



European
Commission

EaSI

Better access
to finance for a
more social Europe



Social Europe

How can EaSI offer better access to finance?

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme's Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis aims to improve access to finance for vulnerable groups, micro-enterprises and social enterprises.

To achieve this goal, the European Commission provides indirect support to financial intermediaries through:



Who can apply?

Public and private financial intermediaries in the microfinance or social enterprise markets can apply (e.g. banks, non-bank microfinance institutions, social enterprise finance providers). Applicant organisations must be established and operating in a participating country of the EaSI programme.

How do I apply?

EaSI Financial Instruments:

⇒ Visit www.eif.org/calls_for_expression_of_interest or contact European Investment Fund at easi@eif.org

EaSI Transaction Cost Support grants:

⇒ Respond to a call for proposals at ec.europa.eu/social/easi

EaSI Technical Assistance:

⇒ Express your interest in EaSI Technical Assistance for Microfinance by contacting Frankfurt School of Finance & Management at easi.ta@fs.de or MFR at easi.ta@mf-rating.com

⇒ Express your interest in EaSI Technical Assistance for Social Entrepreneurship by contacting Munich Business School at easi.ta@ecsocfin.com

About EaSI Financial Instruments

EaSI Guarantee

The EaSI Guarantee is a capped guarantee (or counter-guarantee), offered free-of-charge to financial intermediaries. It covers their loan portfolios for microfinance and social enterprises. This risk-sharing mechanism enables an intermediary to reach out to vulnerable groups, micro-enterprises and social enterprises that they would not have been able to finance otherwise.

EaSI Capacity Building

The EaSI Capacity Building Investments Window aims to build up financial intermediaries' institutional capacity in the areas of microfinance and social enterprise finance, through equity or quasi-equity investments.

Capacity building investments can be used for various purposes, depending on the financial intermediaries' needs, including:

- ⇒ strengthening operational capabilities e.g. branch expansion, scaling up IT infrastructure, recruitment and staff training, and investments in working capital;
- ⇒ seed financing support for newly established intermediaries.

“ The EaSI guarantee instrument is crucial to microfinance institutions and microentrepreneurs with limited access to funding. We believe that this support, alongside other EaSI instruments, will add value to microfinance activity and will contribute to economic development and employment in Europe. ”

The Microfinance Centre

About EaSI grants

EaSI Transaction Cost Support grants

Financial intermediaries that undertake long-term risk capital investments in social enterprises can apply for a grant to cover costs related to the preparation, conclusion and follow-up of these investments.

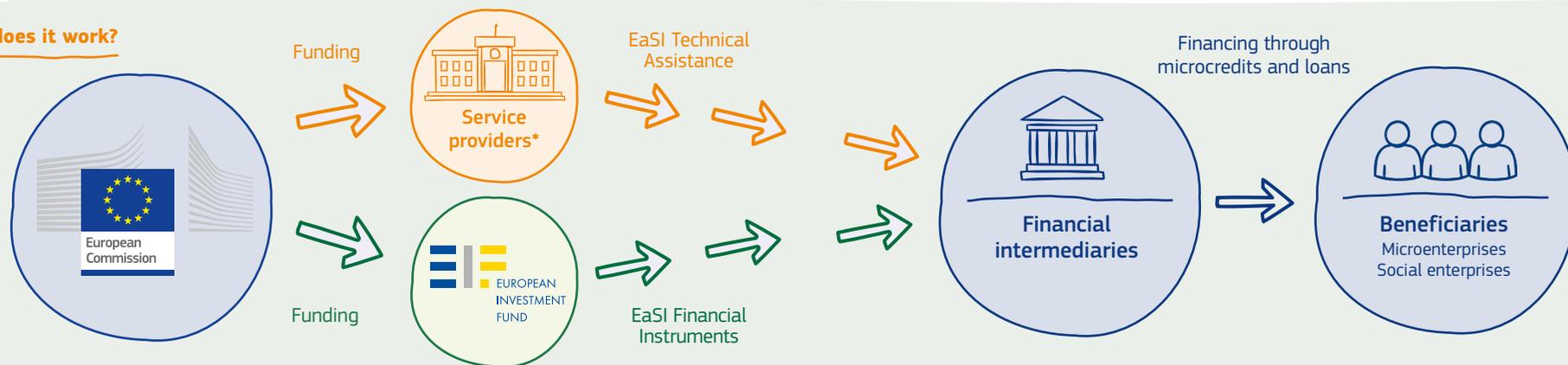
EaSI Business Development Services grants

As a complement to the EaSI Guarantee for microfinance, financial intermediaries may also benefit from a grant in order to help provide business development services to vulnerable groups. Services may include training, coaching, or mentoring.

“ The adequate financing of social enterprises, be it through venture philanthropy or social investment, is key to their development and their scaling up across Europe. The EaSI Programme instruments improve the sector's capacity and visibility while helping to mobilise further private funding. ”

European Venture Philanthropy Association

How does it work?



About EaSI Technical Assistance

EaSI Technical Assistance has two strands: microfinance and social entrepreneurship.

EaSI Technical Assistance for Microfinance

EaSI Technical Assistance for microfinance offers a range of support activities to microfinance institutions:

- ⇒ institutional assessments and ratings
- ⇒ tailored training to support the implementation of the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision
- ⇒ a helpdesk
- ⇒ workshops and seminars to promote knowledge-sharing.

The European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision

The Commission has developed the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision in order to ensure high ethical lending standards and practices within the European microfinance sector. Complying with, or endorsing, the Code is a pre-condition for accessing EU funding under the EaSI financial instruments for microfinance.

“ The EaSI programme is fundamental to allow microfinance organisations in Europe to further leverage their financial capabilities and reinforce their organisational models in order to provide better services and increase their outreach to the underserved populations in Europe. ”

The European Microfinance Network

EaSI Technical Assistance for Social Entrepreneurship

EaSI Technical Assistance for Social Entrepreneurship offers two types of support activities to social enterprise finance providers and support organisations:

- ⇒ tailored trainings, e.g. on investment readiness;
- ⇒ exchange and dissemination of good practices through peer-to-peer trainings, study visits and social enterprise finance workshops.



“ Thanks to the EaSI programme, thousands of micro-entrepreneurs and social enterprises are benefitting from financing on preferential conditions all over Europe. EaSI funding contributes to the creation of jobs and growth and it empowers people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with access to finance that will help them realise their dreams and build a brighter future for themselves and their communities. ”

Marianne Thyssen, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Find out more

EU support for microfinance and social enterprises

ec.europa.eu/social/microfinance | ec.europa.eu/social/socialentrepreneurship

EaSI financial instruments

ec.europa.eu/social/easi | www.eif.org/easi/

About the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme

The EaSI funding programme of the European Commission promotes a high level of quality and sustainable employment to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and to improve working conditions in Europe.

ec.europa.eu/social/easi

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