 % of the total eligible costs.

More particularly, up to 90 % of the total eligible costs may be financed for the following 'target group countries': Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
Projects can be submitted at any time	Projects can be submitted at any time	Up to 3 months

Further information

Council of Europe Bank

55, avenue Kléber, F-75116 Paris, FRANCE

Tel. +33 147 555 500

<http://www.coebank.org>

<http://www.coebank.org/en/contact/>

<http://www.coebank.org/en/about/policies-and-guidelines/projects-and-loans-policies-and-guidelines/>

Comments – Recommendations

The CEB may finance individual projects (with 'project loans') or multiproject programmes (with 'programme loans') in one or several sectors of action ('multisector'). The CEB may finance projects directly or via an intermediary financial institution. Among the relevant project ideas are the creation of health infrastructures, health services and access to the health sector.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL COHESION, VIABLE JOBS, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

1.21 Council of Europe Bank – Creation and preservation of viable jobs

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The Social Development Bank in the CEB is financing social investment projects that respond to emergency situations and contribute to improving the living conditions of the most disadvantaged population groups. Activities aim to strengthen social cohesion in Europe through four sectorial lines of action:

- strengthening social integration;
- managing the environment;
- supporting public infrastructure with a social vocation;
- supporting MSMEs to promote the creation and preservation of viable jobs by facilitating access to credit.

The CEB's actions aim to strengthen social cohesion in Europe.

In addition, the CEB finances MSMEs for the primary purpose of promoting the creation and preservation of viable jobs by facilitating access to credit.

Objectives

Loans are aimed at entities exercising craft activities or family enterprises engaged in regular economic activity. The financing of working capital is limited to conditions set out in the handbook available online:

<http://www.coebank.org/en/about/policies-and-guidelines/projects-and-loans-policies-and-guidelines/>

Thematic priorities

No information available.

Eligible organisations

To be eligible for CEB financing, private establishments and infrastructure must be approved by public authorities and must comply with the criteria for this type of establishment.

Eligible countries

EU Member States.
Western Balkans.
EFTA countries.

Eligible actions

Eligible actions for this programme concern productive investment projects (fixed assets) for the prime purpose of promoting the creation and preservation of viable jobs and facilitating access to credit.

Criteria for partnership

No partnership necessary.

Amount awarded per project

The project may be co-financed up to a maximum of 50 % of the total eligible costs.

More particularly, up to 90 % of the total eligible costs may be financed for the following 'target group countries': Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
Projects can be submitted at any time	Projects can be submitted at any time	No estimation available

Further information

Council of Europe Bank

55, avenue Kléber, 75116 Paris, FRANCE

Tel. +33 1 47 555 500

<http://www.coebank.org>

<http://www.coebank.org/en/contact/>

<http://www.coebank.org/en/about/policies-and-guidelines/projects-and-loans-policies-and-guidelines/>

Comments – Recommendations

The CEB may finance individual projects (with 'project loans') or multiproject programmes (with 'programme loans') in one or several sectors of action ('multisector').

The CEB may finance projects directly or via an intermediary financial institution.

2 Part II: European funding at national Member State level

2.1 European Structural and Investment Funds

European Structural and Investment Funds, a different operation of distributing European funds

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Cohesion Fund are financial tools for implementing the regional policies of the EU. Their aim is to reduce regional disparities in income, wealth and opportunities. Europe's less developed regions receive most of the support from these funds, but all European regions are eligible for funding under the EC's various programmes. One-third of the EU budget for 2014–2020 is devoted to these funds. The funds go directly to the managing authorities in the European regions according to their level of development.

EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY			
Economic, social and territorial Cohesion policy		Rural Development policy	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries policy
European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)			
ESI		European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	European Social Fund (ESF)		

Understanding the use of European Structural and Investment Funds

The ESIF are implemented through close cooperation between public authorities, social partners and bodies representing the civil society at national, regional and local levels through the complete duration of the programme.

Regional governance bodies or national government bodies design managing authorities that will implement the calls, select the candidates and allocate the funds to the beneficiaries.

To programme their spending plans for 2014–2020, these bodies define priorities matching the global strategy, 'Europe 2020', through their operational programme (OP). Most of the countries have designed programmes concerning a European Social Fund (ESF) strand and a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) strand, and some countries have designed multifund programmes:

https://osha.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/related_resources/funding-guide-2015-annex2.xlsx. In all countries, the potential project leaders should refer to the OPs of the country or region to identify whether or not their project is eligible according to the objectives defined in the OP.

The interest of the European Social Fund for EU-OSHA stakeholders

Four global objectives are defined by the ESF:

1. to train people and help them get into work;
2. to promote social inclusion;
3. to improve education and training;
4. to improve the quality of public services in the country in question.

The ESF will support organisations around the EU that help people to train for and get into jobs. It will also support entrepreneurs with start-up funding and companies who need help with restructuring or dealing with a lack of qualified workers. The fourth objective can be very relevant for OSH stakeholders: 'Stronger public administration: The ESF will support Member States' efforts to improve the **quality of public administration and governance** and so support their structural reforms by giving them the necessary administrative and institutional capacities.' This global objective is presented under various specific objectives that Member States have defined in their OPs.

Understanding the logic of this desk search

The desk search aims to identify the OPs of the 28 Member States and to extract the most relevant programmes with regard to OSH topics. This guide covers only the ESIF programmes that have a national coverage and disregards regional programmes. Given the large number of regional programmes identified in these countries (86 in France, 10 in Italy, 16 in Germany, 12 in the UK, 10 in Portugal), they are not included in this guide.

The synoptic table on the next page allows readers to identify quickly the relevant OPs for EU-OSHA stakeholders per country in 'axes of interest'.

Programmes in other countries are not listed here for one of the following reasons:

1. OPs were not published/available at the time of finalising the text of this funding guide. We encourage applicants to contact the respective authorities if their country is not included in the guide.
2. OPs are available at regional level and are therefore not covered by this desk research.
3. OPs are available but no interesting measures with regard to OSH aspects could be identified.

From this, we can conclude that stakeholders in 15 European countries (see the synoptic table on the next page) can consider making applications for the Human Resources OP.

Upgrading of labour inspectorates and public services organisations is a relevant issue. The use and creation of e-tools and other innovative technologies in administrations can be covered by operational programmes for public labour market institutions (see, for example, Italy, Cyprus, Slovakia).

A complete overview table is available on the EU-OSHA website:

This table is designed as a tool by which to monitor programmes and update information during the years 2015–2020.

Further information about the OPs for each country can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes?search=1&keywords=&periodId=3&countryCode=UK®ionId=ALL&objectiveId=14&subObjectiveId=ALL

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45&langId=en>

The 15 countries listed in the table below propose relevant funds via OPs that could cover the development of OSH activities for the period 2015–2020.

Information about upcoming priorities for the coming years are provided by the programme management authorities in the Member States.

Information in the country factsheets below is mainly based on text taken from official documents or from translations of official documents. For any necessary clarification, it might be helpful to consult the original language version.

Member State	Number of programmes	Name of programme(s)
Bulgaria	2	Good governance Human resources development
Denmark	1	Growth via education, training and entrepreneurship
Estonia	1	Cohesion policy funding 2014–2020 (multifund programme)
Ireland	1	Employability, inclusion and learning
Croatia	1	Competitiveness and cohesion 2014–2020
Italy	1	Governance and institutional capacity
Cyprus	1	Employment, human capital and social cohesion
Lithuania	1	Multifund operational programme for the EU funds' investments in 2014–2020
Luxembourg	1	Investment for growth and employment (Investissement pour la croissance et l'emploi)
Malta	1	Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society
Netherlands	1	Investment for growth and jobs
Austria	1	Employment 2014–2020
Romania	2	Administrative capacity Human capital
Slovenia	1	Implementation of the EU cohesion policy 2014–2020
Slovakia	2	Labour Work 2014–2020 Human resources 2014–2020

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH SERVICES

2.2 BULGARIA – Operational programme – Human resources development 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

Bulgaria's human resources development operational programme has two overall goals: boosting employment and reducing social exclusion as well as reducing poverty levels. The total ESF investment is over EUR 1 billion, including funding from the Youth Employment Initiative. The operational programme has several broad priorities, including job creation, mobility and education, as well as training.

Investment will focus on the following:

- **Employment** will be boosted by projects targeting better access to jobs and helping the long-term unemployed and young people, particularly those not in employment, education or training, up to 29 years of age. Improvements to public employment services will have a key role, and more such services will be established.
- The operational programme will also fund **improvements to public services** that deal with employment and social or health-related matters. Funding for transnational exchanges of good practice will help to achieve this.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment, and supporting labour mobility.

Investment priority 4: Modernisation of labour market institutions, such as public and private employment services, and matching labour market needs.

- Specific objective 8.1.1: Increasing the number of the introduced new or updated processes and models for planning, implementation, monitoring, control and evaluation of the labour market policies and services;
- Specific objective 8.3: Increasing the number of persons employed in knowledge-based sectors, high technology and information and communication technology, green economy, 'white' sector and personal services sector, processing industry with higher added value from labour, creative and cultural sectors.

Investment priority 7: 'Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change'

- Specific objective 1: Increasing the number of the employees affected by the introduced new human resources development systems, practices and tools and the improved organisation and working conditions in the enterprises.

Priority axis 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration.

Investment priority 11: Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance.

- Specific objective 11.1: Promoting transnational cooperation in respect of exchange of experience, good practices and models of increasing knowledge, skills and competences of the employees in the institutions in the area of social inclusion, health care, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and working conditions.

Eligible financed actions

Investment priority 4: Modernisation of labour market institutions such as public and private employment services, and improvement of the adequate matching of labour market needs

- Development, implementation and improvement of tools for monitoring, analysis and evaluation of the condition and trends on the labour market, enterprises and characteristics of the labour force.
- Support for the improvement of the Employment Agency's service provision system – development of new and improvement of existing intermediary services on the labour market.
- Carrying out specialised studies, research and analyses, including for transnational geographical and professional mobility on the efficiency and customer satisfaction as regards services provided by the Employment Agency and European Job Mobility Portal partners.
- Design of innovative working processes, establishment of new models of management, monitoring system and evaluation of performance efficiency, including of the quality of services provided and legislative amendments regarding the Employment Agency's operation.
- Development and introduction of online services on the labour market, including online intermediary services.
- Providing opportunities for outsourcing of some of the working processes.
- Development of systems and platforms to ensure adequate interaction between the Employment Agency and employers.
- Activities for strengthening the capacity of public labour intermediaries and mediators.

Investment priority 11:

- Transnational cooperation in respect of exchange of experience, good practices and models of increasing knowledge, skills and competences:
 - between projects in different Member States; or
 - between networks and/or building partnerships to address a concrete problem.
- Drafting of specific analyses and studies of the experience in other Member States.
- Exchange of staff.
- Organisation of events.
- Partnership networking.

Eligible organisations and target groups: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Agency for Social Assistance, Agency for People with Disabilities, Labour Inspectorate Executive Agency, Working Conditions Fund.

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Employment Agency; administrations, operating on the labour market; organisations providing intermediary services on the labour market; social partners.

Investment priority 7: Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change.

- Provision of intermediary services.
- Provision of on-the-job training.
- Support for practices and provision of services to the employees and employers in order to prevent or mitigate the consequences of the economic restructuring.
- Support for practices that promote the occupational and geographical mobility of the employees.
- Support for practices that introduce flexible forms of employment.

- Support for practices that improve the human resources management systems in the enterprises with a focus on the practices related to the sustainable integration of young people in the workplace, facilitating the balance between the professional, family and private life and extending the working life of the older workers and employees.
- Support for practices that introduce innovative, more productive and more 'green' work organisation models in the enterprises, including practices which ensure health and safety at work and which improve the professional and health status of the workers and employees and the social climate.
- Support for practices aimed at promoting the protection of the labour, social security and social rights of the workers and employees, equality and equal treatment on the workplace.
- Support for practices aimed at the development of corporate social responsibility.

Eligible organisations and target groups: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Employment Agency; General Labour Inspectorate Executive Agency; Centre for Human Resources Development and Regional Initiatives; State Enterprise 'Bulgarian-German Vocational Training Centre'; institutions and organisations exercising control on the working conditions in the enterprises; services in support of the employers; organisations providing intermediary services on the labour market; employers; associations of employers (clusters); self-employed persons; educational and training organisations and institutions; information and professional orientation centres; social partners; non-governmental organisations.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts depends on the priority.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority

Operational programme 'Human resources development'
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, ulitsa Triaditsa №2, Sofia 1051, BULGARIA
Tel. +359 2 8119 443
E-mail: efipp@mlsp.government.bg

National websites

Operational programmes:
<http://www.eufunds.bg/en/page/7>
<http://www.eufunds.bg/en/page/1014>

Operational programme 'Human resources development':
http://ophrd.government.bg/view_file.php/21022

Comments – Recommendations

The operational programme is available online. We recommend checking <http://eufunds.bg/> portal regularly for upcoming calls and information sessions. The operational programme contains many relevant measures with regard to OSH-related issues.

In the period 2007–2013, ESF Bulgaria financed several OSH projects.

A project named BG051PO001–2.3.01 '*Prevention for Safety and Health at Work*', funded under the 'Human resources development' operational programme was implemented in the Bulgarian Labour Inspection with the financial support of the European Social Fund and the Republic of Bulgaria.

In 2010 under **Component 1** a report on working conditions in Bulgaria was printed and disseminated, prepared on the basis of the results from the National Working Conditions Survey.

Under **Component 2** of the same project an OSH Profile at national level (General Profile) was developed, which served as the basis for the development of OSH profiles for 30 economic sectors (branches).

Under **Component 3** 30 Codes of good practice and 33 online risk assessment tools were developed and published. The tools are based on the EU-OSHA risk assessment software.

Two other projects have been funded for labour control and auditing services.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH SOLUTIONS

2.3 DENMARK – Operational programme – Growth via education, training and entrepreneurship 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The Operational programme 'Growth via education, training and entrepreneurship 2014–2020' supports Denmark's action in the area of business and growth policy which is anchored in the regional growth forums.

The European Social Fund (ESF) should contribute to implementing the regional growth and development strategies and maximise the potential for financial growth from the assets and resources contained within each individual region. ESF action will thus be 'place-based' (i.e. tailored to the unique strengths, weaknesses and development needs of each region). All specific objectives will contribute to the overarching objective of boosting economic growth in Denmark.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 1: Entrepreneurship and job creation.

Investment priority 2: Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change.

Specific objective: To increase employment in the supported enterprises. The direct results of the activities will be a growth-oriented skills upgrade of employees and thus improved enterprise competitiveness.

Eligible financed actions

Among the activities that can contribute to the specific objective of increasing employment in ESF-supported enterprises will be, notably:

- management: strengthen managerial skills at growth-seeking small and medium-sized enterprises (e.g. by means of networks, mentoring schemes, continuation training and manager-for-hire schemes);
- skills development of employees in collaboration with other enterprises within selected areas which contribute to realising the enterprise's growth potential, such as internationalisation, low-carbon economy, recycling of resources, adaptation to climate change, automation/digitisation, health and welfare solutions or information and communication technology;
- networking and infusion of skills.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: 20.07 % funding, EUR 41,477,689 funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority**Danish Business Authority**

Vejlsvej 29, 8600 Silkeborg, DENMARK

Tel. +45 3546 6000

Fax +45 3546 6001

E-mail: postru@erst.dk

<http://regionalt.erhvervsstyrelsen.dk/english>



HEALTH SERVICES – WORK CONDITIONS

2.4 ESTONIA – Operational programme – Cohesion policy funding 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The operational programme for cohesion policy funding 2014–2020 (multifund programme) has been drawn up in accordance with the principle of the European Structural and Investment Fund, which offers one-off leverage to achieve significant changes in Estonia.

Their use should bring about a shift in development, increasing the efficiency, effectiveness or quality of target achievement in an area, sector or industry, and leading to positive long-term impact.

The operational programme is based on two principles. On the one hand, funds should be focused on a limited number of important strategic objectives, in order to achieve significant changes, capacity of use and better coordination, and, on the other hand, planning should take into account the long-term impact of activities and implementation capacity.

Thematic priorities

Thematic priority 09: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and any type of discrimination.

Investment priority 1: Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest.

Specific objective 2: Increased labour market participation or improved coping of people with special needs, care burden or coping difficulties who have received welfare services.

Eligible financed actions and target group

Among activities that can contribute to specific objective 2: Increased labour market participation or improved coping of people with special needs, care burden or coping difficulties who have received welfare services will be, notably:

- improve social work professionals through training and supervision;
- cooperation between municipalities;
- development of services across municipal boundaries and the collaborative provision of such services to functional regions will be supported;
- develop and test new welfare services;
- municipalities and service providers will additionally be offered training and consultations to enhance their capacity to both delegate the provision of services and develop cooperation between municipalities: development of an effective partnership between municipalities and service providers;
- support the process of deinstitutionalisation;
- Improving the availability of welfare services.

Target group: people with special needs (including the elderly) and their family members with a high burden of care.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: EUR 133 753 104 funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia

Suur-Ameerika 1, Tallinn 15006, REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

Tel. +372 611 3558

E-mail: struktuurifondid@fin.ee

<http://www.struktuurifondid.ee/en/>

Comments – Recommendations

Preference will be given to projects that contribute to the objectives of the 'Estonia 2020' National Reform Programme in the field of labour supply, and pursue in the best possible way the government's policy priorities of increasing the impact and sustainability of the **financing of the active labour market policy**; increasing healthy life years by improving health-related behaviour; continuing to work towards reducing accidents and developing health-care infrastructure; bringing labour qualifications into conformity with the needs of the contemporary labour market (including by making better use of the opportunities of EU internal market and other policies); and increasing the share of people with professional education at the vocational and higher educational levels.

In the case of activities that create or launch new services, it must be clear how the provision of these services can continue after EU funding comes to an end; there must be a plan for transferring from EU funding to another source of funding, either immediately or gradually, and the plan must have the approval of the managing authority.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH SERVICES – WORK CONDITIONS

2.5 IRELAND – Operational programme – Cohesion policy funding 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The programme is strongly focused on helping the unemployed to return to the labour market, with particular attention to youth and long-term unemployed people. We have highlighted the measures for the inclusion of specific target groups. Investments will be focused on four main areas:

- access to employment ;
- social inclusion, by improving employability and promoting equal opportunities;
- education, including initiatives for very low-skilled people and for disadvantaged and disabled students;
- implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative.

Thematic priorities

Thematic priority 09: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and any type of discrimination.

Investment priority 9i: Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation and **improving employability**.

Specific objective 09: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any kind of discrimination.

To engage unemployed and/or inactive persons, including young people, from disadvantaged groups and in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion in a process of learning and development in order to ultimately increase their employability.

Eligible financed actions and target group

Social Inclusion and Community Activation programme: The aim of the activity is to support registered unemployed young people, with a particular focus on those from disadvantaged communities, to improve work readiness and access to employment by providing a series of locally delivered activities. It will do so through a range of defined activities including training, job preparing/job search, work placements and mentoring.

People with Disabilities Project: This activity aims to take the key learning from the current round of European Social Fund (ESF) projects and develop an innovative and flexible activation model which is capable of being delivered through a reformed and enhanced supported employment service. It will also aim to deliver a step-change in the rate of labour market participation of people with disabilities.

Overall target groups

National, regional and local authorities, educational and training organisations, voluntary organisations.

Social Partners (i.e. trade unions and works councils, industry and professional organisations) and individual companies.

Amount awarded

Grant amounts available for this priority: **total EU contribution** EUR 610 581 980

Submission period for applications

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
Continuously open	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority

Department of Education and Skills

Block 2, Floor 2, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, IRELAND

Tel.: 01 889 2155

<http://www.esf.ie>

Comments – Recommendations

The ESF Monitoring Committee will approve the ESF activity/investment priority levels.

The selection of types of operations to deliver on these ESF activity/investment priority objectives and goals will be based on a combination of formal skills/labour market research, client needs, feedback from existing or similar operations, and discussions with relevant local stakeholders. The criteria for specific operations will include financial solvency, qualifications, technical knowledge, experience, resources, organisational aspects and value for money. In addition, the project selection criteria will ensure that the projects will be assessed on the basis of their compliance and their promotion of (i) equality between men and women, (ii) equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and (iii) social innovation. On this basis, a determination of what operations should be selected to best deliver the quality operations needed and the results required.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

WORKING CONDITIONS – OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS – SOCIAL DIALOGUE

2.6 CROATIA – Operational programme – Competitiveness and cohesion 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The operational programme 'Competitiveness and cohesion 2014–2020' identified country-specific recommendations 2014 to be addressed through its priority axes in order to contribute to the achievement of set objectives and to the overall improvement of Croatian socioeconomic performance.

This programme aims to contribute to creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion in Croatia. Its total volume is EUR 1.849 billion, of which EUR 1.582 billion is from the EU budget, including EUR 66 million from the Youth Employment Initiative.

Thematic priorities

Investments will cover four main areas. EU-OSHA stakeholders are most concerned with Axes 8 and 11:

- to support access to sustainable and quality employment for job-seekers and inactive persons;
- ensure an adequate match between the skills of the workforce with the labour market needs. Tertiary education, vocational education and lifelong learning will be a focus;
- tackling the high risk of poverty and social exclusion rate in the country, investments will support the provision of high-quality social services;
- supporting the national reform of the public administration through better and sound management of public finances.

Priority axis 8: High employment and labour mobility

Investment priority 8vii: Modernisation of labour market institutions, such as public and private employment services, and improving the matching of labour market needs, including through actions that enhance transnational labour mobility as well as through mobility schemes and better cooperation between institutions and relevant stakeholders.

Specific objective 2: Increase accessibility and quality of publicly provided labour market information and service and active labour market policy.

Priority axis 11: Good governance

Investment priority 11ii: Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to enable reforms at national, regional and local levels.

Specific objective 1: Developing capacities of civil society organisations, especially non-governmental organisations and social partners, and enhancing civil and social dialogue for better governance

Eligible organisations

- Institutions in the field of health and safety at work.
- Social partners.
- Hospitals.
- Primary health-care centres and physicians.
- Civil society organisations.
- Public institutes and institutions in the health-care sector.
- Units of local and regional self-government.

Eligible financed actions

Priority axis 8: High employment and labour mobility

- Support to newly established Labour Inspectorate, in terms of ensuring protection of workers' rights and quality employment relations.
- Activities related to further development of the e-logbook (Labour inspection guidebook), with information on executed inspection and supervision, including undertaken actions and measures, in order to support and facilitate the work of inspectors, as well as activities towards users, in terms of development of website containing all relevant information for ensuring safety at work.
- Activities for promoting and improving occupational safety and health in order to raise the quality of working conditions and protection of workers' health.
- Awareness raising action of institutions and employers regarding the issues of health and safety.
- Activities providing and supporting relevant institutions (MLPS Inspector Service in the field of occupational health and safety, Croatian Institute for Health protection and Safety at Work, Croatian Health Insurance Fund) with systems for fast and reliable data collection for monitoring and gathering supporting information.
- An analysis of occupational safety has shown a discrepancy in the figures on the type of injuries in relation to the first/main diagnosis set by the doctor. Analysis work of the possible causes of discrepancies and making additional guidance for employers, doctors and insurers.
- Establishment a central computer system for occupational safety (Data Collector), which will be the basis for the design and implementation of changes in safety at work with the aim of improving health and safety at work.

Priority axis 11: Good governance

- Promotion of social dialogue, research and analytical projects on subjects such as industrial relations and working conditions in Croatia.
- Capacity building of social partners related to specialisation according to different areas (health, social services, education, environment, transparency of public administration), including in particular specialised competencies for involvement in development, implementation and monitoring of policies at all levels.
- Developing standards for enhanced cooperation among social partners and building their capacities for partnerships (social partners and authorities) including conducting measures for improving collective bargaining and autonomous bi- and tri-partite negotiation techniques.
- Capacity building such as training, workshops, seminars, public/expert discussions, research activities and activities related to the internationalisation of Croatian social partners (sectoral councils, European Works Councils, including implementation of European framework agreements and EU social acquis).

Amount awarded

Priority axis 8: High employment and labour mobility

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: 25.32 % funding, EUR 400 578 985 funding.

Priority axis 11: Good governance

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: 12.09 % funding, EUR 191 276 944 funding.

Submission period for applications

Ministry of Labour and Pension System, the Managing authority for the operational programme 'Efficient human resources 2014–2020', is currently going through the process of setting up a consolidation plan for the implementation of projects; therefore, they are currently not in the position to provide the detailed timetable for up incoming call for proposals.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	Up to 4 months

Contact for the managing authority**Publicity Officer, Ministry of Labour and Pension System**

Ulica grada Vukovara 78, 10 000 Zagreb, CROATIA

Tel. +385 1 6109 009

Fax +385 1 6109 300

Operational programme 'Human resources':

http://www.strukturnifondovi.hr/UserDocsImages/Documents/OPULJP_FINALNI_NACRT_21_07_2014.pdf

Head of Independent Service for Information and Educational Activities, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (MRDEUF)

Račkog 6, 10 000 Zagreb, CROATIA

Tel. +385 1 4569 163

Fax +385 1 6400 648

E-mail: fondovi@mrrfeu.hr

<http://www.mrrfeu.hr/default.aspx?id=7454>

**NATIONAL AUTHORITIES:
MINISTRIES, LABOUR
INSPECTORATES, ETC.**

LABOUR INSPECTION / LABOUR INSPECTORATE – WORK POLICY

2.7 ITALY – National operational programme – Governance and institutional capacity

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The operational programme totals EUR 828 million and combines funding from the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. These resources will be concentrated on four investment priorities.

The Strategy responds to the key challenges for national development and relies on the concentration of investments on 11 thematic objectives set forth in the EU Common Strategic Framework.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 1: Strengthen the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and contribute to efficiency of public administrations.

Investment priority 1.1: A priority on the modernisation of Italy's public administration so as to increase transparency, interoperability and access to public data. The support will also reduce regulatory burdens while, at the same time, seeking to improve the quality and efficiency of both the public administration and the judicial system. Investment in institutional capacity and more efficient public services, at national, regional and local levels, will focus on reforms, better regulation and good governance. Around 50 % of the available budget is earmarked for this area.

Specific objective 1.1: Increase transparency and interoperability and access to public data.

Specific objective 1.3: Improve the services of public administrations.

Eligible financed actions and target group

National administrations, public authorities.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority in the operational programme.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority

Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – Direzione Generale per le politiche attive, i servizi per il lavoro e la formazione

Via Forno 8, 00192 Roma, ITALY

Tel. +39 06 4683 5500

<http://europalavoro.lavoro.gov.it>

<http://www.dps.gov.it>

Operational programme ‘Governance and Institutional Capacity’:

http://www.dps.gov.it/opencms/export/sites/dps/it/documentazione/pongat/Programme_2014IT05M2OP002_1_3_it_-_CON_ADOZIONE_CE_pdf_-_Adobe_Acrobat_Pro.pdf

Comments – Recommendations

In this operational programme some of the actions are financed both by the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	
	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

SOCIAL POLICIES

2.8 CYPRUS – Operational programme – Employment, human resources and social cohesion 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The Cypriot operational programme 'Employment, human resources and social cohesion' for the implementation of the European Social Fund in the period 2014–2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to invest more than EUR 163 million (of which over EUR 140 million comes from the EU budget, including EUR 11.5 million from the Youth Employment Initiative) to promote employment, skills, social inclusion and the modernisation of public administration.

Thematic priority

Investments will be focused on the following:

- improving the vocational and technical education system (20 % of the budget), in particular to make it more oriented towards the skills needed in the labour market;
- improving employment opportunities (around 53 % of the funding), focusing on disadvantaged groups such as the unemployed, long-term unemployed and young people.

Priority axis 1: Improving employment and human skills development

Investment priority 08: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting mobility workers.

Specific objective 8.7: Modernisation and strengthening of institutions of the labour market, including actions to enhance transnational mobility of workers.

Priority axis 4: Skills development human resources and efficiency

Investment priority 11: Strengthening institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and effective public administration.

Specific objective 11.2: Capacity building for all players providing training and education, measures for lifelong learning, as well as the implementation of social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at national, regional and local level.

Among eligible financed actions and target group

Priority axis 1

- Modernisation / strengthening the Public Employment Service.
- Extension of operation of the European Job Mobility Portal in Cyprus to facilitate labour mobility in the EU countries.

Target groups: institutional bodies responsible for employment, such as the Public Employment Service and Department of Labour;

- stakeholders.

Priority axis 4

- Strengthening the administrative capacity of the social and economic partners, promoting capacity-building activities in the form training related to the management of co-financed programmes.

Target groups: social and economic partners.

Amount awarded

Priority axis 1

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: 30.93 % funding, EUR 43.479.899 funding.

Priority axis 4

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: 22.09 % funding, EUR 31.055.000 funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	Up to 4 months

Contact for the managing authority

Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development

29, Vironos Avenue, 1409 Nicosia, CYPRUS

Tel. +357 22666810

<http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/default.aspx?language=1>

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.		OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS
HEALTH SERVICES		

2.9 LITHUANIA – Multifund operational programme – EU funds' investments in 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The main aim of the multifund operational programme for the EU funds' investments in 2014–2020 is to bring the country back to the path of rapid and sustainable growth and to reduce the gap between the country's level of development and the EU average. This requires sustaining a stable macroeconomic environment, continuing structural reforms and ensuring adequate financing for growth measures.

The Strategy responds to the key challenges for national development and relies on the concentration of investments on 11 thematic objectives set forth in the EU Common Strategic Framework.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 8: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

Investment priority 8.1: Investing in health and social infrastructure, which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.

Specific objective 8.3.2: Increase participation of older working-age persons in the labour market and volunteering.

Specific objective 8.4.2: Reduce health inequalities by improving health-care quality and accessibility for target population groups and promoting healthy ageing.

Eligible financed actions and target group

Specific objective 8.3.2: The application of social and psychological working methods on older persons to retain older people at work or reintegrate them into the labour market training; research and educational activities for employers to ensure equal opportunities for older people in the labour market; the organisation of volunteering and other relevant activities.

Specific objective 8.4.2: Designing, testing, launching and developing effective and innovative models and solutions for the provision of health-care services, aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of health care (in the field of circulatory, oncologic and cerebrovascular diseases and external causes) for target groups; monitoring of implementation and evaluation of effectiveness:

- designing, testing and launching models of cooperation among public and personal health-care professionals, social workers and other parties on the level of primary health care, in addressing key health problems, particularly population polymorbidity, chronic non-communicable diseases and health disorders caused by social factors;
- attracting required health professionals to health-care institutions in regions with the largest disparities among target groups in terms of the requirement for professionals to provide health care and other health services.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: 8 % funding; EUR 220 294 386 funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority**Finansų ministerija**

Lukiškių g. 2, 01512 Vilnius, LITHUANIA

Tel. +370 5 2194 437

<http://www.finmin.lt>

<http://www.esinvesticijos.lt/lt/kontaktai>

Comments – Recommendations

In this operational programme some of the actions are financed both by European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.		OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

EMPLOYABILITY – TRAINING – GREEN JOBS – AGEING WORKFORCE – WORKABILITY

2.10 LUXEMBOURG – Operational programme – European Social Fund 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The European Social Fund in Luxembourg invests in education, training and vocational training and aims to reduce overall **unemployment rates, and particularly youth unemployment rates**. The programme defines the priorities and objectives for the allocation of EUR 40 million (of which EUR 20 million comes from the EU budget), which will contribute to creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion in Luxembourg.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills acquisition and life-long learning.

Investment priority 10iii: Equal access to lifelong learning for all categories of age in a formal and non-formal framework, with knowledge building of workers and promotion of apprenticeships in a flexible way for example by validation of acquired competences.

Specific objective 103: Increasing workers' skills and knowledge, particularly for those aged over 45, to increase employment rates for women and older people, and to improve the suitability of jobseekers' qualifications, including migrants', in line with the needs of the market.

Among eligible financed actions and target groups

- Realisation of sectoral studies about the needs of lifelong learning.
- Development of cooperation and partnerships with economic actors, enterprises with the view to increase the participation of workers aged over 45 years in lifelong learning.
- Lifelong learning training projects for workers in the sectors of logistics, information technologies, communication and **green jobs**.
- Development of new forms and exchanges of best practices of training organisations.
- Improving of the cooperation between the economic actors and training organisations.
- Strengthen the employability of workers, especially those over 45 years, through the provision of training or conversion.

Target groups: all workers, notably those over 45 years old.

Eligible organisations: training institutes, enterprises, national public organisations.

Amount awarded

Priority axis 10: EUR 300 000 per annual call.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic. Usually two deadlines per year.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	September 2015 Attention: 1 month only for submission	1 month

Contact for the managing authority**Secrétariat ESF /FSE**

26, rue Zithe, 2939 Luxembourg, GRAND DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Tel. +352 247 86194

Fax +352 247 86108

E-mail: secretariat.fse@mt.etat.lu

<http://www.fonds-europeens.public.lu/fr/fonds-europeens/fse/index.html>

Comments – Recommendations

We recommend subscribing to the electronic newsletter that is published in order to receive the updates on calls and budgets.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.		OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

EMPLOYABILITY – HEALTH SERVICES – SOCIAL POLICIES

2.11 MALTA – Operational programme II – Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The operational programme for the period 2014–2020, 'Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society', financed through the European Social Fund, aims to direct investment towards meeting Malta's targets under the Europe 2020 for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, particularly in terms of employment, social inclusion, education and capacity building.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 1: Employment

Investment priority 1: Access to employment for job seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility.

Specific goal: Improving the employment prospects of job seekers and inactive persons as well as support for labour mobility.

Priority axis 2: Towards a more inclusive society

Investment priority 2: Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest.

Specific objective: Reducing health inequalities and addressing health needs with the aim of ensuring a healthy and productive workforce.

Priority axis 4: Building the institutional administrative capacity

Investment priority 2: Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels.

Specific objective: Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders delivering education (including lifelong learning and training), employment and social policies.

Among eligible financed actions and target group

Priority axis 1: Employment

Activities

- To focus on preventative measures to ensure that individuals are equipped with the necessary knowledge and information to make better life choices.
- To target investment towards strengthening health and safety in working environments as well as establishing well-trained health-care service workers with the aim of guaranteeing the delivery of high-quality health-care services.

- Actions to promote healthier lifestyles.
- Ensuring sustainable work practices for healthier and longer working lives.
- A well trained health-care service workforce.

Target group

Schools, employers and employees, general public including older workers, persons at risk of poverty, persons who are socially excluded, the materially deprived, and health-care service workers.

Priority axis 2: Towards a more inclusive society

Activities

- Actions to promote healthier lifestyles.
- Ensuring sustainable work practices for healthier and longer working lives.
- A well trained health-care service workforce.

Target groups: schools, employers and employees, general public including older workers, persons at risk of poverty, persons who are socially excluded, the materially deprived, and health-care service workers.

Priority axis 4: Building the institutional administrative capacity

Activities

- Capacity building measures for stakeholders delivering ESF-related policies.
- Capacity building measures for public bodies delivering ESF-related policies.

Target groups: socioeconomic partners and civil society organisations and their employees; employees within public administration bodies involved in the delivery of education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies.

Amount awarded

Priority axis 1: Employment

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: EUR 26 million funding.

Priority axis 2: Towards a more inclusive society

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: EUR 40 million funding.

Priority axis 4: Building the institutional administrative capacity

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: EUR 11 million funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Expected	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority

Additional information may be viewed on www.eufunds.gov.mt and written feedback may be submitted through the following channels:

EU2014–2020 Programming Unit, Ministry for European Affairs & Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto

House of Catalunya Triq Marsamxett, Valletta, MALTA

Email: info.eufunds@gov.mt

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – Planning & Priorities Coordination Division

Triq il-Kukkanja, Santa Venera, MALTA

Tel. +356 22001140

E-mail: eufunds@gov.mt

www.eufunds.gov.mt



WORK CONDITIONS – SOCIAL DIALOGUE

2.12 THE NETHERLANDS – Operational programme – Investment for growth and jobs goal 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The Netherlands opts for reforms aimed at strengthening the economic structure. Custom-made implementation is needed in view of the fragile state of the economy. The Netherlands operational programme 'Sustainable employability', under the 'Investment for growth and jobs' goal 2014–2020, provides an analysis of the relevant national socioeconomic trends and the resulting challenges for policy.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 3: Sustainable employability

Investment priority 8vi: Active and healthy ageing

Specific goal 3: Promoting sustainable employability of workers now and in the future. The programme targets healthy, motivated, competent and productive workers.

The job market is changing rapidly. On the one hand, the population is ageing; on the other hand, the demands for work competences change as a result of technological developments and globalisation.

Adapting to the circumstances and creating sustainable work that meets the changing demands of an ageing work force is inevitable.

Among eligible financed actions and target groups

- Governmental advisory bodies: scans of business and organisations.
- Regular screening of sustainable employability of employees.
- Learning actions about increasing vitality and skills of workers.
- Introduction of new forms of working relations and the so-called new work (flexible deployment/telecommuting) against which organisations timely changes can anticipate.
- Sector-wide analysis and advice.
- Adjusting work organisation.
- Flexible work culture, priority actions aiming at improving reconciliation of work and family.
- Accompanying workers from job to job in order to provide sustainable employability.
- Training and education of employees, but emphatically embedded in programs aimed at sustainable on-the-job training.

Amount awarded

The large project grants (European Social Fund grant of approximately EUR 100 000) will be distributed among applicant organisations on the basis of an open tender.

Maximum grant up to 50 % of the eligible project costs.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	3 months

Contact for the managing authority

Agentschap SZW

Wilhelmina van Pruysenweg 52, 2595 AN Den Haag, THE NETHERLANDS

Tel. (31–70) 315 23 40

<http://www.agentschapszw.nl>

<https://www.agentschapszw.nl/contact>

<https://www.agentschapszw.nl/subsidies/duurzame-inzetbaarheid-esf-2014–2020/duurzame-inzetbaarheid-esf-2014–2020>

Comments – Recommendations

During an application period, the parties may submit a proposal. All project applications are reviewed by the management authority to general criteria on the basis of quality, financial soundness and administrative capacity. Particular attention is given to the criterion for project expense justification that will be checked at the evaluation. In an oversubscription, ranking will be based on qualitative criteria.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	EU SOCIAL PARTNERS	
	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

WORK CONDITIONS

2.13 AUSTRIA – Operational programme – Employment 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The operational programme covers all regions in Austria. The factsheet outlines the priorities and objectives for 2014–2020 in spending EUR 876 million on creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion in Austria.

Thematic priorities

The programme addresses the main challenges of the Austrian labour market. Among them, two investment objectives and priorities concern EU-OSHA stakeholders:

Thematic priority 08: Promoting sustainable and high-quality employment and supporting labour mobility.

Investment priority 8vi: Active and healthy ageing.

Specific goal SZ03: Adaptation of jobs and workplaces to the life cycle by helping to improve operational conditions of a fair retirement.

Thematic priority 09: Promoting social inclusion, fighting poverty and all forms of discrimination.

Investment priority 9i: Active inclusion, not least through the promotion of equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability.

Specific goal SZ06: Support for at least partial integration in the labour market in terms of fundamentals for employment. The measures to improve the employment situation of the working poor will increase the chances of a living wage in the budgetary context.

Eligible financed actions and target groups

Thematic priority 8

Specific objective, SZ03–1: Pilot projects to promote age-friendly and health-promoting work environments.

- Information materials and information sessions on the topics related to the impact of demographic change on employment.
- Age- and health-promoting jobs, measures for a healthy and active ageing during operation.
- Development of health promotion measures at individual level, such as age-appropriate workplace design, training plans.
- Counselling services for older employees for professional development.
- Further training for older workers.
- Feasibility analysis, feasibility studies and scientific support to the (further) development of measures of active and healthy ageing in operation.

Target groups for this specific objective:

- enterprises and employees with a special focus on workers over than 45 years of age.

Specific objective, SZ03–2: Advising companies in the construction of internal structures to ensure a sustainable and generational health management.

- Consulting and support services for the construction of an internal generational and integration management.
- Advice and support in the case-by occupational reintegration of people after long-term sick leave
- Information and consultancy services in designing healthier workplaces, especially for older workers.

Target groups for this specific objective:

- enterprises;
- physiologically restricted employees;
- employees with a special focus on workers over 45 years of age.

Thematic priority 9

Specific objective, SZ06: Activities to improve the employment situation of the ‘working poor’.

Activities include in this context:

- feasibility analysis and feasibility studies to explore the situation and the need for support of individual subgroups of working poor;
- development and implementation of consulting, support and coaching offers as well as qualification offers;
- implementation of mentoring models;
- networking to facilitate informal access and guidance of the working poor to support services (e.g. works councils, immigrant associations, energy advice for those of low incomes);
- review, reflection and adaptation of project concepts.

Target groups

- Self-employed and salaried employees (including marginally employed, freelance employment contracts) with a professional income being insufficient for daily living costs.
- People in underemployment (involuntary part-time), unsafe and unsecured employment (atypical employment, temporary according to employment contracts, or a qualification-related problematic situation (low skill level, unrecognised foreign degree, very low income).

Amount awarded per project

Thematic priority 08: Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority 08: 11.76 % funding, EUR 52.000.000 funding.

Thematic priority 09: Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority 08: 30.54 % funding, EUR 135.000.000 funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	3 months

Contact for the managing authority

Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz

Abteilung VI/9, Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Tel. (43–1) 71100–0

<http://www.esf.at>

Operational programme:

<http://www.esf.at/esf/wp-content/uploads/Operationelles-Programm-Besch%C3%A4ftigung-%C3%96sterreich-2014-.pdf>

Comments – Recommendations

The European Social Fund authority publishes various calls for projects for different target groups. We recommend checking the portal, <http://www.esf.at>, regularly.

**NATIONAL AUTHORITIES:
MINISTRIES, LABOUR
INSPECTORATES, ETC.**

LABOUR INSPECTION / LABOUR INSPECTORATE – WORK POLICY

2.14 ROMANIA – Operational programme – Human capital

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The Romanian operational programme ‘Human capital’ for the implementation of the European Social Fund in the period 2014–2020 outlines the priorities and objectives to invest around EUR 5 billion (of which EUR 4.3 billion are from the EU budget) in helping Romanians, and especially young people, to find a job and improve their education and skills, and generally to reduce poverty and social exclusion, by supporting better social services and labour market institutions. Specific attention is given to youth, Roma and rural populations.

Romania is confronted with important challenges on the labour market, both in the area of employment and poverty. This operational programme focuses on the main priorities identified for Romania and will represent an important source of investment in employment, education, the fight against poverty or support for social services.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 8: Strengthen the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and contribute to the efficiency of public administrations.

Investment priority 8 i: Modernisation of labour market institutions, such as public and private employment services, and improving the matching of labour market needs, including through actions that enhance transnational labour mobility as well as through mobility schemes and better cooperation between institutions and relevant stakeholders.

Priority axis 8: Strengthen the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and contribute to efficiency of public administrations.

Specific objective 8.1: Adapting the labour organisations at national and territorial level, introducing new tools/systems/procedures/services/mechanisms, etc. on matching labour market needs.

Eligible organisations

National and local/territorial public organisations.

Amount awarded

Funding rates and grant amounts can be obtained from the managing authority.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority

Ministerul Fondurilor Europene

Bd. Carol I, nr. 34–36, sector 2, Bucuresti, ROMANIA

Tel. 021 315 02 14/118

<http://www.fonduri-ue.ro/>

Comments – Recommendations

In this operational programme some of the actions are financed by both the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC.	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK – JOB SATISFACTION – PARTICIPATION – SMART ENCONOMY – SOCIAL DIALOGUE

2.15 SLOVENIA – Operational programme – Implementation of cohesion policy 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The multifund programme plays a decisive role in encouraging economic development and ensuring prosperity for all citizens in Slovenia while taking into account the specific characteristics of the two less developed regions – Western Slovenia and Eastern Slovenia. The active ageing objective is a pertinent axis and target for OSH. It aims to keep older workers at work and facilitate the labour force participation of the older population.

The EU funding of EUR 3.011 billion from the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative is targeted according to development needs, existing disparities and growth potentials of Slovenia.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 8: Promoting employment and supporting transnational labour mobility.

Investment priority 8.1: Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility.

Specific objective 8.1.1: Increase employment of the unemployed, in particular of those over 50, the long-term unemployed and those with an education level below ISCED 3.

Investment priority 8.3: Active and healthy ageing.

Specific objective 8.3.1: Prolong and improve labour force participation of the older population..

Priority axis 10: Knowledge, skills and lifelong learning to enhance employability.

Investment priority 10: Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences.

Specific objective 10.2: Improve employee competences to reduce the labour market mismatches.

Priority axis 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration.

Investment priority 11: Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels.

Specific objective 11.2: Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies: enhance competence of social partners in social dialogue processes, in particular in the area of labour market policies.

Among eligible financed actions and target group

Priority axis 8

Specific objective 8.3.2: Prolong and improve labour force participation of the older population:

- adaptation of workplaces, the introduction and promotion of forms of work that respond to societal and demographic challenges (for instance job sharing, job rotation, job greening through reduction of environmental impacts and increased material and energy efficiency);
- modern workplace development trends, and the promotion of socially responsible companies;
- intergenerational transfer of knowledge, development of system-wide approaches to and support for projects for the development and implementation of new approaches (which will be primarily proposed by social partners) to training of workers over 45, the development and implementation of motivation programmes for workers older than 45 in order to increase their participation;
- promotion of programmes designed to ensure health and safety at work, including programmes for promoting health at the workplace, for all age categories at the level of enterprises/organisations, analyses of health and safety at work (the latter will serve as the basis for the development of a new strategy in the area in question), support for the introduction of tools for risk assessment in the area of health and safety at work, training of employers to use those tools, and promotion of a culture of prevention;
- promotion of balancing work, family and private life throughout the individual's lifespan, promotion of health-friendly improvements to the work;
- awareness raising of the importance of health at work, the promotion, awareness-raising, motivation and provision of information to the public, workers and employers about the importance of active and healthy ageing.

Target groups: workers, particularly workers over 45 years of age, public institutions involved in the design and implementation of active ageing policies, private sector and social partners.

Eligible organisations: institutions in the labour market, public and private sector, social partners.

Priority axis 10

Specific objective 10.2:

- the promotion of investment in human resources of companies and employee training, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises;
- co-financing of training programmes in individual companies or competence centres for the development of human resources.

Priority axis 11

Specific objective 11.2: Enhance competences of social partners in social dialogue:

- encouraging expertise and professionalism in sectoral and intersectoral cooperation (with private sector, public sector, social partners);
- conducting studies and analyses of social dialogue, industrial relations and the labour market;
- supporting the establishment of professional bodies and models for promoting the exchange of experience and best practices associated with social dialogue. Transfer and development of best practices from abroad within the scope of social dialogue at the level of a specific sector;
- information and awareness raising of the employers, employees and the unemployed about the legislation and rights pertaining to the labour market.

Eligible organisations and target groups: social partner organisations.

Amount awarded

EUR 717 million from the European Social Fund.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority

Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy

Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA

Tel. +386 1 400 36 80

Fax +386 1 433 35 22

E-mail: gp.svrk@gov.si

<http://www.svrk.gov.si/en/>

Comments – Recommendations

The operational programme contains many relevant measures of OSH-related issues. The proposals under the 'active ageing objective' will increase their chances of success with following aspects:

- involving key stakeholders or contribute to bringing together social partners and non-governmental organisations;
- promoting equality between women and men, including in terms of balancing work and family life;
- improving access for disabled people in order to increase their inclusion in the labour market;
- contributing to increasing the flexibility and competitiveness of firms and workers;
- contributing to the introduction of flexible forms of work.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NATIONAL AUTHORITIES: MINISTRIES, LABOUR INSPECTORATES, ETC. 	OTHERS PARTNERS: INSURANCES, ETC.
	NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTNERS: EMPLOYERS'/ WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS
	OSH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, PREVENTION SERVICES, OSH EXPERTS

HEALTH SERVICES – HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

2.16 SLOVAKIA – Operational programme – Human resources 2014–2020

Synthesis of the funds with occupational safety and health policy areas

The strategy of the operational programme 'Human resources', based on the National Reform Programme, sets out measures to strengthen economic growth and employment in the Slovak Republic. These measures contribute to the fulfilment of national objectives which are in line with the Europe 2020 strategy in education, employment and social inclusion.

Thematic priorities

Priority axis 3: Employment

Investment priority 3.3: Modernisation of labour market institutions, such as public and private employment services, improving adaptation to labour market needs, including actions to enhance transnational labour mobility as well as mobility and better cooperation between institutions and relevant stakeholders.

Specific goal 3.3.1: To improve the quality and capacity of public employment services at a reasonable level in response to the changing needs and requirements of the labour market, transnational labour mobility, and to increase the participation of partners and private employment services in addressing employment challenges.

Priority axis 4: Social inclusion

Investment priority 4.2: Improving access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest.

Specific objective 4.2.1: The transition from institutional to community care.

Among eligible financed actions and target group

Priority axis 3: Employment

Specific goal 3.3.1:

- support for modernisation of the institutions of employment services in relation to the changing needs of the labour market;
- support for building human resources capacity of employment services to evaluate the efficacy, effectiveness of active labour market measures and forecasting of the labour market;
- promoting cooperation and partnership between entities at the regional level with a focus on improving the situation on the labour market;

- support for projects aimed at strengthening technical and analytical capacities of the social partners, building infrastructure and communication platform of social dialogue and the development of social partnership at the national and international level.

Priority axis 4: Social inclusion

Specific objectives 4.2.1:

- deinstitutionalisation of existing social service facilities;
- deinstitutionalisation of existing alternative care facilities.

Amount awarded

Priority axis 3: Employment

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: 36, 10 % funding; EUR 795 924 737 funding.

Priority axis 4: Social inclusion

Funding rates and grant amounts available for this priority: 13, 37 % funding; EUR 294 699 291 funding.

Submission period for applications

Deadlines depend on the selected topic.

Deadline open call	Next call	Preparation time
No open call available	Unknown	No estimation available

Contact for the managing authority

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Špitálska 4, 6, 8, 816 43 Bratislava, SLOVAKIA

Tel. 02/ 2046 0000

<http://www.esf.gov.sk/>

<http://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/esf/programove-obdobie-2014-2020/>

Operational programme:

<http://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/esf/programove-obdobie-2014-2020/operacny-program-ludske-zdroje/>

3 Annex 1: Synoptic table of operational programmes by country

Country	Nr of operational programmes relevant to OSH	Name of operational programmes relevant to OSH	Axes of interest for EU-OSHA stakeholders
Bulgaria	1	Operational programme 'Human resources development'	Operational programme 'Human resources development': Improvements to public services that deal with employment and social or health-related matters
Denmark	1	Operational programme 'Growth via education, training and entrepreneurship'	Priority axis 1: Entrepreneurship and job creation Specific objective: To increase employment in the supported enterprises. The direct results of the activities will be a growth-oriented skills upgrade of employees and thus improved enterprise competitiveness.
Estonia	1	Operational programme 'Cohesion policy funding 2014–2020' (multifund programme)	Priority axis 8 Specific objective 2: Increased labour market participation or improved coping of people with special needs, care burden or coping difficulties who have received welfare services
Ireland	1	Operational programme 'Employability, inclusion and learning'	Priority axis P1 Raise the level of jobseekers skills' and the young, through further higher education and training for labour mobility
Croatia	1	Operational programme 'Competitiveness and cohesion 2014–2020'	Priority axis 8: High employment and labour mobility Specific objective 2: Increase accessibility and quality of publicly provided labour market information and services, including Active Labour Market Policy Priority axis 11: Good governance Specific objective 1: Developing capacities of civil society organisations, especially NGOs and social partners, and enhancing civil and social dialogue for better governance

Country	Nr of operational programmes relevant to OSH	Name of operational programmes relevant to OSH	Axes of interest for EU-OSHA stakeholders
Italy	1	Operational programme 'Governance e Capacità Istituzionale'	<p>Priority axis 1: Strengthen the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and contribute to efficiency of public administrations</p> <p>Specific objective 1.1: Increase transparency and interoperability and access to public data</p> <p>Specific objective 1.3: Improve the services of public administrations</p>
Cyprus	1	Operational programme 'Employment, human capital and social cohesion'	<p>Priority axis 1: Improving perspective employment of human resources</p> <p>Specific objective 8.7: Modernisation and strengthening institutions of the labour market, including actions to enhance transnational motor-Community workers</p> <p>Priority axis 4: Skills development human resources and improvement effectiveness in tribunal</p> <p>Specific objective 11.2: Capacity building for all players providing education, lifelong learning, training and employment as well as social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at national, regional and local level.</p>
Lithuania	1	Multifund operational programme for the EU on funds' investments in 2014–2020	<p>Priority axis 8: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination</p> <p>Specific objective 8.3.2: Increase participation by older working-age persons in the labour market and volunteering</p> <p>Specific objective 8.4.2: Reduce health inequalities by improving health-care quality and accessibility for target population groups and promoting healthy ageing</p>
Luxembourg	1	Operational programme 'Investment for growth and employment' (Investissement pour la croissance et l'emploi)	Priority axis 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills acquisition and life-long learning
Malta	1	Operational programme II 'Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society'	<p>Priority axis 1: Employment</p> <p>Specific goal: Improving the employment prospects of job seekers and inactive persons as well as support for labour mobility</p>

Country	Nr of operational programmes relevant to OSH	Name of operational programmes relevant to OSH	Axes of interest for EU-OSHA stakeholders
			<p>Priority axis 2: Towards a more inclusive society</p> <p>Specific objective: Reducing health inequalities and addressing health needs with the aim of ensuring a healthy and productive workforce</p> <p>Priority axis 4: Building the institutional administrative capacity</p> <p>Specific objective: Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders delivering education (including lifelong learning and training), employment and social policies.</p>
Netherlands	1	Operational programme under the 'investment for growth and jobs' goal	<p>Priority axis 3: Employment</p> <p>Specific goal 3: Promoting sustainable labour of workers</p>
Austria	1	Operational programme 'Investment for growth and employment 2014–2020'	<p>08, 8vi, Specific objective SZ03: adaptation of jobs and workplaces to the life cycle by helping them improve operational conditions of a fair retirement</p> <p>09, 9i, Specific objective SZ06: Support for at least partially integrated in the labour market in terms of fundamentals for employment. The measures to improve the employment situation of the working poor will increase the chances of a living wage in the budgetary context</p>
Romania	2	Operational programme 'Administrative capacity' Operational programme 'Human capital'	Priority axis 8: Strengthen the institutional capacity of public authorities and administrations
Slovenia	1	Operational programme 'Cohesion policy funding 2014–2020' (multifund programme)	<p>Priority axis 8</p> <p>Specific objective 2: Increased labour market participation or improved coping of people with special needs, care burden or coping difficulties who have received welfare services</p> <p>Specific objective 2.8.5: Active and healthy ageing</p>

Country	Nr of operational programmes relevant to OSH	Name of operational programmes relevant to OSH	Axes of interest for EU-OSHA stakeholders
Slovakia	2	Operational programme 'Labour work for the programming period 2014–2020'	Priority axis 3: Employment Specific objective 3.1: Increase employment, employability, and reduce unemployment with special emphasis on the long-term unemployed, low-qualified, elderly and disabled persons Specific target 3.1.2: Improving the access to the labour market using efficient tools to support employment
		Operational programme 'Human resources'	Specific objective 3.2.1: Increase the employment of persons with parental duties, especially women, by improving the conditions for alignment of work and family lives Specific goal 3.3.1: Modernisation of labour market institutions

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) contributes to making Europe a safer, healthier and more productive place to work. The Agency researches, develops, and distributes reliable, balanced, and impartial safety and health information and organises pan-European awareness raising campaigns. Set up by the European Union in 1994 and based in Bilbao, Spain, the Agency brings together representatives from the European Commission, Member State governments, employers' and workers' organisations, as well as leading experts in each of the EU Member States and beyond.

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

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