

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000304/26
to the Commission
Alexander Jungbluth (ESN)
(27 January 2026)**

Subject: Project 'JUMP — Additional Qualifications as a Pathway into Apprenticeship' in Cochem-Zell

The project 'JUMP — Additional Qualifications as a Pathway into Apprenticeship' in Cochem-Zell was co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) ⁽¹⁾. The aim was to provide external coaching to better prepare young people eligible for vocational training for the apprenticeship market. This raises the question of whether such projects actually have a structural impact or whether they instead compensate for symptoms caused by failures in the education system.

1. What verifiable indicators — number of participants and costs per successful outcome — are there for the JUMP project as regards placements in apprenticeships subject to social insurance contributions?
2. How does the Commission rule out the misuse of ESF funds to establish parallel advisory and coaching systems that serve to substitute core functions of state entities?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the risks posed by subsidising pedagogical replacement structures through projects such as JUMP without empirically proven long-term effectiveness?

Submitted: 27.1.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(28 April 2026)**

1. The Commission measures the impact of a European Social Fund (ESF) programme by using indicators (output/result) on the programme level and not at project level. The national authorities have used CO06 'young people under 25 years of age' as the output and CVR2 'participants who gained a qualification upon leaving (COVID 19)' as the result indicator for this project.
2. The ESF support for a given programme such as Rhineland-Palatinate is defined in the programme document. Each programme document entails a chapter on how to exclude double funding and/or overlaps with other funds at European and national levels. The Commission has currently no indication or prove of misuse of ESF funds in Rhineland-Palatinate. As the Honourable Member will be aware, any case of suspected misuse should be immediately brought to the attention of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) or the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).
3. The Commission is actively supporting and encouraging the evaluation of active market policies, when supported by EU financing also in the coordination of national employment policies. Although the ESF funding is very limited in Germany compared to the national means, the ESF generates a European added value through co-financing innovative projects which might be used as a best practice at national level, not replacing but instead complementing national structures.

¹ Source: <https://what-europe-does-for-me.europarl.europa.eu/de/region/16:1567?kind=prj&search=JUMP%20%E2%80%93%20Mit%20Zusatzqualifikation%20in%20die%20Ausbildung>; Accessed: 14/10/2025