

European Funds for Training in Tourism

The present document provides **specific** information about the use of European funds for **Training in Tourism**. It refers directly to content and links of the complete online **Guide on EU funding for Tourism** available here: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide_en that has been elaborated by DG GROW and covers all kinds of projects in tourism **in general**.

Additionally, for deeper understanding we recommend looking at the document about **Key Funding Opportunities for Upskilling and Reskilling at EU level**, prepared by the Support Services for the Pact for Skills: https://tourismskillslab.eu/docs/EU_fundings.pdf It provides a conceptual overview of the most relevant EU funds available for training.

How to use this document

This document follows the structure of the **Guide on EU funding for Tourism**. Each of the available programmes and funding lines is listed in alphabetical order and presented in a similar structured format:

- Name of the fund and link to full explanation at the Guide on EU Funding for Tourism
- Summary description of the fund
- Possible application for training and skills development in tourism
- Additional information and links

We suggest reading the following chapter first. It provides a summary overview about the scope of programmes, their relevance for training in tourism and how to participate. This allows you to narrow down your search and look only at those programmes and funds that are most adequate for your situation and needs.

European Funding Instruments for Training in Tourism - an Overview

A wide range of European Programmes can be used for training in tourism during the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) during the period 2021-2027.

The most obvious and by far important programmes - which you probably are already aware of - are the [European Social Fund Plus](#), the [Erasmus+ Programme](#), and the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) as reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. These programmes are directly orientated to the development of human capital in Europe.

Many other programmes are not directly related to training and skills improvement but offer good opportunities for more specific tourism training activities related with a region, activity or economic sector. These include the [ERDF - European Regional Development and Cohesion Funds](#), [EAFRD \(European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development\)](#), [Horizon Europe](#) for research, the [InvestEU](#) and

[SMP-Single Market programmes](#) including COSME for small and medium enterprises, or the [LIFE programme](#) on environmental and climate action. Activities in regions with structural or reconversion problems may have a look at the [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers \(EGF\)](#), [Just Transition Fund \(JTF\)](#), [REACT-EU](#) or the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)

Depending on the specific situation and objectives, additionally some of the other funds and programmes included below may be of interest. At least, it is convenient to have a quick look at their summary to find out if they could be fit for purpose.

How to access these funds?

Most if not all the programmes and funds are assigned and distributed through intermediate structures. The most common and frequent format are national programmes set up by the EU member states that publish relevant calls in their territory of competence (ESF+, EARFD) through the respective ministries or national structures. Other programmes are administered at EU level through specialised agencies: for example [EISMEA](#) for the COSME programme or [FACEA](#) for Erasmus+. These agencies usually have delegations in each member state where you can get specific information on the actions that are available in your country.

The full range of options is complex and difficult to follow for SMEs, but don't worry: the system is designed in a way that adapts the implementation of these funds to national or regional needs, and it brings opportunities and their management as close to the citizens as possible.

Who can apply?

While the range of options and the volume of funds and programmes is impressive, practically none of them is directly accessible for individual (physical) persons or SMEs through direct application to the European Commission or its agencies. You will always need to observe the calls for projects or for the national / regional implementation through actions in the field e.g. of vocational training, or reskilling and upskilling. To give two examples:

- **Mobility Erasmus+** for students or teachers: you apply through accredited educational institutions, professional associations etc.
- **Training actions for active workers through the ESF:** they are defined in the calls published by national or regional ministries. VET schools or private academies present a project or action plan to benefit from the related funds. Then an individual or staff of an SME can apply to participate as a student.

This sounds complex for individuals or micro-SMEs: they do not have the knowledge or resources to follow up on each of these programmes and their related calls. However the European Commission is continuously improving the communication to reach also the smaller stakeholders and make funds more accessible for them. This includes simplification in the application process and in rules, e.g. avoiding complex financial justification of grants through individual costs by using lump sums.

So don't be afraid!

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After this general overview, on the following pages we present the different EU Funding Instruments as listed in the [Guide on EU funding for Tourism](#) in alphabetical order.

[Creative Europe Programme](#)

[Digital Europe Programme](#)

[Erasmus+](#)

[European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development](#)

[European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers \(EGF\)](#)

[European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund \(EMFAF\)](#)

[European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\) and Cohesion Fund](#)

[European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+\)](#)

[Horizon Europe](#)

[InvestEU](#)

[Just Transition Fund \(JTF\)](#)

[LIFE Programme](#)

[REACT-EU](#)

[Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)

[Single Market Programme \(SMP\)](#)

[Support by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development \(EBRD\)](#)

[Support by the European Investment Bank \(EIB\)](#)

A click on the name of each fund in the above list takes you directly to the start of the relevant presentation. In each of them you find information in a standardised structure:

- Name of the fund
- Link to the details in the Guide on EU Funding for Tourism
- Programme Summary description
- Relevance for training in tourism
- Example training actions or cases (where available)
- Further relevant links (where available)

1. Creative Europe Programme

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/creative-europe-programme_en

Programme Summary

This programme helps artists, creators, cultural professionals and organisations cooperate and co-create across borders, reaching new audiences and addressing societal issues while boosting their skills and competences. A strengthened focus on the use of new technologies shall allow the sector to remain competitive and up to speed with the green and digital transitions.

It is clearly aimed at the cultural sector, but the actions proposed and approved in the programme often have a clear impact on tourism through interaction between the different European cultural offerings. In this sense, it encourages a lot of networking and cooperation between different cultural agents on a larger and smaller scale. Many of the initiatives have a direct impact on the positioning of cultural places and events as emerging or consolidated tourist destinations. In some cases, as they are projects integrating a transnational cultural heritage, very important networks or tourism product clubs have been created.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

The different strands of the programme cover topics and skills that are important for any tourism activity related with culture and heritage:

- Social and interpretative skills, especially in a trans-cultural context
- Digital tools and methods for presentation and interpretation of culture and heritage
- Sustainability of cultural and creative resources
- Design of routes and visit programmes

Example training actions

- Updating social skills related to the dissemination of heritage to be able to carry out, for example, the correct training of local tourist guides, as well as the managers of tourist destinations or cities, adapting as well to the use of new technologies in the interpretation of resources..
- Elaboration of didactic materials for the updating of contents necessary for the incorporation or improvement of social, digital or green skills in the occupational profiles related to heritage interpretation, guided routes, management of cultural tourist destinations, twinning of cities and historical places.
- Development and execution of training actions of the aforementioned contents (in different formats, face-to-face, online, specific events such as seminars, congresses, etc.).
- Elaboration of satisfaction and improvement surveys for visitors and buyers of sustainable cultural tourism products. Preparation of studies and reports for continuous improvement.

Additional Information

https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-01/creative-europe-2022-work-programme-c_2022_36_f1.pdf

2. Digital Europe Programme

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/digital-europe-programme_en

Programme Summary

The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) is a new EU funding programme focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations. It currently has a work programme established for the period 2021-2022, with the last call expected by the end of 2022. A new work programme for the periods starting 2023 is expected but not yet confirmed.

This programme 2021-2022 supports the creation of data spaces, with three projects particularly interesting for the tourism sector:

- 1.- A coordination and support action explores the governance of a **future data space for tourism**, with a call for proposals running from November 17, 2021, to February 22, 2022.
- 2.- The European **common data space for cultural heritage** supports the digital transformation of Europe's cultural heritage sector.
- 3.- The **data space for mobility** is key to tourism. So is interoperability: the data space for tourism needs to be interoperable with the one for mobility, the one for cultural heritage, and others which may be developed in the future.

Moreover, SMEs active in the tourism sector can benefit from the services provided by the network of European digital innovation hubs to support them in their digital transformation.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

The programme as such gives little space for training. However the results set the frame for future training activities related with the three above mentioned project outcomes.

Example training actions

- Updating desk research about inputs described at chapter 5.2. ("Digital Skills") of Desk research NTG report. (<https://nexttourismgeneration.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Desk-research-report-NTG.pdf>)
- Elaboration of didactic materials for the updating of contents necessary for the incorporation or improvement of digital skills in the occupational profiles related (also referred in chapter 5.2. ("Digital Skills") of Desk research NTG report.
- Development and execution of training actions of the aforementioned contents (in different formats, face-to-face, online, specific events such as seminars, congresses, etc.).

Additional information

- https://tourismskillslab.eu/docs/EU_fundings.pdf - slides 58 - 63

3. Erasmus+

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/erasmus_en

Programme Summary

Erasmus+ is the **key EU programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport**. These are key areas that support citizens in their personal and professional development. After the ESF-European Social Fund, it is probably the programme most closely linked to knowledge and skills development both for individuals and for the education system. If you plan any mobility action or transnational cooperation in the field of education and training, we strongly recommend reading and evaluating the information provided below and in the related links.

Erasmus+ places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, as well as on promoting youth participation in democratic life. Erasmus+ is a programme for all: more inclusive for people with fewer opportunities and more accessible for small organisations. It provides cooperation, capacity building, exchanges, networking and policy support for organisations, and reforms in education, training, youth and sport. Erasmus+ also aims to promote the sustainable development of its partners in the field of higher education, and contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy

Specific issues tackled by the programme and relevant to tourism training include

- reducing unemployment, especially among young people
- [promoting adult learning, especially for new skills and skills required by the labour market](#)
- supporting [innovation, cooperation](#) and reform
- reducing early school leaving
- promoting cooperation and mobility with the EU's partner countries

It is primarily designed to promote mobility, further education and exchange of experiences in the education sector, focusing on the final years of compulsory schooling, as well as on university and post-graduate training, and is therefore mainly addressed to young people as well as to teachers and research departments of schools and universities. In recent periods of application it has evolved towards greater flexibility, covering a wider range of activities.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

Tourism in all its varieties is one of the sectors covered by the Erasmus Plus programme. Additionally it has an indirect impact as in many cases it promotes cultural tourism in the regions of student exchanges, with specific actions of language and cultural tourism, cultural and sport events, etc.

Tourism organisations and vocational and education training providers offering courses relevant to upskilling/reskilling the tourism workforce may engage in a number of development and networking activities in the fields of academic and vocational training, schools, adult/lifelong learning, youth and European sport events. Projects can cover mobility, developing the competence and employability of young people in tourism, digital skills in cultural heritage, learning hospitality, and tourism research innovation.

The lines that can be used for training and skills development in Tourism are:

- [Key Action 1](#): Mobility of students, teachers, workforce

- Key Action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions. All the sub-actions are of interest for skills / training in Tourism:
 - Cooperation Partnerships
 - Small-scale partnership
 - European Universities
 - Centres for Vocational Excellence
 - Erasmus+ Teach Academies
 - Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters
 - Alliances for Innovation Capacity building (HE and VET)

The **implementation** of the Erasmus+ programme tries to facilitate access and participation also for individuals and very small entities with reduced management capacity.:

- Easy to find all the necessary information online
- Simplified application mechanisms for mobility and small-scale partnerships
- Funding based on lump sums or unit costs, this avoids administrative burden

Example projects and training actions

KA1: Mobility of students and teachers from tourism VET schools

[Erasmus+ for entrepreneurs](#)

KA2: Cooperation Partnerships: [Accessibility / Inclusive Skills](#)

Alliances for Innovation: [Next Tourism Generation Alliance](#)

Excellence for Vocational Education in Tourism - TourX

Erasmus Mundus [Joint Master in Tourism Management](#)

Additional information

- https://tourismskillslab.eu/docs/EU_fundings.pdf - slides 17 - 29
- https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027_en
- Programme specific website with general information: [Erasmus+ | EU programme for education, training, youth and sport](#)
- [Erasmus+ Programme guide](#)
- [Erasmus+ application Platform](#) (europa.eu)

4. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/european-agricultural-fund-rural-development_en

Programme Summary

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) supports through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD or so-called Second Pillar) the vibrancy and economic viability of rural communities through rural development measures. These reinforce the market measures and income supports of the CAP with strategies and funding to strengthen the EU's agri-food and forestry sectors, environmental sustainability, and the wellbeing of rural areas in general.

The 2023-2027 CAP allocation will mainly be spent on the implementation of the CAP rural-development programmes (RDPs), decisions regarding the selection of projects and the granting of payments are handled at national or regional levels. Furthermore, through financial instruments, the EAFRD acts as a source for loans, microcredits, guarantees and equities, available to recipients in agriculture, forestry and rural areas who are undertaking financially viable projects that support the priorities of the EAFRD

EU countries have the possibility to include tourism-related investments in their Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) strategic plans, which will be implemented from January 2023 onwards. Such support could, for instance, include interventions linked to territorial economic development and rural infrastructure, the renewal of villages and/or actions aimed at the conservation of small-scale built heritage (chapels, bridges, public amenities), construction and modernisation of tourism information centres, visitor information, and other leisure, recreational and/or sporting activities.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

Activities that are programmed under the EAFRD in rural areas usually contain related training. This opens possibilities to include tourism content as one of the elements. Furthermore, the LAG-Local Action Groups develop education and training activities in their territory that frequently relate to or include tourism.

Example training actions

- Training for rural entrepreneurs in circular economy, heritage interpretation, digital tools etc.
- Training programme for rural tourism activities in the territory of an LAG or in a full region

Additional information

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-agricultural-fund-rural-development-eafrd_en

5. European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF)

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/european-globalisation-adjustment-fund-displaced-workers-egf_en

Programme Summary

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) expresses Union solidarity with displaced workers and self-employed individuals whose activity has ceased, in addition to helping them find new jobs. The EGF helps low-skilled and disadvantaged job seekers deal with new challenges in the labour market.

Originally created to support workers who lost their jobs because of large-scale restructuring triggered by systemic globalisation changes, its scope was broadened over the years. The EGF now helps workers let go during larger scale restructuring events, no matter the cause. At the request of the EU country concerned, the EGF co-finances job search support, career advice, further training, retraining, coaching and entrepreneurship, and to a certain extent, allowances that enable participants to take part in the measures. It can fund from 60% to 85% of the cost of projects designed to help workers made redundant find another job or set up their own businesses. National or regional authorities implement and manage EGF cases. Each case runs for two years.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

The EGF has no tourism specific component. However, it is open to various sectors and can support workers dismissed by other sectors to qualify for work in tourism. It does so through supporting measures that help train displaced workers, upgrade their skills, or help them start businesses. Moreover, it can support measures such as vocational training courses for displaced workers according to their needs, apprenticeships to learn new professional skills and practical knowledge directly on-the-job, and business start-up subsidies with follow-up support.

Example training actions

- A variety of retraining, upskilling and vocational training; horizontal and soft-skills training and entrepreneurship training;
- Counselling and mentoring for re-employment and mentoring during the initial phase of the new job.

Additional information

- [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers \(EGF\) \(europa.eu\)](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/european-globalisation-adjustment-fund-displaced-workers-egf_en)
- [How to apply \(europa.eu\)](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/european-globalisation-adjustment-fund-displaced-workers-egf_en)

6. European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/european-maritime-fisheries-and-aquaculture-fund-emfaf_en

Programme Summary

The EMFAF runs from 2021 to 2027 and supports the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance. The EMFAF has as a priority to increase employment and territorial cohesion in coastal and inland communities depending on fishing and aquaculture. It provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably. It facilitates amongst others

- the supply of quality and healthy seafood to European consumers
- the improvement of skills and working conditions in fisheries and aquaculture
- the economic and social vitality of coastal communities
- maritime security contributing to a safe maritime space
- international cooperation contributing to healthy, safe and sustainably managed oceans

Relevance for Training in Tourism

One of the fund's priorities focuses on enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities. This priority supports community-led local development and could cover training in tourism-related projects such as eco-tourism, pesca-tourism, local gastronomy (fish and seafood restaurants), sustainable visitor management, accommodation, tourist trails, diving, as well as supporting local partnerships in coastal tourism.

Example training actions

- Training on how to adapt sailing tours for people with disabilities to make sure historical and natural treasure are accessible to all.
- Training how to adapt sailing tours for "fishing-tourism"

Additional information

- [Programme specific website](#)
- [EMFAF on Funding & tenders](#)
- [Find calls for proposals](#)
- [Regulation establishing the EMFAF](#)

7. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/european-regional-development-fund-erdf-and-cohesion-fund_en

Programme Summary

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic, territorial and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting development imbalances between its regions. It focuses on several key priority areas known as 'thematic concentrations', i.e. innovation and research, the digital agenda, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), environment and the net-zero-carbon economy.

The Cohesion Fund targets the reduction of economic and social disparities through investment in the environmental infrastructure and priority EU projects in Trans-European Transport Networks. It also covers projects of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy or sustainable urban mobility presenting clear environmental benefits. In 2021-2027 it covers Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

*ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, together with the European Social Fund Plus and the newly created Just Transition Fund, form the **EU Cohesion Policy funds**.*

Relevance for Training in Tourism

Projects financed under the ERDF and Cohesion Fund frequently include tourism or are even specifically focussed on it. Regarding European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) programmes, tourism is among the most popular topics. While physical investment plays the biggest role, these projects always include education and training components to qualify local population and stakeholders in the new skills that are required. Policy objectives suggest a wide range of such training activities to be included in the fields of:

- Promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity
- A greener, low-carbon transition towards a net-zero carbon economy and resilient Europe, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban m
- Enhancing mobility
- Fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives

Example training actions

- Interpretation and protection of natural and cultural heritage
- Sustainable tourism Infrastructure, product and service development and management
- Networking skills in local and regional communities
- Skills related with international walking and hiking / sailing / biking routes
- Accessibility and barrier free extensions to different tourist attractions

Additional information

- [Proposal for regulation establishing the ERDF and CF](#)
- [Accessing the funds](#)- Regional Policy - European Commission

8. European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/european-social-fund-plus-esf_en

Programme Summary

The ESF+ is a key financial instrument for investing in people. It provides much-needed resources to EU countries for the recovery of our societies and economies after the coronavirus crisis. The ESF+ finances the implementation of the principles from the [European Pillar for Social Rights](#)

The ESF+ has a total budget of over €99 billion. It invests in people, creating and protecting job opportunities, promoting social inclusion, fighting poverty and developing the skills needed for the digital and green transition. It focuses on objectives related to social inclusion, education and skills, and employment in particular.

The fund is also one of the cornerstones of EU socio-economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has reversed gains in labour participation, challenged educational and health systems and increased inequalities. The ESF+ will be one of the key EU instruments helping EU countries to address these challenges.

As part of cohesion policy, the ESF+ also continues its mission to support economic, territorial and social cohesion in the EU – reducing disparities between EU countries and regions.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

The ESF+ is “**the**” instrument for reskilling and upskilling in tourism. It makes a strong contribution to the green and digital transitions by driving investment in jobs and skilling opportunities so that workers can thrive in a climate-neutral, more digital and inclusive society. It invests in social cohesion and innovation, supporting measures in the field of accessibility, inclusivity and specific measures on youth employment. It also plays a key role to implementing the Pact for Skills.

The ESF+ applies the Shared Management concept. Overall monitoring is done by the EU, but all operative calls for proposals and project selection depend on regional or national authorities. The most typical cases are sectoral training programmes, training for unemployed, or support to life long learning for workers.

Example training actions

- Training of employees in enterprises in the field of digital or social innovation (e.g. for coworking spaces and community building)
- funding of paid training leave
- development of individual learning accounts
- basic training to immigrants that allows them to find a job in tourism
- tailored employment support for people with disabilities (coaching, mentoring)

Additional information

- https://tourismskillslab.eu/docs/EU_fundings.pdf - slides 5 - 16
- [Home | European Social Fund Plus](#)
- [ESF+ on Funding & tender opportunities](#)
- [Find calls for proposals](#)

9. Horizon Europe

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/horizon-europe_en

Programme Summary

Horizon Europe is the EU's key framework funding programme for research and innovation running from 2021-27. It tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth.

The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting, and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It supports creating and better dispersing excellent knowledge and technologies. It creates jobs, fully engages the EU's talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area. The Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness pillar (pillar 2) supports research relating to societal challenges and reinforces technological and industrial capacities through clusters. Legal entities from the EU and associated countries can participate.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

Horizon Europe offers opportunities for skills development through research. Within cluster 2 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society', research and innovation activities are offered to meet EU goals and priorities with relation to - amongst others - the safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage and to respond to and shape multifaceted social, economic, technological and cultural transformations.

The development of new approaches, concepts and practices for sustainable, accessible and inclusive cultural tourism are among the research activities foreseen within this cluster. Once defined, they provide in turn guidance for new training content, occupational profiles, and other aspects related with the development of adequate new skills.

Example actions

- Desk research (field tests in living labs)
- Design collaborative work methodologies for the development of cultural tourism (CT) strategies for their sites
- Training for local officials and postgraduate degrees linked to tourism, geography and policies aimed at improving know-how and disseminating practices on how to make use of this heritage in a sustainable way.

Additional information

Programme specific website: [Horizon Europe](#)
[Find calls for proposals](#)
[Research and innovation – legal texts](#)

10. InvestEU

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/investeu_en

Programme Summary

InvestEU is an investment programme which brings several EU financial instruments together under one roof. The programme aims to support viable investments that help the EU in its recovery from the economic crisis.

InvestEU comprises the **InvestEU Fund**, the **InvestEU Advisory Hub**, which provides technical support and assistance for projects, and, finally, the **InvestEU Portal**, which provides a database of investment opportunities available in the EU. It includes the financial instruments of the former COSME programme.

The InvestEU Fund is a market-based and demand-led, but also a policy-driven instrument. Investments are managed and implemented in four categories:

1. Sustainable infrastructure
2. Research, innovation and digitalisation
3. SMEs
4. Social investment and Skills

Relevance for Training in Tourism

This programme is focussed on investment. It could provide support regarding installation or improvements for teaching and training infrastructure or other investment-based actions.

Additional information and how to apply

- Programme specific website: [InvestEU](#)
- [What is the InvestEU Programme?](#)
- [Questions and answers: InvestEU Programme](#)
- How to access finance supported by InvestEU: www.access2finance.eu

11. Just Transition Fund (JTF)

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/just-transition-fund-jtf_en

Programme Summary

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) is part of a broader Just Transition Mechanism, which also includes a scheme under InvestEU and a public sector loan facility. The JTF finances projects in territories heavily impacted by the transition towards a climate-neutral economy due to the closure or phasing out of mining activities or GHG intensive industries and which need, in turn, to diversify the local economy.

The activities supported by JTF include: investments in firms, research and innovation, clean energy technologies, greenhouse gas emission reduction, digitalisation, regeneration of sites, circular economy, upskilling and reskilling of workers, assistance to jobseekers, and technical assistance.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

The Just Transition Fund aims to reduce the social and economic costs resulting from the transition to an EU climate-neutral economy by supporting a diversification of economic activity, creating new business opportunities and helping people adapt in a changing labour market. Tourism can be one of the alternative sectors, and this fund can finance the necessary reskilling actions.

Example actions

Not yet available

Additional information

- [Just Transition funding sources | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Regulation establishing the JTF](#)
- [Just Transition Platform](#)

12. LIFE Programme

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/life-programme_en

Programme Summary

The LIFE programme is the EU funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It contributes to these priorities through its four sub-programmes by:

- boosting and integrating the implementation of the EU's policy objectives for halting and reversing loss of wildlife habitats and species and biodiversity across all sectors
- supporting the transition to a circular economy and protecting and improving the quality of EU's natural resources, including air, soil and water among others
- supporting implementation of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework, the EU's climate neutrality objective by 2050, and the new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change
- building capacity, stimulating investments and supporting implementation of policies focused on energy efficiency and small-scale renewables

Relevance for Training in Tourism

LIFE is focussed on soft support, not on investment. This favours tourism training activities related to green transition can benefit from the programme. LIFE is structured in two fields (Environment and Climate Action) and four sub-programmes:

- Under the Environment field:
 - Nature and Biodiversity
 - Circular Economy and Quality of Life
- Under the Climate Action field:
 - Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
 - Clean Energy Transition

In particular, training programmes that are supporting the circular economy, energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, nature tourism as well as climate neutrality have good chances.

Additional information

- Programme specific website: [LIFE](#)
- [LIFE - Calls for proposals](#)
- LIFE on [Funding & tenders](#) opportunities

13. REACT-EU

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/react-eu_en

Programme Summary

Building on the [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiatives](#) that provided an emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission proposed a series of measures under the 'Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe initiative' (REACT-EU). This programme is limited in time, the final date of eligibility for this expenditure is 31 December 2023.

REACT-EU funds are allocated either to the **ERDF** or the **ESF+** *See for more details there*

Tourism-related components

REACT-EU resources are implemented through regional and national cohesion policy programmes under the 2014-2020 programming period. The tourism-related components of these programmes should be consulted to find out about the scope of support in each EU country or region (managing authorities per programme, see 'Additional Information').

Additional information

- [REACT-EU - Regional Policy - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Links to the 2014-2020 programmes

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) [Managing authorities - Regional Policy - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
- European Social Fund [Support in your country \(europa.eu\)](#)

More news on REACT-EU: [Inforegio-Newsroom - Regional Policy - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

14. Recovery and Resilience Facility

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en

Programme Summary

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is the centrepiece of Europe's recovery plan, NextGenerationEU. It finances reforms and investments in EU countries from the start of the pandemic in February 2020 until 31 December 2026. Its aim is to mitigate the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. It is relevant for all industrial ecosystems, including tourism.

The [national recovery and resilience plans](#) determine how the funds are allocated. Depending on the EU country, tourism is covered either by tourism-specific measures that modernise the sector or horizontal measures that are relevant to all sectors. The European Commission has defined seven flagship initiatives, for which it encourages EU countries to put forward investments and reforms.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

One of the seven flagship initiatives specifically refers to **reskill and upskill**: *providing training to tourism entrepreneurs, workers and destination managers in support of the green and digital transitions.*

RRF resources are implemented through the national recovery and resilience plans that run until the end of 2026. The tourism-related components of these plans should be consulted to find out about the scope of support in each EU country or region. While their strategic lines run until 2026, operational programmes are defined annually and this allows for introducing tourism training activities.

Example actions

- Adult learning, including continuous vocational education and training (VET); recognition and validation of skills.
- A Lifelong Skilling Accounts scheme based on individual needs
- Digital skills training for employees (incl. in SMEs) and the unemployed.

Additional information

- https://tourismskillslab.eu/docs/EU_fundings.pdf - slides 30 - 40
- [Recovery and Resilience Facility | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard \(europa.eu\)](#)

15. Single Market Programme (SMP)

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/single-market-programme-smp_en

Programme Summary

The SMP aims to boost the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs, including in the tourism sector. One important pillar of the SMP aims to foster the competitiveness, capacity building and sustainability of enterprises especially SMEs including those in the tourism sector.

It focuses on the following main areas of action

- improve the governance of the internal market
- strengthen the competitiveness of EU industry especially SMEs
- promote human, animal, plant health and animal welfare
- establish the framework for European statistics

The SMP combines activities from predecessor programmes such as COSME which, in synergy with new activities, aim to preserve the correct functioning of the internal market, even under challenging circumstances.

It elaborates annual work programmes that are published at the start of each year. The current programme for 2022 can be found [here](#) and consecutive programmes shall be published at the [SMP website](#).

Relevance for Training in Tourism

The call for proposal in the context of the SMP should be innovative and therefore include training and upskilling components. Actions need to be adapted to the context of each project and will usually require unique design. However, under the objective of future replicability they may introduce and test innovative methodologies or content.

Example actions

- Repository
- Personalised training and upskilling concepts
- Innovative methodologies for skills development support especially for micro and SMEs

Additional information

[SMP programme specific website](#)

[SMP on Funding & Tender opportunities](#)

[Find call for proposals](#)

16. Support by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/support-european-bank-reconstruction-and-development-ebrd_en

Programme Summary

The EBRD support lines operate under the concept of financial instruments, ie. loans and credits. Their activity is defined by frameworks or initiatives, where the following are related with tourism:

- Inclusive Tourism Framework
- Integrated Cultural Heritage Framework
- [Small Business Initiative](#)

Projects financed by the EBRD address a wide range of sustainable practices and associated market trends in tourism. Of the 39 countries where the EBRD operates, 11 are within the EU. However the above lines only operate in a few countries (BG, HR, GR, ME, RO, TR) and have limited funding compared with other funds presented in this document.

Relevance for Training in Tourism

EBRD supports private investment or long-term public actions through refundable loans or credits. Such activities may also include training or skills development. Only if you are located or active in one of the mentioned countries, EBRD might be an option to consider for financing training or similar activities on a loan basis; such occasions are likely to be very limited.

The Small Business Initiative and especially its [Advice for Small Business programme](#), while limited to BG, HR, GR and RO presents a very interesting approach and methodology that could be of interest for replication in the context of projects under different funding lines in other countries.

Additional information

- [Inclusive Tourism Framework](#)
- [Integrated Cultural Heritage Framework](#)
- [Advice for Small Businesses](#)
- [The EBRD's coronavirus Solidarity package for existing clients](#)

17. Support by the European Investment Bank (EIB)

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/funding-guide/support-european-investment-bank-eib_en

Programme Summary

The European Investment Bank is the lending arm of the European Union. It offers loans, guarantees, equity investments and advisory services and operates both in the EU and around the world. About 90% of their funding goes to EU countries to support continued development and integration. The EIB provides economic support to sectors that contribute significantly to growth, employment, regional cohesion and environmental sustainability in Europe and beyond.

The EIB finances tourism projects directly and through intermediaries (in particular SMEs through multi-beneficiary intermediated loans) with both public and private promoters. Projects focus on hotels and resorts, cultural heritage and cultural infrastructure (museums, concert halls, etc.) as well as theme parks and other visitor attractions. In addition, the Bank's financing for local supply chain development, infrastructure such as mobility infrastructure, water and wastewater treatment, and urban regeneration contribute significantly to supporting tourism.

EIB, as the European climate bank, has made a commitment to have up to 50% of all lending operations to deliver both climate action and environmental sustainability under the [EU taxonomy](#) on sustainable finance and the bank's own policy objectives. In practical terms related to Tourism, these are achievable through energy efficiency upgrades, water conservation measures, circular economy principles, pollution prevention and the protection and restoration of natural habitats. Since 2021 all projects funded by EIB must align to the [Paris Agreement](#)

Relevance for Training in Tourism

The bank's objectives include promoting youth employment and boosting and improving women's employment and entrepreneurship under the recently adopted EIB group strategy for gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Many jobs in the tourism sector are seasonal, low-skilled, part-time and low-paid, making labour standards, employment quality and training important considerations for the bank's due diligence.

The EIB operates in all EU countries. Similar to the EBRD, its support to private investment may also include training or skills development which can be financed through the EIB loans which, however, only offers loans (i.e. credits that need to be paid back). In view of grant funding opportunities through the other programmes, this will be an interesting option only in exceptional cases.

Example actions

- Co-financing loans for own contribution in grant-based projects
- Investments in training or education infrastructure, especially by public bodies

Additional information

- [Transport Sector Projects](#)
- [EIB Group's response to COVID-19 crisis](#)