

February 10, 2012

**To:** Ms Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Rapporteur EMPL Committee

**Cc:** Rapporteurs for opinion: Mr Jens Geier (BUDG Committee); Mr Cătălin Sorin Ivan (CONT Committee); Ms María Irigoyen Pérez (REGI Committee); Ms Malika Benarab-Attou (CULT Committee); Mr Tadeus Cymański (FEMM Committee)

**Re: Social Platform's proposals for amendments on the European Social Fund 2014-2020**

Dear Ms Morin-Chartier,

You are the permanent Rapporteur for the Commission's [proposal for a regulation on the European Social Fund for 2014-2020](#), and we would like to present you with our proposals for amendments on the Regulation.

**Social Platform** is the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 45 pan-European networks of NGOs, We campaign to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives.

**We call on you to take into consideration the following proposals for amendment in your draft report.** You can find a list of our proposed amendments in annex to this letter.

As we already indicated during the exchange of views in the EMPL Committee on January 26, Social Platform welcomes in general the proposal for a new ESF regulation as it has been put forward by the Commission.

**Our main focus in the proposal goes to the following five key issues:**

- 1) **Social inclusion and combating poverty as a main priority:** We welcome the identification of "social inclusion and combating poverty" as one of the four thematic objectives of the ESF and the insertion of the mainstreaming clauses on equality between women and men and as well as on non-discrimination.
  - o See in particular on **article 2 (Mission)** our proposal for amendment no. 1
- 2) **Quality employment:** When it comes to the promotion of employment the ESF should not only foster the creation of and the access to employment, but it should also promote quality employment, in line with the Employment Guidelines n°7.
  - o See in particular on **article 3.1 (Scope of support)** our proposals for amendment no. 4 and 5
- 3) **Earmarking for the social inclusion and combating poverty priority:** In order to ensure a minimum budget for this essential priority in line with the poverty target of the Europe 2020 strategy, we support the proposed earmarking of 20% of the ESF budget.
  - o See in particular on **article 4.2 (Consistency and thematic concentration)** our proposal for amendment no. 7

4) **Partnership with NGOs in implementing the ESF programme:** We fully support the inclusion of non-governmental organisation in article 6 of the regulation dedicated to partnership, together with the social partners.

- o See in particular on **article 6.1 and 6.3 (Involvement of partners)** our proposal for amendment no. 8-9

5) **Ensure the participation of NGOs in the ESF for the implementation of the social inclusion priority:** We welcome the proposals on flat rate, contribution in kind and lump sums as these target in particular the small organisations applying for ESF support.

- o See in particular on **article 6.1 (Involvement of partners)** our proposal for amendment no. 8

We trust that you will give these issues your utmost attention and include our amendments in your report.

Yours sincerely,



Conny Reuter  
President



Pierre Baussand  
Director

# Social Platform amendments to the Proposal for a regulation on the European Social Fund 2014-2020

## 1) Social inclusion and combating poverty as a main priority

Proposal for amendment (1)	
Article 2.3	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>3. The ESF shall benefit people, including disadvantaged groups such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minorities, marginalised communities and people facing social exclusion. The ESF shall also provide support to enterprises, systems and structures with a view to facilitating their adaptation to new challenges and promoting good governance and the implementation of reforms, in particular in the fields of employment, education and social policies.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>3. The ESF shall benefit people, including disadvantaged groups such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minorities, marginalised communities, <b>homeless people</b>, and <b>other groups of people at risk of poverty</b> and social exclusion, <b>including children and young people</b>. The ESF shall also provide support to enterprises, systems and structures with a view to facilitating their adaptation to new challenges and promoting good governance and the implementation of reforms, in particular in the fields of employment, education and social policies.</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>The scope shall be widened to include not only people facing social exclusion, but also those who are at risk of facing social exclusion and poverty. Amendment is in line with the recitals and the Europe 2020 strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Homeless people<sup>1</sup> as well as children and young people<sup>2</sup> are not only more likely to be threatened by poverty, but have been particularly hit by the crisis. Experiencing poverty at an early age has life-long impact on a child's life. The Recommendation on child poverty and well-being to be adopted in 2012 is another step towards adopting a comprehensive approach at EU level to tackle child poverty and social exclusion. Given it is a key priority for the EU, the ESF should highlight children among the groups requiring targeted support.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, in a view of comprehensiveness, "other groups of people facing poverty and social exclusion should be added to leave open the list of vulnerable groups of people that should be targeted by the ESF.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (2)	
Recital 2	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>The ESF should improve employment opportunities, promote education and life-long learning and develop active inclusion policies in accordance with the tasks entrusted to the ESF by Article 162 of the Treaty, and thereby contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 of the</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>The ESF should improve employment opportunities, promote education and life-long learning, develop active inclusion policies <b>and fight poverty and social exclusion</b> in accordance with the tasks entrusted to the ESF by Article 162 <b>and with Article 9</b> of the Treaty, and thereby contribute to economic, social and</p>

<sup>1</sup> FEANTSA report on the [Impact of anti-crisis austerity measures on homeless services across the EU](#), June 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Eurochild Report, *How the economic and financial crisis is affecting children & young people in Europe*, 2011.

Treaty.	territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 of the Treaty.
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>The task shall be described more precisely to ensure that not only the integration in the labour market, but also actions at an earlier stage can be financed by the ESF. This approach is in line with recital 4 and the Europe 2020 strategy.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (3)	
Recital 3	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>(3) (...) In order to ensure the full alignment of the ESF with the objectives of this strategy, particularly as regards employment, education, and the fight against social exclusion, the ESF should support Member States (...)</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>(3) (...) In order to ensure the full alignment of the ESF with the objectives of this strategy, particularly as regards employment, education, and the fight against <b>poverty and</b> social exclusion, the ESF should support Member States (...)</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Poverty and social exclusion are often inter-linked, but are not synonymous. They should be both mentioned explicitly in such an important recital about alignment of the ESF to the Europe 2020 Strategy.</i></p>	

## 2) Quality employment

Proposal for amendment (4)	
Article 3.1 a) (i)	
<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>1. (a) Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility through:</p> <p>(i) Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility;</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>1. (a) Promoting <b>quality</b> employment and supporting labour mobility through:</p> <p>(i) Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people <b>with a targeted support for long-term unemployed</b>, including local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility;</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>(a) (i) Employment is less and less the guarantee for lifting people out of poverty and social exclusion. Thus, a stronger focus should be put on ensuring decent jobs and wages.</i></p> <p><i>The issue of access to employment is particularly crucial for long-term unemployed. It is even more the case at the time of economic crisis that has been leading to increase the rate of long-term unemployed.<sup>3</sup> Current ESF funds have been re-directed towards maintaining jobs for those already employed or helping the people closest to the labour market. Thus, the next ESF 2014-2020 should be even more targeted towards supporting the access to employment of the long-term unemployed.</i></p>	

<sup>3</sup> see the [SPC Opinion on the social dimension of Europe 2020](#)

Proposal for amendment (5)	
Article 3.1 c) (i)	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>(c) (i) Active inclusion</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>(c) (i) Active inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Integrated active inclusion approaches for working age people which support holistic, personalised pathways to inclusion, quality work and social participation (with social, community integration and re-integration measures), contributing to ensure adequate minimum income, access to quality services and inclusive labour markets.</b></li> <li>- <b>Mainstreaming of a life-cycle approach to ensure the provision of integrated support to reduce poverty and social exclusion of children and older people.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Integrated active inclusion approaches in a life cycle manner are the ones the most appropriate to ensure success pathways towards quality employment, social inclusion and participation of the most vulnerable groups of people, thus breaking the inter-generational aspect of poverty and social exclusion.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (6)	
Recital 4	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>(4) The ESF should aim to promote employment and support labour mobility, invest in education, skills and life-long learning, promote social inclusion and combat poverty.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>(4) The ESF should aim to promote <b>quality</b> employment and support labour mobility, invest in education, skills and life-long learning, promote social inclusion and combat poverty.</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Employment is less and less a guarantee for lifting people out of poverty and social exclusion. Thus, a stronger focus should be put on ensuring quality employment, including decent jobs and wages.</i></p> <p><i>See also our amendment on art. 3.1 a) (i).</i></p>	

### 3) Earmarking for the social inclusion and combating poverty priority

Proposal for amendment (7)	
Article 4.2	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>2. At least 20% of the total ESF resources in each Member State shall be allocated to the</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>2. At least 20% of the total ESF resources in each Member State shall be allocated to the</p>

<p>thematic objective "promoting social inclusion and combating poverty" set out in Article 9(9) of Regulation (EU) No [...].</p>	<p>thematic objective "promoting social inclusion and combating poverty" set out in Article 9(9) of Regulation (EU) No [...].</p> <p><b>The investment priority "Active Inclusion" shall be included in all Operational Programmes. Prior to the drafting of partnership contracts and Operational Programmes, the Commission will provide guidelines on how the ESF should deliver on the poverty reduction target through integrated and socially inclusive approaches. The Commission shall address country-specific recommendations (following Member States' annual reports on Structural Funds and in the National Reform Programmes and the National Social Reports) on how to implement actions to reduce poverty and social inclusion including integrated active inclusion approaches.</b></p> <p><b>In the aim of making progress towards the achievement of the poverty reduction target and ensuring a real monitoring on this target, Member States will be required to put the indicators used in the ESF Operational Programmes in line with the ones of the Social OMC. Each year, Member States shall report in their National Reform Programmes underpinned by the National Social Reports and the National Roma Strategies) the initiatives taken at national level through the ESF to contribute to the delivery on the poverty reduction target.</b></p>
---	--

**Justification for this proposal:**

*The Commission's proposal of 20% of the ESF ring-fenced for combating poverty and social exclusion is very welcome. With a proper earmarking mechanism, social inclusion is under-represented within the current ESF investment priorities with a big focus on job and training. But, to make sure that the ESF will fully contribute to deliver on the poverty reduction target such a ring-fencing allocation should be accompanied by EU instruments aiming at participating to coordinate the national anti-poverty initiatives funded by the ESF through EU Guidelines towards Member States (for promoting integrated and socially inclusive approaches), an obligatory investment priority "active inclusion" in all ESF OPs and a stronger link between the social OMC and the ESF with a real monitoring the ESF-funded initiatives for combating poverty and social exclusion through the NSRs and the National Roma Strategies annexed to the NRPs.*

*The higher profile given to social inclusion and the fight against poverty in the ESF should be logically reflected in the composition of the ESF Committee by involving anti-poverty NGOs as new stakeholder.*

#### 4) Partnership with NGOs in implementing the ESF programme

<p style="text-align: center;">Proposal for amendment (8)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Article 6.1</p>	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p>
<p>1. The involvement of the social partners and other stakeholders, in particular</p>	<p>1. The involvement of the social partners and other stakeholders, in particular</p>

<p>nongovernmental organisations, in the implementation of operational programmes, as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No [...], may take the form of global grants as defined in Article 112(7) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. In such a case, the operational programme shall identify the part of the programme concerned by the global grant, including an indicative financial allocation from each priority axis to it.</p>	<p>nongovernmental organisations, <b>in the design</b>, the implementation <b>and the evaluation</b> of operational programmes, as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No [...], may take the form of global grants as defined in Article 112(7) of Regulation (EU) No [...] <b>and may take the form of technical assistance as defined in Articles 108 and 109 of Regulation (EU) No [...]. Member States shall make accessible global grants schemes for small NGOs in all ESF Operational Programmes.</b> In such a case, the operational programme shall identify the part of the programme concerned by the global grant, including an indicative financial allocation from each priority axis to it.</p> <p><b>Technical Assistance resources shall be made available in all ESF Operational Programmes with a particular support for NGO-driven technical assistance services at EU and regional level.</b></p>
--	---

**Justification for this proposal:**

*A strengthened partnership principle is a pre-requisite for making sure that the ESF will deliver on the poverty reduction target. It should start by closely involving NGOs at all stages of the ESF process both at national, regional and local level from the design of OPs, programmes till the evaluation of ESF projects. NGOs have indeed a long-standing experience on the socio-economic needs of vulnerable groups of people on the ground and how to cope with them so as to promote their social inclusion/ participation.*

*The reference to global grants for NGOs is welcome but the true challenge is really to facilitate access to the ESF for small NGOs, this should be made through small global grants schemes available in all OPs managed by NGOs. Technical Assistance is another well-known and successful way to better involve NGOs in the delivery of ESF projects. Thus, it should also be made available in all OPs with a particular focus on NGO-driven technical assistance schemes at EU and regional level.*

**Justification for this proposal:**

*In some member states administrations are reluctant towards global grants for social partners and NGOs. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the instrument of technical assistance.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposal for amendment (9)</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Article 6.3</b></p>	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>3. To encourage adequate participation of and access by non-governmental organisations to actions supported by the ESF, notably in the fields of social inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities, the managing authorities of an operational programme in a region as defined in Article 82(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No [...] or in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support shall ensure that an appropriate amount of ESF resources is allocated to capacity-building for nongovernmental organisations.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>3. To encourage adequate participation of and access by non-governmental organisations to actions supported by the ESF, notably in the fields of social inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities, the managing authorities of an operational programme in a region as defined in Article 82(2)(a) <b>and (b)</b> of Regulation (EU) No [...] or in Member States eligible for Cohesion Fund support shall ensure that an appropriate amount of ESF resources is allocated to capacity-building for nongovernmental organisations. <b>In the most developed Regions Member States may allocate ESF resources to capacity-building</b></p>

	<b>for non-governmental organisations.</b>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Capacity-building of NGOs shall not be restricted to less developed regions only, but should also include transition regions as defined in Art. 82 (b) of the general regulation, COM (2011) 615 final. The strengthening of NGOs in transition regions is important to ensure their participation.</i></p> <p><i>Other Regions should also have the possibility to use ESF money for enhancing the capacity-building of NGOs especially at that time of shrinking public resources due to austerity measures leading the NGO sector to take over new kind of social support previously state-funded.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (10)	
Recital 9	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>(9) Efficient and effective implementation of actions supported by the ESF depends on good governance and partnership between all relevant territorial and socio-economic actors, in particular the social partners and non-governmental organisations. It is therefore necessary that Member States encourage the participation of social partners and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the ESF.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>(9) Efficient and effective implementation of actions supported by the ESF depends on good governance and partnership between all relevant territorial and socio-economic actors, in particular the social partners and non-governmental organisations. It is therefore necessary that Member States <b>involve</b> social partners and non-governmental <b>organisations in the design</b>, the implementation <b>and the evaluation</b> of the ESF.</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>In the context of a growing recognition of NGOs as partners in the ESF process and a stronger emphasis put on place-based strategies, a meaningful partnership principle should start by closely involving NGOs at all stages of the ESF process both at national, regional and local level from the design of Operational Programmes (OPs) till the evaluation of ESF projects.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, to ensure an effective implementation of the partnership principle, member states should be required not only to encourage the participation of social partners and NGOs, but to really involve them.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (11)	
Recital 14	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>(14) Territorial pacts, local initiatives for employment and social inclusion, community-led local development strategies and sustainable urban development strategies may be used and supported to involve more actively regional and local authorities, cities, social partners and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of programmes.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>(14) Territorial pacts, local initiatives for employment and social inclusion, community-led local development strategies and sustainable urban development strategies may be used and supported to involve more actively regional and local authorities, cities, social partners and non-governmental organisations <b>in the design</b>, the implementation <b>and the evaluation</b> of programmes.</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>See our amendment on recital 9.</i></p>	

## 5) Ensure the participation of NGOs in the ESF for the implementation of the social inclusion priority

See amendments 8 under 4) *Partnership with NGOs in implementing the ESF programme*

## 6) Other amendments

Proposal for amendment (12)	
Recital 6	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>(6) In this context, the ESF should support the labour force transition towards greener skills and jobs, in particular in the energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport sectors..."</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>(6) In this context, the ESF should support the labour force transition towards greener skills and jobs <b>as well as those who are the furthest from the labour market</b>, in particular in the energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport sectors..."</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>The sustainable and the social pillars of the Europe 2020 Strategy should not be seen as separated. Social inclusion should be mainstreamed into the two other pillars to ensure a full achievement of the poverty reduction target. Thus, the "green jobs" potential should be made accessible to those who are the furthest from the labour market and not only those who are already employed or recently unemployed through tailor-made integrated education and training approaches.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (13)	
Recital 10	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>(10) The Member States and the Commission should ensure that the implementation of the priorities financed by the ESF contribute to the promotion of equality between women and men in accordance with Article 8 of the Treaty. Evaluations have shown the importance of taking the gender aspect into account in all dimensions of programmes, while ensuring that specific actions are taken to promote gender equality.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>(10) The Member States and the Commission should ensure that the implementation of the priorities financed by the ESF contribute to the promotion of equality between women and men in accordance with Article 8 of the Treaty. Evaluations have shown the importance of taking the gender aspect into account in all dimensions <b>and in all stages of the planning and implementation</b> of programmes, while ensuring that specific actions are taken to promote gender equality.</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Evaluation studies show that the gender mainstreaming provisions in the current ESF regulations (article 3biii and article 6) are not strong and clear enough to ensure that gender equality is promoted in all stages of the planning and implementation of the OPs. It is therefore important to be clear of what gender mainstreaming means.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (14)	
Article 3.1 a) (iv)	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p>

(iv) Equality between men and women and reconciliation between work and private life;	(iv) Equality between <b>women and men</b> and reconciliation between work, <b>family</b> and private life;
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>The conventional expression is 'equality between women and men' and the regulations should consistently use this expression.</i></p> <p><i>It is important to add reconciliation between work, family, and private life in order to make reference to the important issue of sharing of care responsibilities that are one of the main issues behind the current gender inequalities at home and in the labour market.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (15)	
Article 3.1 b)	
<b>Text proposed by the Commission</b>	<b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b>
(i) Reducing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education;	(i) Reducing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education, <b>as well as informal and non-formal learning;</b>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>The ESF has to give greater value to informal and non-formal learning. Informal and non-formal learning environments promote the realisation of children's full potential, and can contribute to strengthening communities and promoting social inclusion.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (16)	
Article 3.1 c) (vi)	
<b>Text proposed by the Commission</b>	<b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b>
(iv) Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care, and social services of general interest;	(vi) Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care, <b>community-based services</b> and <b>other</b> social services of general interest;
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>For quality services, a stronger emphasis should be put on flanking/wrap around services (transport, childcare services...) as well as health care and social services of general interest (housing, education...) provided in a holistic and tailor-made way.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (17)	
New point under Article 3.1 c) (vii)	
<b>Text proposed by the Commission</b>	<b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b>
/	<b>[NEW] (vii) Measures aimed at breaking the poverty cycle such as family support, access to high-quality services and promoting children's participation in society;</b>

**Justification for this proposal:**

*The universal measures on the list of objectives that contribute to promoting social inclusion and combating poverty should be complemented by specific actions to break the poverty cycle, giving strategic priority to tackling child poverty and promoting child well-being. The Council Conclusions of June 17, 2011 state that the Recommendation on child poverty and well-being to be adopted this year will outline “common principles and effective monitoring and assessment tools to tackle child poverty; such a recommendation could follow a broad approach, covering adequate resources for families with children, access to quality services (especially for the most vulnerable), arrangements for reconciling work and family life and taking into account the importance of the involvement of children and the participation of young people in decisions affecting their lives”.*

**Proposal for amendment (18)**

**Article 4.1**

**Text proposed by the Commission**

1. Member States shall ensure that the strategy and actions set out in the Operational Programmes are consistent and focused on addressing the challenges identified in the National Reform Programmes and the relevant Council Recommendations made under Article 148(4) of the Treaty, in order to contribute to achieving the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment, education and poverty reduction.

**Text proposed by Social Platform**

1. Member States shall ensure that the strategy and actions set out in the Operational Programmes are consistent and focused on addressing the challenges identified in the National Reform Programmes, **in the National Social Reports** and the relevant Council Recommendations made under Article 148(4) of the Treaty, in order to contribute to achieving the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment, education and poverty reduction.

**Justification for this proposal:**

*The National Reform Programmes (NRPs) of 2011 make only little reference to the contribution of Structural Funds to the delivery of social targets, and especially the poverty reduction. Member states should be asked to detail the contribution of the ESF to the achievement of the poverty reduction target in their National Social Reports (NSRs) which should be annexed to the NRPs.*

**Proposal for amendment (19)**

**Article 5.1**

**Text proposed by the Commission**

1. Common indicators as set out in the Annex to this Regulation and programme specific indicators shall be used in accordance with Article 24(3) and 87(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All indicators shall be expressed in absolute numbers.

**Text proposed by Social Platform**

1. Common **hard and soft social** indicators as set out in the Annex to this Regulation and programme specific indicators shall be used in accordance with Article 24(3) and 87(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No [...]. All indicators shall be expressed in absolute numbers.

**Justification for this proposal:**

The new role dedicated to the ESF in the achievement of the poverty reduction target crucially implies the setting up of an effective social evaluation system to assess the extent to which the ESF will have delivered on this target through both hard and soft social indicators. The social inclusion indicators should capture much more the approach in terms of “progression towards employment and social inclusion” of those who are the furthest away from the labour market than purely getting people back to employment (See also our amendments to the Annex).

Proposal for amendment (20)

Article 7

**Text proposed by the Commission**

**7. Promotion of equality between men and women**

The Member States and the Commission shall promote equality between men and women through mainstreaming as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...] and specific targeted actions as referred to in Article 3(1)(a)(iv), in particular with the aim of increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment, reducing gender-based segregation in the labour market, combating gender stereotypes in education and training and promoting reconciliation of work and personal life for men and women.

**Text proposed by Social Platform**

**7. Promotion of equality between *women and men***

The Member States and the Commission shall promote equality between **women and men** through mainstreaming as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...], **integrating gender perspective to actions under all thematic priorities and to all stages of planning and implementation of programmes. The Member States shall allocate funding for** specific targeted actions as referred to in Article 3(1)(a)(iv), in particular **but not exclusively** with the aim of increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment, reducing gender-based segregation in the labour market, combating gender stereotypes in education and training, **addressing the feminisation of poverty, promoting equal sharing of care responsibilities between women and men** and promoting reconciliation of work, **family** and personal life for men and women.

**Justification for this proposal:**

*It is important that gender mainstreaming is defined also in the ESF regulations and that specific reference is made to integrating gender perspective to the actions to combat poverty (See also our amendment on recital 10).*

*The regulations have to strongly oblige Member States to fund specific targeted action to promote gender equality. ESF funding for specific actions promoting gender equality is estimated to have decreased with 60% (from 4,5 billion euro to 2,4 billion euro) in comparison to the 2000-2006 period<sup>4</sup>. In some countries no ESF funding is used for specific gender equality activities. The targeted actions funded have to go beyond increasing women's employment rate in qualitative terms in order to address the gender inequalities in the labour market and at home. Tackling these inequalities which are the root causes of women's low labour market participation and women's higher at risk-of-poverty rate is necessary to reach the Europe 2020 targets on employment and poverty.*

Proposal for amendment (21)

**NEW Article 7 A**

**Text proposed by the Commission**

/

**Text proposed by Social Platform**

**[NEW] Article 7 A: Promotion of children's rights and well-being**

The Member States and the Commission shall promote children's rights and well-being, as referred to in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 24 of the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights through **specific actions within the investment priorities**

<sup>4</sup> Evaluation of the European Social Fund's support to Gender Equality. Synthesis Report. European Commission 2011.

	as defined in Article 3, and in particular Article 3(1) (c) (vii) NEW. Such actions shall target children and young people, with a view to guaranteeing equal opportunities to children from disadvantaged backgrounds and tackling child poverty and social exclusion through comprehensive policy measures.
--	---

**Justification for this proposal:**

The EU Agenda on the Rights of the Child (COM(2011) 60 final) clearly states the EU commitment to make the rights of the child an integral part of the EU's fundamental rights policy.

The Commission's MFF proposal (COM(2011)500 part I) states that *"The optimal achievement of objectives in some policy areas - including [...] fundamental rights - depends on the mainstreaming of priorities into a range of instruments in other policy areas."*

In this respect, mainstreaming fundamental rights and the need to support it with adequate funding should include the need to mainstream the protection of children's rights in the MFF and in EU regulations that have an impact on children - as is also supported by the Communication from the Commission Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child (COM(2006)367 final).

**Proposal for amendment (22)**

**Article 8**

<b>Text proposed by the Commission</b>	<b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b>
<p>The Member States and the Commission shall promote equal opportunities for all, including accessibility for disabled persons through mainstreaming the principle of non-discrimination, as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...], and through specific actions within the investment priorities as defined in Article 3, and in particular Article 3(1)(c)(iii). Such actions shall target people at risk of discrimination and people with disabilities, with a view to increasing their labour market participation, enhancing their social inclusion, reducing inequalities in terms of educational attainment and health status and facilitating the transition from institutional to community-based care.</p>	<p>The Member States and the Commission shall promote equal opportunities for all, including accessibility for disabled persons through mainstreaming the principle of non-discrimination, as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [...], and through specific actions within the investment priorities as defined in Article 3, and in particular Article 3(1)(c)(iii). Such actions shall target people at risk of discrimination and people with disabilities, with a view to increasing their labour market participation, enhancing their social inclusion, reducing inequalities in terms of educational attainment and health status and facilitating the transition from institutional to community-based care.</p> <p><b>The Member States shall report ESF-funded initiatives with regard to marginalised Communities and migrants in their National Social Reports annexed to National Reform Programmes. Member States shall detail in their National Roma Strategy the contribution of the ESF to the social-economic integration of Roma people and report annually the initiatives taken in this field in the National Social Reports annexed to the National Reform Programmes.</b></p>

**Justification for this proposal:**

*A stronger link should be made between the social OMC (through NSRs annexed to NRPs) and the ESF to make progress and ensure a proper monitoring of the initiatives taken at national level on the socio-economic integration of migrants and marginalised communities such as Roma people through ESF-related initiatives.*

Proposal for amendment (23)	
Article 9.1	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>1. The ESF shall promote social innovation within all areas falling under the scope of the ESF, as defined in Article 3 of this Regulation, in particular with the aim of testing and scaling up innovative solutions to address social needs.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>1. The ESF shall promote social innovation within all areas falling under the scope of the ESF, as defined in Article 3 of this Regulation, in particular with the aim of testing, <b>evaluating</b> and <b>then</b> scaling up <b>successful</b> innovative solutions, <b>including bottom up solutions</b>, to address social needs.</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Social innovation has a great potential for contributing to combat poverty and social exclusion. To make it happen, broad social innovative approaches should be promoted that go beyond social experimentation and the current focus on evidence-based social innovation. It is also important to promote approaches and initiatives that have been properly evaluated. This corresponds to point 3 in this article, which outlines the aim to disseminate good practices and methodologies.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (24)	
Article 10.2	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>2. Member States may select themes for transnational co-operation from a list proposed by the Commission and endorsed by the ESF Committee.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>2. Member States may select themes for transnational co-operation from a list proposed by the Commission <b>after a consultation with all relevant stakeholders (including civil society organisations)</b> and endorsed by the ESF Committee.</p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Stronger provisions should be made to make sure that small NGOs can access transnational projects funded by the ESF. It starts from the beginning by involving NGOs in selecting the themes for transnational co-operation. The mainstreaming of EQUAL led to a big loss in terms of NGOs involvement and expertise because the former EQUAL was much more opened to small NGOs through the promotion of bottom-up approaches, participation and empowerment principles.</i></p>	

Proposal for amendment (25)	
Article 10.3	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>3. The Commission shall facilitate transnational cooperation on the themes referred to in paragraph 2 through mutual learning and coordinated or joint action. In particular, the Commission shall operate an EU-level platform to facilitate the exchange of experience, capacity building and networking, as well as dissemination of the relevant outcomes. In addition, the Commission shall develop a coordinated implementation framework,</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>3. The Commission shall facilitate transnational cooperation on the themes referred to in paragraph 2 through mutual learning and coordinated or joint action. In particular, the Commission shall operate an EU-level platform to facilitate the exchange of experience, capacity building and networking, as well as dissemination of the relevant outcomes. <b>To foster transnational innovative social inclusion projects, the Commission shall</b></p>

including common eligibility criteria, types and timing of actions, and common methodological approaches for monitoring and evaluation, with a view to facilitating transnational cooperation.	<b>provide guidelines for the support of grass-root initiatives and introduce a community of practice on integrated social inclusion approaches. Member States shall be encouraged to build social inclusion networks at transnational level.</b> In addition, the Commission shall develop a coordinated implementation framework, including common eligibility criteria, types and timing of actions, and common methodological approaches for monitoring and evaluation, with a view to facilitating transnational cooperation.
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>The Commission should take further actions through Guidelines for the support of grass-root initiatives and introduce a community of practice on integrated social inclusion approaches.</i></p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposal for amendment (26)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Article 12.2</b></p>	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p>2. Complementing ERDF interventions as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF], the ESF may support sustainable urban development through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental and social challenges affecting urban areas of cities which are listed in the partnership contract.</p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p>2. Complementing ERDF interventions as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF], the ESF may support sustainable urban development through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental and social challenges affecting urban areas of cities which are listed in the partnership contract. <b>To ensure an easier combination with the ERDF and facilitate the access to Structural Funds for small NGOs, the ESF may be used as “lead” Fund for integrated social inclusion projects combining social infrastructures and accompanying services in deprived areas.</b></p>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>A more combined use of ESF and ERDF as well as an easier access of these EU Funds should be encouraged to allow NGOs to develop integrated social inclusion projects combining social infrastructures and accompanying services in deprived areas. The idea of using the ESF as a “lead” Fund should be promoted by simplified administrative and financial rules.</i></p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposal for amendment (27)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANNEX, point</b></p>	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p><i>(1) Common output indicators on participants</i></p> <p>Participants refer to persons benefiting directly from an ESF investment and who can be identified and asked for their characteristics, and for whom specific expenditure is earmarked. Other beneficiaries should not be counted as participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unemployed, including long-term</li> </ul>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p><i>(1) Common output indicators on participants</i></p> <p>Participants refer to persons benefiting directly from an ESF investment and who can be identified and asked for their characteristics, and for whom specific expenditure is earmarked. Other beneficiaries should not be counted as participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unemployed, including long-term</li> </ul>

<p>unemployed*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• long-term unemployed*</li> <li>• inactive*</li> <li>• inactive, not in education or training*</li> <li>• employed, including self-employed*</li> <li>• below 25 years*</li> <li>• above 54 years*</li> <li>• with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)*</li> <li>• with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)*</li> <li>• with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)*</li> <li>• migrants, people with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)**</li> <li>• disabled**</li> <li>• other disadvantaged**</li> </ul>	<p>unemployed*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• long-term unemployed*</li> <li>• inactive*</li> <li>• inactive, not in education or training*</li> <li>• employed, including self-employed*</li> <li>• below 25 years*</li> <li>• above 54 years*</li> <li>• with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)*</li> <li>• with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)*</li> <li>• with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)*</li> <li>• migrants, <b>asylum seekers</b>, people with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)**</li> <li>• disabled**</li> <li>• <b>People at risk of poverty</b></li> <li>• <b>People suffering from severe material deprivation</b></li> <li>• <b>Lone parents</b></li> <li>• <b>Homeless people</b></li> <li>• <b>People from poorest districts</b></li> <li>• other disadvantaged**</li> <li>• disabled**</li> <li>• other disadvantaged**</li> </ul> <p><b>Gender is a universal additional risk factor of social exclusion and poverty for women</b></p>
---	---

**Justification for this proposal:**

*The poverty target is to be addressed by the ESF so the indicators must also assess this. The additions relate to the indicators used to measure poverty in the Europe 2020 strategy.*

*See also our amendments on article 5.1.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposal for amendment (28)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANNEX, point (2)</b></p>	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p><i>2) Common output indicators for entities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations</li> <li>• number of projects targeting public administrations or public services</li> <li>• number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises supported</li> </ul>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p><i>2) Common output indicators for entities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations</li> <li>• number of projects targeting public administrations or public services</li> <li>• number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises supported</li> <li>• <b>number of project in poorest districts</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b></p> <p><i>See our amendments on point (1) of the Annex.</i></p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposal for amendment (29)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANNEX, point (3)</b></p>	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p> <p><i>(3) Common immediate result indicators on</i></p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p> <p><i>(3) Common immediate result indicators on</i></p>

<p><i>participants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inactive participants newly engaged in job searching upon leaving</li> <li>• participants in education/training upon leaving</li> <li>• participants gaining a qualification upon leaving</li> <li>• participants in employment upon leaving</li> </ul>	<p><i>participants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inactive participants newly engaged in job searching upon leaving</li> <li>• participants in education/training upon leaving</li> <li>• participants gaining a qualification upon leaving</li> <li>• participants in employment upon leaving</li> <li>• <b>Participants involved in voluntary work upon leaving</b></li> <li>• <b>Participants lifted above the relative poverty line</b></li> <li>• <b>Participants lifted out of severe material deprivation</b></li> <li>• <b>percentage of participants, service users from disadvantaged groups of people in education, training, gaining qualification, in employment upon leaving</b></li> <li>• <b>participants assessments on the value of the intervention (in terms of increasing their emotional well-being, developing their skills...), rating of consultation process around the intervention</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Justification for this proposal:</b> See our amendments on point (1) of the Annex.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposal for amendment (30)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANNEX, point (4)</b></p>	
<p><b>Text proposed by the Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Text proposed by Social Platform</b></p>
<p><i>(4) Common longer-term result indicators on participants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participants in employment 6 months after leaving</li> <li>• participants in self-employment 6 months after leaving</li> <li>• participants with an improved labour market situation 6 months after leaving</li> </ul>	<p><i>(4) Common longer-term result indicators on participants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participants in <b>full-time</b> employment 6 months after leaving</li> <li>• <b>participants in part-time employment 6 months after leaving</b></li> <li>• <b>participants in full-time employment 6 months after leaving</b></li> <li>• participants in self-employment 6 months after leaving</li> <li>• participants with an improved labour market situation 6 months after leaving (<b>nature of employment – full or part time, wages compared to minimum or national level, nature of contracts</b>)</li> <li>• <b>participants in full-time employment 1 year after leaving</b></li> <li>• <b>participants are actively involved in community and social networks</b></li> <li>• <b>participants in part-time employment 1 year after leaving</b></li> <li>• <b>participants in self-employment 1 year after leaving</b></li> <li>• <b>participants with an improved labour market situation 1 year after leaving</b></li> <li>• <b>Participants lifted above the relative poverty line living above the relative poverty line 1 year after leaving</b></li> <li>• <b>Participants lifted out of severe material</b></li> </ul>

	<b>deprivation remaining out of severe material deprivation 1 year after leaving</b>
<b><i>Justification for this proposal:</i></b> <i>See our amendments on point (1) of the Annex and the need to address <u>quality</u> employment (cf. the Employment Guidelines).</i>	

***Contact person for additional questions:***

Herlinde Vanhooydonck, Policy Officer for Social Inclusion and Employment

Email: [herlinde.vanhooydonck@socialplatform.org](mailto:herlinde.vanhooydonck@socialplatform.org)

Phone: +32 2 508 16 35