

# “Tobacco consumption still a threat to our societies”: Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis on World No Tobacco Day

Tobacco use remains the single biggest cause of chronic disease and avoidable death in the EU. [Statistics](#) on deaths in the EU from lung cancer, the cancer most associated with smoking, show that in 2015, there were 273 400 deaths from lung cancer alone, 273 400 too many. Somebody lost their child, parent, brother, sister or a friend. Lung cancer accounts for a fifth of all cancer-related deaths. On top of this, tobacco is also a major risk factor in many other forms of cancer, as well as other major diseases such as cardiovascular disease.

I am very concerned by the fact that the EU smoking rate has remained stagnant at 26% since 2014. Even more worrying is that amongst people aged 15 to 24, [the rate has increased](#) from 25% in 2014 to 29% in 2017. Having been personally affected by the loss of loved ones to the terrors of tobacco, I am deeply upset by the statistics of young people smoking. We need to reverse this trend. One of the key aims of the new [Tobacco Products Directive](#), which became fully applicable in the EU two years ago, is to make tobacco products less attractive to young people. However, the growing popularity of new products such as electronic cigarettes among the young generation worries me a lot.

That being said, we have taken important steps towards better protecting our citizens' health from tobacco consumption, in particular via the implementation of the [Tobacco Products Directive](#) (TPD) as well as the [Tobacco Advertising Directive](#). We also reached an important milestone on 6 May this year when the [EU track and trace system](#) entered into force, making the EU the first jurisdiction worldwide to have put in place the legal framework to tackle illicit tobacco trade. A ban on menthol cigarettes also comes into effect in May 2020. Moreover, at the end of last year we launched the [Joint Action on Tobacco Control](#), allocating nearly €2 million to help Member States implement the TPD during the next three years. Non-governmental organisations can also play a big role here, which is why in April this year I launched the [EU Health Award for NGOs](#), to highlight the outstanding initiatives of international, European, national and regional NGOs that have significantly contributed to prevent tobacco use within the EU. The deadline for submissions is **15 June 2018**, and I will be presenting the Award this November.

As a medical doctor, I have seen first-hand the devastation tobacco use has on health, and how important it is to attack the problem from all angles. We should all step up our efforts to inform, educate and protect our citizens from the harmful effects of tobacco.

Follow us on Twitter: [@V\\_Andriukaitis](#) [@EU\\_Health](#)

**For more information:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/overview\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/overview_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products_en)

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## **ESMA updates the CSDR Q&As**

The CSDR Q&As provide common answers to questions regarding practical issues on the implementation of the new CSDR regime. The newest of CSDR Q&A concerns the CSDs' investment policy and clarifies the requirement to have "access to assets" on the same business day when a decision to liquidate those assets has been made.

Q&As are an important tool to promote common supervisory approaches and practices in the application of CSDR. The content of this document is aimed at competent authorities under the Regulation to ensure that in their supervisory activities, their actions are converging along the lines of the responses adopted by ESMA. It should also help investors and other market participants by providing clarity on the CSDR requirements.

The aim of CSDR is to harmonise certain aspects of the settlement cycle and settlement discipline and to provide a set of common requirements for CSDs operating securities settlement systems across the EU. ESMA will continue to develop this Q&A on CSDR in the coming months and will review and update them where required.

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## **EU budget: A new Social Fund, Globalisation Adjustment Fund and Justice, Rights and Values Fund**

For the period 2021-2027, the European Social Fund Plus would be worth €101.2 billion, and the Globalisation Adjustment Fund €1.6 billion. Both are geared to invest in people: ensuring they are equipped with the right skills needed to deal with challenges and changes on the labour market, following up on the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Justice, Rights and Values Fund will be worth €947 million over 7 years. It will further support the development of a European Area of Justice based on the rule of law and mutual trust and ensure

people can enjoy their rights.

Vice-President for the Euro, Social Dialogue, Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, Valdis **Dombrovskis**: *“These proposals follow the fundamental questions we have been asking since the White Paper on the future of Europe and subsequent reflection papers: what European Union do we want, how will we shape it, and how do we pay for it? Our ambitions for a more social Europe are fully reflected: we need EU funding to fit our policies both to pro-actively support the most vulnerable in our societies, and to react when globalisation and digitisation make their impact felt.”*

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne **Thyssen**, said: *“Europe wants to empower people. We put our money where our mouth is. Our new, flexible and simplified social funds are focused on investing in people: to make sure they have the right skills, to make sure they have modern social protection adapted to new forms of work, and to show solidarity with those who need it most.”*

Vytenis **Andriukaitis**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, stressed that: *“Health is a fundamental value therefore it makes sense that the future EU budget envisions integrating the Health programme in ESF+ under the cluster of “values”. This will lead to new and stronger synergies with the other building blocks of the European Pillar of Social Rights and will allow better coordination of health related investments. It will also support health promotion and disease prevention, improving effectiveness, accessibility and resilience of health systems as well as reducing health inequalities and making healthcare better and safer for the benefit of patients and society at large.”*

Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality said: *“With today’s proposal for a new Justice, Rights and Values Fund, we make sure we can give the best support possible for initiatives upholding EU rights, values and the rule of law.*

*At a time where European societies are confronted with extremism, radicalism and divisions, it is more important than ever to promote, strengthen and defend justice, rights and EU values. NGOs and civil society play a crucial role in standing up for these European values. At the same time we need to support Member States in our joint effort to improve judicial cooperation and increase mutual trust in our common area of justice.”*

## **1. A European Social Fund Plus**

The European Social Fund Plus will focus on investment in people and support the delivery of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#). This helps to respond to global challenges, maintain social fairness but also to drive Europe’s competitiveness forward. The European Social Fund Plus will be a more flexible and simpler version of the current European Social Fund by merging a number of existing funds and programmes. Pooling resources will allow the EU and Member States to provide more integrated and targeted support in response to the social and labour market challenges that people in Europe face today. For instance, integrating support to the most deprived into the ESF+ will benefit eligible persons through a better mix of material assistance and

comprehensive social support.

Specifically, the European Social Fund Plus will merge:

The main features of the new Fund are:

- **Putting citizens' concerns and key priorities at the centre:** In consultation with Member States, resources will be allocated to measures that address key priorities and Europeans' concerns. The ESF+ programmes will concentrate in particular on challenges identified under the [European Semester](#) and the European Pillar of Social Rights;
- **A focus on youth unemployment and social inclusion:** Member States with a high rate of young people not in employment, education or training will have to dedicate a minimum of 10% of the ESF+ funding to support youth employment. The Fund will continue to contribute to the [Skills Agenda for Europe](#) and at least 25% of ESF+ funding should be allocated to measures fostering social inclusion and targeting those most in need. The ESF+ will also support Member States efforts to integrate legally present non-EU nationals into their labour markets and societies by focusing on measures that foster long-term integration. In this way, it complements the Asylum and Migration Fund which supports short-term integration measures;
- **Cutting red tape:** The Commission proposes to make the rules less complex in the next long-term EU budget with less red tape and easier access to funding from different sources for authorities, citizens or organisations benefitting from EU support;
- **Tailored support to healthcare:** the health strand will focus on the priority areas where EU cooperation has a proven benefit: strengthening cross-border crisis-preparedness, assisting Member States' health authorities, digitising health and care, supporting EU health legislation and enhancing cross-border cooperation, for instance on rare and complex diseases via the European Reference Networks.

## 2. The post-2020 European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund will be revised so that it can intervene more effectively to support workers who have lost their jobs. Currently, workers can only get support from the Fund when their dismissals are due to changing trade patterns or consequences of the financial and economic crisis. Under the new rules, other reasons for restructuring, such as automation, digitalisation and more, can be eligible for support, taking account of new challenges on the labour market.

The new rules will also lower the threshold of dismissed workers for a case to be eligible from 500 to 250, which will allow more workers to get support. Other proposed changes include an improved mobilisation process to simplify and speed up the procedures. Finally, the Fund's co-financing rate, which currently stands at 60%, will be aligned with the highest ESF+ co-financing rates for a given Member State. In several cases this would mean that the EU co-finances a higher share of the total cost.

## 3. EU Justice, Rights and Values Fund

The Commission is also proposing a new Justice, Rights and Values Fund, comprising of the Rights and Values, and Justice programmes. The Fund has a proposed budget allocation of €947 million over the 7 years, €642 million for the Rights and Values programme and €305 million for the Justice programme.

At a time where European societies are confronted with extremism, radicalism and divisions, it is more important than ever to promote, strengthen and defend justice, rights, and EU values. For instance, this programme will help fight inequalities and discrimination, better protect children, and improve judicial cooperation to better fight criminality and terrorism. The Fund will contribute to the further development of a European area of justice based on the rule of law, on mutual recognition and mutual trust. It will also enhance and support the key role of Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society in promoting, safeguarding and awareness raising for EU common values and ensuring people can enjoy their rights.

The creation of the new Fund represents a simplification as compared to the current situation of 3 programmes. In particular, the area of citizenship, which is currently dealt with by 2 different programmes, will be covered by the new Rights and Values programme.

### **Next steps**

A swift agreement on the overall long-term EU budget and its sectoral proposals is essential to ensure that EU funds start delivering results on the ground as soon as possible.

Delays similar to the ones experienced at the beginning of the current 2014-2020 budgetary period would mean that 100,000 EU-funded projects could not start on time; that many people in need of support, including urgent material and food assistance, would have to wait unnecessarily; that trainings, increased job opportunities, actions to improve the quality of key services would be delivered late, or that schools would not be able to implement new quality educational programmes in time for the school year.

An agreement on the next long-term budget in 2019 would provide for a seamless transition between the current long-term budget (2014-2020) and the new one and would ensure predictability and continuity of funding to the benefit of all.

### **Background**

The European Social Fund is Europe's oldest and main instrument to invest in people.

It was established together with the Treaty of Rome in 1957. Today it is an important driver of job creation, promoting better education, more modern public administrations and social inclusion, and therefore a means of ensuring fairer opportunities for all citizens.

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund is an expression of EU solidarity with European workers who lost their jobs because of the impact of the combination of changing global trade patterns and technological change. Its

objective is to retain or reintegrate workers into the labour market.

Today's proposals related to ESF+, EGF and the Justice, Rights and Values Fund are part of the [Commission's proposals for the long-term EU budget adopted by the Commission on 2 May 2018](#). The Commission's proposal for the ESF+ is closely related to the proposal for a [Common Provisions Regulation](#) adopted on 29 May 2018 which establishes the framework for action for a number of EU shared management Funds.

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[Memo: Questions and Answers on the Justice, Rights and Values Fund](#)

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## **EU Justice, Rights and Values Fund**

[IP/18/3923](#)

The fund comprises the Rights and Values, and Justice programmes. The Fund has a proposed budget allocation of 947 million EUR over the seven years, 642 million EUR for the Rights and Values programme and 305 million EUR for the Justice programme. The overall allocation is roughly equivalent to the previous period budget allocation.

The Fund will support the activities of a number of actors in the field of

rights and values such as NGOs, equality bodies, public administrations, judicial networks or universities.

### What are the changes to the current set-up?

The creation of a Justice, Rights and Values Fund and its two underlying programmes represent a simplification as compared to the current situation of three programmes.

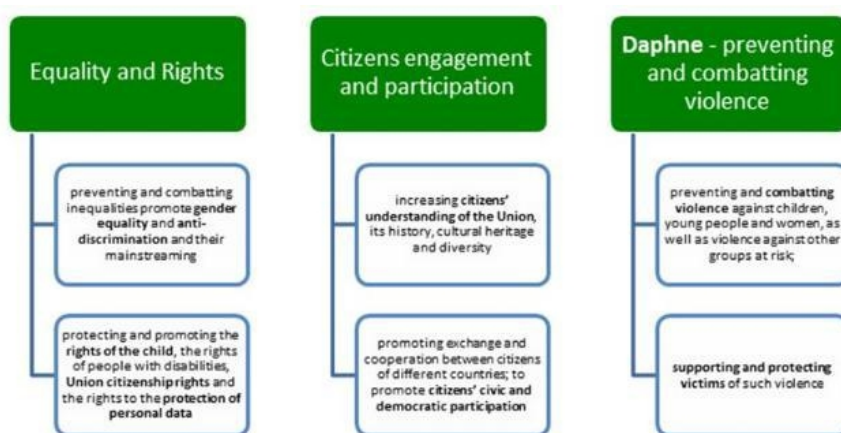
In particular, the area of citizenship, which is dealt with currently by two different programmes, will be covered by the new Rights and Values programme only, which will allow developing synergies.

### Rights and Values Programme

The Rights and Values programme aims at protecting and promoting rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties, including by supporting civil society organisations, in order to sustain open, democratic and inclusive societies.

The programme has three specific objectives:

- to promote equality and rights (Equality and rights strand)
- to promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union (Citizens' engagement and participation strand)
- to fight violence (Daphne strand)



### What sort of activities will be funded under the Rights and Values Programme?

- **awareness raising and training** to improve the knowledge of the policies and rights in the areas covered by the Programme including awareness of European culture, history and remembrance;
- **mutual learning** among stakeholders to improve knowledge and mutual understanding and civic and democratic engagement as well as **town-twinning activities** to bring together Europeans of different nationalities and cultures;
- **analytical and monitoring activities** to improve the understanding of the situation in the Member States and at EU level as well as to improve the implementation of EU law and policies;
- **support to civil society organisations** encouraging and facilitating active participation in the construction of a more democratic Union as

well as awareness of rights and values;

- **developing the capacity of European networks** to promote and further develop Union law, policy goals and strategies as well as supporting civil society organisations active in the areas covered by the Programme.

## **The Justice Programme**

The Justice programme aims at contributing to the further development of a European area of justice based on the rule of law, on mutual recognition and mutual trust;

More specifically the Justice programme will:

- facilitate and support **judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters** and promote the **rule of law**, for instance by supporting the efforts to improve the **effectiveness of national justice systems** and the enforcement of decisions;
- support and promote **judicial training**, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture;
- facilitate **effective access to justice** for all and effective redress; it will promote efficient civil and criminal procedures, promote and support the rights of victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

## **What sort of activities will be funded under the Justice Programme?**

- **awareness raising and training**: it will help relevant stakeholders to improve the knowledge of Union policies and law, for instance on substantive and procedural law, judicial cooperation instruments, or relevant case-law of the European Court of Justice;
- **mutual learning** through exchange of good practices among stakeholders to improve mutual understanding of the civil and criminal law and the legal and judicial systems of the Member States, including the rule of law;
- **analytical and monitoring activities** to improve the knowledge and understanding of potential obstacles to the smooth functioning of a European area of justice;
- **development and use of information and Communication Technology (ICT)** to improve the efficiency of judicial systems and their cooperation and the cross-border interoperability of systems and applications.
- **developing capacity** of key European level networks as well as supporting civil society organisations active in the areas covered by the Programme.

## **How will NGOs be supported?**

The role of Civil Society Organisations is very important for the implementation of the Justice Rights and Values Fund. In particular the Rights and Values programme will aim to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties, including by supporting civil society organisations, in order to sustain open, democratic and inclusive societies.



It will fund NGOs to promote activities under its three specific objectives, in continuity with the current practice. This includes for instance projects to fight violence against women, to promote the rights of the child or remembrance projects.

The programme will also fund activities to encourage and facilitate active participation in the construction of a more democratic Union as well as awareness of rights and values through support to civil society organisations, including NGOs and think tanks.

In addition, the Justice Programme will also support civil society organisations, for instance to facilitate effective access to justice for all.

### **How does the Fund relate to the new mechanism the Commission proposed on rule of law in the Multi Annual Financial Framework?**

The proposed Regulation equips the Union to better protect its budget when weaknesses in the rule of law impair – or threaten to impair – sound financial management or the financial interests of the Union.

The role of the Fund is different, it is to promote policies in line with fundamental rights and European values. It will further support the development of a European Area of Justice based on the rule of law and mutual trust and ensure people can enjoy their rights.

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