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Monitoring and Evaluation of
European Cohesion Policy

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)
Shared Management Strand

Data Support Centre
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Common indicators toolbox
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1 Introduction

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is the European Union's main instrument to invest in people and to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights in the 2021-2027 programming period. The ESF+ supports policies and priorities that aim to help reach full employment, enhance quality and productivity at work, increase the geographical and occupational mobility of workers within the Union, improve education and training systems, and promote social inclusion and health.

The Regulations (EU) 2021/1060 (Common Provisions Regulation – CPR) and 2021/1057 (ESF+ Regulation) of the European Parliament and the Council define a number of requirements for the monitoring and evaluation of programmes benefitting from ESF+ financial support.

The purpose of this toolbox is foremost to explain the common indicators set by the Regulations for the shared management strand of the ESF+ (i.e. covering former ESF, YEI and FEAD). It also offers practical tips and suggestions. This document is the result of meetings between the Commission and Member States in the Evaluation Partnerships and of the expert advice provided by the ESF Data Support Centre. It builds on past experience from the 2014-2020 programming period¹. Continuity with the 2014-2020 programming period is a guiding principle. Unless explicitly stated, all definitions and conventions including the advice provided in the annex D to the 2014-2020 ESF guidance² remain valid.

This toolbox does not cover the financial indicators of the shared management strand. It also does not cover the indicators for the direct and indirect management strands.

Each common indicator is developed in the annexes B, C and D through a single fiche summarising the most relevant information. The template used is the following³.

Code (of the indicator in SFC)	Name of the indicator
Definition	The definition and the sources used as a reference.
Unit	The indicator is expressed in terms of number of persons, number of entities, percentage, value in EUR or tonnes.
Target	<p>Only a limited set of indicators should be underpinned with targets. Target values should be set at least for one output indicator and one result indicator at the level of the specific objective (SO) and are required for all SOs except the one addressing material deprivation - SO(m).</p> <p>Targets are benchmarks used to assess programme implementation.</p> <p>A target is the value the programme explicitly aims at achieving by the end of the year 2029.</p> <p>A milestone is the intermediate value expected to be reached by the end of the year 2024 for an output indicator for which a target has been set.</p>

¹ Cf. the Study on the Monitoring and Evaluation Systems of the ESF:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8100&furtherPubs=yes>

² https://ec.europa.eu/sfc/en/system/files/ged/Annex%20D%20-%20Practical%20guidance%20on%20data%20collection%20and%20validation_0.pdf

³ It is recommended to prepare a similar fiche for each of the programme specific indicator and to share it with

all the beneficiaries from the start of the programme implementation.

Reference value (for common and programme-specific result indicators)	For SO(a)-SO(l), a reference value is a value used to set targets for common and programme-specific result indicators. It is usually based on existing or previous similar interventions. For SO(m), a reference value is used to compare the indicator's achieved value with past experience. It is usually based on historical achievements deemed relevant as comparison. The reference value for SO (m) should be an average annual value and not a cumulative value over the whole period. Only a limited set of result indicators should be underpinned with reference values.
Breakdown	This indicates whether the indicator needs to be broken down by gender (men, women, and non-binary if applicable) and by category of region.
Justification	Rationale for the indicator: why this indicator is needed and how the reported values will be used by the Commission.
Data collection	How the data collection and processing may be organised.
Reporting frequency	How often during the programming period data on the given indicator need to be reported. This is set by the CPR.
Link to other indicators	Some indicators are derived from others. The links are shown graphically in annex I for SO(a)-SO(k) and in annex J for SO(m).
Validation	Basic checks or validation rules on the aggregated data, which if failing/failed should raise questions about the plausibility of the indicator value reported.

2 Context

2.1 EU policy context

This toolbox refers to the ESF+ strand implemented under shared management. The overarching policy objective of the ESF+ is to help create a more performing and resilient 'Social Europe' and implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, as well as the social and employment priorities endorsed by the European economic governance process. The ESF+ should contribute:

- to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (and its Action Plan); and
- to the relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in the context of the European Semester, and feed into the overall objective of smart, inclusive and sustainable growth beyond 2030 (the UN's Sustainable Development Goals).

Furthermore, the ESF+ will help to improve employment opportunities, raise the standard of living and health, and help increase labour mobility and economic, social and territorial cohesion as set out in the TFEU and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The ESF+ also aims to contribute to the Skills Agenda for Europe and the integration of third-country nationals.

The ability of the European Union to remain competitive in the global economy and ensure high levels of employment, education and training, health, social inclusion and active participation in society will determine its relevance and success. Making Europe competitive, cohesive and resilient in the future means swiftly responding to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and investing in its people now: in their education and training, skills, creativity, potential to create businesses and to innovate, and in their health.

Furthermore, a number of significant challenges remain. Tackling unemployment and persistently high rates of poverty remains a priority throughout the EU. Social and employment issues are a primary concern of European citizens, and an area where more is expected from the Union. Additional challenges that the Union faces are related to:

- shortfalls in skill levels,
- under-performance in active labour market policy and education systems,
- new technology such as automation and the related new forms of work,
- social exclusion of marginalised groups including Roma and migrants,
- limited labour mobility, and
- the green and digital transitions.

2.2 ESF+ programmes

The structural funds⁴, including the ESF+ (shared management strand) are implemented through **programmes** which set out the “strategy for the [...] contribution to the policy objectives [...] and the communication of its results” (Art. 22(1) of the CPR). The Member States prepare these programmes. The Commission approves them.

The choice of policy objectives within programmes, their financial allocations, and the choice of specific objectives must contribute to achieving the overall policy goals of the European Union, and address challenges identified in the National Reform Programmes (NRP) and the relevant country specific recommendations (CSRs)⁵.

This process of strategic programming helps managing authorities to focus on the most relevant challenges. **The aim of strategic programming is thus to establish a clear intervention logic** which addresses and operationalises European Union objectives at national or regional level. A clear intervention logic constitutes the essential prerequisite for the assessment of the programme proposals.

Programmes are built around priorities. Each priority corresponds to one or more specific objectives in one single policy objective. Priorities may cover more than one category of region.

The CPR sets out five policy objectives. The ESF+ supports the fourth policy objective: “a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights”. Within this policy objective, the ESF+ Regulation sets out **thirteen specific objectives (SO)** (Art. 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation).

Whilst the ESF+ supports the whole set of the above specific objectives, it provides dedicated and simplified monitoring arrangements for two specific objectives:

- SO(I) promoting the social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion (with two strands: one for operations not targeting the most deprived, and one targeting the most deprived⁶ (ex-FEAD OP II)); as well as for
- SO(m) addressing material deprivation (ex-FEAD OP I), given the specificity of its target groups, and to ensure that the programmes can cater for those most in need of immediate relief through light requirements which fully respect their dignity.

The sections below will clarify how such differences work in practice.

⁴ The other two structural funds are the ERDF and the CF.

⁵ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester/european-semester-timeline/eu-country-specific-recommendations_en

⁶ Article 2(1)(6) of the ESF+ Regulation: ‘Most deprived persons’ means natural persons, whether individuals, families, households or groups of persons, including children in vulnerable situations and homeless people, whose need for assistance has been established according to the objective criteria which are set by the national competent authorities in consultation with relevant stakeholders while avoiding conflicts of interest, and which may include elements that allow for the targeting of the most deprived persons in certain geographical areas.

3 Monitoring & Indicators

Monitoring helps to detect and quantify any deviation from initial plans and targets. Therefore, it is recommended that monitoring data are available regularly to the managing authorities and the monitoring committee. Essential to programme monitoring is to observe programme implementation on the basis of quantitative and - if relevant - also qualitative information. Monitoring takes place both at the level of projects/operations as well as at programme level.

Indicators are the main instrument of monitoring. They capture outputs, results and financial data (the latter not being covered by this toolbox)⁷. They track measurable progress towards defined objectives. They are an essential element in monitoring programme performance. Indicators should be **clearly defined and closely linked to the activity. The measurement unit selected shall be indicated. Indicators shall be periodically measured.**

Indicators are factors or variables used to measure aspects of programme implementation. Management uses indicators to **document services or goods provided, to check progress and to record changes produced.** Indicators serve management but also transparency and reporting towards the various stakeholders. Monitoring is not undertaken simply to satisfy formal reporting requirements. Rather, the data collected are used on an ongoing basis to support the day-to-day management of the programmes and ensure effective use of the ESF+ funds. Typically, monitoring data represent a vital tool for identifying situations where programmes are not fulfilling expectations and where action may be needed to undertake corrective measures. Good monitoring systems also generate data that serve as an input for evaluations especially for counterfactual impact evaluations (CIEs). The Better Regulation Guidelines state that *"Good monitoring generates factual data to improve the quality of future evaluation and impact assessment"*.

Data shall reflect participants or end recipients (the latter for SO(m) only) or entities who actually **benefit directly** from support. **No data shall be reported on planned or anticipated numbers** of participations (end recipients for SO(m)) or entities or on selected operations⁸. As a general rule, no data shall be reported on entities that are beneficiaries in the sense of Art. 2(9) of the CPR. A Member State may however decide to set up a specific indicator which captures data on beneficiaries as defined therein.

ESF+ programme monitoring is built on three types of indicators: financial, output and result indicators.

- **Financial** indicators relate to the expenditure planned and incurred per specific objective. They are essential to monitor progress in terms of resources. As outlined above, financial indicators are not covered by this toolbox.
- **Output** indicators (Art. 2(13) of the CPR) relate to operations supported. An output is **what is directly produced/supplied** through the implementation of an ESF+ operation, measured in physical or monetary units (in SO(m)). Outputs are measured at the level of supported people, supported entities, distributed food and goods or services delivered. Output indicators are set at the level of specific objective.

⁷ Financial data such as "monetary value of goods distributed" under SO(m) is considered as an output indicator in the SO(m) intervention logic.

⁸ Whereas 'Table 5 - Common and programme specific output indicators for ERDF, the Cohesion Fund, the JTF and the EMFAF' in Annex VII of the CPR distinguishes between values 'Selected operations' and 'Implemented operations', 'Table 6 - Common and programme specific output indicators for the ESF+' only provides for 'values achieved to date'. The titles of both tables refer to Art. 42(2). The interpretation is that in the ESF+, output indicator values reported for selected operations and values achieved by operations coincide.

- **Result** indicators (Art. 2(14) of the CPR) are also set at the level of the specific objective, and aim to track progress relevant to the objectives of the programme. In particular:
 - **for SO(a) to SO(l)**⁹, result indicators track changes sought on participants or entities which might be brought about by an operation. Result indicators go beyond output indicators in so far as they seek to **capture a change in the situation**, which might be **related to supported entities or participants**, e.g. in their employment situation. In order to minimise external factors influencing the value reported under the result indicators, it is advisable to set indicators which are as close as possible to the activities conducted under the respective specific objective. This implies that the measured result can be used in subsequent evaluations to estimate effects on participants or supported entities and not the overall effects on a certain group of society or categories of entities which might include people or entities who did not benefit from ESF+ support.
 - **For SO(m)**, they track the spread of food or basic material assistance provided directly or indirectly¹⁰ to end recipients to offer them some relief from immediate needs, which is the main goal of SO(m).

The Regulations do not require **impact indicators**, neither in terms of measuring the impact effectively generated on participants, nor in the sense of results on broader groups of society beyond the participants or entities directly benefiting from the support. Given the difficulties in collecting sound and timely data for impact indicators and in proving a causal link, their use for monitoring purposes is not recommended. However, impacts should be assessed through evaluations, by making use of factual evidence from monitoring, the gathering of appropriate indicators and recourse to other data in a proper evaluation design.

Cumulative data on all indicators are **submitted as a structured data set** to the European Commission **by electronic means** as part of the electronic data transmission required by Art. 42(1) of the CPR. Annex VII of the CPR sets out the model for electronic data transmission. The uniform conditions for the recording and storing of electronic data referred to in Art. 72(1)(e) of the CPR are defined in the Annex XVII of the CPR.

For each priority, all indicator data shall be broken down by specific objective and by category of region as well as by gender in case of data on participants and end recipients.

Member States should retroactively modify the recorded **data** in case the data in the individual participation records change or to correct errors.

3.1 Common ESF+ indicators

3.1.1 Why common indicators

Shared management implies at least three different levels of management, each with its own management and reporting needs. The Commission has a supervisory role and keeps the overall responsibility for the EU budget. The Member States, through managing authorities, have the primary responsibility for delivering the different programmes agreed with the Commission. Beneficiaries implement actual operations. **The Commission needs to report and ensure transparency towards EU level stakeholders** (e.g. EU Council, EU Parliament). Fulfilling these tasks requires information relevant to the EU policy that is

⁹ For SO(l), the ESF+ Regulation does not foresee any common result indicator (there are only common output indicators), but at least one programme-specific result indicator is required.

¹⁰ End recipients can be provided with vouchers and cards, in electronic or other form, to purchase food or basic material assistance.

comparable and coherent at EU level. This is the primary function of the common indicators. It is also why they are set in the ESF+ Regulation. The values reported for these indicators are made available to a wider audience, notably through the Open Data Platform¹¹. Individual common indicators may also be used by managing authorities in programming for target setting and monitoring the programme's progress. The authorities may also make use of the common indicators to compare different programmes' or different specific objectives' achievements.

ESF+ common indicators are a limited set of output and result indicators, listed in **Annexes I, II and III of the ESF+ Regulation**. They represent the minimum set of indicators required for each single programme. Common indicators listed under Annex I are applicable for specific objectives (a) to (l) excluding actions targeting the most deprived, whilst those listed in Annex II relate to the 'most deprived' strand of specific objective (l)¹² and those listed in Annex III to specific objective (m)¹³.

For SO(l) (including for operations targeting the most deprived), simplified reporting requirements apply: there is a reduced number of common output indicators, and no common result indicators are required (however, at least one programme specific result indicator should be set).

Annexes B, C and D of this document contain the **definitions** and supporting comments for each common ESF+ indicator. To the extent possible, they rely on definitions commonly used within the European Union (e.g. Labour Market Policy database, EU Labour Force Survey, International Standard Classification of Education, etc.). The list of indicators and their definitions have been discussed in the ESF and FEAD Evaluation Partnerships meetings¹⁴. The common indicators definitions should be respected unless national definitions are allowed or when data are collected from registers or equivalent sources (in this case, Member States do not have to align with commonly agreed definitions and may use national definitions).

For some of the common indicators on participants listed in the ESF+ Regulation as 'other common output indicators' (Annex I (1.2) and Annex II (1.2) of the ESF+ Regulation), national definitions, whenever available, should be used¹⁵. In the absence of such definitions, managing authorities should elaborate one that best suits their own needs. This approach was chosen because either no EU-wide definition is available or imposing a harmonised definition would cause considerable administrative burden. Member States should document and inform the Commission of the definitions used for these indicators.

All programmes supported by the ESF+ (mono- and multi-fund, national and regional programmes alike) are required to report on the common indicators. While the common indicators are foremost intended to meet Commission information needs, they are relevant for all levels of management. Nevertheless, each programme is different and is implemented in a different local context. Managing authorities may therefore need specific indicators to measure specific implementation aspects of their own programme (see section 3.2 Programme-specific ESF+ indicators).

¹¹ <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/funds/esf>

¹² Article 17(2) of the ESF+ Regulation

¹³ Article 23(1) of the ESF+ Regulation

¹⁴ The documents submitted to the ESF and FEAD Evaluation Partnerships and a summary of the discussions during the meetings are available at:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/abb31989-f2d2-4f0f-9471-0dc112b6c743> (for ESF)

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/0d03fea3-d201-4fa0-8e46-e5a77419b069> (for FEAD)

¹⁵ 'Participants with disabilities', 'Participants with a foreign background', 'Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)', 'Homeless or affected by housing exclusion'.

3.1.2 Common output indicators

Common output indicators relate to:

- supported **persons** (for SO(a) to SO(l)),
- supported **entities** (for SO(a) to SO(l) operations not targeting the most deprived), or
- **food and basic material assistance**¹⁶ (for SO(m)).

Output indicators are measures of the volume of support offered. Article 42(1) of the CPR sets the reporting frequency at twice a year in end-January and in end-July, starting in January 2022 for SO(a) to SO(l). For SO(m), output indicators should be reported once a year in end-January, starting in 2022. Data are to be reported on a cumulative basis.

For all SOs except SO(m), common output indicators refer to the status **when the participants enter (or when the entities start their involvement) in a supported operation**. Data should be reported by the managing authorities to the Commission at the earliest possible date after the start of the operation.

- **For SO(a) to SO(k),**
 - The total number of participants is automatically calculated by the system (SFC2021), based on the following three common output indicators related to the labour market status: "unemployed, including long-term unemployed", "inactive" and "employed, including self-employed". These three main categories are mutually exclusive. A participant shall therefore not be in more than one of the three categories for the same operation.
 - Article 17(5) of the ESF+ Regulation specifies that data on the indicators for participants shall only be transmitted if data on labour market status, age and education level (i.e. data under Annex I (1.1)) are available.
 - According to Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation, where appropriate, common output indicators can be reported based on the target group of the operation. For instance, if an operation is exclusively targeted at disabled people, it is not necessary to collect microdata for the corresponding indicator (EECO11 'Participants with disabilities') as all participants should be disabled. However, even if data are not collected directly for this indicator, each participant will have to be reported under EECO11).
 - For the common output indicators listed under Annex I (1.2), collecting data for all participants (either via a survey or from administrative registers) is not mandatory. However, as it is still required to report data on these indicators, informed estimates can be used, which may involve (partial) data collection where applicable. The purpose of informed estimates is to reduce the data collection burden and also to avoid, where possible, asking directly participants questions on these variables. The data collection on these variables is only necessary in certain cases (e.g. if eligibility criteria concern a particular disadvantaged group). Please note that the collection and reporting of data on all participants is still mandatory concerning indicators under Annex I (1.1), see paragraph above.
- **For SO(l) operations not targeting the most deprived**, the provisions are the same as above for SO(a)-SO(k) except that:

¹⁶ Article 2(3) of the ESF+ Regulation: "Basic material assistance means goods which fulfil the basic needs of a person for a life with dignity, such as clothing, hygiene goods, including feminine hygiene products, and school material".

- The total number of participants needs to be reported directly (it is not automatically calculated).
 - Common output indicators on the labour market status or the education level and on rural areas are not required. Common output indicators on entities are not required either.
 - The requirement on data completeness mentioned above (Art. 17(5) of the ESF+ Regulation) only applies to the indicators related to the age groups, i.e., if data on age (the only common output indicators required under Annex I (1.1) for operations not targeting the most deprived) are not available, the entire record for that participation should be excluded from reporting.
- **For SO(I) operations targeting the most deprived**, the provisions are as follows:
 - The total number of participants also needs to be reported directly (it is not automatically calculated). In addition, there is also a reduced number of common output indicators (there are no common output indicators on the labour market status, education level, rural areas, nor on entities).
 - For all the common indicators listed under Annex II, collecting data for all participants (either via a survey or from administrative registers) is not mandatory. However, as it is still required to report data on these indicators, informed estimates can be used, which may involve (partial) data collection where applicable. The purpose of informed estimates is to reduce data collection burden and also to avoid where possible to ask directly participants questions on these variables. Thus, data collection on participants is only necessary where applicable for these indicators (e.g. for eligibility purposes).
 - Common output indicators can be reported based on the target group of the operation.
- **For SO(m),**
 - Common output indicators measure the total monetary value of distributed food and goods, as well as the quantity of food support distributed¹⁷.
 - Indicators on the monetary value of the food and basic material assistance provided are broken down by target group (children, homeless, other target groups). Such breakdowns shall be calculated based on purchase documents and accounting documents/registers. They refer to food and basic material assistance goods distributed for those specific target groups. This is based on the assumption that beneficiaries shall be in a position to know for whom the food and goods they distributed are meant for.
 - Additional indicators measure the share of food distributed by the beneficiary that is purchased by the programme and the share of food donations for which the costs of transport, storage and distribution are covered.

3.1.3 Common result indicators

For **SO(a) to SO(k)**, results can be immediate or longer-term:

- **Immediate result indicators** capture the situation **immediately** (or, within 4 weeks) after the participants **leave the supported operation**. The exit date does

¹⁷ Indirectly, the monetary value of cards/vouchers can be calculated too.

not need to coincide with the full implementation of the operation in which the reported person participated. Only results which have manifested themselves within this 4-week period should be recorded.

- **Longer-term result indicators** refer to a participant's situation **at a certain moment in time after the exit date**. The delay when the data are recorded is to be defined for each indicator.
- According to Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation, if certain results are not possible for a given operation, data for the relevant result indicators do not have to be collected. For instance, if an operation is exclusively targeted at people who are already employed, data for the common result indicators EECR01 (in job search upon leaving), EECR04 (in employment upon leaving) and EECR05 (in employment after 6 months) will not have to be collected. In such cases, it is recommended that zero values are reported in the structured data transmission module in SFC.

For **SO(I)**, there are no common result indicators.

For **SO(m)**, the result indicators represent the number of most deprived persons supported, which is considered as an immediate result.

3.1.3.1 Common immediate result indicators for SO(a) to SO(k)

Common immediate result indicators refer **only to persons**. They capture **achievements when a participant leaves the operation**. They are to be reported twice a year in end-January and in end-July, starting in end-January 2022 (Art. 42(1) of the CPR). Data are to be reported on a cumulative basis.

The results reported under the immediate result indicators must manifest themselves and be recorded in the time span between the day the person leaves the supported operation (exit date) and the **four weeks** which follow this event. Results which manifest themselves e.g. five weeks after leaving are not to be recorded under the immediate result indicators. If multiple events that have an impact on the labour market status of the participant occur during this reference period of 'within four weeks' of leaving the intervention, only one event should be recorded and the latest of these should take precedence and become the reported outcome. As for the indicator "participants in education/training upon leaving", it is not excluded that participants take up education or training in a separate operation also funded by the ESF+. The same goes for participants in employment.

In view of recording immediate results, no difference should be made between participants who complete the intervention and those who leave early at whatever point in time. The four weeks' time span allows for follow-up of "no shows" during the last session.

If a participant leaves an operation but returns at a later date to the same operation there is still only one participation record. In this case, the existing participation record should be updated. The start date and information related to output indicators of this participation record should always refer to the first participation and therefore not be changed upon re-entry. Following the second participation, the leaving date and data related to result indicators should be updated to reflect the situation on the final exit. Revisions of individual participation records will have to be reflected up to the relevant aggregate result indicators. If the first result has already been reported, the next data transmission should reflect the updated data.

3.1.3.2 Common longer-term result indicators for SO(a) to SO(k)

Common longer-term result indicators relate **only to persons**. They capture **achievements six months after a participant has left the operation**. The change in situation marking a result can occur any time between leaving the operation and six months after leaving, as long as it is sustained until six months after the participant left the operation. Common longer-term result indicators are to be reported, as a minimum

requirement, twice in the programming period: by 31 January 2026 and in the final performance report (Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation). Data are to be reported on a cumulative basis.

The data set reported under the common longer-term result indicators does not need to include the entire population of participants. It may be based on a representative sample of all participations within each specific objective SO(a)-SO(k).

For the **two reporting rounds** on common longer-term result indicators (by 31 January 2026 and with the final performance report) **two distinct representative samples with non-overlapping participants** within each specific objective shall be established. The Commission recommends the following approach:

- The first set of samples covers participants who left operations up to end-2024.
- The second set of samples covers participants who left operations between 2025 until the end of the programming period.

The **samples** should **not be skewed** towards (a) particular reporting year(s). To enhance the quality of data it is recommended - in particular for the 2nd reporting period (2025 until end of programming period) - to collect these data in higher frequency, and undertake several subsequent data collection rounds, cutting the sample into two or more.

3.1.3.3 Common result indicators for SO(m)

Common result indicators for SO(m) refer **only to persons**, referred to as **end recipients**. They are to be reported once a year in end-January, starting in January 2022 (Art. 42(1) of the CPR).

The direct result of material deprivation operations is that people receive actual support. It is therefore important to estimate how many persons benefit from the programme and what socio-economic characteristics they have. In turn, this result can be compared to the output (e.g. quantity of food distributed or value of basic material assistance offered) to estimate the average intensity of the support provided.

3.2 Programme-specific ESF+ indicators

Common indicators are relevant and need to be reported for all programmes. However, each programme is different and is implemented in a different context. It is possible that the common indicators (output or result) are not sufficient to reflect the main outputs and results to be achieved under a certain specific objective. Other indicators are therefore sometimes needed to set relevant targets and milestones (Art. 17(1) of the ESF+ Regulation). In such cases, the programme should identify a limited number of specific indicators **in addition** to the common indicators.

For SO(l) (covering operations targeting the most deprived and not targeting the most deprived), at least one programme-specific result indicator should be set.

3.3 Milestones, targets, baselines and reference values

- For **SO(a) to SO(l)**, each programme shall set **cumulative milestones and target values for output indicators, as well as reference values and target values for result indicators** for each specific objective¹⁸ (Art. 16(2) and Art. 22(3)(d)(ii) of the CPR and Art. 17(4) of the ESF+ Regulation). Targets should be set only for a limited number of **common indicators**, and when necessary, a

¹⁸ Managing authorities may or may not opt for a general target on total number of participants at the SO level. In such a case, the composition of the pool of participants addressed would be measured by common indicators but without specific targets for each group. Whenever the intervention logic of the support offered under a specific objective focuses specifically on some target groups, managing authorities might however want to define more disaggregated targets.

limited number of **programme specific indicators**. For each specific objective, there should be at least one target for an output indicator and one target for a result indicator. The selection of these indicators should be based on the intervention logic as the selected indicators ought to measure the major change(s) intended and main deliverables to be achieved in the specific objective. They should not reflect the outputs and results of each individual type of action or measure but the specific objective as a whole.

Note that whenever there are gender specific targets, these need to be programmed as specific indicators in this programming period.

Milestones and targets are preferably set in the same measurement unit (e.g. participants, entities, end recipients), and expressed in the same terms (i.e. absolute or percentage) as the corresponding indicator. Targets are to be set for the end of 2029. Milestones are intermediary targets for end-2024. **Targets and milestones are not objectives** in themselves. They allow comparing the measured values for a given indicator against what the programme wants to achieve. This process allows the assessment of whether the programme is on track or not. Targets and milestones are **tools to improve programming** and to assess programme implementation.

The methodology used to set targets must be well documented. Extrapolation of historical data is very widely used¹⁹. Output targets are often set from budgets and unit costs. The methodology and the underlying assumptions reflect the intervention logic. Checking whether the assumptions made in setting a target are still valid helps identifying the need to update the targets or to take corrective measures to improve implementation. When targets for result indicators are expressed in percentage, it is very important that the corresponding output indicators are properly referenced.

Baselines are only needed for output indicators when target values are set. The baseline is the value taken by the indicator in the absence of programme implementation. For all output indicators, the baseline is therefore necessarily zero.

Reference values for result indicators for which a target is set shall be fixed using the latest available data or other relevant sources of information (Art. 17(4) of the ESF+ Regulation). Reference values should be based on data from similar existing or previous interventions. In order to calculate the target, reference values might need adjustments so that they match the specific support provided and any relevant contextual changes.

- For **SO(m)**, milestones and targets are not required (Art. 16(2) of the CPR). In this case, a **reference value** may be used to compare the indicator's achieved value with past experience. It will usually be based on historical achievements deemed relevant as comparison. Reference values should be set for a limited number of result indicators. The selection of these indicators should be based on the intervention logic as the selected indicators ought to measure the main achievements within the specific objective.

¹⁹ A working document presenting some schematic examples for the calculation of target values is published on the SFC: https://ec.europa.eu/sfc/en/system/files/2021/ged/esf_data_support_centre_issue_paper_-_schematic_examples_on_esf_target_setting.pdf

3.4 Key conventions for the common indicators

3.4.1 Participants, entities, end recipients

Annex I (SO(a) to SO(I) operations not targeting the most deprived) and Annex II (SO(I) operations targeting the most deprived) of the ESF+ Regulation use the term “**participant**”. This refers to a person benefiting directly²⁰ from an ESF+ intervention. Such a person can, in principle, be identified and asked for personal data (e.g. gender, labour market status, age, educational attainment). Specific expenditure is earmarked for that person’s participation. Data on each participant starting in an operation is to be recorded, including for participants who leave the operation early. Data on all participants who benefit directly must be recorded, even if this benefit is in the context of a broader operation aiming at institutional reform. Persons benefiting indirectly from an ESF+ intervention shall not be reported as participants. For instance, while teachers or staff members receiving specific trainings in the context of an education system reform should be considered as participants, their pupils benefit only indirectly and should not be considered as participants.

The same principle applies to support for **entities**. For instance, only those SMEs who benefit directly from support should be counted under the indicator “Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises supported”. Employees of these SMEs are not participants. On the contrary, the fact that SME employees participate in an ESF+ operation does not necessarily mean the SME should be counted under the indicator “Number of SMEs supported”. If, for example, the operation consists of training aimed to offer competence development to employed individuals (irrespective of the company they are working for), then the individuals are supported directly by the ESF+ but not the companies. Increased human capital (i.e. better skilled employees) is considered as an indirect benefit for the SME and in this case, data should only be collected on participants, not on SMEs.

Annex III (SO(m)) of the ESF+ Regulation uses the term “**end recipient**” to refer to a person benefiting from food or material support.

3.4.2 Unit of observation

- For **SO(a) to SO(I)**, the unit of observation for all common and programme-specific indicators is a **single participation in a given operation**.

Data on each participant entering an ESF+ supported operation should be recorded and stored as a **single participation record**. If a participant enters and leaves the **same operation** several times during one or several reporting years, data on this person should be recorded, stored and reported only once. This also applies if a person participates in different parts of one single operation. If, however, a person leaves one operation and starts **in a different operation**, this shall be considered and recorded as a **new participation**. The same principle applies to the common indicators on entities.

- For **SO(m)**, operations providing food or basic material assistance cover a full calendar year. So, if a person receives support several times in the same year, they are counted only once.

3.4.3 Breakdown by gender

Gender equality is a fundamental principle of the European Union, set in the Treaties and restated regularly in the legislation. Article 9(2) of the CPR stipulates that equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming and the integration of gender perspective should

²⁰ Individuals benefiting directly from the ESF+ support are those persons whom the operation aims to support (i.e. the target group). Thus, if the objective of the operation is e.g. to improve the integration of migrant children, teachers receiving training cannot be considered as participants. Conversely, if the operation aims to increase the competencies of teachers, teachers should be considered as participants.

be “taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring reporting and evaluation of programmes”.

In order to be able to monitor and check the implementation of this principle, all common indicators’ data from Annex I and Annex II of the ESF+ Regulation relating to participants shall be broken down by gender. A number of Member States have legal provisions or practices recognising that individuals may not fall into either of these two categories or may not wish to be associated with one of them. For these Member States, these individuals shall be recorded as “non-binary”.

Within the context of SO(m), there is no need to break down indicators data by gender, instead there are common result indicators which report specifically on the number of women end recipients.

4 Data collection, processing and transmission

4.1 Data quality

Managing authorities in each Member State have responsibility for delivering data according to the specifications of the Regulations and these data are expected to be of good quality and reliable (Art. 42(4) of the CPR).

Eurostat defines quality of data used for statistics in relation to a number of criteria²¹. Three elements are particularly relevant to ESF+ common indicators:

- **Accuracy:** refers to the correct recording of the actual situation and implies that monitoring systems should have the capacity to support retroactive correction of data in case of recording errors;
- **Comparability:** refers to comparison through time and between countries and is therefore dependent on adherence to common definitions in the collection and treatment of data, including complete data sets for all common indicators;
- **Coherence:** refers to the adequacy of data to be reliably combined in different ways.

Eurostat also defines data quality in terms of **relevance** (the degree to which the data produced meets users’ needs), **timeliness and punctuality** (the time span between the availability of data and the event they describe). These are important aspects for reflection in the selection and definition of programme specific indicators.

The **common definitions** for the common indicators aim at ensuring **comparability** across the EU and thus, quality of EU level data. For programme-specific indicators, comparability of indicators is mandatory only within the programme, but could be sought even across programmes on a voluntary basis²². For both types of indicators, common and programme-specific alike, it is important that all definitions are clearly documented and disseminated to all beneficiaries and steps are taken to ensure that these are applied in practice. Official definitions for the common indicators and underlying variables are laid out in annexes B, C and D of this document. The definitions of some ‘other common output indicators’ are determined at the national level²³. However, in order that the nationally defined meaning of the term is uniformly applied by organisations running projects, the definitions used must be well documented, sent to the Commission and, where possible, should refer to existing official (national) definitions.

²¹ European statistics Code of Practice <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-catalogues/-/KS-02-18-142>

²² That could be the case for instance where there are several regional programmes or to keep track of specific cross-cutting phenomena such as support offered in connection to the COVID crisis.

²³ ‘Participants with disabilities’, ‘participants with a foreign background’, ‘minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)’, and ‘homeless or affected by housing exclusion’.

Article 42(2)(b) of the CPR requires values for all common output and result indicators to be provided for all chosen specific objectives. This, together with the need to ensure **coherence** means that all indicators based on participants should cover the same (total) population of participants. Article 17(5) of the ESF+ Regulation stipulates that data on the indicators for participants shall only be transmitted when all data required under point (1.1) of Annex I relating to that participant are available.

4.2 Data collection sources and methods

The data for common and programme-specific indicators cover a range of personal information (including gender, labour market status, age, level of education etc.). It is important to note that, whatever the method, much personal data will be based on the participant's self-declaration which may introduce a degree of subjectivity. The need to rely on other data sources (such as administrative registers) should be anticipated early in the formulation of the programme. Data may also have been collected in another context than the implementation of ESF+ supported actions and stored in administrative registers.

Each data collection approach bears implications on e.g., administrative burden, quality of the data collected (for instance in terms of accuracy and timeliness) but also as concerns the respect of the dignity of participants and end recipients, and the application of non-discriminatory principles in line with the EU's 'acquis' and national legislations.

Any data collection method is prone to **measurement (and recording) errors**, namely, when the recorded value differs from the true value. For example, unregistered unemployed being recorded as inactive instead of unemployed, or data based on self-declaration which is not accurate (e.g. if individuals cannot correctly recall their situation at a certain point in time, or do not want to reveal their true situation because they are embarrassed or because they want to access support). When drawing samples or obtaining informed estimates, there can also be **coverage errors** if the proportion of the whole population that is not included in the sample has different characteristics (e.g. if survey is done online, most deprived households with no access to internet will be excluded, or informed estimates are based only on "easy to reach" participants). **Non-response errors** can also occur in direct data collection exercises (either census or representative samples) if the characteristics of the participants responding are different compared to those who do not respond. Finally, when drawing a representative sample, the **sampling error** relates to the variation between the value estimated from the sample and the value in the whole population; the bigger the sample, the smaller the sampling error. All these errors can bring about biased results, but can be minimised by adopting and implementing proper procedures.

Table 1 - Methods of data collection and types of error

Types of error/ Data collection method	Measurement and recording	Coverage	Non- response	Sampling
Census	x		x	
Representative sampling	x	x	x	x
Informed estimate	xx	xx		xx
Registers	x			

x - lower risk of error

xx - higher risk of error

4.2.1 Census

With a census, a given dimension is recorded for every single element of the population considered (i.e. all participants). The values obtained for that population are in theory the actual values, but possible measurement and recording errors (e.g. self-reporting) and non-responses should be considered.

There are indeed risks that the different bodies involved in data collection (e.g. beneficiaries or project operators) do not apply the same standards or definitions, or that these are not communicated effectively to participants who may interpret the questions in different ways.

4.2.2 Representative sampling

Sampling entails that a given dimension is recorded not for all the individuals of the population, but for a part of it. The values obtained for that sample are then **estimates** of the real values for the whole population. Besides possible measurement errors, including subjectivity in case of self-reporting, there is an additional potential error due to differences between the sample and the population as a whole (i.e. sampling error). It is possible to attach a measure of confidence to the estimates obtained provided the sampling was set up in accordance with strict statistical methods.

For a sample to be representative it must reflect the characteristics of the population covered by the indicator(s) across the variables labour market status, age and education level.

The common ESF+ longer-term result indicators, as all common indicators, are to be reported (and therefore the relevant samples drawn) at the level of the specific objective and broken down by gender and category of region.

The **sampling design, method of sample selection and actual sampling methods** should be **fully documented**²⁴. The documentation should describe the steps to minimise the total survey error, including coverage error, non-response error and measurement error. Internal validity of the sample should be ensured. That means that biases imputable to data collection should be limited, and corrected to the extent possible, so that indicator data can be reliably generalised at the level of the specific objective for each relevant dimension. It is considered good practice to entrust the task of drawing the sample and drafting the survey questions to experts in the field, preferably an independent body or expert.

To be considered fully reliable, indicator values based on representative sampling are to be reported with a margin of error not exceeding 3 percentage points using a 95% confidence level for a proportion (i.e. a confidence interval of length 6 percentage points). Figures reported with an estimated maximum margin of error exceeding 3 percentage points and not exceeding 5 percentage points are deemed less reliable, implying that with a view to ensuring the overall reliability of the monitoring and information system, improvements could be considered. Estimations with a margin of error exceeding 5 percentage points are considered not sufficiently reliable if the subgroup represents more than 10% of the population.

4.2.3 Informed estimates

For the indicators listed in section 1.2 of Annex I, for all indicators listed under Annex II and for common result indicators of Annex III, the ESF+ Regulation²⁵ offers the possibility of using "informed estimates". An "informed estimate" is intended to be a simplification in cases setting up and running a census or a fully-fledged representative sampling system is overly complex or burdensome.

An "informed estimate" is an estimate for which the requirements laid down above for representative sampling might be relaxed or not apply entirely. It can therefore be based

²⁴ Guidance on sample design and survey methodology can be found e.g. in <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-RA-08-003>

²⁵ Participants with disabilities, third-country nationals, participants with a foreign background, minorities, homeless or affected by housing exclusion, participants from rural areas.

on simplified sampling approaches (with less stringent precision requirements than for a representative sampling) or other methods, including proxies. Nevertheless, it should be based on a documented methodology.

4.2.4 Structured survey of end recipients for SO(m)

Following Art. 23(3) of the ESF+ Regulation, the managing authorities shall report to the Commission the results of a structured survey of end recipients carried out in 2024 and 2027, in accordance with the model adopted by the Commission in a dedicated implementing act. This survey is targeted towards end recipients of SO(m) assistance and aims at gaining insights into their living conditions and the nature of their material deprivation, current and past situation and their views on food and material assistance.

The survey should be as representative as possible of the population of end recipients, while being proportionate. To calculate a sample size, the Commission is proposing to apply the following parameters: a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of 3 percentage points. Figures reported with an estimated maximum margin of error exceeding 3 percentage points and not exceeding 5 percentage points are deemed less reliable, implying that with a view to ensuring the overall reliability of the monitoring and information system, improvements could be considered. Estimations with a margin of error exceeding 5 percentage points are considered not sufficiently reliable. An example of the sample size calculation is provided in annex L. This example is based on a methodology for the statistical sampling for unknown populations. Alternative methods such as statistical sampling for known populations with similar parameters also may be used.

Given the target group and the nature of the operations concerned, and in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on data protection, there will be no mandatory requirement to identify end recipients in the structured survey (recital (33) of the ESF+ Regulation). This means that any data that can be used to identify the individuals (such as contact details, date of birth, security ID etc.) will not be included in the survey. Only anonymised information to make sure the survey is representative of the population of end recipients can be collected.

4.2.5 Data registers

It is up to Member States or managing authorities to determine the most effective way of collecting the information required for monitoring and reporting purposes. Any data handling is a potential source of errors. Moreover, data processing can represent significant administrative burdens.

These tasks of data collection and processing become particularly difficult to justify where official databases or registers already contain the data required (for example social security databases in some Member States). In such cases, the Member States or managing authorities should consider the possibility to access and use these databases or registers. This may involve a trade-off between the ease of collection and possible differences in indicator definitions and period covered. Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation however specifies that 'when data are collected from registers, Member States do not have to align with commonly agreed definitions and may use national definitions'.

4.3 Data processing

Article 69(4) of the CPR requires the **Member States to ensure the quality, accuracy, and reliability of the monitoring system and of data on indicators**. Part of the functions of the managing authority is to **"record and store electronically the data on each operation** necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management [...]" (Art. 72(1)(e) of the CPR). The uniform conditions for the recording and storing of electronic data are defined in the Annex XVII of the CPR.

Member States should modify the recorded **data** in case the data in the individual participation records change or to correct errors.

It is up to each managing authority to determine how the necessary data are collected, stored and processed. What is important is that the managing authority has the capacity to bring the data together using computerised methods in order to produce the final values required, including the required aggregates and breakdowns, and can demonstrate (for audit purposes) how the values for the indicators are produced. The Commission strongly recommends verifying as early as possible that the data recording and storage systems currently used for ESF monitoring are appropriate in the light of the above requirements set out in the CPR and the ESF+ Regulation.

Except for SO(l) operations targeting the most deprived and SO(m), personal data for all indicators for each participant must be recorded and stored (even in case common output indicators on participants can be reported based on the target group of the operation, as it is possible under Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation). Ideally, this is a specific record for each observation unit, being a single participation in a given operation. Such a record should include, as a minimum: an identifier for the operation; a personal identifier that allows an individual to be traced and re-contacted; dates of starting and leaving an operation; and access to values for all variables needed for indicators. The data do not have to be held in a single database but may be spread across different databases with the managing authority or at lower levels (such as the beneficiaries) or even by third parties (such as a statistical office or the public employment service). For SO(m), there is no requirement to collect individual end recipients' data.

The common indicators values transmitted to the Commission represent **aggregated values** for all participants or end recipients or entities in a given specific objective under one priority. This does not need to correspond to the manner in which data are stored. Indeed, maximum flexibility is ensured if data are recorded at the lowest level of aggregation possible. In the case of the ESF+ shared management strand, this is either a participant or an entity in one operation. For instance, the indicators 'young people aged 18-29 years' and 'number of participants 55 years of age and above' represent the number of participants in two different age groups. These age groups are relevant in an EU policy context, but locally other groups (such as those below 25 years of age) may correspond better to policy initiative or priorities and justify therefore an additional specific indicator. These three indicators (two common, one specific) may be constructed from one single variable, the date of birth.

However, managing authorities should be able to demonstrate that they can perform all required tasks with regard to monitoring and evaluation. They should have access to a list of all participants supported by specific objective and, through this list, be in a position to either access directly or request from a third party the micro-data needed to calculate each of the common and programme-specific indicators where relevant.

4.4 Data transmission

As per Art. 42(1) of the CPR:

- for SO(a) to SO(l), cumulative data on all indicators shall be transmitted to the Commission by 31 January and 31 July of each year; whilst
- for SO (m), cumulative data on all indicators shall be transmitted each year by 31 January.

Data are to be **submitted as a structured data set** to the European Commission **by electronic means** in line with the model set out in the Annex VII of the CPR.

For each priority, all indicator data shall be broken down by specific objective and by category of region. All common indicators' data from Annex I and Annex II of the ESF+

Regulation relating to participants shall be broken down by gender. For common indicators in Annex III (i.e. within the context of SO(m)), there is no need to break down indicators data by gender, instead there are common result indicators which report specifically on the number of women end recipients.

4.5 Data protection

The processing of personal data has to comply with **Regulation (EU) 2016/679**²⁶ on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data ('General data protection regulation' – GDPR).

In line with Art. 6.3(a) of the GDPR, the CPR provides Member States with the legal basis for the processing of personal data necessary for the common indicators, for monitoring, evaluation, control and audit and, where applicable, for determining the eligibility of participants (Art. 4 of the CPR). However, national legislation on data protection may be more restrictive, and it may be possible that in order to fulfil the ESF+ monitoring requirements, some Member States have to legislate to make the data collection lawful.

The required monitoring data include some variables considered as special categories of personal data in the sense of Art. 9 of the GDPR (the so-called "sensitive" data related to disability and minorities). EU data protection legislation prohibits in principle the processing of special categories of data ('sensitive data') as defined by Art. 9 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, although, subject to the provision of suitable safeguards, Union or Member States law may, for reasons of substantial public interest, lay down exemptions.

In line with data protection rules, the Member State/managing authority has to determine which entity/entities shall act as **data controller(s)** in the meaning of Art. 4 (7) of the GDPR. This article states that the data controller "determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data". The purpose for processing the data is determined by the CPR (Art. 4). If a Member State decides to establish more than one body as data controllers (joint control), the joint controllers need to determine their respective responsibilities, in particular as regards to the rights of the data subjects (e.g. access to, rectification, blocking and erasing of data). They may designate a contact point for data subjects. It is important that the Commission and the data subjects know who the controllers are. Therefore, the Member State or managing authority should inform the Commission and data subjects which authority acts as data controller (e.g. in a privacy statement provided when attending a course).

Appropriate measures shall also ensure that, by default, only personal data which are necessary for each specific purpose of the processing are processed. That obligation applies to the amount of personal data collected, the extent of their processing, the period of their storage and their accessibility.

The monitoring requirements in terms of data collection for minors are the same as for all participants: individual data on participants who are minors should be collected for SO(a) to SO(I) operations not targeting the most deprived. Microdata on children can be obtained from their representatives (e.g. parents or guardians) or from administrative registers.

For SO(I) operations targeting the most deprived (Annex II of the ESF+ Regulation), data on children can be estimated for all indicators (as for all participants). In addition, the provision allowing common output indicators to be reported based on the target group of the operation for indicators listed in Annexes I and II of the ESF+ Regulation also hold for children. For SO(m) (Annex III of the ESF+ Regulation), data on children receiving food and material support and children benefiting from vouchers shall be reported and can be estimated.

²⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

The **Commission** does not require nor receive personal data for monitoring and evaluation purposes but solely **aggregated data sets** of ESF+ operations.

With a view to potential issues regarding data protection rules, the Commission recommends that managing authorities pro-actively **seek advice from national data protection authorities** about how to implement the data processing obligations set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (including for participants who are minors).

Annex A – Glossary

Term	Definition
Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)	The European Commission's adopted regulation which sets out the common provisions for eight shared management funds: Cohesion Fund (CF), Just Transition Funds (JTF), European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) ²⁷ , Asylum and Migration Fund (AMIF) ²⁸ , Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI), Internal Security Fund (ISF).
Counterfactual Impact Evaluations (CIEs)	Evaluations comparing the outcomes of those who benefitted from ESF+ support (the "beneficiaries") with those of a group similar in all respects to the ESF+ beneficiaries (the "comparison/control group"), the only difference being that the comparison/control group has not been exposed to ESF+.
Country specific recommendations (CSRs) ²⁹	The European Commission's recommendations for each country focusing on what can realistically be achieved over the next 12-18 months. These recommendations are policy guidance tailored to each EU country on how to boost jobs and growth, while maintaining sound public finances.
EU-Labour Force Survey (LFS)	Eurostat's household survey designed to obtain information on the labour market and related issues through a series of personal interviews ³⁰ .
European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)	The main financial instrument to strengthen Europe's social dimension, by putting the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights into practice. It is part of the EU's budget for 2021-2027.
Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)	Supports EU countries' actions to provide food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived under the 2014-2020 programming period ³¹ .
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on data protection and privacy of EU citizens or residents.
International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)	The reference classification for organising education programmes and related qualifications by education levels and fields.
Labour Market Policy (LMP) statistics	Database containing statistics on labour market interventions which are defined as "public interventions in the labour market aimed at reaching an efficient functioning and correcting disequilibria".
Managing authorities	The authority in each Member State with responsibility for delivering the different programmes agreed with the European Commission and data related to these.
Member State (MS)	The European Union Member States.

²⁷ Except the "Employment and Social Innovation" programme and for health issues.

²⁸ Shared management components only.

²⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester/european-semester-timeline/eu-country-specific-recommendations_en

³⁰ [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Labour_force_survey_\(LFS\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Labour_force_survey_(LFS))

³¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1089&langId=en>

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	Enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million ³² .
Monitoring committee	Each Member State is required to set up a committee to examine the performance of the programmes with representatives from relevant national authorities and the Commission.
NA	Not applicable
National Reform Programmes (NRP)	Annually submitted country reports that provide information on the measures taken to implement Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) as well as the progress in relation to the national Europe 2020 targets.
SFC2021	The official electronic data exchange system between Member States and the Commission. The system has been updated for EU 2021-2027 funds.
Specific Objectives (SO)	Specific aims laid out in the ESF+ Regulation. Programmes are built around priorities and each priority corresponds to one or more specific objectives in one single policy objective.
Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)	One of the two main treaties that form the constitutional basis of the EU law.
Youth Employment Intervention (YEI)	The EU's financial resource to support young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), including the long-term unemployed or those not registered as jobseekers (2014-2020).

³² Source: Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (2003/361/EC) (Art. 1 and 2).

Annex B – ESF+ General support indicators (Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation)

Annex B lists the common indicators foreseen by the ESF+ Regulation for operations financed under SO(a)-SO(l) operations not targeting the most deprived.

EECO01 – TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

EECO01	Total number of participants
Definition	Persons benefiting directly from an ESF+ operation. Other persons shall not be reported as participants. For SO(a) to SO(k): $\text{Number of participants} = EECO02 + EECO04 + EECO05$
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period (in end-2029). Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.
Data collection	For SO(a) to SO(k), the system automatically calculates this indicator as the sum of common output indicators EECO02 (unemployed), EECO04 (inactive) and EECO05 (employed). For SO(l), the value is to be reported manually. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting on 31 st January 2022 and until 31 st January 2030.
Linked to indicators	For SO(a)-SO(k): - common output indicators: EECO02, EECO04 and EECO05 - common result indicators: EECR02 and EECR03 For SO(l): EECO06, EECO07 and EECO08
Validation	For SO(a) to SO(k), the total number of participants should be equal to the sum of participants by level of education. $\text{Number of participants} = EECO09 (\text{lower secondary}) + EECO10 (\text{upper secondary or post-secondary}) + EECO11 (\text{tertiary})$ For SO(l), the total number of participants should be equal or higher than the sum of participants by age.

EECO02 – UNEMPLOYED, INCLUDING LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

EECO02	Unemployed, including long-term unemployed This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	Unemployed are <i>persons usually without work, available for work and actively seeking work. Persons considered as registered unemployed according to national definitions are always included here even if they do not fulfil all three of these criteria.</i> Source: §18 in Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Labour market policy (LMP) statistics – Methodology 2018. The wording in italics is identical to the LMP definition.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period (in end-2029). Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of principle 4 'Active support to employment' of the European Pillar of Social Rights.
Data collection	The indicator refers to the labour market status of participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	EECO02 is one of the three indicators used to calculate the total number of participants. The other two are EECO04 and EECO05. EECO02 is needed to calculate EECR02, EECR03, EECR04 and EECR05.
Validation	In operations mainly directed at unemployed, the number of unemployed should be equal or very close to the total number of participants (except for operations that also support the modernisation of labour market institutions).

EECO03 – LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

EECO03	Long-term unemployed This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	"Unemployed" is defined as in the indicator "Unemployed, including long-term unemployed" above, of which the indicator "long-term unemployed" is a sub-group with <i>a continuous spell of unemployment lasting at least a year (12 months or more)</i> . Source: §312 in Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Labour market policy statistics – Methodology 2018. The wording in italics is identical to the LMP definition.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of principle 4 'Active support to employment' of the European Pillar of Social Rights as well as to the February 2016 Council Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market.
Data collection	The indicator refers to the labour market status of participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	EECO03 (long-term unemployed) represents a subset of EECO02 (unemployed persons, including long-term unemployed).
Validation	EECO03 cannot be bigger than EECO02: $(EECO02) \geq (EECO03)$ EECO03 should be close to EECO02 if the operation is mainly targeting long-term unemployed.

EECO04 – INACTIVE

EECO04	Inactive This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	"Inactive" are <i>persons currently not part of the labour force (in the sense that they are not employed or unemployed according to the definitions provided)</i> . Source: §20 in Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Labour market policy statistics – Methodology 2018. The wording in italics is identical to the LMP definition.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 4 'Active support to employment'.
Data collection	The indicator refers to the labour market status of participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators	to This is one of the three indicators used to calculate the total number of participants. The other two are EECO02 and EECO05. EECO04 is needed to calculate EECR01, EECR02, EECR03, EECR04 and EECR05.
Validation	In operations mainly directed at inactive individuals, the value of this indicator should be equal or very close to the total number of participants.

EECO05 – EMPLOYED, INCLUDING SELF-EMPLOYED

EECO05	Employed, including self-employed This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	<p>Employed persons are persons aged 15 to 89 who: performed work for pay, profit or family gain; were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent [...]; or produced agricultural goods whose main part is intended for sale or barter.</p> <p>Note that self-employed persons with a business, farm or professional practice are considered to be working for pay or profit if one of the following applies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A person works in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit [...]. 2) A person spends time on the operation of a business, professional practice or farm [...]. 3) A person is in the process of setting up a business, farm or professional practice; [...]. <p>Source: Eurostat, the European Union labour force survey (EU-LFS) – 2021</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_Labour_Force_Survey_-_new_methodology_from_2021_onwards</p>
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 5 'Secure and adaptable employment'.
Data collection	The indicator refers to the labour market status of participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	This is one of the three indicators used to calculate the total number of participants. The other two are EECO02 and EECO04. EECO05 is needed to calculate EECR02, EECR03 and EECR06.
Validation	In operations mainly directed at employed individuals, the value of this indicator should be equal or very close to the total number of participants.

EEO06 – CHILDREN BELOW 18 YEARS OF AGE

EEO06	Number of children below 18 years of age
Definition	The number of participants aged under 18 years old upon starting an ESF+ operation.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 11 'Childcare and support to children' as well as on the implementation of the Council Recommendations on high-quality early childhood education and care systems (2019).
Data collection	The indicator refers to the age of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. Ideally, the date of birth is recorded for each participant as this would allow a redefinition of age groups should the need arise. The information may be asked directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	For operations targeted at children, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

EEO07 – PARTICIPANTS AGED 18-29 YEARS

EEO07	Young people between 18 and 29 years of age
Definition	The number of participants aged 18-29 years old upon starting an ESF+ operation.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 1 'Education, training and life-long learning' and 4 'Active support to employment' as well as on the implementation of the April 2013 Council recommendation establishing a Youth Guarantee and the October 2020 Council recommendation on the reinforced Youth Guarantee.
Data collection	The indicator refers to the age of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. Ideally, the date of birth is recorded for each participant as this would allow a redefinition of age groups should the need arise. The information may be asked directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	For operations targeted at young people, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants. In Member States or regions with a high youth unemployment, the proportion of young participants is expected to be higher than the EU average.

EEO08 – PARTICIPANTS AGED 55 YEARS AND ABOVE

EEO08	Number of participants of 55 years of age and above
Definition	The number of participants aged 55 years old or older upon starting an ESF+ operation.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 3 'Equal opportunities' 4 'Active support to employment' and 10 'Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection'.
Data collection	The indicator refers to the age of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. Ideally, the date of birth is recorded for each participant to allow for an automated calculation of age. The information may be asked directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	For operations targeted at older workers, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

EECO09 – PARTICIPANTS WITH LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION OR LESS

EECO09	With lower secondary education or less (ISCED 0-2) This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	Participants for whom the highest educational level completed at the time of starting an ESF+ intervention and according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011 classification of educational attainment, is ISCED 2 or less. Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Standard Classification of Education – ISCED 2011. This corresponds to the LFS category of “Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (levels 0-2)”.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 1 ‘Education, training and life-long learning’.
Data collection	The indicator is defined by the educational achievement of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	The sum of EECO09, EECO10 and EECO11 should be equal to the total number of participants: $(EECO02 + EECO04 + EECO05) = (EECO09 + EECO10 + EECO11)$

EECO10 – PARTICIPANTS WITH UPPER SECONDARY OR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

EECO10	With upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4) This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	Participants for whom the highest educational level completed according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011 classification of educational attainment, is ISCED 3 or ISCED 4. Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Standard Classification of Education – ISCED 2011. This corresponds to the LFS category of “Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4)”.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 1 ‘Education, training and life-long learning’.
Data collection	The indicator is defined by the educational achievement of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	The sum of EECO09, EECO10 and EECO11 should be equal to the total number of participants: $(EECO02 + EECO04 + EECO05) = (EECO09 + EECO10 + EECO11)$

EECO11 – PARTICIPANTS WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION

EECO11	With tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8) This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	Participants for whom the highest educational level completed according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011 classification of educational attainment, is ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7 or ISCED 8. Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Standard Classification of Education – ISCED 2011. This corresponds to the LFS category of “Tertiary education (levels 5-8)”.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 1 ‘Education, training and life-long learning’.
Data collection	The indicator is defined by the educational achievement of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	The sum of EECO09, EECO10 and EECO11 should be equal to the total number of participants: $(EECO02 + EECO04 + EECO05) = (EECO09 + EECO10 + EECO11)$

EEO12 – PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES

EEO12	Participants with disabilities
Definition	<p>Based on national definitions.</p> <p>"Participants with disabilities" are <i>persons who are registered disabled according to national definitions</i>.</p> <p>Source: §315 Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Labour market policy statistics – Methodology 2018.</p> <p>The wording in italics is identical to the LMP definition.</p>
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 3 'Equal opportunities' and 17 'Inclusion of people with disabilities'.
Data collection	<p>This belongs to a special category of personal data (according to Art.9 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on GDPR).</p> <p>Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.</p>
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at disabled people, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

EEO13 – THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

EEO13	Third-country nationals
Definition	'Third-country national' means a person who is not a citizen of the Union, including stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 3 'Equal opportunities'.
Data collection	The indicator refers to the nationality of participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at third-country nationals, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants in the operation.

EEO14 – PARTICIPANTS WITH A FOREIGN BACKGROUND

EEO14	Participants with a foreign background
Definition	Based on national definitions. Each MA/MS should use the definition that reflects current national or regional practice. In the absence of such a definition, it may elaborate one that best suits its own needs. The definition used must be documented.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 3 'Equal opportunities'.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at people with a foreign background, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants in the operation.

EEO15 – MINORITIES (INCLUDING MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES SUCH AS THE ROMA)

EEO15	Minorities (including marginalised communities such as Roma people)
Definition	Based on national definitions. Each MA/MS should use the definition that reflects current national or regional practice. In the absence of such a definition, it may use elaborate one that best suits its own needs. The definition used must be documented.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 3 'Equal opportunities', and the implementation of the December 2013 Council recommendation on effective Roma integration measures.
Data collection	This belongs to a special category of personal data (according to Art.9 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on GDPR). Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at minorities, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

EECO16 – HOMELESS OR AFFECTED BY HOUSING EXCLUSION

EECO16	Homeless or affected by housing exclusion
Definition	Based on national definitions. Persons who are defined as homeless or affected by housing exclusion according to national definitions. In the absence of such a definition, the MS/managing authority may elaborate one that best suits its own needs. The definition used must be documented.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 3 'Equal opportunities' and 19 'Housing and assistance for the homeless'.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at homeless people, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

EEO17 – PARTICIPANTS FROM RURAL AREAS

EEO17	Participants from rural areas This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	"From rural areas" is to be understood as persons residing in thinly populated areas, according to the Degree of urbanisation (DEGURBA, category 3) classification. Source: Eurostat, Degree of urbanisation, methodology. The 2020 DEGURBA classification may be used throughout the programming period ³³ .
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 3 'Equal opportunities' and 20 'Access to essential services'.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	When referring to operations mainly targeted at people living in rural areas, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

³³ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background>

EECO18 – NUMBER OF SUPPORTED PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS OR PUBLIC SERVICES

EECO18	Number of supported public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level
Definition	<p><i>Public administration is understood to include: executive and legislative administration of central, regional and local bodies; administration and supervision of fiscal affairs (operation of taxation schemes; duty/tax collection on goods and tax violation investigation; customs administration); budget implementation and management of public funds and public debt (raising and receiving of money and control of their disbursement); administration of overall (civil) research and development policy and associated funds; administration and operation of overall economic and social planning and statistical services at the various levels of government.</i></p> <p>Public services refer to any public or private body, which delivers a service to the public. The private element of this definition is relevant for cases where some services are outsourced by the state to large private or semi-private providers, i.e. private bodies with a public function.</p> <p>Source: Eurostat, NACE Rev. 2 Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, 2008 (p.286).</p> <p>The wording in italics is identical to the Eurostat definition.</p>
Unit	Number of entities
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By category of region.
Justification	<p>Member States shall concentrate the ESF+ resources under shared management on interventions that address the challenges identified in their national reform programmes, in the European Semester as well as in the relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Art. 121(2) TFEU and Art. 148(4) TFEU. As a significant part of those challenges is systemic, the ESF+ will co-finance support to systems and structures type of actions in all specific objectives. The value of this indicator will be an important indication of how the ESF+ is used to support systemic change.</p> <p>Moreover, the ESF+ shall also contribute to other funds' policy objectives (PO), including systemic support to entities, in particular PO (1) and (2).</p>
Data collection	<p>This information is to be collected from administrative documents for instance grant agreements.</p> <p>Only public administration or services who had specific expenditure earmarked for them are to be recorded. This does not include Technical Assistance expenditure.</p>
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	NA

EEO19 – NUMBER OF SUPPORTED MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

EEO19	Number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises and social enterprises)
Definition	<p>An enterprise is considered to be any entity engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of its legal form and includes cooperative enterprises and enterprises of the social economy.</p> <p>The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.</p> <p>Source: Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (2003/361/EC) (Art. 1 and 2).</p>
Unit	Number of enterprises
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By category of region.
Justification	<p>To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 5 'Secure and adaptable employment', 6 'Wages' and 10 'Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection'.</p> <p>SMEs, the main employers of the European labour force, have a direct role in the implementation of the policies supported by the ESF+. In the policies aiming at improved access to employment, SMEs are supported in hiring, in particular disadvantaged people. SMEs are targeted by the policies aiming at improving the adaptability of enterprises.</p>
Data collection	<p>This information is to be collected from administrative documents, for instance grant agreements.</p> <p>Only enterprises who had specific expenditure earmarked for them are to be recorded. This does not include Technical Assistance expenditure.</p>
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	NA

EECR01 – PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN JOB SEARCHING UPON LEAVING

EECR01	Participants engaged in job searching upon leaving This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	<p>Persons who were inactive when entering the ESF+ operation and who are newly engaged in job searching activities upon leaving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Inactive" is defined as in the indicator "Inactive" above. • "Engaged in job searching" is to be understood as persons usually without work, available for work and actively seeking work, as defined in the indicator "Unemployed". <p>Persons who have newly registered with the public employment services as jobseeker should always be counted even if they are not immediately available for work.</p>
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Reference value	Reference values are used for target setting and can be based on success rates of similar existing or previous interventions
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 4 'Active support to employment'.
Data collection	The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	EECO04
Validation	<p>This indicator applies only to inactive participants.</p> <p>Therefore, its value cannot exceed the value of the indicator "inactive" EECO04: $EECR01 \leq EECO04$</p> <p>The sum of participants engaged in job searching upon leaving and of participants having found a job upon leaving should not be higher than the sum of participants who were unemployed or inactive. $EECR01 + EECO04 \leq EECO02 + EECO04$</p>

EECR02 – PARTICIPANTS IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING UPON LEAVING

EECR02	Participants in education or training upon leaving This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	Persons who have received ESF+ support and who are newly engaged in education (lifelong learning, formal education) or training activities (off-the-job/in-the-job training, vocational training, etc.) immediately upon leaving the ESF+ operation.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Reference value	Reference values are used for target setting and can be based on success rates of similar existing or previous interventions.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 1 'Education, training and life-long learning'.
Data collection	The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	EECO02; EECO04; EECO05
Validation	The number of participants in education or training upon leaving should not be higher than the total number of participants. $EECR02 \leq EECO02 + EECO04 + EECO05$

EECR03 – PARTICIPANTS GAINING A QUALIFICATION UPON LEAVING

EECR03	Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	Persons who have received ESF+ support and who gained a qualification upon leaving the ESF+ operation. <i>Qualification means a formal outcome of an assessment and validation process which is obtained when a competent body determines that an individual has achieved learning outcomes to given standards.</i> Source: European Commission, European Qualifications Framework - https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/glossary . The wording in italics is identical to the EQF definition.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Reference value	Reference values are used for target setting and can be based on success rates of similar existing or previous interventions.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 1 'Education, training and life-long learning'.
Data collection	The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	EECO02; EECO04; EECO05
Validation	The number of participants gaining a qualification upon leaving should not be higher than the total number of participants. $EECR03 \leq EECO02 + EECO04 + EECO05$

EECR04 – PARTICIPANTS IN EMPLOYMENT UPON LEAVING

EECR04	Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	Unemployed or inactive persons who have received ESF+ support, and who are in employment, including self-employment, immediately upon leaving the ESF+ operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Unemployed" is defined as in the indicator "Unemployed, including long-term unemployed". • "Inactive" is defined as in the indicator "Inactive". • "In employment, including self-employment" is defined as in the indicator "Employed, including self-employed".
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Reference value	Reference values are used for target setting and can be based on success rates of similar existing or previous interventions.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 4 'Active support to employment'.
Data collection	The information may be obtained directly from the participant or recovered from an administrative database. The number of participants who were in employment at the start of an ESF+ intervention (recorded under indicator 'employed, including self-employed') are excluded from the calculations.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	EECO02; EECO04
Validation	The number of participants in employment upon leaving should not be higher than the total number of participants who were either unemployed or inactive: $EECR04 \leq EECO02 + EECO04$ The sum of participants engaged in job searching upon leaving and of participants having found a job upon leaving should not be higher than the sum of participants who were unemployed or inactive: $EECR01 + EECR04 \leq EECO02 + EECO04$

EECR05 – PARTICIPANTS IN EMPLOYMENT SIX MONTHS AFTER LEAVING

EECR05	Participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).
Definition	Unemployed or inactive persons who have received ESF+ support and who are in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving the ESF+ operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Unemployed" is defined as in the indicator "Unemployed, including long-term unemployed". • "Inactive" is defined as in the indicator "Inactive". • "In employment, including self-employment" is defined as in the indicator "Employed, including self-employed".
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Reference value	Reference values are used for target setting and can be based on success rates of similar existing or previous interventions.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 4 'Active support to employment' and 5 'Secure and adaptable employment'.
Data collection	These data may but do not need to be recorded at the individual level. An estimate based on a sound statistical method may be used. This may require a survey. In some MS, the information can be recovered from registers or databanks. The method applied should be documented. The number of participants who were in employment at the start of an ESF+ intervention (recorded under indicator 'employed, including self-employed') are excluded from the calculations.
Reporting frequency	January 2026 and in the final performance report of 2031.
Linked indicators to	This is linked to the number of participants who were not in employment when entering an ESF+ intervention, indicators EECO02 and EECO04.
Validation	EECR05 should not be higher than the sum of unemployed and inactive participants entering the ESF+ intervention: $EECR05 \leq EECO02 + EECO04$

EECR06 – PARTICIPANTS WITH AN IMPROVED LABOUR MARKET SITUATION SIX MONTHS AFTER LEAVING

EECR06	<p>Participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving</p> <p>This indicator is not applicable for SO(I).</p>
Definition	<p>Employed persons who have received ESF+ support and who have transited from precarious to stable employment, or from underemployment to full employment, or have moved to a job requiring higher competences/skills/qualifications, entailing more responsibilities, or received a promotion or an increase in wages that is above the annual rate of wage inflation in the country, six months after leaving the ESF+ operation.</p> <p>Precarious employment should be understood as the "temporary employment" and "work contract of limited duration". <i>Given institutional discrepancies, the concepts of 'temporary employment' and 'work contract of limited duration' describe situations, which, in different institutional contexts, may be considered similar. Employees with a limited duration job/contract are employees whose main job will terminate either after a period fixed in advance (by a known date), or after a period not known in advance, but nevertheless defined by objective criteria, such as the completion of an assignment or the period of absence of an employee temporarily replaced.</i></p> <p>Underemployment should be understood as <i>involuntary part-time employment. This is when respondents declare that they work part-time because they are unable to find full-time work.</i></p> <p>Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS, 2021</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_Labour_Force_Survey_-_new_methodology_from_2021_onwards</p> <p>The wording in italics refers to LFS definitions.</p>
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Reference value	Reference values are used for target setting and can be based on success rates of similar existing or previous interventions.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 5 'Secure and adaptable employment' and 6 'Wages'.
Data collection	These data may but do not need to be recorded at the individual level. An estimate based on a sound statistical method may be used. This may require a survey. In some MS, the information can be recovered from registers or databanks. The method applied should be documented.
Reporting frequency	January 2026 and in the final performance report of 2031.

Linked to indicators	This is linked to the indicator EECO05, the number of employed participants (including self-employed).
Validation	The number of persons with an improved labour market situation should not be higher than the number of employed participants. $EECR06 \leq EECO05$

Annex C – ESF+ indicators for the actions targeting social inclusion of the most deprived persons (Annex II of the ESF+ Regulation)

Annex C lists the common indicators foreseen by the ESF+ Regulation for operations financed under SO(I) operations targeting the most deprived.

ESCO01 – TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

ESCO01	Total number of participants
Definition	Persons benefiting directly from an ESF+ operation. Other persons shall not be reported as participants.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period (in end-2029). Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.
Data collection	The value is to be reported manually. Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting on 31 st January 2022 and until 31 st January 2030.
Linked indicators to	ESCO02, ESCO03 and ESCO04
Validation	The total number of participants should be equal or higher than the sum of participants by age.

ESCO02 – CHILDREN BELOW 18 YEARS OF AGE

ESCO02	Number of children below 18 years of age
Definition	The number of participants aged under 18 years old upon starting an ESF+ operation.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 11 'Childcare and support to children' as well as on the implementation of the Council Recommendations on high-quality early childhood education and care systems (2019).
Data collection	<p>Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.</p> <p>The indicator refers to the age of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention.</p>
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	For operations targeted at children, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

ESCO03 – PARTICIPANTS AGED 18-29 YEARS

ESCO03	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age
Definition	The number of participants aged 18-29 years old upon starting an ESF+ operation.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 1 'Education, training and life-long learning' and 4 'Active support to employment' as well as on the implementation of the April 2013 Council recommendation establishing a Youth Guarantee and the October 2020 Council recommendation on the reinforced Youth Guarantee.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used. The indicator refers to the age of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	For operations targeted at young people, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants. In Member States or regions with a high youth unemployment, the proportion of young participants is expected to be higher than the EU average.

ESCO04 – PARTICIPANTS AGED 65 YEARS AND ABOVE

ESCO04	Number of participants of 65 years of age and above
Definition	The number of participants aged 65 years old or older upon starting an ESF+ operation.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 3 'Equal opportunities' and 10 'Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection'.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used. The indicator refers to the age of the participants when starting the ESF+ intervention.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	For operations targeted at older people, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

ESCO05 – PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES

ESCO05	Participants with disabilities
Definition	<p>Based on national definitions.</p> <p>"Participants with disabilities" are <i>persons who are registered disabled according to national definitions</i>.</p> <p>Source: §315 Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Labour market policy statistics – Methodology 2018.</p> <p>The wording in italics is identical to the LMP definition.</p>
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 3 'Equal opportunities' and 17 'Inclusion of people with disabilities'.
Data collection	<p>This belongs to a special category of personal data (according to Art.9 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on GDPR).</p> <p>Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.</p>
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at disabled people, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

ESCO06 – THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

ESCO06	Third-country nationals
Definition	'Third-country national' means a person who is not a citizen of the Union, including stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 3 'Equal opportunities'.
Data collection	The indicator refers to the nationality of participants when starting the ESF+ intervention. Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at third-country nationals, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants in the operation.

ESCO07 – PARTICIPANTS WITH A FOREIGN BACKGROUND, MINORITIES (INCLUDING MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES SUCH AS THE ROMA)

ESCO07	Number of participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as Roma people)
Definition	<p>Based on national definitions.</p> <p>Persons who have a foreign background or who are from a minority (including marginalised communities such as Roma people) as according to national definitions.</p> <p>Each MA/MS should use the definition that reflects current national or regional practice. In the absence of such a definition, it may elaborate one that best suits its own needs. The definition used must be documented.</p>
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 3 'Equal opportunities', and the implementation of the December 2013 Council recommendation on effective Roma integration measures.
Data collection	<p>This belongs to a special category of personal data (according to Art.9 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on GDPR).</p> <p>Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.</p>
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked to indicators	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at people with a foreign background or minorities, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

ESCO08 – HOMELESS OR AFFECTED BY HOUSING EXCLUSION

ESCO08	Homeless or affected by housing exclusion
Definition	Based on national definitions. Persons who are defined as homeless or affected by housing exclusion according to national definitions. In the absence of such a definition, the MS/managing authority may elaborate one that best suits its own needs. The definition used must be documented.
Unit	Number of persons
Target	This is the value expected by the end of the programme period. Not all indicators need to be linked to a target.
Baseline	0 – This is an output indicator.
Breakdown	By gender (men, women, non-binary) and by category of region. The total is calculated automatically.
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principles 3 'Equal opportunities' and 19 'Housing and assistance for the homeless'.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	Twice a year, end-January and end-July, starting in 2022 and until 2030.
Linked indicators to	NA
Validation	When referring to operations targeted at homeless people, the value of this indicator should be equal or close to the total number of participants.

Annex D – ESF+ material deprivation indicators (Annex III of the ESF+ Regulation)

Annex D lists the common indicators foreseen by the ESF+ Regulation for operations financed under SO(m) operations addressing material deprivation.

EMCO01 – TOTAL MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRIBUTED FOOD AND GOODS

EMCO01	Total monetary value of distributed food and goods
Definition	This indicator represents the total monetary value of food and material support distributed directly or throughout vouchers and cards.
Unit	EUR
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	For accountability and to allow assessment of efficiency. It also helps determine the average intensity of support offered to end recipients.
Data collection	The value is to be reported manually. $EMCO01 = EMCO02 + EMCO05 +$ value of distributed and used vouchers/cards during the reporting year to purchase food or basic material assistance
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO02 and EMCO05
Validation	Value of this indicator must be higher or equal to $EMCO02+EMCO05$.

EMCO02 – TOTAL VALUE OF FOOD SUPPORT

EMCO02	Total value of the food support
Definition	This the sum of the monetary value of food distributed for homeless people and for other target groups
Unit	EUR
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency of the support. It also helps determine the average intensity of food support offered to end recipients.
Data collection	<p>It is calculated automatically by the system as the sum of the total value of goods purchased and distributed and the values of the goods purchased and distributed for homeless and other target groups.</p> <p>$EMCO02 = EMCO03 + EMCO04$</p> <p>This indicator does not apply to food assistance provided indirectly through vouchers or cards.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked to indicators	EMCO01, EMCO03 and EMCO04
Validation	This is a calculated value.

EMCO03 – TOTAL MONETARY VALUE OF FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS

EMCO03	Total monetary value of food for the homeless
Definition	Total monetary value of food purchased with aim to be distributed to homeless and distributed.
Unit	EUR
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency of the support. It also helps determine the average intensity of food support offered to end recipients, for homeless.
Data collection	<p>This value should be retrieved from purchase documents, accounting records/registers of the beneficiaries and corrected for changes in stock and eventual losses due to waste.</p> <p>This indicator does not apply to food assistance provided indirectly through vouchers or cards.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO02
Validation	Value of food for the homeless should be equal or smaller than the value of food support: $EMCO03 \leq EMCO02$

EMCO04 – TOTAL MONETARY VALUE OF FOOD FOR OTHER TARGET GROUPS

EMCO04	Total monetary value of food for other target groups
Definition	Total monetary value of food purchased with aim to be distributed to other target groups (other than homeless people) and distributed.
Unit	EUR
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency of the support. It also helps determine the average intensity of food support offered to end recipients, for other target groups.
Data collection	<p>This value should be retrieved from purchase documents, accounting records/registers of the beneficiaries and corrected for changes in stock and eventual losses due to waste.</p> <p>This indicator does not apply to food assistance provided indirectly through vouchers or cards.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO02
Validation	Value of food for other target groups should be equal or smaller than the value of food support: $EMCO04 \leq EMCO02$

EMCO05 – TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS DISTRIBUTED

EMCO05	Total value of goods distributed
Definition	This indicator represents the sum of the monetary value of the goods distributed to children, to homeless people and to other target groups.
Unit	EUR
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency of the support. It also helps determine the average intensity of basic material assistance offered to end recipients.
Data collection	<p>It is calculated by the system as the sum of the total value of goods purchased and distributed and the values of the goods purchased and distributed for children and homeless and other target groups.</p> $EMCO05 = EMCO06 + EMCO07 + EMCO08$ <p>This indicator does not apply to basic material assistance provided indirectly through vouchers or cards.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO06, EMCO07 and EMCO08
Validation	This is a calculated value.

EMCO06 – TOTAL MONETARY VALUE OF GOODS FOR CHILDREN

EMCO06	Total monetary value of goods for children
Definition	Total monetary value of goods purchased with aim to be distributed to children and distributed.
Unit	EUR
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency of the support. It also helps determine the average intensity of basic material assistance offered to end recipients, particularly children.
Data collection	<p>This value should be retrieved from purchase documents, accounting records/registers of the beneficiaries and corrected for changes in stock and eventual losses due to waste.</p> <p>This indicator does not apply to basic material assistance provided indirectly through vouchers or cards.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO05, EMCO07 and EMCO08
Validation	Value of goods for children should be equal or smaller than the value of goods support: $EMCO06 \leq EMCO05$

EMCO07 – TOTAL MONETARY VALUE OF GOODS FOR THE HOMELESS

EMCO07	Total monetary value of goods for the homeless
Definition	Total monetary value of goods purchased with aim to be distributed to homeless and distributed.
Unit	EUR
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency of the support. It also helps determine the average intensity of basic material assistance offered to end recipients, particularly homeless.
Data collection	<p>This value should be retrieved from purchase documents, accounting records/registers of the beneficiaries and corrected for changes in stock and eventual losses due to waste.</p> <p>This indicator does not apply to basic material assistance provided indirectly through vouchers or cards.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO05, EMCO07 and EMCO08
Validation	Value of goods for homeless should be equal or smaller than the value of goods support: $EMCO07 \leq EMCO05$

EMCO08 – TOTAL MONETARY VALUE OF GOODS FOR OTHER TARGET GROUPS

EMCO08	Total monetary value of goods for other target groups
Definition	Total monetary value of goods purchased with aim to be distributed to other groups than children or homeless and distributed.
Unit	EUR
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency of the support. It also helps determine the average intensity of basic material assistance offered to end recipients, particularly other target groups.
Data collection	<p>This value should be retrieved from purchase documents, accounting records/registers of the beneficiaries and corrected for changes in stock and eventual losses due to waste.</p> <p>This indicator does not apply to basic material assistance provided indirectly through vouchers or cards.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO05, EMCO06, EMCO07
Validation	Value of goods for other target groups should be equal or smaller than the value of goods support: $EMCO08 \leq EMCO05$

EMCO09 – TOTAL QUANTITY OF FOOD SUPPORT DISTRIBUTED

EMCO09	Total quantity of food support distributed (in tonnes)
Definition	The volume in tonnes of food distributed with the help of the ESF+. This was either purchased with ESF+ support or donated by external parties and distributed with the logistical support financed by ESF+, i.e. excluding food distributed by the beneficiaries beyond ESF+ support.
Unit	Tonnes
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency of the support. This is a key measure also to assess the average number of meals per year offered to end recipients.
Data collection	<p>This indicator is calculated and requires tracking four different dimensions:</p> <p>(1) the amount of food purchased through the programme, (2) the amount of food received and distributed with the support of the programme (food donation), (3) changes in stocks in warehouses where the food financed by the ESF+ is stored before distribution and (4) any loss due waste.</p> <p><i>EMCO09 = food purchased + food donations – change in stocks – waste</i></p> <p>This indicator does not apply to basic material assistance provided indirectly through vouchers or cards.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO02, EMCO10 and EMCO11
Validation	NA

EMCO10 – SHARE OF FOOD DONATIONS

EMCO10	Share of food for which only transport, distribution and storage were paid for by the programme (in %)
Definition	The amount (in tonnes) of food support coming from donations in the total food distribution, for which eligible costs (covering transport, distribution and storage) were incurred under the operational programme.
Unit	Percentage
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	This is used as an estimate of the leverage effect of the ESF+ in the provision of food support.
Data collection	<p>This indicator should be expressed as share (%) and is calculated as follows:</p> $EMCO10 = \frac{\text{Quantity of food donations for which eligible costs were incurred under ESF +}}{EMCO09}$ <p>The quantity of food donations distributed with the support of the programme may be informed estimates.</p>
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO09
Validation	<p>The food support distributed under the programme has either been purchased or received.</p> <p>The following should be valid: $EMCO10 \leq 100\%$</p>

EMCO11 – PROPORTION OF ESF+ IN TOTAL VOLUME OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

EMCO11	Proportion of the ESF+ co-financed food in the total volume of food distributed by the beneficiaries (in %)
Definition	The amount (in tonnes) of food purchased and distributed with ESF+ support in total food distribution.
Unit	Percentage
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	This is used as an estimate of the leverage effect of the ESF+ in the provision of food support.
Data collection	This indicator should be expressed as share (%) and is calculated as follows: $EMCO11 = \frac{EMCO09}{EMCO09 + \text{food distributed beyond ESF + support}}$
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCO09 and EMCO10
Validation	The food support distributed under the programme has either been purchased or received. The following should be valid: $EMCO11 \leq 100\%$

EMCR01 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS RECEIVING FOOD SUPPORT

EMCR01	Number of end recipients receiving food support
Definition	This is the total number of persons having received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In the case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency and cost effectiveness. It also provides information as to the estimated coverage and intensity of support, in combination with the quantity and value of food distributed.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	Indicators EMCR02 to EMCR09 represent sub-groups.
Validation	The value should be higher than the sum of the indicators EMCR02 to EMCR05 (age groups but not covering the whole age range): $EMCR01 \geq EMCR02 + EMCR03 + EMCR05$

EMCR02 – NUMBER OF CHILDREN BELOW 18 YEARS OF AGE

EMCR02	Number of children below 18 years of age
Definition	This is the total number of persons 17 years old or less having received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household 17 years old or less when that household first received support during the reporting year, are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 11 (Childcare and support to children). It also provides information as to the estimated coverage and intensity of support for children, in combination with the quantity and value of food distributed.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR01
Validation	$EMCR02 \leq EMCR01$

EMCR03 – NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18-29 YEARS

EMCR03	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age
Definition	This is the total number of persons 18 years old and more but less than thirty having received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household 18 years old and more but less than thirty are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR01
Validation	$EMCR03 \leq EMCR01$

EMCR04 – NUMBER OF WOMEN

EMCR04	Number of women
Definition	This is the total number of women, irrespective of their age, having received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the women of that household are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR01
Validation	A priori, one would expect about half the recipients to be women. This may be different if some specific groups are targeted more than others. For instance, young men may represent the majority of some migrant groups.

EMCR05 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

EMCR05	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above
Definition	The number of persons who have at least 65 years and having received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household aged 65 years old or more are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR01
Validation	$EMCR05 \leq EMCR01$

EMCR06 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS WITH DISABILITIES

EMCR06	Number of end recipients with disabilities
Definition	<p>The number of end recipients with disabilities having received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household with disabilities are to be counted.</p> <p>"End recipients with disabilities" are <i>persons who are registered disabled according to national definitions</i> and having received food support.</p> <p>Source: §315 Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Labour market policy statistics – Methodology 2018.</p> <p>The wording in italics is identical to the LMP definition.</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR01
Validation	$EMCR06 \leq EMCR01$

EMCR07 – NUMBER OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

EMCR07	Number of third-country nationals
Definition	<p>Number of third-country nationals who have received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household who are third-country nationals are to be counted.</p> <p>'Third-country national' means a person who is not a citizen of the Union, including stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality.</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked to indicators	EMCR01
Validation	$EMCR07 \leq EMCR01$

EMCR08 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS WITH A FOREIGN BACKGROUND AND FROM A MINORITY

EMCR08	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (including marginalised communities such as Roma people)
Definition	<p>Persons who have a foreign background or who are from a minority (including marginalised communities such as Roma people) as according to national definitions and having received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household with a foreign background or from a minority are to be counted.</p> <p>Foreign background: based on national definitions Minorities: based on national definitions</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR01
Validation	$EMCR08 \leq EMCR01$

EMCR09 – NUMBER OF HOMELESS END RECIPIENTS OR END RECIPIENTS AFFECTED BY HOUSING EXCLUSION

EMCR09	Number of homeless end recipients or end recipients affected by housing exclusion
Definition	<p>Persons who are defined as homeless or affected by housing exclusion according to national definitions and having received food support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household who are homeless or affected by housing exclusion are to be counted.</p> <p>Homeless and affected by housing exclusion: based on national definitions</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion. It also provides information as to the estimated coverage and intensity of support for homeless, in combination with the quantity and value of food distributed, particularly to homeless.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR01
Validation	$EMCR09 \leq EMCR01$

EMCR10 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS RECEIVING MATERIAL SUPPORT

EMCR10	Number of end recipients receiving material support
Definition	Number of persons having received material support at least once in the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency and cost effectiveness. It also provides information as to the estimated coverage and intensity of material support offered, in combination with the value of basic material assistance offered.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	Indicators EMCR11 to EMCR18 represent sub-groups.
Validation	The value should be higher than the sum of the indicators EMCR11, EMCR12 and EMCR14 (age groups but not covering the whole age range): $EMCR10 \geq EMCR11 + EMCR12 + EMCR14$

EMCR11 – NUMBER OF CHILDREN BELOW 18 YEARS OF AGE

EMCR11	Number of children below 18 years of age
Definition	This is the total number of persons 17 years old or less having received material support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household 17 years old or less when that households first received support during the reporting year, are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 11 (Childcare and support to children). It also provides information as to the estimated coverage and intensity of material support offered, in combination with the value of basic material assistance offered, particularly to children.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR10
Validation	$EMCR11 \leq EMCR10$

EMCR12 – NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18-29 YEARS

EMCR12	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age
Definition	This is the total number of persons 18 years old and more but less than thirty having received material support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household 18 years old and more but less than thirty are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators	EMCR10
Validation	$EMCR12 \leq EMCR10$

EMCR13 – NUMBER OF WOMEN

EMCR13	Number of women
Definition	This is the total number of women having received material support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the women of that household are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR10
Validation	A priori one would expect about half the recipients to be women. This may be different if some specific groups are targeted more than others. For instance, young men may represent the majority of some migrant groups.

EMCR14 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

EMCR14	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above
Definition	The number of persons who have at least 65 years and having received material support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household aged 65 years old or more are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR10
Validation	$EMCR14 \leq EMCR10$

EMCR15 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS WITH DISABILITIES

EMCR15	Number of end recipients with disabilities
Definition	<p>The number of persons with disabilities having received material support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household with disabilities are to be counted.</p> <p>"End recipients with disabilities" are <i>persons who are registered disabled according to national definitions</i> and have received material support.</p> <p>Source: §315 Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Labour market policy statistics – Methodology 2018.</p> <p>The wording in italics is identical to the LMP definition.</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR10
Validation	$EMCR15 \leq EMCR10$

EMCR16 – NUMBER OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

EMCR16	Number of third-country nationals
Definition	<p>The number of third-country nationals who have received material support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household who are third-country nationals are to be counted.</p> <p>'Third-country national' means a person who is not a citizen of the Union, including stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality.</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked to indicators	EMCR10
Validation	$EMCR16 \leq EMCR10$

EMCR17 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS WITH A FOREIGN BACKGROUND AND FROM A MINORITY

EMCR17	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (including marginalised communities such as Roma people)
Definition	<p>Persons who have a foreign background or who are from a minority (including marginalised communities such as Roma people) as according to national definitions and having received material support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household with a foreign background or from a minority are to be counted.</p> <p>Foreign background: based on national definitions. Minorities: based on national definitions.</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR10
Validation	$EMCR17 \leq EMCR10$

EMCR18 – NUMBER OF HOMELESS END RECIPIENTS OR END RECIPIENTS AFFECTED BY HOUSING EXCLUSION

EMCR18	Number of homeless end recipients or end recipients affected by housing exclusion
Definition	<p>Persons who are defined as homeless or affected by housing exclusion according to national definitions and having received material support during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household who are homeless or affected by housing exclusion are to be counted.</p> <p>Homeless or affected by housing exclusion: based on national definitions.</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion. It also provides information as to the estimated coverage and intensity of material support offered, in combination with the value of basic material assistance offered, particularly to homeless.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR10
Validation	$EMCR18 \leq EMCR10$

EMCR19 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS BENEFITING FROM VOUCHERS/CARDS

EMCR19	Number of end recipients benefiting from vouchers or cards
Definition	Number of persons having received and used vouchers/cards during the reporting year to purchase food or basic material assistance, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household benefiting from vouchers and cards are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison or the result of a calculation of vouchers per person and estimation of number of end recipient per year according to annual budget.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To allow assessment of efficiency and cost effectiveness. It complements the information on the number of end recipients assisted with direct provision of food and basic material assistance. It can also be used to check the intensity of support provided, if used in combination with EMCO1, EMCO2 and EMCO5.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	Indicators EMCR20 to EMCR27 represent sub-groups.
Validation	The value should be higher than the sum of the indicators EMCR20 to EMCR22 (age groups but not covering the whole age range): $EMCR19 \geq EMCR20 + EMCR21 + EMCR22$

EMCR20 – NUMBER OF CHILDREN BELOW 18 YEARS OF AGE

EMCR20	Number of children below 18 years of age
Definition	This is the total number of persons 17 years old or less having received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household 17 years old or less when that household first received support during the reporting year, are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of principle 11 (Childcare and support to children). It also provides information as to the estimated coverage and intensity of material support offered, in combination with the value of basic material assistance offered, particularly to children.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR19
Validation	$EMCR20 \leq EMCR19$

EMCR21 – NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18-29 YEARS

EMCR21	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age
Definition	This is the total number of persons 18 years old and more but less than thirty having received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household 18 years old and more but less than thirty are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators	EMCR19
Validation	$EMCR21 \leq EMCR19$

EMCR22 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

EMCR22	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above
Definition	The number of persons who have at least 65 years and having received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household aged 65 years old or more are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators	EMCR19
Validation	$EMCR22 \leq EMCR19$

EMCR23 – NUMBER OF WOMEN

EMCR23	Number of women
Definition	This is the total number of women having received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the women of that household are to be counted.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR19
Validation	A priori one would expect about half the recipients to be women. This may be different if some specific groups are targeted more than others. For instance, young men may represent the majority of some migrant groups.

EMCR24 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS WITH DISABILITIES

EMCR24	Number of end recipients with disabilities
Definition	<p>Individuals with disabilities having received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household with disabilities are to be counted.</p> <p>"End recipients with disabilities" are <i>persons who are registered disabled according to national definitions</i> and have received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods.</p> <p>Source: §315 Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Labour market policy statistics – Methodology 2018.</p> <p>The wording in italics is identical to the LMP definition.</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked to indicators	EMCR19
Validation	$EMCR24 \leq EMCR19$

EMCR25 – NUMBER OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

EMCR25	Number of third-country nationals
Definition	<p>Number of third-country nationals who have received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household who are third-country nationals are to be counted.</p> <p>'Third-country national' means a person who is not a citizen of the Union, including stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality.</p>
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators	EMCR19
Validation	$EMCR25 \leq EMCR19$

EMCR26 – NUMBER OF END RECIPIENTS WITH A FOREIGN BACKGROUND OR FROM A MINORITY

EMCR26	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (including marginalised communities such as Roma people).
Definition	Persons who have a foreign background or who are from a minority (including marginalised communities such as Roma people) as according to national definitions and having received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household with a foreign background or from a minority are to be counted. Foreign background: based on national definitions. Minorities: based on national definitions.
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR19
Validation	$EMCR26 \leq EMCR19$

EMCR27 – NUMBER OF HOMELESS END RECIPIENTS OR END RECIPIENTS AFFECTED BY HOUSING EXCLUSION

EMCR27	Number of homeless end recipients or end recipients affected by housing exclusion
Definition	Persons who are defined as homeless or affected by housing exclusion according to national definitions and having received cards/vouchers to purchase food or basic goods during the reporting year, irrespective of the number of times the support was given. In case the support is given to a household, all the members of that household who are homeless or affected by housing exclusion are to be counted. Homeless: based on national definitions Affected by housing exclusions: based on national definitions
Unit	Persons
Reference value	The reference value could be an achievement in a previous programme deemed relevant as comparison.
Breakdown	By category of region
Justification	To report on how the ESF+ is delivering on the objective set in TFEU art. 162 and on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular of Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion. It also provides information as to the estimated coverage and intensity of material support offered, in combination with the value of basic material assistance offered, particularly to homeless.
Data collection	Values for this indicator can be determined based on informed estimates provided by the beneficiary. Alternatively, data can be collected from the participants or from registers. Managing authorities are required to document the methods used.
Reporting frequency	End of January of each year, starting in 2022 and until 2030
Linked indicators to	EMCR19
Validation	$EMCR27 \leq EMCR19$

Annex E – List of ESF+ common indicators that need to be transmitted for SO(a)-SO(k) and SO(l) operations not targeting the most deprived (Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation)

A "x" means that the value of that indicator needs to be transmitted electronically to the Commission in accordance with Art. 42(1) of the CPR.

Code	Name of the indicator	SO(a) to SO(k) operations	SO(l) operations not targeting the most deprived	Page	
Common output indicators on participants					
1.1	EECO01	Total number of participants	Automatically calculated	X (to be reported)	26
	EECO02	Unemployed, incl. long-term unemployed	X		27
	EECO03	Long-term unemployed	X		28
	EECO04	Inactive	X		29
	EECO05	Employed, incl. self-employed	X		30
	EECO06	Children below 18 years of age	X	X	31
	EECO07	Young people between 18 and 29 years of age	X	X	32
	EECO08	Participants of 55 years of age and above	X	X	33
	EECO09	With lower secondary education or less (ISCED 0-2)	X		34
	EECO10	With upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	X		35
	EECO11	With tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	X		36
1.2	EECO12	Participants with disabilities*	X	X	37
	EECO13	Third-country nationals	X	X	38
	EECO14	Participants with a foreign background*	X	X	39
	EECO15	Minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)*	X	X	40
	EECO16	Homeless or affected by housing exclusion*	X	X	41
	EECO17	Participants from rural areas	X		42
	Common output indicators on entities				
2	EECO18	Number of supported public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	X	X	43
	EECO19	Number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (incl. cooperative enterprises and social enterprises)	X	X	44
Common immediate result indicators on participants					
3	EECR01	Participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	X		45
	EECR02	Participants in education or training upon leaving	X		46
	EECR03	Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	X		47
	EECR04	Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	X		48
Common longer-term result indicators on participants					
4	EECR05	Participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	X		49
	EECR06	Participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	X		50

* Based on national definitions

Annex F – List of ESF+ common indicators that need to be transmitted for SO(I) operations targeting the most deprived (Annex II of the ESF+ Regulation)

A "x" means that the value of that indicator needs to be transmitted electronically to the Commission in accordance with Art. 42(1) of the CPR.

Code	Name of the indicator	SO(I) operations targeting the most deprived	Page	
Common output indicators on participants				
1.1	ESCO01	Total number of participants	X (to be reported)	52
	ESCO02	Children below 18 years of age	X	53
	ESCO03	Young people between 18 and 29 years of age	X	54
	ESCO04	Participants of 65 years of age and above	X	55
1.2	ESCO05	Participants with disabilities*	X	56
	ESCO06	Third-country nationals	X	57
	ESCO07	Participants with a foreign background, minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)*	X	58
	ESCO08	Homeless or affected by housing exclusion*	X	59
Common output indicators on entities				
-				
Common result indicators on participants				
-				

* Based on national definitions

Annex G – List of ESF+ common indicators that need to be transmitted for SO(m) operations addressing material deprivation (Annex III of the ESF+ Regulation)

A "x" means that the value of that indicator needs to be transmitted electronically to the Commission in accordance with Art. 42(1) of the CPR.

Code	Name of the indicator	SO(m) operations	Page
Common output indicators			
EMCO01	Total monetary value of distributed food and goods	X	60
EMCO02	Total value of the food support	X	61
EMCO03	Total monetary value of food for the homeless	X	62
EMCO04	Total monetary value of food for other target groups	X	63
EMCO05	Total value of goods distributed	X	64
EMCO06	Total monetary value of goods for children	X	65
EMCO07	Total monetary value of goods for the homeless	X	66
EMCO08	Total monetary value of goods for other target groups	X	67
EMCO09	Total quantity of food support distributed (in tonnes)	X	68
EMCO10	Share of food for which only transport, distribution and storage were paid for by the programme (in %)	X	69
EMCO11	Proportion of the ESF+ co-financed food in the total volume of food distributed by the beneficiaries (in %)	X	70
Common result indicators			
EMCR01	Number of end recipients receiving food support	X	71
EMCR02	Number of children below 18 years of age	X	72
EMCR03	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age	X	73
EMCR04	Number of women	X	74
EMCR05	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above	X	75
EMCR06	Number of end recipients with disabilities*	X	76
EMCR07	Number of third-country nationals	X	77
EMCR08	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)*	X	78
EMCR09	Number of homeless end recipients or end recipients affected by housing exclusion*	X	79
EMCR10	Number of end recipients receiving material support	X	80
EMCR11	Number of children below 18 years of age	X	81
EMCR12	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age	X	82
EMCR13	Number of women	X	83
EMCR14	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above	X	84
EMCR15	Number of end recipients with disabilities*	X	85
EMCR16	Number of third-country nationals	X	86
EMCR17	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)*	X	87
EMCR18	Number of homeless end recipients or end recipients affected by housing exclusion*	X	88
EMCR19	Number of end recipients benefiting from vouchers or cards	X	89
EMCR20	Number of children below 18 years of age	X	90
EMCR21	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age	X	91
EMCR22	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above	X	92
EMCR23	Number of women	X	93
EMCR24	Number of end recipients with disabilities*	X	94
EMCR25	Number of third-country nationals	X	95
EMCR26	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)*	X	96
EMCR27	Number of homeless end recipients or end recipients affected by housing exclusion*	X	97

* Based on national definitions

Annex H – Legal references

Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>

Regulation on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1057>

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A12012E%2FTXT>

European Pillar of Social Rights

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/social-summit-european-pillar-social-rights-booklet_en.pdf

Skills Agenda for Europe

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223>

EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>

National Reform Programmes (NRP)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester/european-semester-timeline/national-reform-programmes-and-stability-convergence-programmes_en

Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester/european-semester-timeline/eu-country-specific-recommendations_en

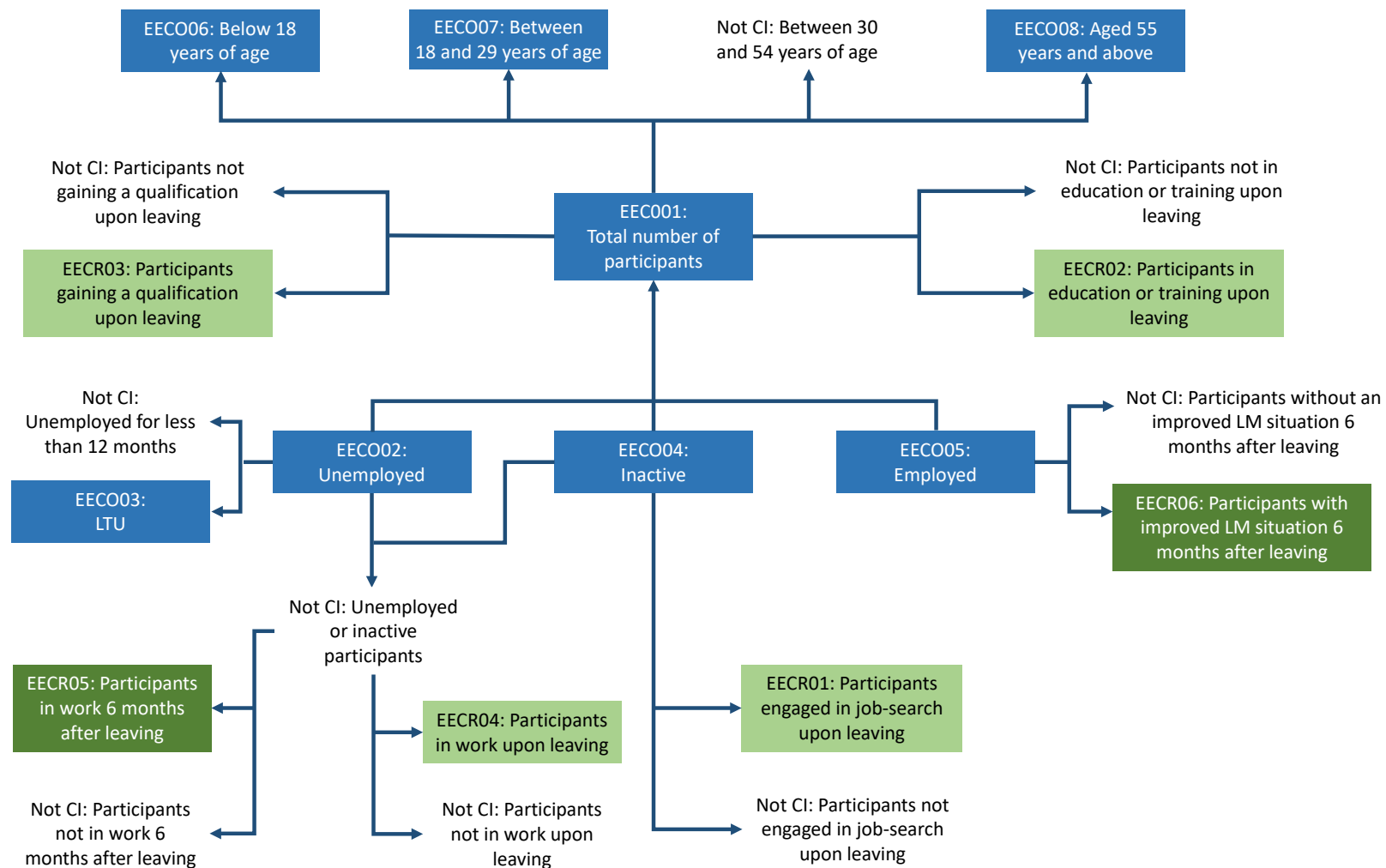
General data protection regulation (GDPR)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

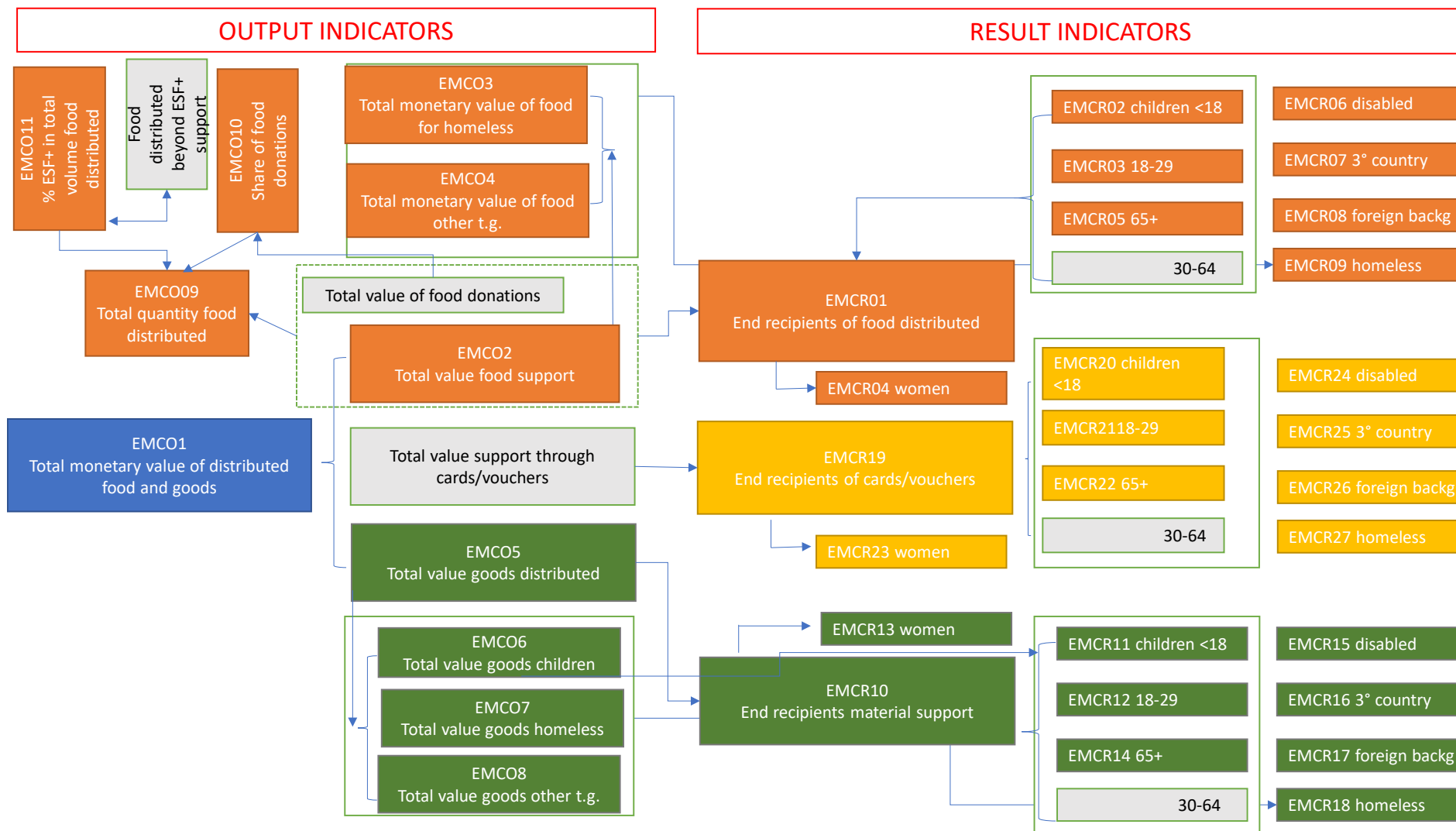
United Nation Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Annex I – Flowchart for ESF+ general support common indicators on participants, SO(a) - SO(k)



Annex J – Flowchart for ESF+ material deprivation common indicators – SO(m)



Grey cells indicate values for which no indicators are set, but can be deduced residually from other indicators.

Green cells correspond to material support related indicators, orange cells to food support indicators, yellow cells refer to end recipients benefiting from support to cards/vouchers indicators.

Annex K – Overview of common indicators and required gender breakdown – SO(a) to SO(m)

The following table lists all common indicators foreseen by the Regulations.

A "x" means that the value of that indicator needs to be transmitted electronically to the Commission in accordance with Art. 42(1) of the CPR. Some totals are calculated by the system (SFC 2021) on the basis of the breakdown by gender. This breakdown is not required or not applicable for some indicators.

Specific objective	Indicator (code and short name)		Gender breakdown			Total
			Men	Women	Non-binary	
(Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation)	EECO01	Total number of participants	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO02	Unemployed, incl. long-term unemployed	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO03	Long-term unemployed	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO04	Inactive	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO05	Employed, incl. self-employed	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO06	Children below 18 years of age	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO07	Young people between 18 and 29 years of age	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO08	Participants of 55 years of age and above	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO09	With lower secondary education or less (ISCED 0-2)	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO10	With upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO11	With tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO12	With disabilities	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO13	Third-country nationals	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO14	With a foreign background	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO15	Minorities (incl. marginalised communities, such as Roma people)	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO16	Homeless or affected by housing exclusion	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO17	From rural areas	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECO18	Supported public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	NA	NA	NA	x
	EECO19	Supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (incl. cooperative enterprises and social enterprises)	NA	NA	NA	x
	EECR01	Engaged in job searching upon leaving	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECR02	In education or training upon leaving	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECR03	Gaining a qualification upon leaving	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECR04	In employment, incl. self-employment, upon leaving	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECR05	In employment, incl. self-employment, 6 months after leaving	x	x	x	Calculated
	EECR06	With an improved labour market situation 6 months after leaving	x	x	x	Calculated
	(Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation)	EECO01	Total number of participants	x	x	x
EECO06		Children below 18 years of age	x	x	x	Calculated
EECO07		Young people between 18 and 29 years of age	x	x	x	Calculated
EECO08		Participants of 55 years of age and above	x	x	x	Calculated
EECO12		With disabilities	x	x	x	Calculated
EECO13		Third-country nationals	x	x	x	Calculated
EECO14		With a foreign background	x	x	x	Calculated
EECO15		Minorities (incl. marginalised communities, such as Roma people)	x	x	x	Calculated
EECO16		Homeless or affected by housing exclusion	x	x	x	Calculated
EECO18	Supported public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	NA	NA	NA	x	
EECO19	Supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (incl. cooperative enterprises and social enterprises)	NA	NA	NA	x	
(Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation)	ESCO01	Total number of participants	x	x	x	Calculated
	ESCO02	Children below 18 years of age	x	x	x	Calculated
	ESCO03	Young people between 18 and 29 years of age	x	x	x	Calculated

Specific objective the most deprived	Indicator (code and short name)		Gender breakdown			Total
			Men	Women	Non-binary	
(Annex II of the ESF+ Regulation)	ESCO04	Participants of 65 years of age and above	x	x	x	Calculated
	ESCO05	With disabilities	x	x	x	Calculated
	ESCO06	Third-country nationals	x	x	x	Calculated
	ESCO07	With a foreign background, minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)	x	x	x	Calculated
SO(m) (Annex III of the ESF+ Regulation)	ESCO08	Homeless or affected by housing exclusion	x	x	x	Calculated
	EMCO01	Total monetary value of distributed food and goods	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO02	Total value of the food support	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO03	Total monetary value of food for the homeless	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO04	Total monetary value of food for other target groups	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO05	Total value of goods distributed	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO06	Total monetary value of goods for children	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO07	Total monetary value of goods for the homeless	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO08	Total monetary value of goods for other target groups	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO09	Total quantity of food support distributed (in tonnes)	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO10	Share of food for which only transport, distribution and storage were paid for by the programme (in %)	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCO11	Proportion of the ESF+ co-financed food in the total volume of food distributed by the beneficiaries (in %)	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR01	Number of end recipients receiving food support	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR02	Number of children below 18 years of age	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR03	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR04	Number of women	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR05	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR06	Number of end recipients with disabilities	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR07	Number of third-country nationals	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR08	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR09	Number of homeless end recipients or end recipients affected by housing exclusion	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR10	Number of end recipients receiving material support	NA	NA	NA	x
EMCR11	Number of children below 18 years of age	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR12	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR13	Number of women	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR14	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR15	Number of end recipients with disabilities	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR16	Number of third-country nationals	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR17	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR18	Number of homeless end recipients or end recipients affected by housing exclusion	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR19	Number of end recipients benefiting from vouchers or cards	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR20	Number of children below 18 years of age	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR21	Number of young people between 18 and 29 years of age	NA	NA	NA	x	
EMCR22	Number of end recipients of 65 years of age and above	NA	NA	NA	x	

Specific objective	Indicator (code and short name)		Gender breakdown			Total
			Men	Women	Non-binary	
	EMCR23	Number of women	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR24	Number of end recipients with disabilities	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR25	Number of third-country nationals	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR26	Number of end recipients with a foreign background and minorities (incl. marginalised communities such as Roma people)	NA	NA	NA	x
	EMCR27	Number of homeless end recipients (or end recipients affected by housing exclusion)	NA	NA	NA	x

Annex L – Example of the calculation of the sample size for unknown population (for structured surveys)

Where the population is unknown, the sample size can be derived by computing the minimum sample size required for accuracy in estimating proportions by considering the standard normal deviation set at specific confidence level, the proportion of the population picking a certain choice or response, and the confidence interval (margin of error).

The following formula can be used for the sample size calculation:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \times P \times (1 - P)}{s^2}$$

where :

n = sample size;

Z values represent standard normal deviation set at specific confidence level (e.g. 1.96 for 95% confidence level);

P is the expected proportion of the population that possesses a particular property or selects a specific answer, and it is typically based on previous surveys. If P is unknown (for example, before research is done) the maximal possible value of $(P \times (1-P))$ should be used in the formula = $0.5 \times 0.5 = 0.25$;

s = margin of error (it is the positive and negative deviation you allow on your survey results for the sample).

For the FEAD structured survey, we are proposing to apply the following parameters: a margin of error not exceeding 3 percentage points using a 95% confidence level (i.e. a confidence interval of length 6 percentage points) for an expected proportion of the population picking a certain choice or response of 0.5.

When using these parameters, the sample size is 1,068.

Annex M – Major changes compared to the 2014-2020 period

Compared to the version of the Guidance document on the Monitoring and Evaluation of European Cohesion Policy - European Social Fund published in 2018, this toolbox on ESF+ common indicators for the 2021-2027 programming period includes the following key changes:

1. The monitoring concerns ESF+ under shared management (covering former ESF, YEI and FEAD).
2. ESF+ under Policy objective 4 (“a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights”) has 13 specific objectives (they are not called ‘investment priorities’ anymore).
3. The ESF+ common indicators toolbox strictly focuses on the monitoring of ESF+ programmes for the 2021-2027 programming period and does not provide any guidelines in terms of eligibility.
4. The definition of participants, which used to be based on three criteria (participants benefitting directly, who can be identified and asked for their personal characteristics, expenditure earmarked), is now exclusively focusing on the direct benefit criterion.
5. The breakdown by gender now includes a non-binary variable (to be applied if recognised in the concerned Member State).
6. Whenever there are gender specific targets, these need to be programmed as specific indicators in this programming period.
7. Reporting data for the grand total of participants is not required anymore. For SO(a)-SO(I) (for SO(I) only for operations not targeting the most deprived), only records with complete data for indicators listed under Annex I (point 1.1) can be submitted. Incomplete records are possible only for SO(I) for operations targeting the most deprived (Annex II indicators).
8. Common output indicators on age now refer to children below 18, young people aged 18-29, participants aged 55 and above (except for SO(I) targeting the most deprived where the latter is replaced with participants aged 65 and above).
9. There are now 3 separate common output indicators on Third-country nationals, Foreign background, and Minorities for SO(a)-SO(I) operations not targeting the most deprived (and one combined indicator on Foreign background and minorities which is only applicable for SO(I) operations targeting the most deprived) instead of a single indicator (which used to cover Migrants, people from foreign background and minorities).

10. It is possible to use informed estimates (including representative sampling) for common output indicators listed in point 1.2 of Annex I and for all indicators listed under Annex II of the ESF+ Regulation.
11. For other common output indicators listed in point 1.2 of both Annexes I and II of the ESF+ Regulation, data collection is only necessary when applicable and in relevant cases. Informed estimates can be used instead.
12. For common result indicators listed in Annex I of the ESF+ Regulation (SO(a) to SO(k)), if certain results are not possible, data for those result indicators do not have to be collected and reported.
13. For common output indicators listed in Annexes I, II and III of the ESF+ Regulation, where appropriate, common output indicators can be reported based on the target group of the operation.
14. For the general support of the ESF+ strand (covering SO(a) to SO(k)), the total number of common indicators is reduced (and there are no separate indicators on YEI) to 25 common indicators for ESF+ (compared to 37 previously - 25 for ESF + 12 for YEI).
15. Common longer-term result indicators are not required for SO(l) operations not targeting the most deprived.
16. The performance reserve is discontinued, but the performance framework (with 2024 milestones and 2029 targets for selected indicators for each specific objective – except for SO(m)) remains and applies to the entire programme.
17. For SO(a) to SO(l), reference values should be used for setting targets for result indicators (instead of baselines).
18. Reporting and periodicity: there will be no Annual Implementation Reports anymore, instead, the reporting via SFC2021 will be based on cumulative data (i.e. “values achieved to date”) and data shall be transmitted twice a year for SO(a) to SO(l) and once a year for SO(m).
19. If data is coming from registers, Member States can use national definitions, they do not have to align with the toolbox definitions. In addition, there is an enabling clause allowing Member States to use registers or equivalent sources (Art. 17(6) of the ESF+ Regulation).
20. The definition of LTU is now standardised across all age groups (more than 12 months of continuous spell of unemployment). The separate approach for young people (more than 6 months of continuous spell of unemployment) is no longer applied.

21. Definition of EECR06 – Improved labour market situation: wage increases without any change of position, hours worked or range of activity or wage increases due to collective agreements can all be considered under this indicator.

22. For ex-FEAD OPs, simplified monitoring arrangements continue to be foreseen. However, a few differences with the previous programming period exist. In particular:

a. For ex-FEAD type I OPs (SO(m)):

- i. Data should be reported yearly in January.
- ii. All indicators should be broken down by category of region.
- iii. Reference values should be established for (a limited number of) result indicators.
- iv. A new set of result indicators is introduced that focuses on end recipient being provided with vouchers/cards.
- v. For output indicators, it is no longer necessary to report in SFC which types of goods have been purchased and there is no longer a distinction between the quantity of meals and food packages distributed, but a breakdown by broad target groups (children – only in the case of goods purchased), homeless, and other target groups) was introduced for output indicators.
- vi. The breakdowns for the value of goods and food do not apply in the case of food assistance provided indirectly through electronic vouchers or cards. For result indicators, some adjustments to the breakdowns are foreseen, e.g. with the indicator on children now counting end recipients up to 18 years of age and an additional indicator on youths (aged 18-29 years).
- vii. Programme specific indicators may be used.

b. For ex-FEAD type II OPs (SO(l) operations targeting the most deprived):

- i. All indicators should be broken down by category of region.
- ii. When SO(l) programmes target the most deprived, simplified reporting requirements are foreseen with respect to those for the less deprived under SO(l) or the other operations funded under SO(a)-SO(k). This is in the spirit of the former FEAD type II OPs monitoring arrangements, however there are some notable changes with respect to the 2014-20 programming period. In particular: a gender breakdown should always be provided, and should include the options men, women, non-binary.
- iii. There are two “groups” of indicators:
 - those referring to the total number of participants and their breakdown by age (Annex II, point 1.1), for which data are collected individually along the lines of the 2014-2020 programming period; and
 - those referring to sensitive data (participants with disabilities, third-country nationals, participants with a foreign background, minorities, homeless) for which data needs to be collected only when applicable and in relevant cases

(Annex II, point 1.2). Values on these indicators can be determined based on informed estimates by the beneficiary.

- iv. For output indicators with a target, milestone values should also be identified.
- v. The breakdown by age has been refined.

23. The EU-LFS methodology used as reference for several indicators is the one which shall apply from 2021 onwards (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_Labour_Force_Survey_-_new_methodology_from_2021_onwards).