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PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON
UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

The Future of Financing Migration and Integration from the EU Funds

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funding for Inclusion

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021 – 2027: what changes

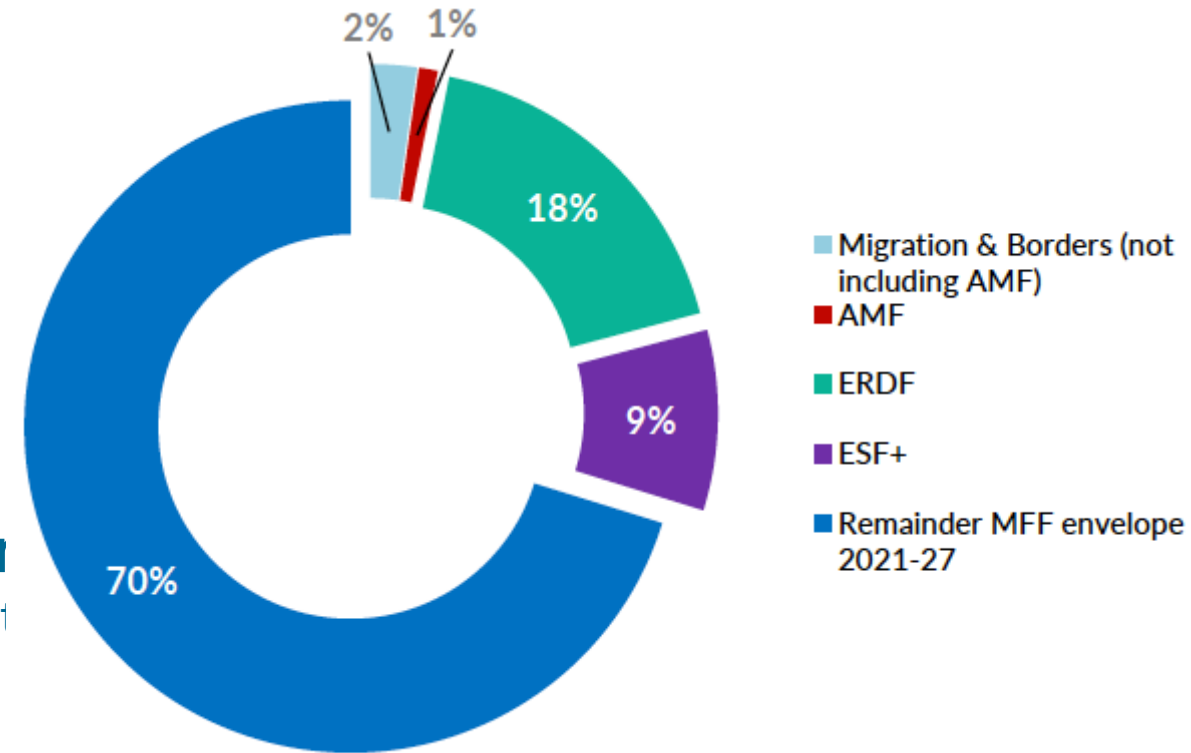
- Loss of a main net-contributor (Brexit)
- Strong focus in increasing EU spending in new priority areas of internal and external security
- Risk of overall decrease of Cohesion Policy
- Length of negotiations and possible delays

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021 – 2027: what changes

- Strong interest in integration and its mainstreaming across the EU funds on the European Commission side
- Increased cross-party support to financing integration across political groups
- Positive approach to integration as a priority of Commission's Vice President for protecting European Way of Life
- Focus within the European Semester

What instruments are proposed for the inclusion of migrants and refugees?

- **European Social Fund + (ESF+)**
Mainstream instrument for integration into the labour market and promoting social inclusion
- **Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF)**
Targeted support to member states
- **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program**
Protect and promote rights and values enshrined in EU treaties
- **ERDF**
Social infrastructures (among others)





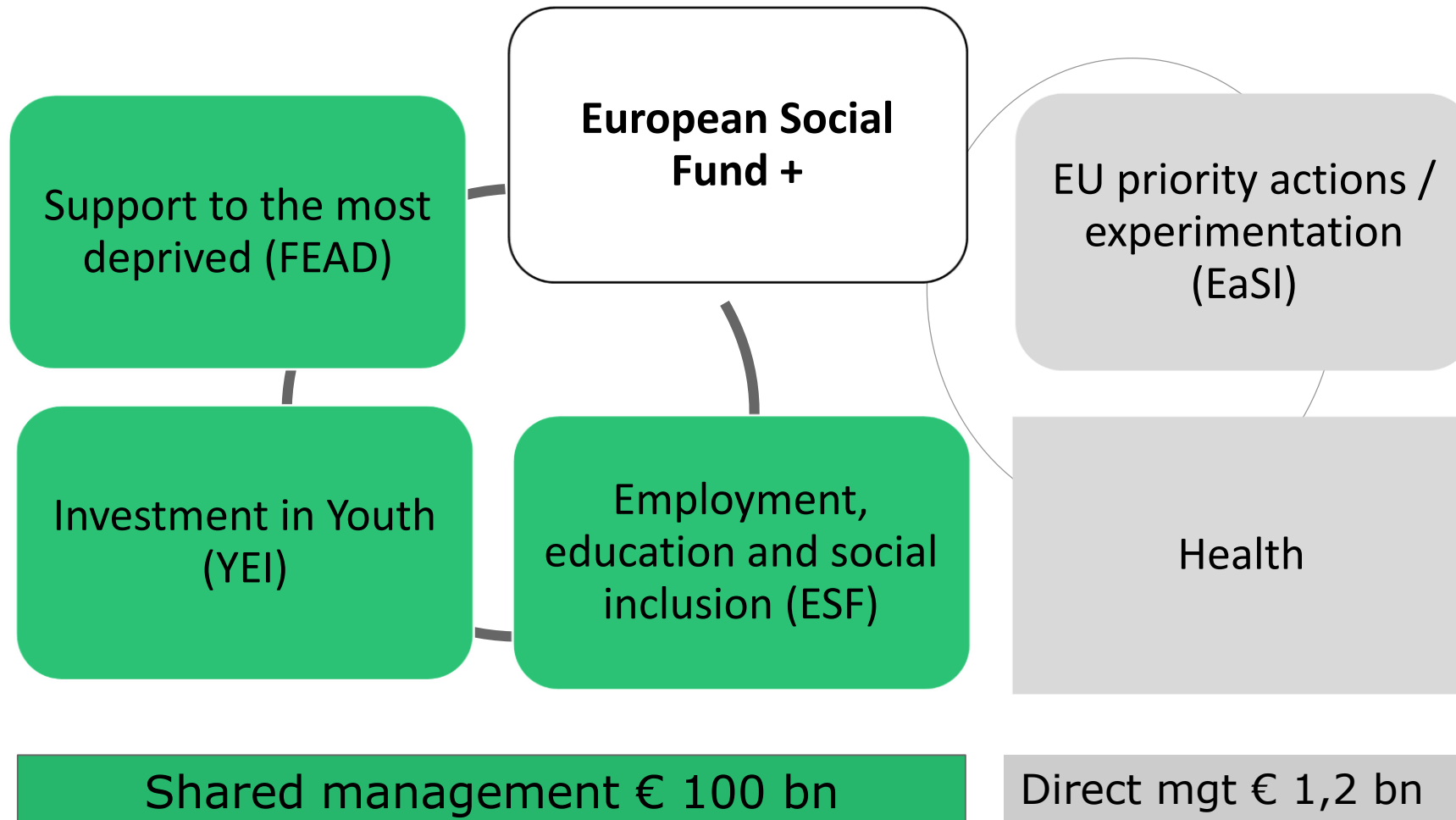
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A quick look at ESF +

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A strenghtened focus on inclusion

25 % + 2%

- Member States shall allocate at least **25% of their ESF+** resources to the **specific objectives for the social inclusion policy area** [...], including the promotion of the socio-economic integration of third country nationals. (**Art. 7**)
- Member States shall allocate at least **2% of their ESF+** resources under shared management to the specific objective of **addressing material deprivation**.

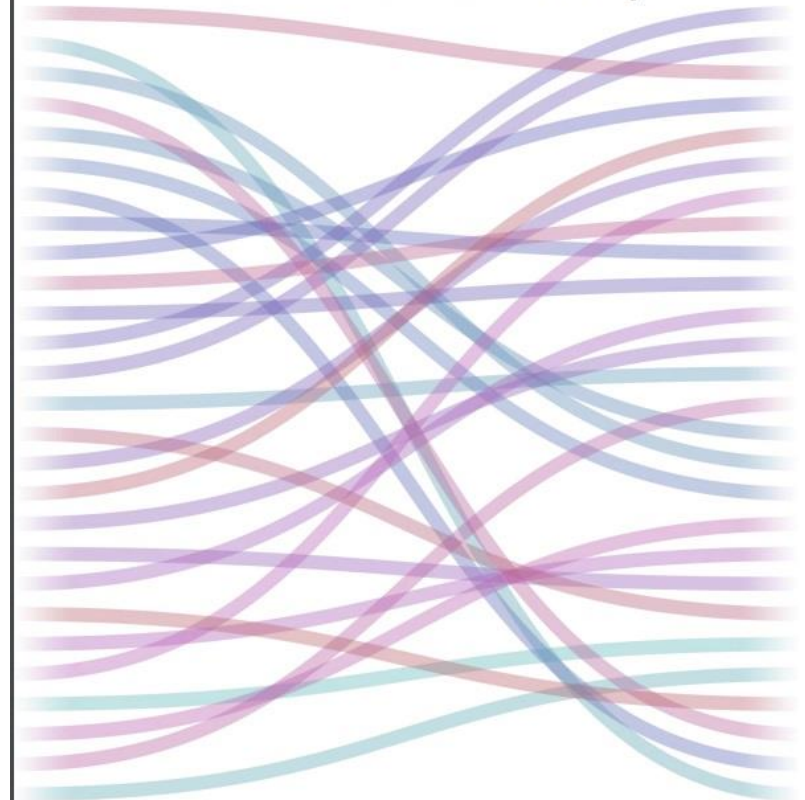
4 Priorities:

- 1) **Active Inclusion** (in the job market),
- 2) **Socio-economic integration** of marginalised communities and Third Country Nationals
- 3) Equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion,
- 4) Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance

AMIF 2014 - 2019

- ECRE and UNHCR have produced a study, Follow the Money, which assessed both the national programmes and the implementation of first years
 - Absorption rate higher than the EU average (in spite of the delay of programmes implementation);
 - High rely on the fund (and little amount of fund, comparing to other member states);
 - The national programme – according to mid term report – rapidly in need of updates;
 - Fair balance of the three priorities (asylum, integration and returns).

“Follow the Money”



Assessing the use of EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) funding at the national level

The Asylum and Migration Fund: what is new?

- Increase from €3.137 billion (later topped up to €7,3 billion) to € 10.4 billion
- From AMIF to AMF?
no mention to “solidarity” between member states, the specific objective on Integration covers only “early integration measures”. No “Earmarking to different priorities).
- Mixed management form: 60% of resources managed by member states, 40% to “thematic facility” allocated to top-up according to national needs
Managed on NATIONAL base by ministries of Home Affairs
- External use of the fund: according to member states, could cover a relevant amount of resources to be spent in external actions

Main advocacy questions

- Increase in resources for integration?
- How will the money be allocated?
- Target groups: how to identify beneficiaries?
- Partnership: will civil society and local authorities be included in the decision making process?
- How NGOs will be granted access to funding?

An increase in budget for migrants and refugees integration?

- A stronger focus of the ESF+ on socio-economic integration of third country nationals?
 - Policy objective on « socio-economic integration of TCNs, with output indicator
 - 25% of the fund targeting several « social inclusion », although no direct thematic concentration on « migrants and refugees »
 - Operations for TCNs can be programmed under each of the ESF+ specific objectives supporting people, depending on their objective.
- An increase of financial resources on the AM(I)F
 - So far no “thematic concentration” planned for the objective on “integration and legal migration”. Earmarking have been proposed by the European Parliament (10%), no decision of the council.
 - It is not clear how much of the resources will be spent outside the EU. The EP has suggests to cap this to maximum 5% of the fund, the Council is eager in dedicating a “substantial” part of it.

Target groups: ensure that services are not provided on the basis of residence status

- **ESF+** targeting people who have the right to regular employment, but
 - Specific objectives on « integration of third country nationals », equal and timely access to services do not refer to labour market.
 - Actions aiming at contrasting material destitution (FEAD) are eligible for everybody.
- **AM(I)F** targeting “asylum and legal migration”
 - No resources dedicated to irregular migrants

ECRE and PICUM believe that NGOs should be allowed provide access to services to the most vulnerable

Reporting and auditing requirements should not require information on the residence status of final recipients of integration actions

Accession of funds to civil society and local authorities

- Civil society accession to funds is very uneven across member states
- While some member states provide matching funds to cover for the co-funding rates, in some member states civil society and local authorities struggle to find resources to match the EU allocation.
- Lower co-financing rates should be granted to integration programmes implemented by civil societies and local authorities.
- Funding in direct management should be available in ESF+ and AMIF for direct funding to local integration programmes, especially in member states that do not prioritise integration.
- Minimum earmarking in programming could be included for integration actions managed by NGOs and local authorities.

Partnership principle

Partnership principle should ensure the inclusion of non-state actor in the identification of priorities for the national programmes

- Partnership is implemented unevenly across member states
 - Civil Society, including migrant and refugee-led organisations, struggle to be heard and have a role in the definition of programmes
 - In some countries, accession to AM(I)F funding is very much limited in the case of NGOs and local authorities
 - The exclusion of AMIF from the Common Provision Regulation (CPR) risk to undermine the implementation of partnership
- **Civil Society and local authorities should be included in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases of both the funds**
 - **Resources should be allocated to the purpose of capacity building of stakeholders**

- The inclusion of AM(I)F within the CPR should allow the same rules to be applied to both funds
- While responsibilities across the two funds should be clearly defined in order to avoid gaps, synergies and use of more than one fund together should be promoted through simplification and harmonisation of rules.

ECRE and PICUM propose the set up of cross-fund committees on integration at the national and general level, with the participation of civil society and other stakeholders, in order to better coordinate the proposals under the two funds.

Timeline of MFF negotiations

	<u>MFF negotiations timeline</u>	<u>Other EU developments</u>
June 2018	Proposals on ESF+ and AMF issued by the European Commission (EC)	
Jan 2019	ESF+ report is approved in the EP plenary; The Council starts preparing its positions	
March 2019	AMF report is approved in the in the EP plenary	European Commission issues Country reports including investing priorities
April 2019	The Council finds a general position on ESF+ (not public), excluding amount of budget and “earmarkings”. Member states start programming phase.	
May 2019		European Parliament elections
June 2019	The Council adopted a partial general approach on AMF. It leaves up important issues on amount of budget allocations, which will be resumed only after summer.	
Autumn 2019	Start of “trilogue” negotiations between EP and Council	New Parliament elects rapporteurs, new Commission is appointed
2020	Expected approval of budget for the different funding instruments + National programmes	