

EN

E-002473/2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.9.2025)

The Commission remains committed to strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU and encouraging the harmonious development of its Member States and their regions through its cohesion policy. The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)¹ provides an important contribution to the EU's employment, social, education and skills policies, including structural reforms in these areas.

The EU Home Affairs Funds for 2021–2027² are designed to ensure that EU financial support complements Member States' responsibilities in managing migration and internal security. Funding is channelled through national programmes agreed with the Commission and subject to regular monitoring so that resources are used for clearly defined objectives³. The funds also support measures that benefit local communities facing migratory pressure by improving reception conditions, supporting integration, and enhancing law enforcement cooperation.

The statistics available to the Commission indicate that irregular entries in the EU account for a small fraction of migration – for instance around 10% of total arrivals in 2023⁴. The number of third country nationals found to be illegally present in the EU in 2024 decreased by 27.4% compared to 2023⁵.

Regulation (EC) No 862/2007⁶ establishes common rules for the collection of EU statistics on migration, international protection, migration and as returns. In the context of the European Semester, the Commission is also monitoring the socio-economic situation of local communities.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 PE/42/2021/INIT, *OJ L 231*, 30.6.2021, pp. 21–59.

² The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Border Management and Visa Instrument and the Internal Security Fund.

³ These include strengthening fair and efficient asylum systems, supporting the dignified return of irregular migrants, reinforcing border management and enhancing law enforcement cooperation.

⁴ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/statistics-migration-europe_en#migration-to-and-from-the-eu.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Enforcement_of_immigration_legislation_statistics.

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers, *OJ L 199*, 31.7.2007, p. 23.