

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.1.2026)

The use of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is monitored through the monitoring committees (Articles 11 and 38, Regulation (EU) 2021/1060)¹, annual review meetings between the Commission and Member States (Article 41, Regulation (EU) 2021/1060) and regular reporting on implementation and performance. Additionally, the Commission assesses performance through ongoing monitoring and the mid-term review (Article 18, Regulation (EU) 2021/1060). When non-compliance is detected, the Commission may interrupt payment deadlines, suspend payments and apply financial corrections.

Members States may only use ESF+ resources to support the specific objective set out in the ESF+ Regulation (Article 4, Regulation (EU) 2021/1057²). To ensure funds are used for the designated purposes, programmes are agreed between the Commission and the Member States before being approved by the Commission. The programmes have to address country-specific recommendations stemming from the European Semester work while complying with horizontal principles and safeguards, in particular the fulfilment of enabling conditions (Articles 9 and 15, Regulation (EU) 2021/1060). Enabling conditions ensure that operations are in line with the relevant policy strategies and meet the conditions set out in the legal framework.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1057/oj/eng>.