



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS?

European Structural Funds are the financial instruments made available by the EU to support cohesion policy.

These funds are financed by Community resources, which are accompanied by a national co-financing obligation. Beginning with the 2000-2006 programming cycle, this Community funding has been allocated under the European multi-annual budget in [seven-year cycles](#).

For the 2007-2013 cycle, the Structural Funds (SF) were renamed the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

For the 2014-2020 cycle, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) were also grouped with the other structural funds. Collectively, these then became known as European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds.

With the 2021-2027 cycle, the Just Transition Fund (JTF) was also added to the structural funds, while the European Social Fund (ESF) was replaced by ESF Plus (ESF+).