

State of play of the ESF+ negotiations



Loris Di Pietrantonio
Head of Unit EMPL F1
ESF/ESF+ Policy & Legal
Coordination Unit

Council

Agreement was reached at the COREPER for a negotiating mandate for the trilogues with the European Parliament on the ESF+

- **15 Feb** – COREPER agreed on Art 4(1) ESF+ - the specific objectives
- **3 April** – the remaining ESF+ provisions

The 2 main points of discussion:

1. The eligibility of social infrastructure
2. The link between the ESF+ and the European Semester.

Council continued...

Other main aspects :

- the **weakening of capacity building** for social partners and civil society as it is no longer an obligation that each programme has to provide support for this,
- the **introduction of comitology** for the adoption of the work programmes for the EaSI and Health strands
- Inclusion of a **new (5th) operational objective** for “**investing in health promotion and diseases prevention**” which is redundant as it is envisaged under operational objectives 2 and 4.
- mandatory **setting up of Working Groups** under the ESF+ Committee for EaSI and Health strand.

European Parliament

On 4 April the EP plenary adopted the report with amendments at **first reading** on the ESF+ proposal

Key amendments:

- an increase of the ESF+ budget to **€120.5 billion**
 - including an increase of the Health strand budget from **€413 000 000 to €420 000 000**
- Changes to the thematic concentration requirements:
 - Increase all of the COM proposals
 - Extend to wider target groups
 - New requirements related to child poverty, youth and capacity building of social partners and civil society organisations

Main EP amendments on Health Strand

- Significant extension of the specific and operational objectives of the health strand, to include new areas (*Art. 26*) e.g.
 - digital health,
 - security of health information,
 - proximity of healthcare services,
 - addressing environmental health risks factors,
 - access to medicinal products throughout the Union,
 - support to national health registries etc.
- Extension of the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention, to include health professional bodies (*Art. 29*)
- Establishment of a Steering Board for Health for implementing the actions under the Health strand (*insertion of Art. 29 new*)
- Delegated acts for establishing the Work Programmes for the EaSI and the Health strands (*Art. 32*)

MFF Group

The following provisions are square bracketed as they will be discussed in the MFF group:

- **Article 5** - the budget
- **Article 7** - the thematic concentration requirements for social inclusion, youth and support to the most deprived,
- **Article 13 (4)** - the increased co-financing rate for the optional dedicated priority on social innovation
- **Articles 25, 28 and 30** - the participation of third countries under the EaSI & Health strands.

Timeline

9 December – ESF+ “Kick Off” political trilogue

20 January – Technical trilogue – Article 4(1)
ESF+

27 January – Technical trilogue – Article 4(2)
and (3), and Article 23 ESF+

Overarching aim: finalise the ESF+ by July
2020 and conclude the MFF by December 2020

THANK YOU