**Draft message to MAs concerning the public consultation on the ex-post evaluation of the 2014-2020 European Social Fund and Youth Employment Initiative**

Dear colleagues,

We would appreciate your collaboration on the on-going online public consultations regarding ESF and YEI support. The public consultation is accessible to all stakeholders and citizens in general. It is available in 23 EU official languages at:

* <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/evaluation2014-20ESFandYEI>

The Commission is interested in maximising the outreach of this consultation. DG EMPL would like to collect the views of participants in the operations, potential participants, beneficiaries, public authorities, and civil society organisations.

It is very important that you act as multipliers, disseminating the link to the consultation and encouraging your partners and networks to participate too. To this end, I encourage you to **publish the links to the survey on your website, or any other communication channel you may use, and provide it to your partner organisations, beneficiaries** etc.

The questionnaire of this consultation automatically adapts to the profile of the respondent. This means that the questionnaire for bodies involved in the implementation of the operations, notably the managing authorities are more comprehensive than for other stakeholders like potential participants and citizens.

It is important that you also, as Management Authority, express your opinions via the survey. These contributions will provide key information for this evaluation. We rely on your knowledge and expertise to convey essential information on the implementation and results of the operations.

If relevant, you can also give feedback to the Call for evidence ([link](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13450-European-Social-Fund-and-the-Youth-Employment-Initiative-2014-2020-evaluation-_en)). The Commission uses the Call for evidence to define the scope of the evaluation, and explains why EU action is needed.

The consultation will be active until 09/01/2024 included. The results of the survey will be summarised in a synopsis document, which will be published online, and will notably show the replies by country.

I want to thank you in advance for your support in this important exercise.