

Support for social innovation in Europe

Social innovation policy and infrastructure in the European Union

The European Commission Directorate General for Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion presents definitions of [social innovation](#) as well as challenges, policy responses and actions to promote social innovation.

[EC directorate of Internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs](#) have defined what a social enterprise is and initiatives supporting social enterprises.

Available Funds/Grants

Step 6 of the SE4Y Roadmap provided guidance on how to investigate funding options for your enterprise.

Following is a list of funds/grants relevant to social innovation and entrepreneurship within the European Union. A list of available funds/grants in your country can be found in country specific sites of this platform in your national language; [Iceland](#), [Italy](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Greece/Cyprus](#) and [Lithuania](#). [EU Funding Toolkit for Social Enterprises](#)

Funds/grants table

Fund name & link	Target group/area of support	Deadline	National Agency
EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)	55% of EaSI budget allocated to PROGRESS axis. 20% to EURES , 45% to social protection, inclusion, reduction/prevention of poverty and 7% to working conditions.	Differs	N/A
Progress axis of EaSI (Employment and Social innovation)	EU/EEA and candidate countries. Transfer of comparative knowledge, information sharing, support to social innovations, support to EU policy implementation.	Funding & tender opportunities	See Work programme and documents

EU Microfinance support	Microcredit - loans below 25.000€	Differ mostly open	Overview of Financial intermediaries
Erasmus+	For adults, Youth, Vocational Education and Training, Schools, Higher Education. Mobility, Cooperation, policy development, European Solidarity Corps.	November, April/May, September (differ)	Overview of National Agencies
FEAD - Funds for European Aid to the most deprived.	Participants can be public bodies or non-governmental organizations selected by national authorities based on a transparent criterion.	Differs	See overview of facts and figures
Horizon Europe Guide to Horizon Europe in 23 languages.	Horizon Europe is open to all types of organizations from EU and Associated Countries. From start-ups, SMEs, universities, and research organizations to large companies. Usually requires cooperation of 3+ parties from 3+ countries.	Differs	Funding & tender opportunities in Horizon Europe
Innovation Fund	Available for companies and public authorities in all EU and EEA states. Focus on innovative low-carbon technologies. Projects may be submitted by a single applicant or consortium.	Differs	Innovation fund EU
Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV)	Promotion of rights and values, see EU Treaties and Charter of Fundamental Rights. Sustaining and enhancing democratic, equal and inclusive societies.	Differs	See open calls
Creative Europe	EU and EEA member states. 3 strands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture, cooperation, platforms and networks. • Media, content, business and Audience clusters. • Cross sector 	Differs	Culture and Creativity calls Creative Europe Help Desk
Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	Aspiring or new social entrepreneurs and experienced social entrepreneurs https://academy.akep.eu/course/erasmus-entrepreneurs	Open	National local contact points