

## Action points to Facilitate Project Sustainability in Social Protection, Inclusion, and Innovation projects

- 1) Review sustainability-related contractual obligations and tailor them to fit the call's objectives, targeted applicants, and the relevant EU regulation. Include these tailored and call-specific sustainability requirements in the call documentation.
- 2) Map synergies between all available and planned funding programmes, national or EU level, and align timing and content of funding actions to give way to continuity of social projects.
- 3) Allow access to more than one funding source (e.g., ESF+ complemented by national funding) in order for the applicants to co-finance the project and to allow for continuity between projects.
- 4) Make sure to ask about the projects' plans for sustainability in the application form and at the same time provide support and guidance about project sustainability tailored to social services.
- 5) Support applicants, especially smaller and less experienced ones, in their efforts to sustain project results by building their capacities on design thinking, sustainability planning, visibility and dissemination of project results and on EU and national funds characteristics, complementarity and synergies before and during calls for proposals.
- 6) Allow more flexibility, especially for longer projects to adjust and to react or respond to changing circumstances or policies during project implementation and follow-up period, and to change sustainability plans or obligations accordingly.
- 7) Allow longer implementation periods for projects of innovation for disadvantaged groups, where measuring and obtaining tangible results and real impact might take longer.
- 8) Conduct systematic and regular monitoring activity throughout the project and the follow-up period to filter and react to foreseeable risks in sustaining project results.
- 9) Collect and share in a user-friendly way, national and European best practices for sustainability (e.g., Tool B - Map of success factors and pathways in ensuring sustainability of social projects)
- 10) Organize, give platform to networking and mutual learning activities between projects implementers.
- 11) Conduct program-level evaluation with a focus on project sustainability and its possible gateways to public funding.
- 12) Encourage by all possible means that the results of program evaluations feed into policy level decision-making.
- 13) Seek to include modelling of sustainability options for projects of social services in development areas to elaborate methodologies, pathways, whether through transnational, restricted or TA projects