

Finnish delegation

I. General view of passed ESF program:

Objectives of ESF 2007-2013 execution in FINLAND. Based on the final report from the Ministry of labour and entrepreneurship.

The estimation is done in 3 periods just to make support the realization of the program.

Our purpose is to find and point some findings of total funding relating activities against poverty and social exclusion.

I. Developing completeness and knowledge of participants

Completeness and knowledge has continuously increased. About people ending their professional education 77% experienced added professional skills and 81% experienced that learning at schooling can be utilized in work well or excellently. Also found a positive experience of better availability of job.

About 26% of ESF-financed activities in promoting education or work, managed to find job after 3 months. This is slightly better (26/24%) compared with figures by national activity. This concerns particularly supported actions.

II. Networks and partnerships

Benefits and importance of networking and partnership cooperation has been found from the beginning of period and *no big changes* in results occurred. However, during 2013 it was noticed that two big NGO's rose above enterprises up to the top, and benefits had increased remarkably. Generally positive results obtained.

III. Good practices, new action models and innovations

Ca. 2/3 of ESF-financing targets in new and more risky drives and 1/3 in less risky drives. At the end of period trust in good practices is strong. Also barriers against good practices have decreased.

IV. Promoting social equality

Share of drives promoting social equality are practically a constant. Objective of preventing exclusion between men and women has been in the core of activities. Some actions were taken to increase women's entrepreneurship during the subsequent part of the period. Negative matters are lack of sufficient resources as well as neglecting actions needed in promoting social equality.

Action lines 1-4

1) Objective: Developing labour organizations, people at work and enterprises and promoting entrepreneurship.

ESF-objective of the grade enterprises surviving at least 3 years is 70%. Achieved (69), compared whole Finland 72%.

Main objective areas:

- Improvement in growth and competitiveness of Small scale enterprises (37 %)
- To start up new enterprises and improvement in business activities
- Improvement in functionality, quality and productivity in working organizations (23%). Including the availability of competent working force.
- To secure job positions as well as to deconstruct segregation in labour market and promote equality. But just a few materialized.
- The aims of objectives does not greatly change, so the total renewal happens just by substituting the old ones by new ones.

2) Objective: Employment, promoting stability in job market, preventing social exclusion (particularly young people) and decreasing structural unemployment.

Most important results (% of drives) in:

- preventing social exclusion, 78%
- promoting stability in job market, 63%
- preventing social exclusion of young people, 62%
- Interesting are results in employing immigrants have increased mostly (2011-2013)

This kind of drive is not widely materialized by some other funding. A clear shift of focus from long lasting unemployment *into* young and other specific groups. This reflects in the follow up and reactivity in results along the period.

3) Focusing in development categories, objectives and results:

- Anticipation, just minimum activities, not entrenched.
- Organization of innovations, improved remarkably, networks and partnerships developed and improved.
- Education and labour force, results improved.
- Producing and transferring information and data continued increasing. Important note: improvements in utilizing R&D –activities.
- Developing know-how for labour market is still in focus. However funding is concentrated in promoting methods for employment and in supporting functionality of local labour markets.

4) Objective: To promote partnerships between member states and districts in ESF actions, like immigration on working basis and finding and spreading out good practices.

- Results seem to be negative. Only results of developing tools and estimates as well as common service systems are increased. This is partly due to a new focusing of objective. A central indicator constructing a guiding system for immigrants to better adapt the Finnish community and labour market. No common system was created but many systems on local level have been adapted.

II. An example about one small project supported by national and ESF money:

“From work to work” development program 2009-2011

Ministry of Employment and the Economy (TEM) materialized 2009-2011 a developing program as objective to support some central developmental areas' execution and effectiveness along the national action model to *change security* and its coordination as well as its visibility/recognisability.

Developing program produced quite positive experiences and results. According to objectives and the “slogan” concerning the structural funds, ESF offered real leverage into the national development activities through its development program. The “red string” of materializing of the program was to back up even wider aspect of proactive control in this reformation of connection of materialization. The aim was to offer help and information to employers, employees, organizations and authorities in controlling transform situations, in seeking new methods to prevent diminishing personnel as well as provide instructions to guarantee good practice in these situations. For this purpose some separate material was created where wide range of services for business and entrepreneurship is included.

As result of the developmental work was created support material, named “Services in Transform situations”. It is said to be a real tool in early phase to anticipate and signal new services from the Ministry of Employment and the Economy against odd changes. The supporting material is one of the first practical tool combining labour and living political services in same entirety.

Joining in the reform of the governance in employment and economy the program was along in materializing a multichannel service model. Electronic services, specially CV-net is developed towards more active meeting forum between employers and employees, thus encouraging even people who normally are not so familiar in electronical messages to participate. Utilization rate of CV-net has increased quite much.

“Change security experts” worked as a network in TE-offices (Employment and the Economy offices). It was agreed about taking the head responsibility of messaging to outer cooperators and arranging education together with organizations in labour market and the State council and the Communal Union. In addition with national activities the program participated actively in Net@work -network and arranged a study tour for Finland for EU-partners in that network.

Generally, the program activities covered well whole Finland within a ready network.

The official evaluation about the additional value of the ESF funding in the national activity has been quite remarkable.

Critics and comments:

This example concerns employment actions, which more or less are tools to prevent segregation. As a special and positive feature we see the increasing figure of CV-net users. It is possible that those people also find internet as a useful tool for social contacts.

Need to developmental activities supporting national strategic lines is, according to results of gone program period, transparent along the new period 2014-2020. Developing tools and services to control change security has been aroused in EU Commission's guidelines. Concrete actions demand, to be supported and materialized, strong national developmental grip.

It is important to note what happens after project period is gone! Have good practices been distributed in national real activity?

Financing: "From work to work" program was supported by total financing of 0,6 Meuros, shared about 50/50, national/ESF.

Wishes for new period 2014 – 2020

- It sounds, unfortunately, although progress has happened thanks for several projects done in fight against poverty, that within the official organizations there is a "hidden" practice to slow down expertise of the lower officers facing customers. So there is not open forum for speech. Social workers, Employment centrals etc.
- There is, still, lack of information or it cannot be pointed in correct persons. Persons who do not know their social rights may remain without support.
- Difference between women and men still needs to be reduced / removed. Some women are in a severe danger against violence.
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) does not so much to do in the fight against poverty. Funding is pointed although merely in constructing better infrastructure. We want that bigger part of ERDF funding could go in constructing *better infrastructure for people with less capacity in living, moving, learning and normal private life*.
- Social entrepreneurship must be seen as a positive tool in whole economics. Specially some big problems in the social sector can be solved through activation of social enterprises. Employment, quality of care, future investments made mainly by profit obtained, the company pays taxes, if any, in the country of actions, - no capital transfers into "paradises".

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