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E-002285/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.12.2024)

1. Any authorisation requested to the Commission is assessed following the corresponding formal procedure and timing and the results cannot be anticipated before its conclusion. No formal request was submitted so far for the funding of the initiatives under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). There are on-going exchanges with the Member State aiming at the submission of a comprehensive amendment proposal for the programme concerned¹.

2. The ESF+, implemented under shared management with Member States, is the key EU instrument supporting youth and female employment. Its share for Italy in the 21-27 programming period equals about EUR 14 809 million, largely concentrated in less developed regions. About EUR 2 800 million target young people, for measures including guidance, work experiences, apprenticeship, school orientation, civil service, vocational education and training and third level non-academic education². Young people can benefit also from all other ESF+ measures, in the field of employment, skills and social inclusion. The ESF+ budget targeting women's employment is about EUR 841 million, with more than EUR 13 billion contributing to gender mainstreaming. Measures include training and work-life balance initiatives. Operations for female employment are part of the overall commitment of the EU to promote gender equality, as included in the European Pillar of Social Rights and its Action Plan, as well as the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, which includes a series of measures promoting women's economic empowerment, notably the Work-Life Balance Directive, the Gender Care Strategy, the Pay Transparency Directive and the Directive on Gender Balance in Company Boards.

¹ ESF+ National Programme '*Giovani, Donne e Lavoro*'.

² Higher Technical Institutes (ITS, Istituti Tecnici Superiori).