The European Social Fund

Active Ageing Index?

Anette Björnsson, DG EMPL
Content of the presentation

Short general introduction to the ESF
The active ageing index and ESF
European Social Fund is the EU’s key instrument for investing in people and systems:

- To improve employment opportunities
- To promote education and life-long learning
- To enhance social inclusion and combat poverty
- To improve efficiency of public administration

An expression of European solidarity

ESF has for the first time in the history of cohesion policy a minimum share of 23.1% of the total Cohesion Fund with earmarking for social inclusion: at minimum 20% at national level
One of the main thematic objectives of the European Social Fund is "promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility" through:

- Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market
- Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people
- Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation
- Equality between men and women in all areas
- Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change
- Active and healthy ageing
- Modernisation of labour market institutions
Another main thematic objectives of the European Social Fund is "promoting social inclusion, combatting poverty and any discrimination" through:

- Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability
- Socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma
- Combating all forms discrimination and promoting equal opportunities
- Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest
- Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment
- Community-led local development strategies
Shared management - partnership

- Design and implementation of programmes are done in a partnership between the European Commission and national and regional authorities, including NGOs and workers’ organisations.

- Shared management which means that the responsibility is taken at the appropriate level:
  - The regulatory framework is designed at European level through consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders,
  - Operational Programmes are negotiated between national authorities and the Commission. Implementation on the ground, through Operational Programmes, is managed by the relevant authorities in each country.
The Active Ageing Index (1)

Possible use of an active ageing index in the ESF

The Index as such can be used to measure if there is an issue with active ageing in the country especially compared to other Member States.

The overall index for the country would clearly be more useful if it could be broken down to regions.

The 4 main components of the index and their sub-indicators can also be used as a guidance to find the main challenges in this area.
The Active Ageing Index (2)

Possible use of an active ageing index in the ESF

An active ageing index can in principle be used as a guidance in Member States when programming the use of the ESI funds and in particular the ESF.

At the moment programming at the strategic and regional level have been done.

Could be used for the programming of the projects and choosing the most efficient proposals.
More info: ec.europa.eu/esf