



Ex post evaluation of the ESF (2000-2006)

**Evaluation of EU Structural Funds:
Reinforcing Quality and Utilisation
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Unit 03 Evaluation and Impact Assessment, DG EMPL



Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities

European Social Fund

Some lessons from previous ESF evaluations

- poor data availability and data variability
- different approaches to the counting of final beneficiaries (not systematic)
- lack of balance between evaluation approaches aimed at comprehensive coverage and those emphasizing in-depth analysis
- need to establish a distinction between support for systems and support for persons
- need to define the key characteristics of beneficiaries to allow describing the target groups
- need to improve and clarify the links with two political processes: for employment (EES) and inclusion





EX POST EVALUATION OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (2000-2006)

Global overview of the ex-post evaluation

Preliminary works

- Availability of data
- Models/methods

Ex post evaluation

- Policy fields (Reg. 1784/1999)
- Horizontal themes (idem)
- ESF contribution to EES/Lisbon
- Community added value

Thematic studies

- Social inclusion
- Support to Systems and Structures



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EX POST EVALUATION OF THE ESF (2000-2006)

WP1 Analysis of the relevance and reliability of available information for the ex post evaluation of the ESF (2000-2006)

The objective of the contract was to prepare a methodology for the main ex-post through:

- analysing the possibility to answer 21 evaluation questions grouped according to the 5 policy fields and the 3 cross cutting themes mentioned in Article 2 of the Regulation (EC) No 1784/1999 (as well as the ESF contribution to the European Employment Strategy and the Community Added Value)
- providing recommendations for the future contractors on strengths and weaknesses of different models/methods to carry out the ex post evaluation of the ESF





EX POST EVALUATION OF THE ESF (2000-2006)

WP2 - Support to the Open Method of Coordination in Social Protection and Social Inclusion

- This thematic evaluation shall assess:
 - The coherence and complementarity of objectives, interventions, target groups, stakeholders, and indicators
 - The suitability of the ESF as a tool to progress in the field of the OMC
- The value added of the OMC and of the ESF social inclusion are out of scope
- Consists of 6 working packages (including summary fiches, on-line surveys, case studies, 2 stakeholder dialogues)





EX POST EVALUATION OF THE ESF (2000-2006)

WP3 - Impact on the functioning of the labour market and on the investment in human capital infrastructure through support to systems and structures

- This thematic evaluation shall assess:
 - Impact of ESF support on S&S
 - Impact on changes in S&S on labour market

- Two main fields of ESF support to S&S:
 - Public Employment Services
 - training system

- Overview of labour market models but analysis through case studies



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EX POST EVALUATION OF THE ESF (2000-2006)

WP5 – Ex post evaluation of the ESF (2000-2006)

- Coverage:
 - 2000-2006 programmes with ESF funding (211 prog., 25 MS)
 - Policy fields & cross-cutting themes (Art.2 of Reg.1784)+ CAV + EES (13 thematic evaluation questions + 9 horizontal questions)
- On the basis of data available, the ex post evaluation shall assess:
 - For all 211 ESF programmes (25 MS): the use of resources
 - For a representative sample of programmes/MS:
 - ▶ Effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability of ESF interventions
 - ▶ Factors for success and failure of implementation
- Synthesis report of all ex post work packages

