



## Workshop 6:

**Leveraging state aid to enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities**

Moderator: Irene Bertana, EASPD

**Mathias Maucher**, Social Services Europe, Belgium  
**Albin Falkmer**, Samhall, Sweden

#Employment4All



Under the auspices



CITY OF  
ATHENS



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Social Cohesion  
and Family Affairs





ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
Υπουργείο Εργασίας  
και Κοινωνικής Ασφάλισης

# Introduction of state aid & key instruments



What is state aid?

# Which are the 4 instruments of the EU state aid legislation?

- **General de minimis Regulation**  
up to 300,000€ over 3 fiscal years  **LAST REVISION: December 2023**
- **Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI)**   
de minimis Regulation: up to 750,000€ over 3 fiscal years
- **General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)**  
Training, recruitment and employment of disadvantaged workers as categories of state aid considered compatible with internal market rules; prolonged until 31 December 2026
- **SGEI Decision**  
500,000€-15 mio. € per service & year

# Use of state aid to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market

- **Full use and improvement of the provisions of the GBER**
  - **Better use** state aid to increase the **employment** rates of PWD and of other vulnerable groups to realise their transition into the mainstream labour market
  - Increase the **co-funding percentages** (= “state aid densities”) for the labour market and social inclusion of vulnerable persons & **keep 100%** for services targeted to persons with [intellectual] disabilities
  - Use more strategically the obligation stemming from **Article 27** “Work and Employment” **UN CRPD** to invest in inclusive jobs / workplaces / enterprises / organisations and related support measures which exists for all EU MS

# Use of state aid by social sector & related challenges

- **Very dominant use of general de minimis Regulation** – also in Central & Eastern Europe => Risk of mistakes from local and regional governments deciding on the attribution of public money in form of state aid when applying state aid rules (and of checks by supervisory bodies) or of delays due to legal complaints from competitors
- **Lack of use of combined funding** from different sources (e.g. ESF+ or “green investment funds”) due to **overcomplicated rules** and risk to be asked to pay back money and often more demanding requirements than in the ESF+
- **Under-use of GBER and SGEI Decision**, also by providers of support services for persons with disabilities
- **Non-adapted legal/regulatory frameworks for access to finance** for the social economy / Work Integration Social Enterprises

# Recent & upcoming EU-level initiatives

- EESC Opinion “[Public Subsidies for Health and Social Services of Economic Interest](#)” (INT/1016) (03.05.23)
- Training on the use of [state aid in the field of the social economy](#) (Q2/2023) => Videos & material on [Social Economy Gateway](#)
- EC/DG EMPL Study “[State aid for access to finance for social enterprises and for the recruitment of disadvantaged workers in the form of wage subsidies](#)” (15.04.24)
- Mission Letters Ribera & Jørgensen: State aid measures enabling housing support measures => energy efficiency & social housing
- EESC Opinion “Assessment of the Letta and Draghi reports on the functioning and competitiveness of the EU's Single Market” (INT/1070) => expected for 01/25
- Revision of [GBER](#) in 2025 & 2026 => Action possible & needed

# Thank you!

**Contact:** Mathias Maucher, Policy and Project Coordinator, Social Services Europe (SSE), [mathias.maucher@socialserviceeurope.eu](mailto:mathias.maucher@socialserviceeurope.eu)



## Sources & further reading

EASPD Study “[Impact of State Aid on the Development of the Social Economy and on Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities](#)“ [Authors: Valentina Caimi & Mathias Maucher] (2023)

[SSE Contribution to EC Consultation on exemptions for small amounts of state aid \(de minimis aid\)](#) (20 July 2022)

[SSE Contribution to the EC Call for Evidence on the revision of the SGEI de minimis Regulation](#) (1 June 2023)

[SSE Statement on the EC proposal for a Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions](#) (6 July 2023)

[SSE Reaction to the Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions](#) (10 October 2023)

#Employment4All