



EU funding instruments for the social economy

Better Incubation webinar

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13 December 2022*

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Relevant topics

- employment, education and training, social inclusion
- **social innovation**
- **Financial instruments**

Delivery

grants and financing by regional and national authorities

ESF+ Employment and social innovation strand

Relevant topics

- **transnational cooperation** to scale up social innovation
- **development of social enterprises**
- emergence of a social investment market and of an ecosystem around the provision of microfinance;

Delivery

grants and contracts by the European Commission or an intermediary



€99.3 billion



Employment,
skills and
inclusion

Additional Info:



European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



€26.2 billion



Inclusion,
connectivity and
sustainable
development

Topics

- development and upscaling of social enterprises
- provision of risk capital to start-ups
- strengthening the **culture and tourism sectors'** capacity to drive economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Delivery

grants and financial instruments granted by regional and national authorities

Additional Info:



InvestEU



€2.78 billion
guarantee



Repayable finance for
social enterprises &
microfinance

Relevant topics

- **repayable finance** for social enterprises and microenterprises
- **advisory support** in the fields of social enterprise finance, microfinance, impact investing and social outcomes contracting

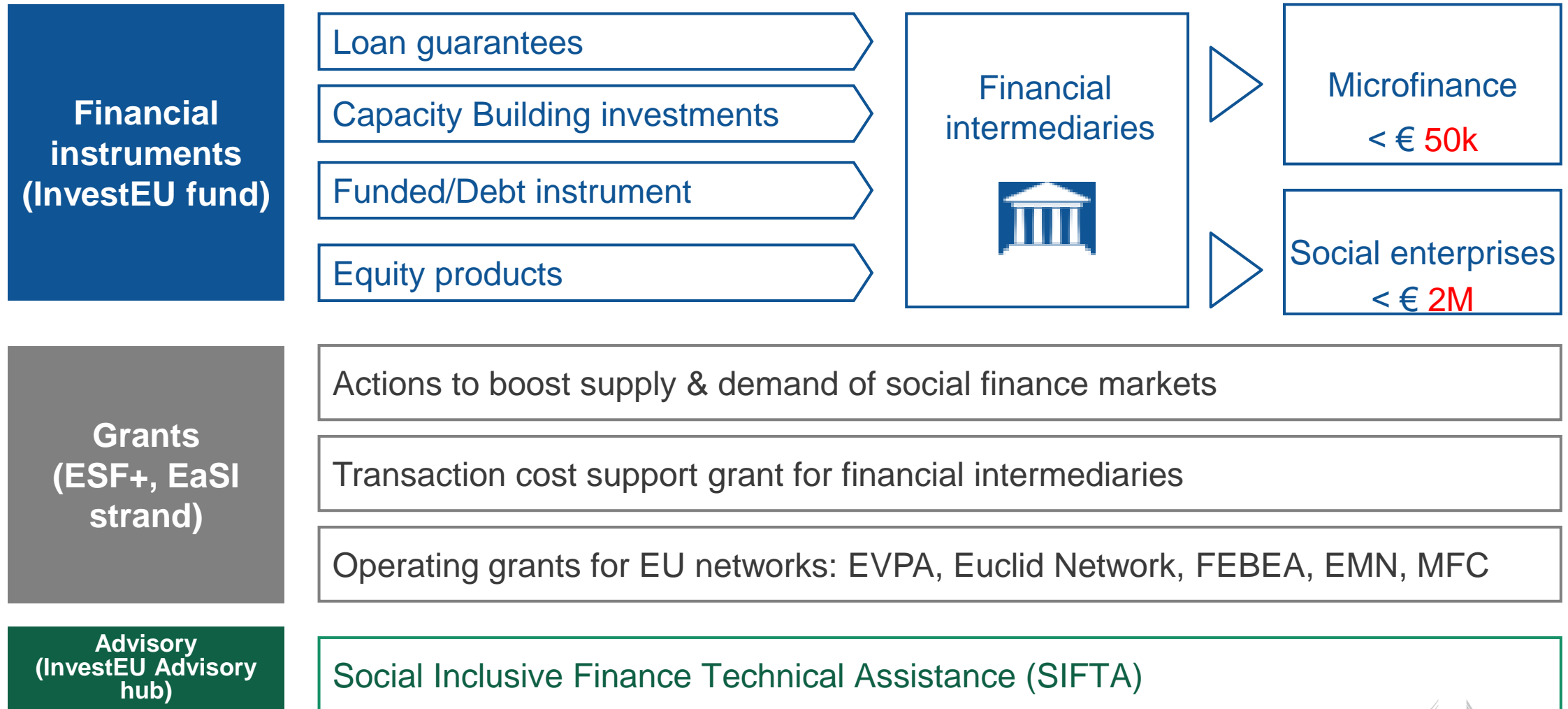
Delivery

Financial instruments by implementing bodies (e.g. EIF) and advisory support by the EIB

Additional Info:



EU level support for social finance markets



Social Inclusive Finance Technical Assistance (SIFTA)

Objectives:

- develop the European microfinance and social enterprise finance ecosystems and markets;
- provide advisory support to microfinance institutions and social finance providers, complementing the financial products under the InvestEU targeting these policy areas

Services:

- Training, coaching and mentoring schemes tailored to the needs of microfinance/social enterprise finance providers
- Investment readiness training
- Peer-to-peer training and study visits

Beneficiaries:

- Microfinance providers such as banks and non-bank microfinance institutions
- Social enterprise finance providers, such as: investment funds, impact investors, [support organisations such as incubators and accelerators](#) that offer or are in the process of widening their scope with a view to providing accompanying financial support to social enterprises

Further funding programmes

Available programmes	Topics
Single Market Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Functioning of the internal market, support to SMEs including social enterprises (e.g. support to socially responsible procurement and the green and digital transitions of the social economy)
Erasmus +	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• developing entrepreneurial skills• social innovation• tackling societal challenges• policy experimentation and reform
Horizon Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• research on the social economy in the context of inclusive growth and other policy targets of the EU• support to social innovation.
LIFE Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• initiatives that address both environmental/climate and social aspects; transition to a circular economy
European Solidarity Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• direct funding to programmes with relevance for the social economy
Recovery and Resilience Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reforms and investments in social and inclusive entrepreneurship

Further funding programmes II

Available programmes

Topics

European Urban Initiative

- EU-wide **urban experimentation** to test the suitability, feasibility and acceptance of **social change**
- support cities that demonstrate their potential for **social innovation** and transformation

Interreg Europe Programme

- opportunities for **regional and local public authorities** to share ideas and experience on support to the social economy

European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development

- development of social economy in **rural areas**, investment for **farmers** and in basic services
- diversification and cooperation and the **local development method LEADER**

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme

- promoting **equality and rights**
- **fighting violence; citizens engagement and participation**
- promoting **European values**, including town-twinning, networks of towns and remembrance actions, European networks, relevant civil society organisations and European think-tanks

Digital Europe Programme

- supercomputing, **artificial intelligence**, **cybersecurity**, advanced **digital skills**

Funding programmes III

Available programmes

Topics

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

- **integration of third-country nationals; transnational projects** focused on cooperation with local authorities, NGOs and migrant-led organisations

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

- partnerships with **third countries**, including **sustainable and inclusive economic growth** and human development
- improving business environment and investment climate
- developing a **socially and ecologically responsible local private sector**, and building the **capacity, competitiveness and resilience** of local SMEs and start-ups

European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus

- development of social economy in **neighbourhood countries**

EU Social Economy Gateway

What?

- New website: **Social Economy Gateway**
- It will feature information **EU funding programmes**, EU policy, guidance documents and studies, facts and figures, best practice examples, links to relevant **networks** and organisations and **capacity building resources** such as webinars
- It will include **country pages** to provide country specific information.

When?

Second quarter of 2023

Why?

- Improve access to information and resources
- Raise awareness for the social economy.

How?

- In collaboration with our **stakeholders and experts**
- More content will be added over time.

Resources

European Commission - Webpage on Funding for social economy and microfinance:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1561&langId=en>

Euclid Network - European Funding Toolkit for Social Enterprises & their Support Organisations:

<https://euclidnetwork.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/1206-euclid-network-funding-toolkit-v7.pdf>

EIB - SIFTA dedicated webpage: <https://advisory.eib.org/about/service/reinforcing-the-european-microfinance-and-social-enterprise-finance-sectors.htm>

EIF - InvestEU calls for expressions of interest for financial intermediaries:

Guarantee products: https://www.eif.org/InvestEU/guarantee_products_calls/index.htm

Equity products: https://www.eif.org/InvestEU/equity_products/index.htm