

Advancing social inclusion in the next MFF

Some of our campaign partners suggest the following recommendations to strengthen social inclusion in the next MFF:

Launch a new large scale social inclusion program building an integrated European fund based on the experience of the FEAD program and ESF, as already proposed by EESC. This could be in the form of the Human Capital Fund proposed by the Commission, which would group together all of the different social funds.

Ensure that, as a minimum, 20% or more of these funds (but not less in absolute terms than in the current MFF) are dedicated to combating poverty and social exclusion, and that funds are allocated, as a priority, to active inclusion for those most affected by poverty and social exclusion, including persons with disabilities and persons with chronic illnesses- those who are left behind;

Ensure that clear criteria are developed, by which this expenditure can be tracked and monitored;

Increase significantly and strongly defend the level of expenditure of the Progress program within the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) program;

Recognise that civil society organisations are a crucial part of the European democratic project, and a way to rebuild the trust which is currently lacking between European citizens and their institutions, by ensuring the sustainability of funds for social inclusion networks;

Meaningfully include experts with experience of poverty and their organisations in the design, delivery and evaluation of the programme;

Ensure that social inclusion is mainstreamed in other programme areas, such as on energy efficiency and make available increased amount of EU funds for residential energy efficiency, with fairer eligibility and access to ESI Funds for low income families and single family homes, and introduce an ex ante conditionality on energy poverty to develop an action plan as a new condition on EU funds.