

Evaluation of the support to promoting social inclusion, combatting poverty and any discrimination by the European Social Fund.

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the European Union's main instrument available in EU countries for promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination, also referred as thematic Objective nine (TO9). TO9 is organised in the following six so-called investment priorities:

1. Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability;
2. Socio-economic integration of marginalized communities such as the Roma;
3. Combating all forms of discrimination and promoting equal opportunities;
4. Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest;
5. Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment;
6. Community-led local development strategies.

This public consultation is an integral part of the evaluation of ESF support to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and any discrimination (Thematic Objective 9). It seeks feedback from all stakeholders of the ESF in the EU countries, as well as from the wider public.

The evaluation and the present consultation deal with the ESF support provided under all above listed investment priorities. For more information on this evaluation, follow the link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-6547571_en

The ESF's mission also covers promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility, investing in education, training and vocational skills and life-long learning and enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders. For more information on the ESF, please follow the link below:

<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp?langId=en>

Why this consultation?

The purpose of the evaluation is twofold. On the one hand, it aims at taking stock of the results of ESF operations for the period 2014-2018, thus contributing to the final stages of the current European Social Fund programmes dedicated to promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination. On

the other hand, the results of the evaluation should feed into the next programming period, starting in 2021, by providing lessons on how and when the support proved to be more effective.

The results of this public consultation will be analysed and summarised in a synopsis report which will be published on the website of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The results will also be presented in the Staff Working Document of the evaluation of ESF support to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and any discrimination.

Who is invited to contribute to this consultation?

All citizens and organisations are invited to contribute to this consultation.

Contributions are particularly sought from:

- Citizens whether or not they are receiving or have received support from the European Social Fund to promote social inclusion, combat poverty or any discrimination;
- Organisations involved in the delivery of European Social Fund such as managing authorities, intermediate bodies, project implementers, members of Monitoring Committees, etc...
- Any organization or citizen having a particular expertise in the area of social inclusion, poverty or discrimination.

About you

* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business organisation
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

A: My age

- 24 years old or less
- 25 to 54 years old
- 55 to 64 years old
- 65 years old or more

* B: My gender

- Male
- Female
- Other
- I do not want to answer

* Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

* First name

Claire

* Surname

Champeix

* Email (this won't be published)

cc@eurocarers.org

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

Eurocarers - EUROCARERS is the European network representing informal carers and their organisations, irrespective of their age or the particular health and care need of the person they are caring for.

* Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

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| <input type="radio"/> Albania | <input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
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- Azerbaijan
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- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Bouvet Island
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- France
- French Guiana
- French Polynesia
- French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Guatemala
- Guernsey
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar /Burma
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norfolk Island
- Northern Mariana Islands
- North Korea
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Svalbard and Jan Mayen
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Gambia
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda

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| <input type="radio"/> Democratic Republic of the Congo | <input type="radio"/> Lesotho | <input type="radio"/> Saint Kitts and Nevis | <input type="radio"/> Zimbabwe |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Liberia | <input type="radio"/> Saint Lucia | |

* F: What is your organisation's field of work or expertise?

- Management of EU funds
- Information and awareness raising campaigns
- Advocacy groups
- Training or education
- Health care
- Social enterprises
- Community strengthening projects
- Labour market inclusion
- Social inclusion
- Other

* G: What is your role in the delivery of the European Social Fund?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Managing Authority or Intermediate Body
- EU Funds Coordinating body

- Certifying or Audit Authority
- Member of an ESF Monitoring Committee
- Beneficiary - organisation or entity receiving ESF funding for the implementation of a project
- Civil society organisation or advocacy group
- Non-beneficiary entity receiving support from ESF actions
- No role

* H: How familiar are you with the European Social Fund?

- I had never heard of it before this survey
 - I have only a general idea of its scope and goal, and I do not know of any specific activity funded
 - I have an idea of the goal and scope and I know at least one activity funded by the European Social Fund
 - I am familiar with the European Social Fund
 - I do not wish to answer
-
-

* II-1: Your organisation knows about the ESF but does not play an active role in its delivery. What is the main reason for this?

- We are an institution or organisation that does not implement such projects
- We applied but did not receive any funding
- We do not have the capacity to implement ESF projects
- The call for projects were not relevant to our institution or organisation
- We did so in the past but feel it is too cumbersome or risky
- Other

* II-2: What kind of support should be provided with ESF support to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and any discrimination?

- Actions aiming at placing a person in a job (including self-employment)
- Actions aiming at helping a person perform better in an existing job
- Actions aiming at supporting and enabling participation in society (e.g. debt counselling, language training, soft skills, ...)
- Actions aiming at improving service delivery
- Information and awareness raising campaigns (e.g. health issues, discrimination...)
- Other

II-2-1: Could you please specify which other types of actions you would recommend?

1000 character(s) maximum

All the actions listed above are relevant. Though, support provided to date doesn't address the specific needs of informal carers sufficiently. In order to access and remain in employment, informal carers need:

- support around the conciliation between employment and care,
- recognition and validation of the skills acquired through caring experience,
- counselling and training on how to preserve one's own health and well-being while caring and working.

In particular, young carers should benefit from specific attention and support.

Beyond employment, there is also a need to support informal carers' participation in society, through information, training, counselling, respite care... Notably, more should be done to promote ICT literacy among carers, allowing them to access relevant online information and support likely to help them break the isolation they often suffer from, manage their caring duties, as well as their situation as a carer.

* II-3: Do you think these actions are being provided?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know / I do not wish to answer

* II-4: Which target groups should be prioritized?

- Unemployed for 12 months or more
- Unemployed for less than 12 months
- Unemployed and not looking for a job
- People with low skills or low qualifications
- Part-time employed
- Self-employed
- Recipients of minimum income schemes
- Roma or other minorities
- People with a migrant or foreign background
- People with a disability
- People having a chronic health problem
- People requiring long-term care
- Single parents
- Other group(s)

II-4-1: Could you please specify which other target group(s) you have in mind?

1000 character(s) maximum

Eurocarers defines a carer as a person who provides – usually – unpaid care to someone with a chronic illness, disability or other long-lasting health or care need, outside a professional or formal framework. Europe's overall increase in life expectancy and ageing demographic, combined with shortages of health professionals, is generating a growing demand for care, putting a serious sustainability challenge to our health and long-term care systems. More and more pressure is being put on informal carers (mostly women) who already provide 80 % of long-term care for dependent people, fueling gender inequality in terms of employment, pay, and pension.

Though, while caring for a loved one can be a source of great personal satisfaction, it does create its own set of challenges, including physical and mental health problems, a feeling of isolation, difficulty in balancing paid work with care responsibilities, perhaps even financial worries as social provisions are cut back.

* II-5: Do you think these target groups are being reached?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know / I do not wish to answer

II-6: In your opinion how effective are the following actions in promoting social inclusion and in combating poverty and discrimination?

	Very useful	Mostly useful	Mostly useless	Not useful at all	I do not know / I do not wish to answer
* Information, guidance, tutoring in the search for a job	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Incentives for employers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* On the job guidance and tutoring	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Skills assessment and recognition	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Internships, traineeships to learn a trade	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Second chance education	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Training and education (including vocational training)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Basic skills training (e.g. social skills, IT, language)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Support to overcome barriers to job search actions (e.g. transport or childcare)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Counselling (e.g. debt or health)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Help with care obligations (e.g. childcare, long-term care)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Support to people with disabilities (e.g. promotion of community-based care)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Assistance in a situation of crisis (e.g. shelters)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Help in setting up a business	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Awareness raising and information campaigns	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Studies and evaluations of existing institutions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Structural support for strengthening institutional capacity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

II-7: If we define cost-effectiveness as the fact that the resources invested were proportionate to the results achieved, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the following activities implemented with the European Social Fund are cost-effective?

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree	I do not know / I do not wish to answer	Not applicable
* Information, guidance, tutoring in the search for a job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Incentives for employers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* On the job guidance and tutoring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Skills assessment and recognition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Internships, traineeships to learn a trade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Second chance education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Training and education (including vocational training)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Basic skills training (e.g. social skills, IT, language)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Support to overcome barriers to job search actions (f.i. transport, childcare)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Counselling (e.g. debt, health).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Help with care obligations (e.g. childcare, long-term care)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Support to people with disabilities (e.g. promotion of community-based care)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Assistance in a situation of crisis (e.g. shelters)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Help in setting up a business	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Awareness raising and information campaigns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Studies and evaluations of existing institutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Structural support for strengthening institutional capacity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

II-8: Please explain briefly your answers to the question above

1000 character(s) maximum

Unfortunately, given the limited experience of our members regarding the implementation of projects supported by the ESF, it is difficult to comment on the cost-effectiveness of the measures listed above. However, considering the economic value of informal care, supporting informal carers in their role, preventing the occurrence of damages on their health and well-being, helping them access and remain in employment, is likely to yield benefits for the whole society.

Therefore it is key that informal carers' contribution is better recognized, valued and taken into consideration when evaluating the cost-effectiveness of measures aimed at this particular group.

Besides, knowing that informal carers can face aggravated social exclusion, cost-effectiveness should be evaluated over a sufficient length of time, taking into consideration the improvement of a carer's health, well-being, and participation in society as a first step in a pathway towards employment.

II-9: Is there anything you wish to add regarding the efficiency of the measures implemented by the European Social Fund to promote social inclusion, to combat poverty and to combat any discrimination?

1000 character(s) maximum

The Work Life Balance directive adopted on June 2019 shed light on the need to facilitate the conciliation of work and care duties for informal carers who are in employment. The European Social Fund can provide extra leverage which, combined with legislative measures, might be very efficient as part of the various tools to be implemented in order to achieve change on the workplace.

Indeed, beyond change in legislation, this Directive invites member states to mobilise all stakeholders about the potential gains for all of fostering the reconciliation of work and private life, and build the implementation on a dialogue with all stakeholders. Measures aimed at promoting work-life balance in the workplace, such as voluntary certification systems, vocational training, awareness raising and information campaigns are encouraged.

II-10: Is there any good practice, example or experience regarding the efficiency of operations to promote social inclusion, or combat poverty or combat discrimination that you would like to share with the Commission?

1000 character(s) maximum

In Sweden, the project Motivation Leads to Success is being implemented by a partnership lead by Regional Association of Kalmar County. This project is good example of an ESF project integrating the issue of caring. Within the overall project aimed at preventing school drop-out among teenagers (through improved collaborations between professionals, enhanced knowledge and new tools for motivating students), a horizontal sub-project is targeting Young Carers (15-18 years), supporting them completing secondary education, leading to inclusion in society and better health. This sub-project is led by Eurocarers' member, the Swedish Family Care Competence Center, and builds on the Erasmus+ project EDY-CARE, being

completed by a partnership including various carers' organisations.

Previously, the ESF programme EQUAL provided a crucial support to the initiative 'Employers for Carers' in the UK, supporting carer-friendly enterprises, which is now self-sustainable.

II-11: In your opinion, to what extent are European Social Fund actions promoting social inclusion combating poverty or combating discrimination coherent with other schemes?

	They complement or reinforce each other	They do the same	They are contradictory	They hinder each other	I do not know/I do not wish to answer
* FEAD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* ERDF/CF	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Erasmus+	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* European Solidarity Corps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* National, regional or local programmes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

II-12: Please explain briefly your answers to the question above

500 character(s) maximum

ESF is instrumental in scaling up innovations developed through Erasmus+, notably those aimed at better equipping professionals and enterprises to support carers, and those empowering and training carers. We also see convergence with ERDF actions aimed at facilitating informal carers' inclusion in the labour market (for example ERDF's support to 'La Compagnie des Aidants' for developing an online training for carers), as well as with the many initiatives taken at local and regional levels.

II-13: Do you know of any other EU or national/regional scheme which is or should be coherent with EU support to promote social inclusion, or combat poverty or combat discrimination? If so, could you explain which one and how?

1000 character(s) maximum

* II-14 What is the benefit of having ESF interventions?

- More can be done than with national or local resources only
- New issues can be covered
- New ways of delivering services can be tested
- None. It do not think it really makes a difference
- Others
- I do not wish to answer / I do not know

II-14-1: If other, could you please specify?

1000 character(s) maximum

The participation principle, if adequately implemented, contributes to ensure that the projects supported by the ESF respond to the needs in the field as identified by stakeholders.

Besides, ESF intervention is helpful for small and innovative organisations to build up their legitimacy and raise further funding from public and private stakeholders.

Additionally, ESF intervention might give the possibility for NGOs to participate in very useful exchanges of experience and expertise at the EU level. Notably, in the last years, the ESF Transnational Platform gave us the possibility to discuss the specific needs of informal carers with Management Authorities and we hope that such exchange will be continued in the future.

Would you like to add any comments concerning ESF support to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and any discrimination?

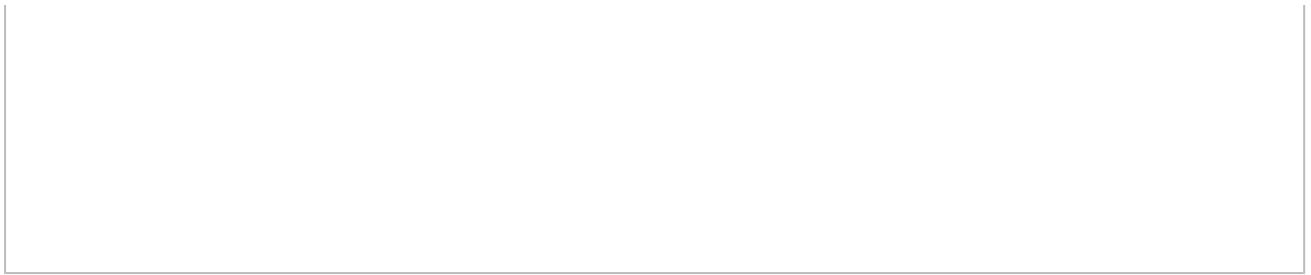
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Last 10 December 2019, the EPSCO Council stressed that people "with caring responsibilities" are "in a vulnerable position on the labour market", and highlighted "the economic value of providing better employment opportunities to them".

For this commitment to become reality, the ESF should deliberately support national policies aimed at supporting carers' inclusion in the labour market, and more generally in the society.

This requires supporting different types of projects: on the one hand projects specifically targeted at informal carers, on the other hand projects mainstreaming a specific attention for carers while addressing a wider public.

In all cases, the participation of carers, and organisations working with and for them, is key to ensure the relevance and the efficiency of the initiatives implemented.



If you wish you may upload a file here:

(please make sure that no unintended personal information about yourself or others is included in the document, notably if you have opted for anonymity in your replies)

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

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Thank you for your contribution

Contact

EMPL-G4-UNIT@ec.europa.eu