



TYOLOGY OF INDICATIVE MEASURES UNDER THE ESF AND YEI THAT CAN BE MOBILISED TO ADDRESS COVID-19 CRISIS

General remarks

The list of measures that follows is a **non-exhaustive list of examples of operations** that could be supported by the ESF exclusively with a view to addressing the COVID-19 crisis. Support to such actions is therefore limited to actions launched as from 1 February 2020 (eligibility of expenditure date). Member States may wish to implement some of these actions, depending on their context, and in complementarity to any other national or regional measures already undertaken. This document is entirely aimed to illustrate actions that in DG EMPL's view could be relevant for the ESF support in the context of addressing the immediate challenges to the healthcare systems, reduced employment and increased risk of social exclusion. It also illustrates types of expenditure and audit trail that would be considered as appropriate in the context of such actions.

Programming of measures would depend on Member States' (MS) context and operational programmes (OP) scope, as well as the intervention logic of the measure. Measures at EU level proposed by the Commission in the context of addressing the COVID-19 crisis include the possibility to more flexibly move resources within an OP across different investment priorities, to ensure a flexible approach (see also [ESF Q&A](#) on related Member States' questions following the CRII).

Eligibility rules are national^[1]: The national eligibility rules on the ESF should determine what is eligible. MS have ample flexibility in defining the eligible costs of the actions. These national eligibility rules need to comply with the very limited set of eligibility rules at EU level (in the Common Provisions Regulation and the ESF Regulation).

Management verifications and audits: MS also have the competence **to determine how they will check whether the eligibility rules are complied with**. This will determine **what will have to be checked** at the different levels (by the managing authority, by the national Audit Authority and by the Commission auditors). It is therefore of utmost importance to keep it simple and avoid gold-plating.

^[1] Article 65(1) Common Provisions Regulation (CPR).



With regard to **the use of simplified cost options (SCO)**, Member States should strive to make as much as possible use of established SCO. The Managing Authorities (MA) may use all existing EU-level SCOs¹ in relation to:

- Education (incl. pre-primary education, early childhood education and vocational training)
- Training for unemployed people
- Counselling services
- Training for employed people

Furthermore, MA may use existing EU or national schemes for similar types of operations and beneficiaries (Art. 67(5)(b) and (c), cf Guidance note on SCO section 5.3.). In particular when developing non-urgent measures, i.e. operations intended to rather address the consequences of the current COVID-19 crisis, MA may use all the options foreseen under Art. 67 CPR to develop SCO; for operations of up to EUR 100 000 of public support, the MA may use a draft budget to establish unit costs or lump sums.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=1490&langId=en>



1. EMPLOYMENT-RELEVANT MEASURES FOR EMPLOYED OR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

- Support to workers who are temporarily in “technical unemployment” because the employers were forced to close their services in order to avoid the spread of the virus
- Support to self-employed and small businesses to retain staff/ maintain activity

Short-time work schemes (STW) are public programmes that allow firms experiencing economic difficulties to temporarily reduce the working hours of their employees, who in turn receive income support from the State for the hours not worked. A key characteristic is that the employment relationships are maintained during the period of short-time work, even in cases when working hours are reduced to zero (i.e. a full suspension of work). All Member States have established some form of STW schemes, though their features vary significantly.

The ESF can play an important role, in particular in Member States with large ESF national allocations, to support the Member States’ efforts to delay the spread of the virus, including mitigating measures for the reduction of hours worked, including salary compensations.

Short-time work schemes generally do not apply to **the self-employed** (who can organise their work freely, and assume the business risks associated with their entrepreneurial activity). However, under the current extraordinary situation when national schemes are open for that, the ESF can also support specific schemes for the self-employed.

For further details, please refer to [the dedicated Q&A page on the CRII and CRII+ for Member States](#).

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Recruitment of additional staff for professional cleaning services and reinforcement of their capacity

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- Salaries of professional cleaners for additional cleaning services in public spaces
- Training in a safe environment
- Purchase of necessary equipment and hygienic product supplies
- Travel costs
- Cleaning services

Target group: Low qualified job seekers or persons on “technical unemployment” due to the coronavirus crisis

Potential beneficiary: Public authorities at all levels,

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): interinstitutional agreement between the MA and the public institution



Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO9: Social Inclusion: (iv) access to services – possibly the most appropriate IP in case the objective of this measure is to prevent the spread of the virus;

Comments: Can contribute to help sterilise facilities and therefore reduce outbreak (facilities include hospitals, but also public places still operating during lock down, ie supermarkets, pharmacies, banks, public transport, etc.); employ people in technical unemployment or unemployed.

Audit trail: Use the Art. 14.1 on training for unemployed. For travel costs, use established SCO/Km. Proof of payment of salaries. Invoices for supplies and cleaning equipment.



ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Support to employers and workers for setting up telework arrangements

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

Support employers (private or public) to develop telework arrangements.

- Train employer to develop telework arrangements
- Train workers how to work remotely, including developing digital skills
- Purchase or renting of necessary equipment (e.g. laptops, software and digital space on servers)

Target group: Employers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, trade unions, public institutions); Workers

Potential beneficiary: Telework training organisations (e.g. Telewerkforum in NL); Chambers of commerce; NGOs; Public institutions; Trade unions

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level):
public procurement

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO8 Employment v. Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change;

TO9(iv) Social inclusion: Access to services (if the objective is to avoid the spread of the virus)

Comments: Telework possibilities can, in some cases, soften the economic downturn during the coronavirus lockdown: it can provide opportunities for companies/NGOs/other organisations to continue their activities and for workers to keep their jobs. An example of an ESF project promoting telework under [this link](#). In MT, the companies that have invested in teleworking systems would be eligible for a 45% refund up to EUR 500 for each worker from the Government.

Audit trail: Under actual incurred expenditure: all the requirements of a normal training programme. Purchase or renting will require public procurement (for public employers) or procurement for the private employers. Use EU level SCO for training of employed persons.

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Support to employers and workers for putting in place occupational health and safety (OSH) measures in the context of reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

Support employers (private or public) to develop OSH arrangements.

- Train employer to develop and introduce OSH arrangements
- Train workers in OSH measures to support compliance
- Purchase or renting of necessary equipment to respect OSH standards

Target group: Employers (e.g. private companies, trade unions, public institutions); Workers



Potential beneficiary: Chambers of commerce; Public institutions; Trade unions

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): public procurement

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO8(v) Employment : adaptation of workers;

TO8(vi) Employment: Active and healthy ageing;

TO9.iv Social inclusion: Access to services

Audit trail: Under actual incurred expenditure: all the requirements of a normal training programme. Use EU level SCO for training of employed persons. Purchase or renting will require public procurement (for public employers) or procurement for the private employers.

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY/MID-TERM:

Support to self-employed and small businesses by using readily available IT solutions

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

Support the setup of a local delivery system to allow for home delivery of goods from local shops.

- ready-to-use IT solutions,
- work processes;
- staff training on safe handling and delivery of goods
- distance learning solutions to invest in upskilling (could use vouchers)
- salaries/top-ups of (additional) staff for timely and quality delivery
- purchase or rent of relevant IT equipment (laptops, software)

Target group: Self-employed, small businesses

Potential beneficiary: Chambers of commerce, training organisations, companies

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): Could be state-aid relevant unless it under *de minimis* rules (in case of grants to companies)

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO8: Employment (v) adaptation to change; (iii) self-employment;

TO 9 Social inclusion: (iv) Access to services

Audit trail: Considering the urgency, we could envisage SMEs using existing standard packages/frameworks to set up a simple and basic Webshop during the crisis. A unit cost could be calculated making use of data/offers from experts already providing this expertise. Salaries of delivery staff: proof of payment.



ACTIONABLE LONG-TERM:

Support to employers to adapt to change

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

Support employers (with a focus on SMEs) to be able to restart their activities and adapt to change.

- Train employers on tools and means to adapt and develop their business plan and HR policies, including their communication strategy (with staff and customers), flexible working arrangements, risk management - crisis and post crisis

Target group: Employers, trade unions

Potential beneficiary: Chambers of commerce, training organisations, companies

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): Could be state-aid relevant; under *de minimis* rules

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO8 Employment (v) Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change

Audit trail: SCO for training of employed persons.



2. REINFORCING THE CAPACITY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES DURING THE CRISIS

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Support to hospital staff to treat COVID-19 patients and to ensure provision of other health assistance to other patients/ staff of other authorities dealing with containing the spread of the virus²

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- Salaries or additional compensation of staff (time duration to be clearly formalised): if feasible, MS can calculate a monthly unit cost (average per employee based on the average monthly salary in the major hospitals).
- On-the-job training to operate specialised equipment (Use EU-level SCOs)
- Purchase of additional equipment/ supplies (e.g respirators, as well as protective equipment, hygiene products, medicines, etc)
- Salaries/compensation for recruitment of additional staff

Target group: Qualified hospital workers (depending on the MS context, possibly including recently graduated doctors and nurses); staff of other authorities dealing with containing the spread of the virus

Potential beneficiary: Hospitals, Ministry of Health, other medical institutions

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA)³ at national or regional level:

Salaries: interinstitutional agreement between Ministry and hospitals; Training: depending on delivery organisation: interinstitutional agreement if hospital in-house training or public procurement in case of external training (quick procedure); public procurement for equipment and supplies. As regards purchase of equipment and supplies, ESF can intervene to fund purchases made/to be made under already launched public procurement procedures (after 01.02.2020).

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority)⁴:

TO9iv: access to services

Comments: Capacity for hospitals is acutely under strain in Italy and in other MS with the growing number of cases of people infected in the EU. **BG** is already implementing similar measure (monthly bonus). Basque Country (**Spain**) plan to temporarily recruit retired doctors (under 70 yrs) and non-specialised doctors (graduates in medicine who have not yet done the 4 year specialisation). Several MS are anticipating the qualification of nurses and doctors. The measure could cover the additional salaries for this new qualified staff. **RO** is planning to use ESF for the purchase of additional medical

² The measure describes activities directly targeting the healthcare sector but similar activity/costs could be adapted also to other key authorities at the front line of addressing the crisis, for instance border police.

³ Where references are made to inter-institutional agreements in this note, the Managing Authority has to first ensure that such institutional beneficiaries fall within the scope of the relevant OP priority. If not the case, they need to include this in the OP amendments undertaken in the context of the COVID-19 actions, as appropriate.

⁴ For illustrative purpose only, in line with the focus of the measure.



supplies (COVID 19 detection tests) as well as additional medical equipment (protection equipment and mechanical ventilators).

Audit trail: Personnel file for the recruitment; salary sheets for the salary costs; assignment in hospital to link to the Covid 19 measures, directly or to ensure provision of other health assistance to other patients; Public procurement procedure and invoices, delivery orders for the equipment, possibly storage costs for supplies (to avoid unnecessary loss). Training elements would require same audit trail as any other training implemented in the country/region.

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Setting up mobile units (or temporary healthcare facilities) to assist/test COVID-19 cases e.g., in particular in remote or hard-to-access geographical areas

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- Salary/additional compensation
- Training costs (EU-level SCOs for training of employed people)
- Purchase of mobile equipment, supplies, medicines
- Vehicle hire
- Rent of premises for temporary medical facilities

Target group: Qualified hospital workers (depending on the MS context, possibly including recently graduated doctors and nurses); general practitioners

Potential beneficiary: Hospitals directly or Ministry of Health, other medical institutions

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): Salaries: interinstitutional agreement between Ministry and hospitals; Training: depending on delivery organisation: interinstitutional agreement if hospital in-house training or public procurement in case of external training (quick procedure); public procurement for equipment and supplies. As regards purchase of equipment and supplies, ESF can intervene to fund purchases made/to be made under already launched public procurement procedures (after 01.02.2020).

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO9iv: access to services

Comments: Mobile units or temporary medical facilities could be crucial in remote areas, also to contain the spread of contamination and treat patients on-the-spot.

Audit trail: Personnel file for the recruitment; salary sheets for the salary costs; assignment in hospital/ mobile units / temporary healthcare facilities to link to the Covid 19 measures; Public procurement procedure and invoices, delivery orders for the equipment, possibly storage costs (to avoid unnecessary loss); rent of premises. Training elements would require same audit trail as any other training implemented in the country/region. If feasible, consider reimbursement based on a lump sum or on a draft budget per month of implementation for this type of activity, which will require a lot less administration (national auditors would need to validate ex-ante the approach).



ACTIONABLE MID-TERM (Apply a lump sum or EU level SCO when available):

Support to general practitioners to examine patients at home or from a distance

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- Salary/additional compensation
- Training (to operate equipment) costs
- Mobile equipment; supplies; protective equipment
- Vehicle hire
- Easy-to-use IT solutions for providing e-consultations (e.g. secure web site development or subscription)

Target group: general practitioners

Potential beneficiary: Ministry of Health, medical institutions

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level):
public procurement for equipment and supplies

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO9iv Social inclusion: Access to services

Comments: GPs in some MS currently lack support with even buying supplies and being able to test potential cases.

Audit trail: To minimise administrative burden on GPs, if possible, develop SCO or lump sum to allow for **paying per test**. The audit trail could thus be based on number of tests with some unique ID-labelling of patient to reduce risk of double financing or referring to an official database on COVID-19 testing. The setting up of such a SCO (Art 67) would depend on the situation in each MS. Also, less issues with GDPR as the number of completed test sets would probably be known.



3. SOCIAL INCLUSION MEASURES IN PARTICULAR TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE GROUPS AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Support to elderly and people with disabilities, in particular those living independently including through measures aiming to ensure that they remain healthy and active

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- home care services (could use vouchers), shopping, medicine pick up,
- mental health support,
- counselling
- salaries, travel costs of medical or social workers delivering home services for people with disabilities or confined at home due to COVID-19 symptoms

Target group: Older people and people with disabilities living independently

Potential beneficiary: Ministry of Health, public service providers

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): Could be an IA between Ministry and authorised service provider companies; or PP quick procedure

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO9iv Social inclusion: access to services

Audit trail: Preferably use voucher schemes, allocated to elderly people, for reimbursing costs of services provided. If no voucher scheme is in place, an alternative option could cover employer's certificate for increased salaries of social workers, without the need to justify whether it is for COVID-19 or non COVID-19 related activity, limited to the time duration of the crisis measure.

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Support to persons/ families experiencing homelessness/ housing exclusion and exposed to COVID-19

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- counselling services in order to facilitate their access to healthcare and housing services
- rent of housing, including costs of using private facilities such as hotels
- purchase of sanitizing products

Target group: Homeless persons/ persons living in social housing

Potential beneficiary: Social housing services

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): Could be an IA between Ministry and authorised service providers; PP for supplies

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):



TO9iv: access to services

Audit trail: Use the Art 14.1 for counselling services. Rent of housing on the basis of contract/duration and invoicing.

***ACTIONABLE QUICKLY/ ACTIONABLE MID-TERM** (Apply a lump sum or EU level SCO when available):*

Support to people in vulnerable situations (exacerbated by Covid 19) with socio-educational services, health and care services, or proximity services

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- Transport costs for people with disabilities
- E-learning or distance education solutions
- Home care services/counselling, also by phone
- Purchase or renting of necessary equipment (e.g. laptops, software) for distance education; broadband internet connection costs

Target group: People with disabilities – physical and mental, as well as other people in vulnerable situations/ at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Potential beneficiary: Ministry of Health, local authorities, public service providers, NGO

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): Could be an IA between Ministry and authorised service provider companies; or PP quick procedure

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO9iv Social inclusion: access to services

Audit trail: For e-learning, use EU-wide level SCO on education and replace any already certified expenditure by the SCO⁵. Transport costs on the basis of invoices and salary sheets (driver) or on the basis of SCO/km (most Member States have already a specific cost/km in national legislation, so it is readily available and doesn't need much of ex-ante assessment.) Care workers: salary sheets/persons visited/transport costs.

⁵ As long as the accounts have not been submitted, the Member State is free to withdraw and replace costs. If costs have been charged (so far) under actual incurred expenditure, they can be withdrawn and replaced by the relevant SCO.



ACTIONABLE QUICKLY/ ACTIONABLE MID-TERM (Apply a lump sum or EU level SCO when available):

Support to families, in particular single parent families, and families in socio-economic vulnerable situations (exacerbated by Covid 19) with socio-educational services, health and care services, or proximity services

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- Allowances/ short-time work schemes for parents who stay at home to care for children as schools are closed
- Allowances to cover baby-sitting costs for parents who need to go to work and cannot stay at home to care for children⁶
- Higher allowances for parents in health sector
- Allowances or ready meals for kids benefitting from a dining scholarship in school
- Distance learning/education services
- Purchase or renting of necessary equipment (e.g. laptops, software) for distance learning; broadband internet connection costs
- Counselling services, also by phone
- Home care services (could use vouchers) such as shopping, medicine pick up.

Target group: Unemployed or employed parents

Potential beneficiary: Employment agency, labour offices, education ministries

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): Could be an IA between Ministry and authorised service provider companies; or PP quick procedure

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO8(i) Employment: access to employment;

TO9(iv): Social inclusion access to services (allowances for parents who are unable to work due to the corona crisis as they have to stay at home to take care of their children);

TO 10 Education: (distance learning and education services)

Comments: **IT** already implementing such measures to cover baby-sitting costs for families (EUR 600 for all families with kids under 12; EUR 1000 for families with people working in the health sector). **PT** has launched this measure in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The measure would be granted to households where parents are unable to work in order to provide assistance to minors below 12 (as schools were closed in order to prevent the spread of the virus). **ES** has already planned to provide meals to kids that benefitted from a dining scholarship in school. **Audit trail:** People receiving an allowance, proof of payment, nature of the parents' function in case of higher allowance for health sector. For e-learning, use EU-wide level SCO on education and replace any already certified expenditure by the SCO. Transport costs on the basis of invoices and salary sheets (driver) or

⁶ Actions could also cover childcare arrangements for children whose parents work in crucial sectors and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Such arrangements could be particularly important for younger children.



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on the basis of SCO/km (most Member States have already a specific cost/km in national legislation, so it is readily available and doesn't need much of ex-ante assessment. Proof of delivery/distribution of meals.



4. EDUCATION SERVICES, DISTANCE LEARNING

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Support to distance learning education services

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

Support to education and training institutions to provide distance learning education and training at all levels.

- Support education and training institutions to provide distance learning opportunities, as well as advice and counselling on home-schooling, including guidance resources for parents, learners and teachers
- Support education and training institutions to develop telework possibilities (including audio-visual material)
- digital skills training for Teachers and students (also using vouchers, SCO)
- Support services for parents of children from vulnerable families and with special educational needs during distance learning
- Support digital resources for testing acquired students' competences and carry out online examinations
- Purchase or renting of necessary equipment (e.g. laptops, software and digital space on servers), broadband internet connection costs (for most vulnerable families)

Target group: Students and learners; Teachers and trainers; education and training institutions

Potential beneficiary: Public and private education and training institutions

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): Education ministries, institutions in charge of validation of qualifications

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO10 Education: 10.i. 10ii and 10.iii

Comments: As schools and education institutions at all levels have been closed down due to the coronavirus lockdown, distance learning can help teachers/trainers and students/learners to maintain their learning process at least partially. Special measures may be needed to ensure that students from disadvantaged background can access distance learning. Attention should be paid to adequate preparation and continuous support to teachers. Distance learning also requires technological devices (e.g. laptops/computers or at least a smart phone) or internet connection to which some students of disadvantaged background have limited access. As university students are more likely to have their own devices, priority should be given to secondary school education. Rental options should be preferred, to ensure cost-effectiveness. Relevant quality assurance mechanisms may also have to be elaborated (possibly at a later stage), to ensure recognition and compatibility of the qualifications and competences acquired through distance learning.

Audit trail: Use the Art. 14.1 SCO.



ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Fast-track graduation of medical/ social work personnel

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- support to review the curricula and qualification requirements to allow for fast-track graduation⁷ of medical and/or social work staff in their final year
- organise fast-track examination process
- develop insertion programmes in hospitals/ social care institutions and services

Target group: Students of medicine or social work in their final year of studies

Potential beneficiary: Education ministries, institutions in charge of validation of qualifications; universities

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): inter-institutional agreement

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO10 Education: 10ii

Comments: Some Member States are considering recruiting as additional staff in hospitals pre-graduation medical students who have completed their academic studies but have not yet completed obligatory practical training experience.

Audit trail: Refer to the cost/student of a previous year and to use this as proxy for a SCO under art.67 after deduction of any contribution (fee) paid by the student.

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Support to education measures in the context of COVID-19 emergency by use of SCO

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

- Provision of early childhood/pre-primary education to children of parents affected by job-loss, economic hardship due to the ongoing health crisis

Target group: Children in formal education system, including early childhood education and care

Potential beneficiary: Education ministries

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): inter-institutional agreement

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO10 Education: 10.i. 1

⁷ In the case of medical degrees, possibly partial graduation, i.e. limited to some disciplines/tasks.



Comments: There are yearly amounts established, this could be applied also to children who are signed up to an childcare institution but do currently not attend it as it might be temporarily closed (but still parents need to pay). Annual amounts will have to be adapted pro-rata based on partial attendance of course/school year. This measure could be applied with a view to compensating for the period of schools closure due to public health requirements related to COVID-19.

Audit trail: SCO audit trail requirements for education measures.



5. SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND LOCAL VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVES

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Matching volunteers/unemployed with local needs

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

Match unemployed/inactive people with volunteering opportunities at the local level: home care, shopping, medicine pick up, mental health support, childminding, home schooling, e-schooling.

- Allowances or salaries for volunteers hired to provide services
- Travel costs

Target group: Job seekers or persons on “technical unemployment” due to the coronavirus crisis (eg. in hospitality sector)

Potential beneficiary: Public administrations, NGOs, private companies (depending on MS’ context)

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): inter-institutional agreement

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO9: Social Inclusion: (iv) access to services;

Comments: An action that does not require much money but is based on existing community-based networks. Can help people to gain new skills for the longer term, that will benefit them when going back to work (social, organisational, resilience skills).

Audit trail: Proof of payment. Use available SCO for travel costs.

ACTIONABLE MID-TERM:

Fast track training to community volunteers

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

Developing fast track curricula to train volunteers in order to support hospital administrations in dealing with requests, detect cases and transmission chains, awareness raising (relying on local communities and groups – see above)

Target group: Job seekers wishing to get involved in local initiatives

Potential beneficiary: Public administrations, NGOs

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): inter-institutional agreement

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):



TO10: Education

Comments: Support the capacity of hospitals and healthcare services. Curricula take some time to adapt or develop, so the action is judged as relatively mid-term.

Audit trail: Same audit trail as the one in place for the development of other curricula.



6. ESF MEASURES TO SUPPORT PEOPLE AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL INCLUSION

ACTIONABLE QUICKLY:

Adapting aid delivery or accompanying measures due to COVID 19 risks, confinements, protection measures or other emergency circumstances

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

Developing measures to reach the most deprived under emergency conditions, e.g. but not limited to:

- purchase, storage and delivery of additional hygienic and protective products
- awareness raising for the target group on protecting against COVID 19 in safe ways
- adapted work practices such as street work, safe conditions for house deliveries and distribution, safe conditions at soup kitchens for the homeless
- salaries/bonus of aid workers

Target group: most deprived persons and other persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Potential beneficiary: Beneficiaries / Partner organisations such as municipalities or NGOs

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level): public procurement; inter-institutional agreement

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO 9 (iv) Social inclusion: Access to services

Comments: ESF emergency support to facilitate partner organisations reaching the most deprived (beyond what is eligible and feasible under FEAD allocations) as well as those working with people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Audit trail: Contract for supplies and invoices; proof of delivery; service contract for training or salaries of public employees.



7. MEASURES UNDER THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Support to youth employment related measures in the context of the COVID-19 crisis

Description of the action/ examples of costs:

In complementarity and additionally to emergency actions under the ESF, the Youth Employment Initiative can also support:

- short-time work arrangements for YEI participants recruited in sectors such as hospitality that are directly affected by the crisis
- distance learning measures (including purchase or rent of laptops, software)
- compensation for hours not attending apprenticeships and traineeships with regard to the target group – young people NEET, aged under 25 or under 30 (residing in the YEI-eligible regions).⁸
- recruitment of young people NEET as additional support staff such as cleaning, social work and other emergency services.
- Recruitment of highly qualified NEET (e.g. unemployed young people who left the education system) as additional support staff for relevant qualified work in the health and social sectors

Target group: young NEET eligible for YEI support

Potential beneficiary: public institutions such as labour offices

Public procurement (PP) or inter-institutional agreement (IA) (national or regional level):
public procurement

Where could the actions be programmed (ESF investment priority):

TO 8 ii Employment (YEI) – applicable to YEI

Comments: These actions could be applied to participants in YEI actions or for recruitment of young NEET meeting the eligibility criteria

Audit trail: As applicable to the YEI. Preferably use SCO for distance learning and training. Proof of salaries/compensation paid. Delivery orders for purchased laptops.

⁸ Such compensation measures could be eligible also in the context of youth employment measures supported under IP 8.ii (ESF), as well as in the context of training measures under the ESF. This would depend on the Member State context and in particular whether apprenticeships and traineeships are legally part of the employment or of the education sector, as well as on the scope of the OP.