



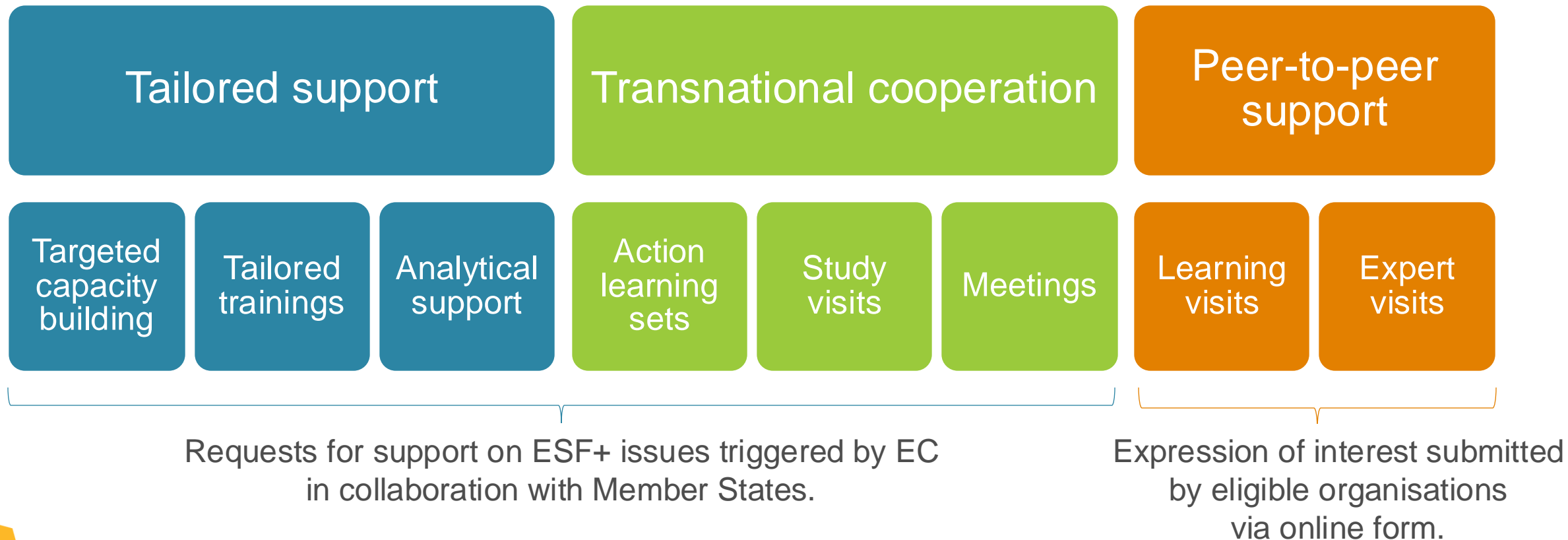
#SocialRights

# ESF+ Support Centre General Support Services



# ESF+ Support Centre

Aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the management and administration of ESF+ through the provision of technical support such as:



# Users of the ESF+ Support Centre

- **Local, regional and national bodies managing and administering...**
- **Social partners and stakeholders involved in the implementation of...**

...the **ESF+ or other shared management funds** supporting the implementation of specific objectives **that contribute to a more social and inclusive Europe**, the objectives related to **partnership and multi-level governance** and the **horizontal principles** as defined in Articles 8 and 9 of the CPR, as well as the implementation of the social and employment activities funded under the **JTF**.

# Expected results



**Improve capacity to innovate, modernise and adapt to emerging challenges**



**Effectively matched ESF+ stakeholders with a view to learning and experience sharing**



**Improved transfer and scaling up of effective and innovative practices**



**Improved cooperation between Member States to share information, knowledge and experiences, and develop joint/common solutions**

# How to contribute as an MA?

- Provide information about ESF+ in their Member State in response to requests
- Channel information requests received to the right colleagues within MAs
- Participate in mutual learning activities and disseminate the results
- Contribute your expertise to other peers

# Current projects

Tailored support

Transnational cooperation

Peer-to-peer support

Targeted capacity building

Tailored trainings

Analytical support

Action learning sets

Study visits

Meetings

Learning visits

Expert visits

Expression of interest



Three **mutual learning workshops** on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities across Member States



Application form for learning visits

Background

The peer-to-peer matching platform

This platform serves two primary functions:

- **Expression of interest and application:** It allows eligible participants to express their interest and apply for peer-to-peer support activities, including both learning- and expert visits. The application form enables participants to specify their learning needs or areas of expertise, covering a wide range of thematic areas related to ESF+ implementation. A separate database has been set up for experienced practitioners who would like to provide their expert advice in the framework of an expert visit.
- **Matching and database management:** The platform acts as a database for the European Commission to match peers for these activities effectively. This matching is based on the specific needs and expertise of the applicants.

# Tailored support

# Tailored support

- **Targeted capacity building:** Interactive sessions providing thematic expertise on specific topics, e.g. how to set up management and control systems, how to best draft a call in a specific area etc. During the capacity-building activities, participants have the opportunity to exchange on particular challenges and receive specific advice and counseling from the thematic expert(s).
- **Tailored trainings:** Interactive sessions designed based on the needs, prior knowledge, and profile of the participants. They follow a participatory approach, combining formal and non-formal learning methods. Training methodology and materials can include reading, visuals, lectures, and simulation exercises, taking into consideration different learning styles (e.g., visual, auditory).

# What does the tailored support cover?

|                | Targeted capacity building  | Tailored trainings     |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| Duration       | From 0.5 day to 10 days   | From 0.5 day to 5 days |
| Interpretation | The support is to be provided in English, or, on request, in the national language of the beneficiary.  |                        |
| Format         | At the premises of the support beneficiary. Upon approval (or request) of the European Commission, they may also be provided (fully or partially) online. |                        |
| Travel         | social partners and stakeholders<br>public authorities  |                        |
| Accommodation  | social partners and stakeholders  |                        |

# Transnational cooperation

# Transnational cooperation

- **Action learning sets:** Processes entailing working on real challenges in a small group of people. It follows the process of gaining a very clear shared understanding of a presented dilemma, then helping the presenter work out possible next steps through supportive, but probing, questioning. The focus is on systematic problem-solving by the presenter of the dilemma and putting the agreed next steps into action immediately after.
- **Study visits:** Study visits are small-scale learning events designed to examine and showcase a very specific topic or a practice. They are extremely 'hands-on' and practical in nature, so that participants can learn about the practice in detail and explore the potential to transfer aspects to their own context.
- **Meetings:** Medium-scale events where participants explore a specific topic or policy. In the planning phase, experts and speakers will be identified to share information and present good practices. During the meeting, participants will have the opportunity to discuss and exchange in both plenary and working group settings, and critically review different practices and approaches.

# What does the transnational cooperation support cover?

|                | Action learning sets   | Study visits*   | Meetings  |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| Participants   | Up to 50   | Up to 20  |   |
| Duration       | From 0.5 day to 2 days   | From 1 day to 5 days  | From 0.5 day to 3 days                                    |
| Interpretation | The support is to be provided in English, or, on request, in the national language of the beneficiary. |   |   |
| Format         | Onsite or online, venue can be provided by the contractor  | Study visits take place at the premises of the host beneficiary. Upon approval (or request) of the EC, they may also be provided (fully or partially) online. | Onsite or online, venue can be provided by the contractor |
| Travel         | social partners and stakeholders<br>public authorities   |   |   |
| Accommodation  | social partners and stakeholders   |   |   |

\*Compared to learning visits in Pillar 3 (Peer-to-peer support), the contractor will support you both with the content and the logistics of the visit in Pillar 2 (Transnational cooperation).

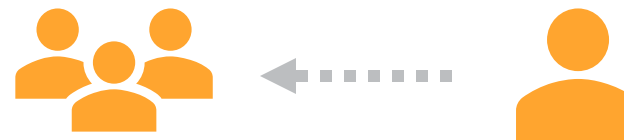
# Peer-to-peer support

# Peer-to-peer support



## Learning visits

These involve a group from a requesting institution visiting a host institution to learn about specific practices or methods. These visits can include various formats like field visits, workshops, and presentations, tailored to the visiting peers' needs.



## Expert visits

These involve an experienced practitioner providing direct advice and support to a requesting institution on a specific topic. The expert is selected based on the requesting institution's needs and can offer targeted, practical support.

# What does the peer-to-peer support cover?



## Duration

Learning or expert visits can last **up to 5 days**



## Interpretation

Support will be provided in **English** or the beneficiary's **national language**, as requested



## Format

Learning or expert visits can be conducted **in-person** or **online** (hybrid format is not supported).

The contractor will arrange travel and accommodation or provide online platform. Costs of venue, and catering are not covered.



## Travel

For participants and experts from:

- social partners and stakeholders
- public authorities



## Accommodation

For participants and experts from:

- social partners and stakeholders

# How to request peer-to-peer support?

- Via the online expression of interest form.
- There are four deadlines per year to express interest.
- All eligible applications are evaluated by the ESF+ Support Centre in close collaboration with DG EMPL G.1 and Geo-desk officers.
- If needed, the application will be matched with relevant and available experts who will provide the support.



# What are the expectations and next steps once the peer-to-peer support has been approved?

**Before** the visit, the host will be asked to:

- confirm/update the date of the peer-to-peer support
- provide further details on the location, agenda and participants of the visit
- arrange venue and catering for the visit
- secure the speakers, chair and facilitate the sessions

**After** the visit, participants will be asked to:

- draft a short report summarising the visit's scope and its benefits
- take part in a survey on visit's impact

# Become a peer-to-peer expert

- Becoming a peer-to-peer support expert offers a unique opportunity to share your knowledge, insights, and best practices with fellow members of ESF+ Community who can benefit from your experience. It is a chance to give back to the community, foster a culture of mutual learning, and contribute to the development of a robust network of professionals dedicated to enhancing European employment and social policy.
- By registering as an expert, you will not only impact others' professional growth but also gain in return new perspectives and solutions that can be applied to your own work.



# Any questions?

Please direct your questions or queries regarding ESF+ Support Centre to:

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[EC-ESF-SUPPORT-CENTRE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EC-ESF-SUPPORT-CENTRE@ec.europa.eu)