

# ESF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2014-2020 OF THE COMMUNITY OF MADRID



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## SUMMARY REPORT OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EVALUATIONS CARRIED OUT OF ESF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2014-2020 DURING THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD AND MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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NOVEMBER 2022

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## EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

The Summary Report of the Conclusions of the Evaluations carried out of the European Social Fund (ESF) Operational Programme 2014-2020 of the Community of Madrid during the programming period and the main results achieved constitutes the **last evaluation** scheduled in the established calendar of the **Specific Evaluation Plan** of the European Social Fund for that programming period.

The **ESF Operational Programme 2014-2020** of the Community of Madrid was created with the aim of responding to the main challenges and most relevant needs of the region in the areas of intervention of the ESF. This fund is one of the instruments of the Structural Funds in the regional policy framework, articulated through the Structural and Investment Funds, and was approved by the European Commission on 17 December 2015.

The scope of the evaluation covers the three main **Thematic Objectives** of the Operational Programme, excluding the REACT axes which were included after the initial programming. These Thematic Objectives are:

- Thematic Objective 8: Promoting sustainability and quality in employment and fostering labour mobility
- Thematic Objective 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and all forms of discrimination
- Thematic Objective 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills acquisition and lifelong learning.

The **timeframe** to which this report refers is the period 2014 - 2020 of the operational programme. Thus, it assesses the progress degree of the OP towards the achievement of the targets in 2023. It covers the period since the assessment of the objectives/results of the OP for the 2016 annual report until the last reprogramming approved in April 2022.

The **implementation of the programme has been altered** due to the emergence of COVID-19 in 2020, which has globally conditioned the context in which the ESF has been implemented. Exceptionally, the **European Commission** decided to approve in 2020 the increase in the **co-financing rate from 50% to 100%** regarding the certified expenditure by the OP during the second half of 2020 and prolonged until June 2022, with the aim of accelerating the impact reduction that the pandemic has generated.

The employed **methodology** for this evaluation has been the synthesis of the obtained information through documentation on the progress of the programme. The main documents dealt with were the following:

- **Annual Implementation Reports**, from the 2015 Implementation Report to the 2021 Report, the most up-to-date information available on the progress of the programme.
- Target/outcome **Evaluations** 2016 and 2018.
- **Reprogrammings** of the Operational Programme.

With regard to the geographical scope, the programme to which this Social Fund Operational Programme adheres comprises lines of action corresponding to the **Community of Madrid**.

The **main conclusions** and **results reported** in the summary report are as follows:

### COMPLIANCE WITH THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK AND PROGRESS IN THE TARGETS ACHIEVEMENT

The values of the Performance Framework make it possible to analyse the compliance of the Operational Programme up to the last date of execution and the degree of progress towards the programme's goals. In relation to the PF indicators, the following can be observed:

- **Axis 1:** The execution of **ESF aid at the end of 2021** is 25 €M, **84%** of the total programmed aid in the axis. Regarding the **execution of the indicator CO01 Unemployed, including long-term unemployed**, the level of compliance is 106%. The gender breakdown of the indicator shows a higher progress for women (117%) than for men (94%).

The programme is expected to **reach the 2023 targets of the Performance Framework**. The physical indicator has already been achieved and the certification of ESF aid is close to 100%, with planned certified grant exceeding the budget.

- Axis 2:** The **amount of certified aid corresponds to 52%** of the programmed grant in Axis 2. The degree of **execution of the indicator EO01** *Participants in situation or at risk of social exclusion* reaches 59% of the total planned (60% for men and 58% for women).  
The execution is lower than planned as some of the actions have not been implemented or have been implemented using resources from other funds and not from the ESF as it was planned. Axis 2 is expected to achieve the targets, although it requires an acceleration of actions and expenditure certifications to reach these targets of the Performance Framework before 2023.
- Axis 3:** The progress degree of this axis is really high. Despite the outbreak of the pandemic and the contacts restriction, education has been able to be maintained telematically and has not suffered the same impact as that of other objectives of the programme. The **amount of certified aid up to 2021 is 82% of the budgeted aid**. Moreover, future forecasts exceed by far the forecasts. The **physical indicator CO03 'Inactive people'** has a **progress rate of 98%**.  
As a result, **compliance with the PF indicators is very favourable**. The physical indicator has almost been achieved and the Axis aid is expected to be exceeded.

#### PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING RESULTS

- Axis 1 has generally achieved a high level of effectiveness**, especially in Investment Priority 8.3 and 8.4. Effectiveness in Specific Objectives 8.1.2 and 8.1.3 has been lower than expected with actions not implemented as planned.
- In **Axis 2, SO 9.1.1** has achieved a **high level of effectiveness**, well above the programmed forecast. The indicator of **SO 9.3.1** is **highly effective**, while the Results Indicators belonging to **SO 9.3.2** have a **very low** degree of effectiveness, or have not even been implemented objectives ER01 and ER47, aimed at migrants, which have been addressed by lines of actions that cover more general groups. Finally, **SO 9.5.2** achieves effectiveness values in the short term, although the degree of effectiveness **decreases in the long term**.
- Axis 3** shows a good degree of effectiveness for SO 10.2.1 and 10.4.1. Specific Objective 10.1.2, which was added in the 2020 reprogramming, has not finally implemented its actions so its effectiveness is not assessable.

#### CONTRIBUTION OF THE PO TO THE UNION'S STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The general objectives of the OP contribute **directly** to the achievement of **four** out of the five objectives of the EU2020 Strategy:

- Employment:** *Spain 2020 target: 74% of the population between 20 and 64 in employment.*  
The three axis of the programme contribute to improving employment levels in the Community of Madrid and thus to the employment targets in Spain and the EU.  
Axis 1 TO 8 actions are aimed at improving employability and the quality of employment; Axis 2 TO 9 actions focus on improving the state of people in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, such as the long-term unemployed; and Axis 3 TO 10 actions promote vocational training to enable integration into the labour market.

- **R&D:** *Spain 2020 target: 2% R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP*  
The programme's contribution to investment in R&D can be seen in the actions developed in Axis 1 TO 8 and Axis 3 TO 10 in favour of the recruitment of young doctoral students and researchers in Technology and Research Centres.
- **Education:** *Spain 2020 targets: 15% early school leavers in the population aged 18-24.*  
The actions developed in Axis 3, TO 10 for the promotion of vocational training with integration into the labour market contribute to reducing early school leaving.
- **Poverty and social exclusion:** *Spain 2020 target: to reduce by 1.4 million the number of people living in poverty or at risk of poverty and social exclusion compared to 2008.*  
Most of the actions developed in Axis 2, TO 9 are aimed at vulnerable groups, with the focus on improving socio-labour integration. Axis 1 TO 8 carries out actions for the qualification or employability of people at risk of social exclusion.

## PROGRESS ON HORIZONTAL ISSUES

- **Principle of equality between men and women**  
The principle of equality between men and women is present in the implementation of the actions directly through the actions carried out by the GD for Women in **Axis 1 and 2**; and transversally through the inclusion of this principle among the obligatory selection criteria for operations, the disaggregation of indicators by sex, and the inclusion of social clauses in public procurement.
- **Principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination**  
The principle of non-discrimination is present in **Axis 2**, where actions are carried out for the most vulnerable groups such as migrants, LGTBI groups, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, etc., and in a transversal manner through the inclusion of this principle among the mandatory selection criteria of the operations.
- **Sustainable development**  
Among the actions carried out, some contribute directly to the fulfilment of the principle of **sustainable development**, such as the aid for R&D programmes in **Axis 1**, where a large part of the actions are aimed at the search for sustainable development and promoting an improvement in the quality of the environment through research into new materials and clean and efficient energies. **Axis 2** includes the Sociolabour Insertion Companies, which work in sectors related to recycling, waste, etc. **Axis 3** subsidises some training cycles related to renewable energies and promotes education in innovation and development.

In a cross-cutting manner, in all the possible actions developed in the OP, in general, the aim is to promote sustainable development and environmental protection.

## CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

**Across the board**, ESF Operational Programme actions seek to preserve environmental protection and contribute to the climate change movement.

Through **direct** contribution, the OP contributes through **Axis 1 and Axis 3**. Axis 1 TO 8 contributes by the inclusion of **environmental modules** in the employability training of participants. **Axis 3 TO 10** provides for **R&D groups** supported by the Social Fund for research on environmental aspects, and courses and subjects related to climate change and the environment in **Vocational Training** programmes.