

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND DURING 1981 - 1983

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

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GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND FOR
THE PERIOD 1981-1983

1. General Aspects

1.1. Priorities

1.1.1. In view of the extent to which the volume of applications exceeds available appropriations, the Commission is obliged to select applications for assistance according to priorities fixed for types of operations in each intervention field.

1.1.2. First priority will be accorded in the various intervention fields to operations for which joint financing from several Community funds is envisaged as well as operations carried out jointly by several Member States.

1.1.3. Priority is not accorded in any field of intervention to operations :

1.1.3.1. Limited to refresher training or to information courses with insufficient training content; this does not apply, however, to paragraph 2.3.1.1. (migrants).

1.1.3.2. concerning products which are either in a critical situation with regard to intra-community trade (synthetic fibres, tights and stockings, worsted yarn, pull-overs) (1), or identical to those supplied at low prices by certain third countries (2) when such operations are linked to increased productive capacity which could create new employment problems.

(1) Documents SEC(71) 363 communicated to the Member States on 30 July 1971 and to the new Member States on 19 July 1973; supplements communicated on 4 February 1977 (Annex IV/382/76 to the letter of 4 February 1977).

(2) Groups I and II of Annex A to Commission Regulation EEC n° 3013/77 (Annex A, groups I and II) (OJ No L 357, 31.12.1977).

1.1.4. In the case of operations involving both training and recruitment (3) of the same persons, only one of the two can be accorded priority where training is not carried out in centres separate from the production.

1.2. Duration of agreed operations

1.2.1. Applications are approved :

1.2.1.1. in the case of recurrent or continuous programmes, for maximum periods of one year at a time;

1.2.1.2. in the case of other, non-continuous programmes, for their full duration up to a maximum of three years.

1.2.2. Where an application concerning a non-continuous programme is rejected, the Member State or body responsible for the operation may not avail of any subsequent changes in the guidelines to request the partial re-examination of the application concerned.

1.2.3. Where an application concerning a continuous programme is approved and the operations to which it relates extend beyond the 12-month period of approval, these will be accorded priority throughout the period of their implementation irrespective of any subsequent changes in the guidelines. The period of financing will not, however, exceed three years.

1.3. Unused appropriations

Member States, shall, on the basis of information to be furnished to them by organisations benefitting from Fund Aid, notify the Commission in time - before the expiry of the year after which the commitment is made - of unused appropriations in order that these may be re-used. In order to ensure the effective use of appropriations committed, the Commission will take account of the degree of observance of this rule by each body benefitting from Fund aid in considering further applications for assistance from the body in question. This procedure will be applied for the first time to appropriations committed in 1980.

(3) The types of aid aimed at promoting recruitment are those provided for in Article 3(1)(e) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2396/71 (OJ No L 249, 10.11.1971, p. 54; OJ No L 337, 27.12.1977, p. 2a and in Council Regulation No 3039/78 (OJ No L 361, 23.12.1978, p. 3).

(4) Article 16a paragraph 2 of Financial Regulation (ECSC, EEC, EURATOM) 73/91 (OJ No L 333, 02.12.1976; article 3 paragraph 2 of Commission Decision EEC/78/706 (OJ No 238, 30.08.1978.)

1.4. Weighted reduction

In fields of intervention where total applications exceed the appropriations available, a reduction will be applied. This will be calculated on applications at the lowest level of priority for which appropriations remain available. For each Member State, a weighted reduction coefficient will be calculated on the basis of the average unemployment rate and the gross domestic product per capita for each Member State at current exchange rates. The total amount to be deducted is obtained by applying this coefficient to the applications for that Member State classified at the priority level subject to the weighted reduction. The amount thus arrived at will be apportioned between the individual applications after consultation with the national authorities.

1.5. The accession of Greece

The Commission will take account of the special situation of Greece when applying these guidelines to applications from that member state (5)

1.6. Preparatory studies and pilot experiments

Only paragraphs 1.1.1., 1.1.2., 1.3. and 1.5. apply to preparatory studies and pilot schemes.

(5) Act of Accession of Greece (OJ No L 291, 19.11.1979).

2. Interventions based on Article 4 of Council Decision 71/66/EEC (6)

2.1. Persons leaving agriculture (7)

2.1.1. The following operations will be accorded priority :

2.1.1.1. Those which come within the framework of specialized measures for the agricultural sector or for rural environment;

2.1.1.2. Those which take place in disadvantaged areas (areas with an income below the community average or certain hill farming areas (8))

2.1.2. Note

These operations must be for farmers, hired agricultural workers, or family workers leaving agriculture (or who have left not more than two years previously) either to take up employment in another sector or to pursue an occupation complementary to agriculture.

(6) Council Decision 71/66/EEC, (OJ No. L 28 of 04.01.1971, p. 15

(6) Council Decision 71/66/EEC, (OJ No. L 337 of 27.12.1977, p. 18

(7) Council Decision 72/428/EEC (OJ No L 291, 28.12.1972, p. 158; OJ No L 337, 27.12.1977, p. 10); as provided for in Annex II to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, this Decision also applies to the fisheries sector.

(8) Listed in Council Directive 75/268/EEC (OJ No L 128, 19.5.1975, p. 1).

2.2. Workers in the textiles and clothing industries (9)

2.2.1. First priority :

2.2.1.1. Operations for persons who are leaving the industry, in areas with a high unemployment rate.

2.2.1.2. Operations within the framework of a conversion or restructuring programme, for people remaining in the industry.

2.2.2. Second priority :

Other operations, either for persons remaining within the sector or for those leaving it, when training corresponds to the requirements of jobs assured in advance by employers.

(9) Council Decision 76/206/EEC (OJ No L 39, 14.2.1976, p. 39; OJ No L 337, 27.12.1977, p. 11).

2.3. Migrant workers and members of their families (10)

2.3.1. Priority will be accorded to operations

2.3.1.1. forming part of integrated programmes for people moving from one member state to another and covering at least two phases of the migration process. The same persons do not necessarily have to be involved in the different phases.

2.3.1.2. Basic or advanced training of social workers and teachers of migrant workers or their families.

2.3.1.3. Demonstration projects aimed at improving the standard of special teaching for migrants' children. For these projects total Fund intervention may not exceed three years.

2.3.1.4. Language tuition or vocational preparation which includes a substantial element of language teaching for the integration of migrants into their social and working environment.

2.3.2. Note

The preceding paragraph would include migrants arriving in the Community in emergency conditions.

(10) Council Decision 77/803/EEC (OJ No L 337, 27.12.1977, p. 12); see also Council Resolution of 9 February 1976 (OJ No C 34, 14.2.1976, p. 2).

2.4. Young people (11)

2.4.1. First priority

2.4.1.1. Vocational preparation operations, vocational training or retraining operations linked to labour market needs, recruitment or community work schemes, for young people in Greenland, the French Overseas Departments, Ireland Northern Ireland and the Mezzogiorno.

2.4.1.2. Vocational training or retraining operations for women, to facilitate their access to new types of employment or occupations in which women are under represented.

2.4.2. Second priority

Operations identical to those classified as a first priority (2.4.1.1.) but for young people from zones within the list of regions defined by paragraph 2.4.6.2. that are affected by severe industrial conversion or restructuring problems for which Community policies exist; vocational training or retraining operations must relate to conversion or restructuring programmes.

2.4.3. Third priority

Operations identical to those classified as first priority (2.4.1.1.) but which are for young people from zones within the list of regions defined by paragraph 2.4.6.2. and which are not classified as second priority.

2.4.4. Exceptions

Independently of the foregoing, assistance may be provided, in exceptional cases and for a maximum of three years, towards :

2.4.4.1. operations aimed at improving local training structures;

2.4.4.2. new linked work and training schemes of an experimental nature, involving a limited number of young people.

(11) Council Decision 75/459/EEC (OJ No L 199, 30.7.1975, p. 36; OJ No L 337, 27.12.1977, p. 10).

2.4.5. Note

The Commission will base its assessment of the categories to which young people belong on national legislation and practice.

2.4.6. Characteristics of beneficiaries and geographical criteria

2.4.6.1. The operations referred to under 2.4.1., 2.4.2., and 2.4.3. are reserved for young first job seekers; this qualification does not, however, apply either to recruitment or community work schemes, or to operations in favour of women (2.4.1.2.).

2.4.6.2. A list of priority regions based on youth unemployment is drawn up and reviewed periodically by the Commission, using the results of the Community Labour force survey, which takes place every two years (12).

(12) For technical reasons, the list will be published at a later date.

2.5. Women (13)

2.5.1. First priority

Operations to promote a more even mix between the sexes in new types of employment and in jobs where women are under-represented.

2.5.2. Second priority

Other operations, including those concerning traditionally female employment which either

2.5.2.1. are for women involved in mass dismissals; or

2.5.2.2. facilitate women in obtaining employment at a higher level than their previous job.

2.5.3. Note

Operations for women with third level education can be considered only after all eligible applications for the unskilled or semi-skilled have been accepted.

3. Interventions based on Article 5 of Council Decision 71/66/EEC (14)

3.1. Regions

3.1.1. First priority

Operations for workers from Greenland, the French Overseas Departments, Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Mezzogiorno which involve preparatory courses, training, recruitment involving job creation, resettlement linked to recruitment decided in advance by employers. Training programmes for unemployed workers must be linked to labour market requirements.

(13) Council Decision 77/804/330 (J.O. N° L 337, 27.12.1977, p. 14)
(14 See footnote 6.

3.1.2. Second priority

- 3.1.2.1. Resettlement measures linked to recruitment decided in advance by employers;
- 3.1.2.2. Training measures for unemployed workers or workers threatened with unemployment; this relates to measures carried out in connection with recruitment already decided on by employers or aimed at maintaining employment.

These operations should concern workers from regions and areas eligible for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (15) affected by serious industrial restructuring or conversion problems and for which Community policies have been established.

3.1.3. Third priority

Operations identical to those classified as second priority but concerning workers from other regions and areas eligible for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund.

3.1.4. Fourth priority

Preparatory courses, training or recruitment programmes involving job creation for persons unemployed for 6 months; recruitment programmes involving additional jobs for unemployed persons in firms employing less than 25 persons. These operations must concern workers from the regions and zones referred to under 3.1.2. and 3.1.3.

(15) Article 3 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 724/75 (OJ No L 73, 21.3.1975, p. 1; OJ No L 35, 9.2.1979, p. 1).

3.1.5. Fifth priority

Other training operations for workers from the regions referred to under 3.1.2. and 3.1.3. and which involve retraining for the unemployed or those threatened with unemployment, or aid to promote recruitment where additional jobs are created.

3.1.6. Exception

Independently of the foregoing, assistance may be provided (in exceptional cases and for a maximum of three years) towards operations aimed at improving the effectiveness of local training structures.

3.1.7. Note

The Commission will rely on national legislation and practice in assessing the situation of the various categories of workers.

3.2. Technical progress and groups of undertakings

3.2.1. Technical progress

3.2.1.1. First priority

3.2.1.1.1. Operations aimed at safeguarding jobs in branches of economic activity where the introduction of new technology or production techniques endangers the level of employment (threat of unemployment).

3.2.1.1.2. Operations implemented to encourage the modernization of production and management techniques in small and medium-sized firms.

3.2.1.2. Second priority

3.2.1.2.1. Operations designed to apply, for the first time in a Member State, a new technology capable of benefiting an entire sector.

3.2.1.2.2. Operations implemented in expanding branches of economic activity where the introduction of new technology or production techniques leads to the creation of new jobs, insofar as the skills in demand are innovative and there is such a shortage of labour that the development of new technology is liable to be jeopardized.

3.2.1.3. Note

3.2.1.3.1. The operations referred to above may be designed to retrain workers or keep them in the same occupation, but in either case they should not involve simple routine adaptation measures (refresher training) (note in particular, that training courses must last at least 200 hours for those who are unemployed, threatened with unemployment or under-employed).

3.2.1.3.2. The concept of technical progress will be assessed in relative terms taking into account the localization and size of the undertakings concerned.

3.2.2. Groups of undertakings

Priority is accorded to operations which aim to :

3.2.2.1. resolve employment problems in sectors affected severely by industrial restructuring or conversion, for which Community policies exist;

3.2.2.2. assist the mobility of workers in other sectors, who are affected by large scale redundancies and for whom stable re-employment is assured in an expanding field of activity.

All these operations, even where they involve only one undertaking at a time, should apply to sectors which are experiencing a major long term structural transformation, as a result of difficulties in production conditions or changes in market conditions affecting the sales of products.

3.3. Handicapped

3.3.1. First priority

3.3.1.1. Demonstration actions related to employment and innovative in character involving not more than 200 persons. Total Fund intervention in these cases may not exceed three years.

3.3.1.2. Programmes for the integration of the handicapped into open employment in Greenland, the French Overseas Departments, Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Mezzogiorno.

3.3.2. Second priority

Operations consisting of

3.3.2.1. Vocational training or rehabilitation.

3.3.2.2. Adaptation of jobs, work places or equipment

3.3.2.3. The recruitment of handicapped persons in an open economy.

4. Preparatory studies and pilot schemes (16)

Most of the appropriations will be allocated to pilot schemes.

Priority will be given to operations fulfilling the largest number of the following conditions :

- 4.1. innovatory in character;
- 4.2. designed to create jobs ;
- 4.3. designed to improve the quality of training, particularly by widening the range of skills taught;
- 4.4. potentially applicable in other parts of the Community ;
- 4.5. concerned with operations which are accorded priority in the various fields of European Social Fund intervention.

Member States should submit applications relating to pilot schemes at least six months prior to their implementation.

(16) Article 7 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2396/71, see footnote (3).