

THE 10 MAIN EU FUNDING PROGRAMMES FOR PROJECTS IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR EXPLAINED



**Your compact guide on
how they work and how
your organisation can
apply for funding**



EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR PROJECTS

This guidance booklet is for you if you would like to know more about possible EU project funding for organisations which are active in the social domain, for example NGOs, associations, public authorities, training or social services providers, to name a few.

For prospective and inspirational projects which are addressing the various societal challenges, a number of EU grant opportunities are available.

On the next pages, you will find a clear overview of the 10 main EU programmes with accessible grants for projects in the social sector. You will also receive some fundamental information as regards the conditions for participation and how you can apply for funding.

Brussels, in February 2025

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1 - THE EU'S PROGRAMME FOR CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES (CERV)

What is being funded?

The CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) Programme supports projects which are promoting open, democratic, rights-oriented, equitable and inclusive societies based on the rule of law. The CERV Programme includes four strands:

Within the **Citizens' Engagement and Participation** strand, better participation of civil society in policy-making processes and empowering citizens are at the core of the activities. To this end, citizen engagement projects can be set up to support democratic participation. Funded topics can for example refer to understanding policy-making and participation in EU decision-making processes, or address current societal challenges such as climate change. In this context, workshops, debates or other exchange fora can be organised with the goal to propose solutions to decision-makers.

One of the defined objectives of CERV is to support good local governance and to strengthen the role of local and regional authorities in the EU integration process, for example through the exchange of best practices and cooperation between towns and municipalities in Europe to exchange and to learn from each other. Funded activities include town-twinning and networks-of-towns projects which aim to increase citizens' engagement in society and political life.

The CERV **Union Values** strand finances projects to protect and promote the values of the EU in line with the EU treaties and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. For example, activities promoting the respect of human rights can be funded, including the protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The fight against radicalisation and extremism can be supported within this funding strand too. Also, activities related to combating hate crime and hate speech can be implemented.

Funded activities can also include capacity-building of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), mutual learning and awareness raising activities. One of CERV's goals is to better enable civil society organisations to be involved in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments. In this respect, activities should either help to maintain or, where civil society influence is shrinking, contribute to a more open and inclusive democratic society.

The **Equality, Rights and Gender Equality** strand of the CERV programme funds the promotion of equality and the fight against all grounds of discrimination and intolerance, including racism, xenophobia, gender, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. Examples for possible activities are measures to fight against discrimination on the labour market such as tackling gender pay gaps, gender stereotypes, or supporting Roma equality, inclusion and participation.

Daphne, the fourth CERV programme strand supports projects to **prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children** including domestic violence. Funded activities can include awareness-raising, the training of professionals and victims support. Projects are expected to be executed by Member States' public authorities, support services and Civil Society Organisations.

Who can be funded by CERV & conditions for funding

Grant beneficiaries can be civil society organisations active at local, regional, national and transnational level, European networks, public authorities including local authorities, educational, cultural or research institutions and universities.

Depending on the specific Call for Proposals, a CERV project can sometimes be implemented by one single organisation or by a minimum number of participants from different countries.

The maximum grant amounts and co-financing requirements depend on the individual Call. Often, the EU provides up to 80-90% of the eligible costs. For some Calls and under certain conditions it is allowed to include unit costs for volunteer work in the grant budget which is then counting towards your own contribution (co-financing). Another common means of EU financing for CERV projects is the provision of lump sums.

Your project application will be evaluated by independent expert evaluators through pre-defined criteria related to the relevance, quality and impact of your submitted project proposal. The application procedure is competitive and the available budget will be awarded to the proposals which received the highest scores in the evaluation.

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

Open Calls for Proposals are published on the European Commission's [Funding and Tenders Portal](https://eufundingconsulting.eu). Applications for funding have to be submitted via this Portal as well.

2 - THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND +

The **EU Structural Funds** (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund+) are another means of financing social inclusion, rights and participation projects.

The Structural Funds operate under **shared management between the EU and the Member States**. This means that, first of all, there is an overall programme for the strategy and funding priorities for each country or region for the period 2021-2027. Each programme has been negotiated between the Member State (or region) and the European Commission, and eventually approved by the latter. The Member State or region receives the agreed funding from the EU and, together with a predetermined national co-financing, selects and supports individual projects in line with the programme's funding priorities.

What is being funded through the ESF+?

- Initiatives to improve employability, especially for youth
- Social inclusion measures
- Enhancing the capacity of social partners and civil society
- Projects to reduce poverty, in particular for children
- Investments in skills for the labour market, with a focus on a transition to a green and digital economy
- Social innovation in employment, education, skills and social inclusion, both at the national level and through transnational partnerships
- Within the FEAD (Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived) strand as part of ESF+, food and basic material assistance is provided

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the ESF+ supports:

- Measures for evidence-based policy making, e.g. surveys, studies, statistical data, methodologies, classifications, micro-simulations, indicators, etc.
- Networking and capacity-building activities, cross-border partnerships, services in cross-border regions
- EU-wide labour-mobility schemes in case of shortages and imbalances
- Mutual learning activities, e.g. exchange of practices, peer reviews, reports, etc.

Who is being funded & conditions for funding

While the ESF+ offers many support schemes for individuals (job-seekers, youth, solopreneurs, etc.) to participate in a measure or training, there are numerous opportunities for grants for projects implemented by organisations as well, such as for:

- Organisations representing workers and employers, training providers
- NGOs, charities, foundations, associations
- Public authorities
- Companies

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

National/ regional funding

Most ESF+ funding is disbursed by the Member States and regions. As far as project funding for organisations is concerned, each country has their own programmes and priorities. An overview about the national pages (through which you can access current Calls for Projects in your country or region) can be found here:

<https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country>

EU Calls for Proposals

- Published on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- Transnational Calls in the area of social innovation are published via the commissioned [Agency ESFA](#)

3 - THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

What is being funded?

While the main focus of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is on supporting infrastructure and investments, it can to some extent support social projects as well, when there is a clear link to economic development.

EU Regional Policy has the objective to support the development of the regions and to reduce disparities between EU regions and to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion. Funded projects are expected to contribute to the overall competitiveness of the particular region.

One of the five specific objectives within ERDF funding is '**a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights**' which can for example address measures related to equal opportunities and access to the labour market, including education and training,

fair working conditions, social protection and inclusion, including the integration of disadvantaged groups (e.g. disabled persons, migrants) and access to social services. Some examples:

- The ERDF can support social enterprises, in view of their contribution to job creation, social inclusion, innovation and regional development. This includes financing small-scale infrastructure and support for the development of products and services.
- The ERDF supports sustainable urban development initiatives, including projects that integrate social, economic, and environmental dimensions. This can include for example improvements in social infrastructure and services.
- Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) initiatives can be funded. These are bottom-up initiatives to promote inclusive social, economic and environmental local development. These can include e.g. social projects for improving local living conditions and social cohesion.

Who the ERDF funds & conditions for funding

ERDF funding is in principle open to all kinds of entities such as

- Public bodies (e.g. local, regional authorities)
- Private sector organisations, especially small and medium sized companies
- Universities, research institutes
- NGOs
- Associations

Project funding is allocated on the ground through regional authorities. Sometimes there is a funding scheme where all entities that fulfill the criteria are being supported (until the funds are used up) or a Call for projects is being published where you have to compete with other applicants for funding.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) provides financial assistance to European regions according to the level of development of the region in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of the EU average.

This results in EU co-financing between 40% and 70% (in certain less developed regions even up to 85%) for the overall programme of a region. Funding for projects within a regional programme vary according to the type of the project as well as EU and national rules. For example, EU state aid regulations have an impact on the maximum funding quota for subsidies for companies. For other types of projects the funding rate could however go up to 100%.

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

In how far the individual specific objectives of the ERDF according to the Regulation are applied and how exactly they are being implemented on the ground depends on the respective operational programme of each region. To know what can be funded in your region and what the specific conditions are, you can get in touch with the competent [managing authority for the ERDF in your region](#) and/or consult their website.

4 - LEADER

The **LEADER** programme is a EU funding instrument designed to support rural development by empowering local communities to take charge of their economic and social growth. Established in 1991, LEADER stands for "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale," which translates to "Links between actions for the development of the rural economy."

The initiative operates through **Local Action Groups (LAGs)**, which are partnerships between public and private entities within rural areas. These LAGs are responsible for designing and implementing local development strategies that address the specific needs and opportunities of their communities.

What is being funded?

LEADER funds a diverse range of projects aimed at fostering rural development, enhancing the quality of life and diversifying the rural economy. Examples of funded activities include:

- Agricultural and forestry development: Initiatives that promote sustainable farming practices, support organic agriculture, or enhance forest management
- Tourism promotion: Projects that develop rural tourism infrastructure, such as creating hiking trails, restoring historical sites, or establishing local museums to attract visitors
- Small business support: Assistance for local artisans, craftsmen, and small enterprises to develop new products, access markets, or adopt innovative technologies
- Cultural and community activities: Efforts to preserve local traditions, support cultural festivals, or develop community centers that strengthen social cohesion
- Environmental conservation: Projects aimed at protecting natural habitats, promoting biodiversity, or implementing renewable energy solutions within the community

LEADER projects are selected based on their alignment with the local development strategies crafted by the LAGs, ensuring they meet the concrete requirements and goals of the community. By participating in the LEADER initiative, rural communities can access EU funding tailored to their specific needs, fostering sustainable development and enhancing the vitality of rural areas.

Who does it fund and conditions for funding?

LEADER primarily funds projects initiated by citizens, businesses and organisations within rural communities. Eligible applicants can include:

- Local businesses which are seeking to start or expand operations that contribute to the rural economy
- NGOs implementing projects that address social, cultural or environmental objectives
- Community groups engaged in activities that enhance community life and cohesion
- Municipalities and local authorities developing public infrastructure or services that benefit the rural population

To receive funding, applicants must align their projects with the local development strategy set forth by their respective LAG. Projects should demonstrate a clear benefit to the community, promote innovation and encourage sustainable development. The selection process is based on criteria such as feasibility, impact and contribution to local priorities.

Where to find open calls & how to apply

- Identify the relevant LAG: Determine which Local Action Group operates in your area. This information can typically be found on your country's rural development programme's website or through local government offices. You can find links to all rural development programmes through the the [DG Agriculture & Rural Development website](#).
- Reach out to the LAG to discuss your project idea. Each LAG manages its own application procedures and timelines, therefore it's essential to engage with them directly to receive the most accurate and up-to-date information.

5 - ERASMUS + THE EU PROGRAMME IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING, YOUTH AND SPORT

What is being funded?

Practically everyone knows the university students' exchanges between different countries. However, here we don't look at accessible mobility schemes for individuals through Erasmus+ but at the rather less known components of the Erasmus+ programme which are available for organisations that are active in the field of social inclusion, training and citizen participation.

Erasmus+ funds 'Key Actions', each targeting different types of projects (e.g. mobility, cooperation for innovation, policy reform). Within these, Erasmus+ can support projects addressing social and citizens' rights, promoting equality and inclusion, active citizenship and enhancing participation in democratic life. Aspirant projects must contribute to specific annual priorities set at the national or European level.

One possibility for funding within **Key Action 1 – Mobility** exists for example for adult education providers working with disadvantaged learners, and community-based grassroots organisations to set up a mobility scheme for the beneficiary group they are usually working with. This funding option is open also for organisations which are not accredited by the Erasmus+ programme as a regular participating organisation. The supported organisation could then act as a sending organisation (selecting participants among students or staff and send them abroad for trainings at a host organisation) and/ or as a hosting organisation (inviting experts, teachers and educators to their organisation).

Within **Key Action 2 - Cooperation among Organisations and Institutions**, projects can be designed to develop innovative methods for promoting social inclusion and civic participation, create strategic partnerships and exchange best practices.

Key Action 3- Support for Policy Reform

supports initiatives that aim to influence reforms and promote active citizenship, policy development and good governance at all levels.

Supported actions or projects can include for example:

- Partnerships for cooperation: improving the capacities of the participating organisations by international cooperation and improved networks, exchanges of best practices and developing new practices
- Small-scale partnerships: supporting cooperation of small-scale actors and grass roots organisations including less experienced organisations and newcomers to the Erasmus+ programme. For small-scale partnerships smaller funding amounts (€30,000 or 60,000 €) than for other projects are awarded.
- Partnerships for Innovation: Alliances for Education and Enterprises (Lot 1) and Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills (Lot 2)

- Partnerships for Excellence: Centres for Vocational Excellence for innovative approaches to tackle economic and societal challenges (among which are e.g. the integration of migrants and disadvantaged groups and upskilling people with low qualification levels)
- Capacity-building in the form of international cooperation projects, between higher education institutions from EU Member states (or countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme) and third countries, to enhance the capacities of the latter:
 - a) For higher education: Promoting inclusive education, equality, non-discrimination and civic competences in higher education.
 - b) For youth: Enhancing the capacity of organisations working with young people outside formal learning, such as NGOs, public authorities and companies.

Who does Erasmus+ fund & conditions for funding

Apart from support to individuals such as students, pupils, teachers or athletes, Erasmus+ funds projects of organisations such as educational institutions (universities, adult education institutes, vocational education centers), NGOs, organisations working for persons with disabilities or seniors or youth or migrants, cultural, community and social centres or businesses.

The conditions for participating in projects depend on the particular field of intervention. The EU financing can go up to 80-100%. Often, a lump sum amount is allocated, based on the project's duration and size.

For most actions, you need to be established in an [EU Member State or in a third country associated to the Programme](#). A few opportunities for cooperation projects with third countries exist.

Depending on the requirements of particular Calls, you will mostly need partners in different programme countries (for cooperation partnerships for example, a minimum of 3 organisations from 3 different EU Member States or countries associated to the programme is required).

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

Calls for Proposals for Erasmus+ projects which are managed directly by the EU (e.g. measures in the field of policy, higher education and sports, partnerships for excellence, partnerships for innovation and funding related to European NGOs) can be found in the EU's [Funding and Tender Portal](#). Applications for Calls which are managed directly by the EU need to be submitted via this Portal.

Projects which are intended to be closer to national contexts or settings (e.g. mobility measures, partnerships for cooperation) are selected by the designated [Erasmus+ National Agencies](#) and the Calls are published on their websites too. Applications for these decentralised actions need to be submitted via the [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Platform](#).

6 - EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

What is being funded?

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) finances solidary activities of young people through volunteering or by setting up their own solidary projects.

The ESC is designed to stimulate solidarity in European society and to engage young people and organisations, for example by activities to fight social exclusion, encouraging democratic participation and mutual understanding among citizens. More examples are projects related to environmental protection, health and wellbeing, education and training and the integration of migrant communities.

As far as grants for organisations are concerned, the ESC funds:

1) **Volunteering Projects**: The ESC is providing funding for volunteering projects to help organisations to host volunteers or send volunteers abroad. The activities can for example focus on working with disadvantaged groups, promoting social inclusion or enhancing participation in democratic processes.

2) **Solidarity Projects** which are initiated, developed and implemented by young people themselves in their home country. Such projects often focus on local challenges, which can include social inclusion and promoting civic rights as well as environmental topics. Projects can involve organising workshops, awareness campaigns, community work and other activities aimed at promoting social inclusion and participation.

Who it funds & conditions for funding

The European Solidarity Corps funds young people aged 18 to 30 (35 for humanitarian aid) as well as organisations in [EU countries or other participating countries as well as partner countries](#).

Organisations in partner countries can participate as partners, but not submit grant applications themselves. Eligible organisations are governmental organisations, municipalities, NGOs and companies.

Organisations taking part in Volunteering Projects must be accredited by an appropriate Quality Label (or Erasmus+ volunteering accreditation).

For Solidarity Projects, no accreditation is required. The projects must be initiated by a group of at least 5 young people. They can apply by themselves or get support via an established organisation which then applies on their behalf and provides support for administrative and financial issues related to the grant. They can offer coaching to the group as well, for which additional funding can be requested. The project will be carried out by the young people themselves.

Funding typically covers the costs associated with implementing the project, including project management and costs incurred during the activities (e.g. travel, accommodation, and subsistence for volunteers).

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

Calls are published on the [website of the European Solidarity Corps](#). There, it is indicated if the Call is managed under the responsibility of the EU or by the designated [ESC National Agencies](#). The Calls are published on the websites of the National Agencies too.

For Calls which are managed by the European Commission, applications have to be submitted via the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

In case the Call is under the responsibility of the National Agencies, applications need to be submitted through the [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Platform](#).

7 - ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

What is being funded?

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is aimed at supporting actions that promote the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common approach to asylum and immigration within the EU. It also funds projects supporting the integration of migrants.

Transnational projects can e.g. target combating human trafficking or the protection of children in migration. Projects supporting actions on the ground can be for example the integration of migrant children and young adults into education or the integration of migrants into the labour market, including training and reskilling measures as well as entrepreneurship of migrants.

Who it funds & conditions for funding

Next to the budget which is directly managed by the EU, more than half of the AMIF funding is delivered through shared management. This means that the countries have set specific priorities for funding and that the projects are selected by the national authorities (or its designated bodies). Therefore, it depends on the individual country what funding exactly is available. The countries currently participating in the AMIF are the EU Member States except Denmark.

In principle, eligible organisations include public authorities, NGOs, humanitarian organisations, companies as well as education and research organisations.

The funding rate for projects under AMIF can vary depending on the type of project. The usual co-financing rate often reaches up to 75% or 90% of the eligible costs. In some cases, especially for specific priorities or urgent actions, the co-financing rate could go up to 100%.

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

The majority of projects are selected by National Authorities. Consult your national programme regarding available funding opportunities and application modalities via the [national AMIF websites](#).

Some Calls are managed directly by the European Commission, according to its annual priorities. These Calls for Proposals are published on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#) and applications for these have to be submitted via the Portal.

8 - HORIZON EUROPE

What is being funded?

Horizon Europe is the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Horizon incorporates research and innovation funding for practically all areas (an exception is defence research). This means, Horizon offers opportunities for research and innovation projects with a societal, rights and citizen focus as well.

Funding for projects with a direct focus on society, political systems and citizens is most prevalent in Horizon's **Cluster 2 - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society**. There, research and innovation projects for example related to social dialogue, social inclusion, citizen engagement and gender equality, but also to fighting extremism and disinformation, are being funded.

It is a general objective in Horizon Europe that research and innovation outcomes should benefit society. Therefore, the consideration and inclusion of societal aspects is a cross-cutting subject.

While funding research and innovation, Horizon Europe places a strong emphasis on involving citizens and end-users in co-designing and co-creating research and innovation agendas. This approach includes public engagement, participatory design and social innovation, particularly in areas impacting social systems, policies and services. This may not necessarily be in the form of a stand-alone project, but can be an integral element within a project. For this purpose, sometimes an organisation representing a specific group can be included as a project partner.

Who is Horizon funding & conditions for funding

For project funding within Horizon Europe Cluster 2 (Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society), you will need (unless stated otherwise in the specific Call document) to form a consortium of min. 3 independent organisations from at least 1 EU Member State plus 2 different EU Member States or [countries associated to Horizon Europe](#).

While research institutes (may it be university research departments, private research or other) are the main beneficiaries of Horizon Europe, concrete funding opportunities exist for companies, NGOs and public authorities such as towns and municipalities to bring in the voice and needs of their beneficiary group and citizens, as a partner in a project, for example by conducting studies, surveys or focus groups.

Horizon Europe project funding is mainly available for 3 types of Actions, i.e. for Research and Innovation Actions where the project is predominantly research oriented (funding rate: 70%, non-profits: 100%) as well as for Innovation Actions (where the projects are closer to market implementation) and Coordination and Support Actions (mainly measures which are accompanying research and innovation activities). The funding rate for the two latter is 100%.

Funding is often provided as a lump sum, based on the project's duration and size.

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

The Calls for Proposals for Horizon Europe are published in the [EU's Funding and Tenders Portal](#). You need to submit your application through the Portal.

Tip: As mentioned, one possibility to get involved in Horizon Europe grants is as a (supporting) project partner. For proposals which are in preparation, you can propose yourself as a partner for a specific Call in which you would like to participate by entering your data in the [Funding & Tenders Portal partner search tool](#) (you need an account and be logged in to enter data). There, consortia who are still looking for a specific partner may find and contact you.

NB: The partner search tool doesn't only apply to Horizon Europe but is enabled for all Calls for which applications are managed through the Funding & Tenders Portal.

9 - COSME (UNDER THE EU SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME)

The **Single Market Programme (SMP)** is the European Union's key funding initiative aimed at strengthening and improving the functioning of the EU's single market and to promote competitiveness, sustainability and resilience across the EU economy. The SMP has six key components:

- **Facilitate access to finance:** Through loan guarantees and venture capital for SMEs at different stages of growth.
- **Improve access to markets:** Helping SMEs internationalize and enter global markets via support networks like the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN).
- **Support entrepreneurship:** Promoting entrepreneurial culture, enhancing skills and supporting start-ups and scale-ups, especially for young people, women and disadvantaged groups.

- **Create better conditions for business competitiveness:** Reducing regulatory burden, simplifying administrative processes and promoting digitalisation and innovation among SMEs.
- **Foster a favourable business environment:** Encouraging networking, knowledge-sharing and cooperation among SMEs and across sectors.
- Development of EU **statistics** across key economic, social and environmental areas.

Funding and support measures regarding the competitiveness of small and medium sized enterprises ("COSME"), does not only include commercial enterprises – social enterprises can receive funding as well.

What is being funded?

The **COSME** strand under the Single Market Programme (SMP) focuses on enhancing the **competitiveness and sustainability of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** across the EU. With a strong emphasis on innovation, digitalisation and green transition, the programme funds initiatives that support

entrepreneurship, better access to markets, improved business conditions as well as capacity building and sustainability of enterprises, especially SMEs, including social sector enterprises.

Funding areas include for example:

- Facilitating access to markets: help SMEs expand their reach by reducing barriers and providing support mechanisms that enable them to enter and compete in both European and global markets.
- Promote new business opportunities, incl. for social economy enterprises.
- Promoting entrepreneurship and capacity, skills development: The programme encourages entrepreneurial initiatives and focuses on enhancing the skills of entrepreneurs to foster innovation and business growth.
- Supporting the modernisation of businesses, ensuring that SMEs can adapt to changing market demands and technological advancements.

Who does it fund and conditions for funding?

The exact conditions for funding are outlined in the individual Calls for Proposals. The COSME strand primarily targets small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), entrepreneurs and start-ups across the EU and associated countries. Eligible applicants can include SMEs from any sector, business support organisations, innovation hubs, chambers of commerce and public authorities engaged in SME development.

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

Open calls for proposals under the COSME strand are published on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](https://eufundingandtendersportal.eu).

10 - EU 4 HEALTH PROGRAMME

The EU4Health Programme was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its primary aim is to enhance the EU's capacity to manage cross-border health threats and build more resilient health systems.

What is being funded?

EU4Health funds a wide array of actions clustered under four overarching strands:

- **Crisis Preparedness:** Enhancing the EU's ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to **cross-border health threats**. Key actions include establishing reserves of medical supplies and creating a reserve of healthcare and support staff to be mobilised during crises.
- **Health Promotion & Disease Prevention:** Initiatives aimed at preventing diseases and promoting health through targeted programmes, **international health cooperation** projects to strengthen collaboration on major health challenges beyond EU borders.

- **Health Systems & Healthcare Workforce:** Strengthening health systems by enhancing their resilience and resource efficiency. This includes supporting the training and development of healthcare professionals, improving access to healthcare and fostering integrated cooperation among national health systems. The programme also emphasises evidence-based decision-making and the implementation of EU health legislation.
- **Digital Transformation:** Investing in health data infrastructures, digital tools and services and the digital transformation of healthcare systems to improve service delivery and data-sharing capabilities.

Additionally, EU4Health supports projects aimed at making medicinal products, medical devices, and crisis-relevant products available and affordable across the EU, ensuring citizens have access to essential healthcare resources.

Who does it fund and conditions for funding

EU4Health provides funding to a variety of entities, including:

- **National health authorities:** Governmental bodies responsible for public health in EU Member States and associated countries
- **Health organisations and NGOs:** Entities engaged in health-related activities within the EU
- **International organisations** involved in global health initiatives, such as the World Health Organization (WHO)

Eligible applicants must be legal entities established in EU Member States or in non-EU countries associated with the programme. Typically, projects require collaboration among multiple entities from different countries.

Where to find open Calls & how to apply

Open calls for proposals are published on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](https://eufundingconsulting.eu).

GETTING INVOLVED IN EU FUNDING



I hope you enjoyed reading this guidance booklet and found it useful.

Let's summarise the first steps to explore EU funding for your project idea and some final considerations.

First of all, you will need to find **open Calls for Proposals**. Most open and forthcoming EU project funding opportunities are published on the EU Funding & Tender Portal. You can make a keyword search for the topic of your project idea and find opportunities.

Then, you need to read the requirements for participation in the Call and check if your organisation fulfils these (i.e. admissibility and eligibility **criteria**). You may most probably be required to carry out the project with **European partners**.

In an optimal situation you already have own suitable contacts with who you could partner in a project. Or you could make use of the partner search tool in the Funding & Tender Portal. Here, you can also propose your organisation as a partner in a consortium. This means you don't need to be the coordinator of the overall project, but can be a partner within a consortium and carry out important project tasks - which could already be excellent starting point in the EU funding domain.

As an applicant organisation, you also need to show that you have the **capacity to implement** the project. This means you need to have stable and sufficient resources, including an experienced and qualified team for implementing such a project.

To have an indication on how much effort it will be to hand in an application, the standard application form which you will find at the Funding & Tender Portal, will give you an overview and is a starting point for getting organised and an **estimate** of necessary efforts to prepare your application.

All in all, when knowing the basics you are one step closer to getting your project idea funded. Besides, participation in an EU funded project can be an enriching experience for your organisation, inspire you for more ideas, and lead to more funding and cooperation opportunities in the future.

Wishing you lots of success with your endeavour!

PS: Do you have any questions or need support in EU grant writing? Don't hesitate to [get in touch](#) via this link and/or discover currently available [support services](#).



**Expertise in EU grant writing to
help you get your project funded**

HELLO, I'M ASTRID MECHEL



I'm working with organisations which aim to access EU funding. It is my goal to help organisations discover suitable EU project funding possibilities and to provide support for high-quality grant applications. In this context, I am explicitly addressing newcomers to EU funding as well.

In the course of the last 20 years, I have worked with several EU funding programmes and in grant writing, including with NGOs and public bodies, and with policies related to social inclusion, participation and training as well as research.

Moreover, my background includes working as a National Contact Point advising applicants when preparing their proposals and beneficiaries during project implementation. I have also been involved in a number of evaluation panels within the grant selection process.

Like this, I've been experiencing EU funding and grant writing from various perspectives and am glad to share my knowledge to bring about amazing new projects which deserve being funded. You can connect with me on [LinkedIn](#) or [contact me via this link](#).

Disclaimer: Within the descriptions of the funding programmes in this guidance booklet, you will find examples of funding opportunities. No guarantee is given in terms of completeness and accuracy as the provided information can be subject to changes made by the funding authorities.
