



**Enabling Social
Innovation**

Next steps: Guidance on how to facilitate access to EU funds for Social Innovation

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#Innovation4Inclusion



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01



Innovation funding and incentives

Allocate a portion of ESF+ and ERDF funds specifically for **innovative social service projects**. Offer financial incentives, such as grants or matching funds, to **encourage** SPs to develop and implement innovative interventions.

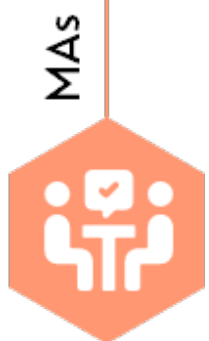
02



Flexibility in the allocation of the funding

Provide managing authorities with more **flexibility** in how they allocate ESF+ and ERDF funds for social services, allowing them to experiment with different approaches and to adapt interventions based on evidence and to better address emerging needs of service users or service providers.

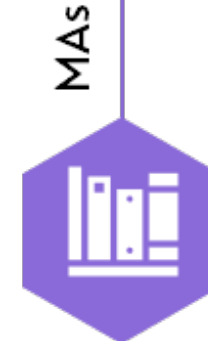
03



Engaging relevant stakeholders

Involve beneficiaries, service users, and local communities in the design and evaluation of innovative interventions as their insights and feedback can inform more effective and relevant solutions.

04



Research and evaluation support

Offer technical assistance and funding to **support research** and the **evaluation** of innovative social service interventions. Emphasise the importance of evidence-based decision-making and the use of data to inform policy development.

05

EC



Capacity building

Offer **capacity-building programmes** and training opportunities to equip MAs and SPs with the skills and knowledge needed to embrace and implement innovative practices and social service designs.

06

EC, MAS



Promoting learning networks

Facilitate the formation of **learning networks** and communities of practice among managing authorities, NGOs, research institutions, and service providers. Encourage knowledge sharing, collaboration, and the exchange of innovative ideas and promising practices.

07

MAS



Innovation partnerships

Foster the **partnership** with research institutions, social economy organisations, including social enterprises, and private enterprises to **co-create** and implement innovative social service solutions.

08

MAS



Adaptive management approach

Promote an **adaptive management approach** where Mas continuously learn from the outcomes of interventions in the field of social services and adjust strategies and the service design, accordingly, based on evidence.



09

MAs, SPs



Technology integration

Explore opportunities, also by using ESF+ and ERDF funds, to **leverage technology** (including, e.g., the use of digital platforms, data analytics, and artificial intelligence to enhance service delivery and decision-making processes) in order to drive innovation in social services.

10

MAs



Demonstration projects

Support demonstration projects that showcase innovative social service interventions. These projects can serve as models for others to **replicate** and to scale up pilot project to inspire further innovation within the sector.

11

MAs



Innovation competitions

Organise innovation competitions focused on social services. Invite organisations and stakeholders to submit their **innovative project proposals**, and reward winners with funding or other forms of support.

12

MAs



Recognition and visibility

Recognise and celebrate successful innovative initiatives in social services. Showcase their impact and raise awareness among stakeholders, motivating others to adopt the same or similar evidence-based approaches.

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