MEETING MINUTES

ECONOMIC INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

DATE	10.05.2023	TIME	11:00-12:30	PLACE	Online meeting

PARTICIPANTS	
Chairs	Joanna Surwillo, PSE ERD Manager, Joanna.Surwillo@rescue.org; Diogo Salema Da Costa Cabral Senior Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer cabrald@unhcr.org
Panelists	Łukasz Mikulec, Head of the Labor Market and Social Integration Department, Ministry of Funds; Patrycja Szczygieł, Deputy Director, Department of Regional and Spatial Development, Pomeranian Voivodeship Marshal's Office
Participants	IOM Poland, Save the Children International, PomTeam Foundation, Fundacja Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Informacyjnego (Information Society Development Foundation), Fundacja Instytut Polska-Ukraina (Poland-Ukraine Institute Foundation), The Pink Box Foundation, International Refugee Committee, Ukraine Foundation, Office for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations, HIAS Europe, The Association for Legal Intervention, CORE Foundation, RET International and others.

AGENDA

1. Introduction by UNHCR
2. Presentation prepared by Łukasz Mikulec, Head of the Labor Market and Social Integration Department, Ministry of Funds, “Opportunities available within European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) + in the financial perspective 2021-2027 in the national program (FERS) and regional programs” + Q&A
3. Presentation prepared by Patrycja Szczygieł, Deputy Director, Department of Regional and Spatial Development, Pomeranian Voivodeship Marshal's Office, “EU funding opportunities in the Pomerania Region 2021-2027” + Q&A
4. Pitching Space for New Economic Inclusion Ideas. A space for new ideas raised by the WG (Working Group) members to be advocated for.
5. Additional discussion.
6. Closing.

OVERVIEW OF THE MEETING

I. **Presentation: Łukasz Mikulec, Head of the Labor Market and Social Integration Department**

The conditions for EU funding from EFS+ (On the presentation):

- ESF+ Regulation 2021/1057
- Partnership Agreement
- Demarcation line country/region
- Program European Funds for Social Development (SZOP, annual action plans, project selection criteria)
- Regional Programs
- Guidelines for implementation of projects with ESF+ funds in regional programs for 2021-2027

Website: Rozwojspoleczny.gov.pl

There are 16 regional programs that cover EFS+ fund and regional programs funds.

EFS+ (European Social Fund Plus)

- One of the 5 main funds through which the EU supports the socio-economic development of member countries.
- Its financial resources are invested in human capital, their competencies, health and improving their social and economic situation.
- EUR 12.9 billion for Poland in the financial perspective 2021 - 2027.
- Thematic concentration on social inclusion - 25% (about EUR 3.1 billion).
- Specific objective (i) related to support for migrants: EUR 12.5 million in FERS and EUR 230 million in PR.

Directional scope of support in the national and regional program

1. **European Funds for Social Development (national program)**

- Develop and implement a demand-driven system for handling foreigners by public employment services

- Supporting labor migration management processes to better utilize the potential of labor migrants and support employers seeking foreign workers

2. **Regional Programs:**

Supporting migrants and employers in the integration process.

- [direct] support for socio-economic integration of third-country nationals

- services for foreigners to enable them to better function in Polish society, including Polish language courses, training in Polish values and culture, vocational training, provision of practical information

FERS: social- economic integration of migrants

- Support for labor migration management

- Access to knowledge about labor rules in PL (information and consultation center, websites)
- Information and promotional activities and support for recruitment in countries of origin (e.g., job fairs)
- Development of the system of servicing foreigners by the PES (social economy entity)
- Implementation of a new service standard
- Creation/modernization of 50 service points (support of 100 thousand people) at the Labor Offices

- Information will be provided about our annual activities in this regard- eg. Job fairs

- There will be created and modernize 50 points that will function in powiat's (Local Labor Offices)

- The connecting institution is the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs

- Due to the law on local governments, we did not allocate the funds to specific objectives.

Migrant support in FERS (European Funds for Social Development 2021-2027 program) outside CS (specific objective)

- 16 ROPS (regional center for social policy) coordination projects
- Training of NGO and JST staff to work with migrants and refugees.
- Capacity building and strengthening of cooperation between institutions.
- Projects in the field of education
- Training of staff of the education system with regard to the needs of migrant children
- Researching education solutions for children arriving from abroad
- E-materials to support the inclusion of students with a migrant background (especially from AU) in the Polish educational system
- Supporting internationalization of higher education
- PES (social economy entity) development
- Training and studies for PES employees, among others, in terms of serving foreigners
- ...and a whole spectrum of activities not addressed directly to foreigners

Scope of support for migrants in regional programs:

- Supporting migrants and employers in the process of integration into the labor market
- Services for foreigners, including comprehensive integration paths (Polish language courses, adaptation courses, vocational training, legal advice, etc.)
- Activities for the host society and its institutions, including anti-discrimination, knowledge, and capacity building of migrant actors

Target group for support from CS (specific objective) in regional programs:

- No EU citizenship
- Legal residence
- Access to the labor market (in the case of adults)
- Preference for persons under temporary protection

MFiPR (Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy) guidelines for regions - guiding principles

- Preference for persons who were granted temporary protection after the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine
- Considering demarcation and complementarity with activities under FERS (covering, among other things, the standard of service for foreigners by PES and the creation and modernization of service points for foreigners within the PES network)
- Where possible, support will be provided within the framework of centers for integration of foreigners in coordination with FAMI projects on building structures for integration of foreigners in Poland.

II. **Presentation: Patrycja Szczygieł, Marshalls Office in Pomeranian Voivodeship (POM)**

Key determinants of the FEP 2021-2027 - Deinstitutionalization and non-discrimination

1. Infrastructure investments in facilities providing 24-hour care long-term care in institutional forms are not permitted

2. Projects must comply with:

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU
- The European Pillar of Social Rights
- Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030
- Regional Deinstitutionalization Plan

- this translates into the provisions of the FEP 2021-2027 and the project selection criteria + exclusion of TSUs carrying out discriminatory activities

European funds for a strong Pomerania socially (ERDF, EFS+) priorities 5 and 6:

- Professional and social activation and strengthening of labor market institutions
- Support for women, seniors, people with disabilities, immigrants
- Prevention programs for employees and adaptability of employers

- General education (key competencies) and pre-school education (+ infrastructure)
- Inclusive education (+ infrastructure)
- Vocational education (+ infrastructure) and continuing education
- Social and health services (+ infrastructure)
- Capacity support for social partners and NGOs
- Health infrastructure (especially AOS/POZ and psychiatric treatment)
- Culture and tourism infrastructure

➢ Detailed priorities for ERDF and EFS+ for Pomerania voivodeship can be found in the presentation.

➢ In our program we try to direct the EU funding in such way that it "fits the puzzle"

➢ Our regional program includes and is compliant with all the document by the EU

➢ We are trying to work with such a model of assistance that our intervention is adapted to specific needs.

➢ Idea: to launch a system of cooperation and socially responsible business, integrating them with local initiative.

NEXT MEETING
7 JUNE 11:00-12:30