The EUFunds4Social Coalition

WHO STANDS BEHIND THIS

The EUFunds4Social Coalition

— NGOs representing and defending the rights of children, and people who are disabled, Roma, undocumented migrants, victims of violence, experiencing poverty, LGTQI+, homeless, students, young, families, carers and more..

— Workers & social partners

— Social services

— Public health providers

— Social economy actors

— Lifelong learning networks

— Food banks

— Housing advocates

60+ European networks · 350+ organisations · Active since March 2025

JOINT STATEMENTS

Since March 2025, 4 joint statements have been endorsed by over 60 European networks and 250 organisations, to ensure social investment is strengthened, not weakened, in the next EU budget:

- March 2025: Time for Ambition: The EU needs a strong social fund to live up to its commitments
- July 2025: Keep what works: 8 success factors for a future ESF+
- October 2025: 100 billion Euros for social spending? The devil's in the details
- March 2026: Building on what works: an EU budget that delivers for people and regions

FUNCTIONING

The coalition wants to be informal and light, we have a **coordinating committee composed by the largest networks and some of their members.**

It is composed by the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (**EASPD**), **Caritas Europa**, the European network of Social Integration Enterprises (**ENSIE**), the European Public Service Union (**EPSU**), **Eurodiaconia**, the Lifelong Learning Platform (**LLLP**), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (**PICUM**), Social Economy Europe (**SEE**), Social Services Europe (**SSE**), and the **Social Platform**.

We meet weekly and ensure the continuation of the coalitions' advocacy work. We are then communicating with the signatories on the key initiatives which we open for endorsement

MEETINGS

June 2025: Cabinet of VP Roxana Minzatu

Autumn 2025:

- Cabinet of Roberta Metsola
- Ruth Paserman, Director DG Employment
- Committee of the Regions, Sari Rautio, Jeroen Vandeur

Spring 2026:

- Education and skills intergrpoup
- Co-rapporteurs of ESF
- MEP Nevada

LAUNCH EVENT

22 June EU Parliament

Co-hosted by MEPs Ceulemans and Abadia Jover

Speakers from:

- Beneficiaries
- EU Commission
- Managing Authorities
- Spanish Government
- EU Parliament

Summary of discussion

THE THREAT

The Commission proposes to MERGE 14 EU funds into one

ESF + ERDF at risk

Merged into national plans with agriculture, migration & defence budgets

Spending floor reducing

14% social target vs. current guaranteed levels: a massive cut in disguise

Power shift to capitals

National centralisation may turn EU Funds into political bargaining chips

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Millions of people depend on these funds

15M

people to lift out of poverty by 2030

5M

children targeted by EU poverty goals

27

EU Member States affected

ESF funds employment, education, skills & social inclusion
ERDF builds the infrastructure that makes it all possible

ONE CLEAR DEMAND

STAND-ALONE ESF & ERDF

Each with its own dedicated regulation, budget and mission

ESF = People

Employment · Training · Social inclusion · Poverty reduction · Social services · Social innovation

ERDF = Regions (PO4 social objectives)

Social infrastructure · Territorial cohesion · Housing · Local services

WHAT STAND-ALONE FUNDS MUST GUARANTEE

01

Ring-fenced budgets

At least equal to current levels, adjusted for inflation / social spending target from 14% to 25%

02

Preserved earmarks

30% social inclusion · 3% material support · 5% child poverty · 5% homelessness · Youth Guarantee · Capacity building civil society

03

Accountability & rights

Enabling conditions, with UNCRPD compliance enforced, and better monitoring

04

Partnership principle

Meaningful civil society & local government participation across ALL EU funds

05

Access for small actors

Simpler rules, lighter reporting, sustainable co-funding rates

06

Secure direct funding for social inclusion

Protect direct funding for social innovation and capacity building/cooperation of civil society and social partners

PARLIAMENT ADVOCACY

We are monitoring and formulating amendments on

- NRPPs regulation
- ESF regulation
- Performance Regulation

(and did to the interim report)

COUNCIL ADVOCACY

We did contact social attachés (and met with the Dutch and Cyprus ones)

We sent an open letter to the European Council of 18-19 June

For more information, contact:

Irene Bertana

Interim Head of Knowledge and Innovation, EASPD

EUFunds4Social coalition coordinator

Irene.Bertana@easpd.eu