(English version)

Question for written answer E-000307/26
to the Commission
Alexander Jungbluth (ESN)
(27 January 2026)

Subject: 'Jugendscout' project in Neuwied

The 'Jugendscout' project was implemented in the district of Neuwied under the aegis of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). ([1])

The target group was unemployed and economically inactive young people and young adults under the age of 25. According to the public description, the project was intended to help its beneficiaries become active citizens and access qualifications and employment. No information on the selection process, targeting and impact assessment of the project has yet been made publicly available. For the purposes of responsible budgetary oversight, however, the effective, targeted and lawful use of EU funds must be ensured, particularly if the project's results are to be replicated in other regions of the EU.

1. How is the target group operationalised and what legal criteria (SGB II, SGB III, ESF) are applied in selecting participants in the 'Jugendscout Landkreis Neuwied 2021/2022' project?

2. What quantitative and qualitative indicators are used to measure success and quantify numbers of participants that have accessed long-term training or employment in areas relevant to the project?

3. In implementing the project, what responsibilities were entrusted to agencies and bodies at state and local level, and how was it ensured that there was no overlap with national support structures?

Submitted: 27.1.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(26 March 2026)

1. The methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations — according to Article 110 2(a) of the Common Provisions Regulation ([21]) — was examined and approved by the monitoring committee — where the Commission was represented. The project's content was to reach out to unemployed/inactive young people under the age of 25 who are not in education or training and to help them gain access to adequate activation, qualification and employment opportunities. Particular attention was paid to young people who have not yet received any support services provided under the German Social Code book (SGB) II and III.

2. The Commission measures the impact of a given European Social Fund (ESF) programme by using indicators (output/result) on the programme level and not at project level. In general, successful participation in such measures occurs when participants remain in the projects until the end of the planned measure or start some work or training.

3. The ESF in Germany is implemented under shared management rules. The tasks to be carried out by the programme authorities in Rhineland-Palatinate are based on Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and 1304/2013 as well as on other implementing regulations. The Member States bear the responsibility for selecting the projects (in line with the approved methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations). This includes the implementation entrusted to agencies and bodies at state and local level. The 'Youth scout' funding approach was discontinued on 30 June 2022, to avoid duplication of funding, as a comparable measure was introduced in Section 16h of the Social Code Book II (SGBII) and gradually expanded nationwide.

([1]) Source: https://what-europe-does-for-me.europarl.europa.eu/de/region/17:1570?kind=prj&search=Jugendscout. (as accessed on: 14/10/2025)
([2]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1303/oj/eng.