

Analysis of the ERACIS Model

The Regional Strategy for Social Cohesion and Inclusion in Andalusia (ERACIS) - Intervention in Disadvantaged Areas



Organisation: Andalusian Regional Ministry of Social Inclusion, Youth, Families and Equality (CISJUF)

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Deliverable description

The “Analysis of the ERACIS Model” is a work document, delivered by the Andalusian Regional Ministry of Social Inclusion, Youth, Families and Equality (CISJUF), containing the key points and main elements of the initiative ERACIS (the Regional Strategy for Social Cohesion and Inclusion in Andalusia), as a good practice to facilitate the subsequent adaptation to the local contexts of the cities of Warsaw (Poland) and Arad (Romania), through the respective local action plans, to work in the social and labour inclusion of Ukrainian refugees.

The information for developing this deliverable has its foundations on the huge experience and expertise accumulated by CISJUF in the implementation of the ERACIS since 2018.

What is ERACIS?

The Andalusian Regional Strategy for Social Cohesion and Inclusion in Disadvantaged Areas, also known as ERACIS, is an initiative promoted by the Andalusian Government that is framed within a three-pronged structure, which informs and conditions its entire development. It is important to establish and clarify these three contexts or pillars of ERACIS because they involve different actors, with different responsibilities and diverse resources. Thus:

1. ERACIS, funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), is structured around the document "Regional Strategy for Social Cohesion and Inclusion (Disadvantaged Areas)", approved by the Governing Council on August 28, 2018. This Strategy is structured around 4 axes, 54 objectives, and 129 measures that involve interdepartmental and interadministrative actions.

Its objective is to act on areas with serious situations of social exclusion and/or where there are significant risk factors for their occurrence throughout Andalusia, mobilizing resources to break the nexus of territoriality and social inequality. This represents a major challenge, not only because it requires mobilizing extraordinary financial, technical, and organizational resources, but also because it must focus on the development of "collaborative methods" among various regional departments, local governments, non-profit organizations, and citizens themselves to break with traditional practices in public policy management that are sustainably increasing these social inequalities.

2. ERACIS is, at the same time, based on a project that began its development within the framework of the ESF Operational Programme for Andalusia 2014-2020 and which continues within the framework of the ESF+ Programme for Andalusia 2021-2027, with the fundamental objective of improving the opportunities and possibilities for social and labour inclusion of the population living in these Disadvantaged Areas, with special attention to young people and women, and where the increase in the number of immigrants in these areas is also gaining particular importance.

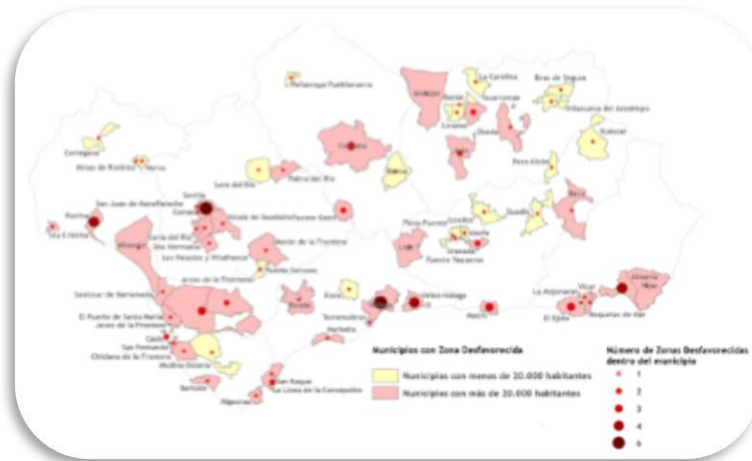


Figure 1: Municipalities with the 99 Disadvantaged Areas included in ERACIS.

- The third pillar is the preparation and development of the so-called Local Social Inclusion Plans approved by the 48 Local Entities that are participating in the project financed by the ESF+ in the current 2021-2027 framework, and whose objective is to influence the improvement of the quality of life of these neighbourhoods, through the implementation and development of local intervention strategies in Disadvantaged Areas that impact their socioeconomic transformation, reducing the spatial segregation that generates inequalities.

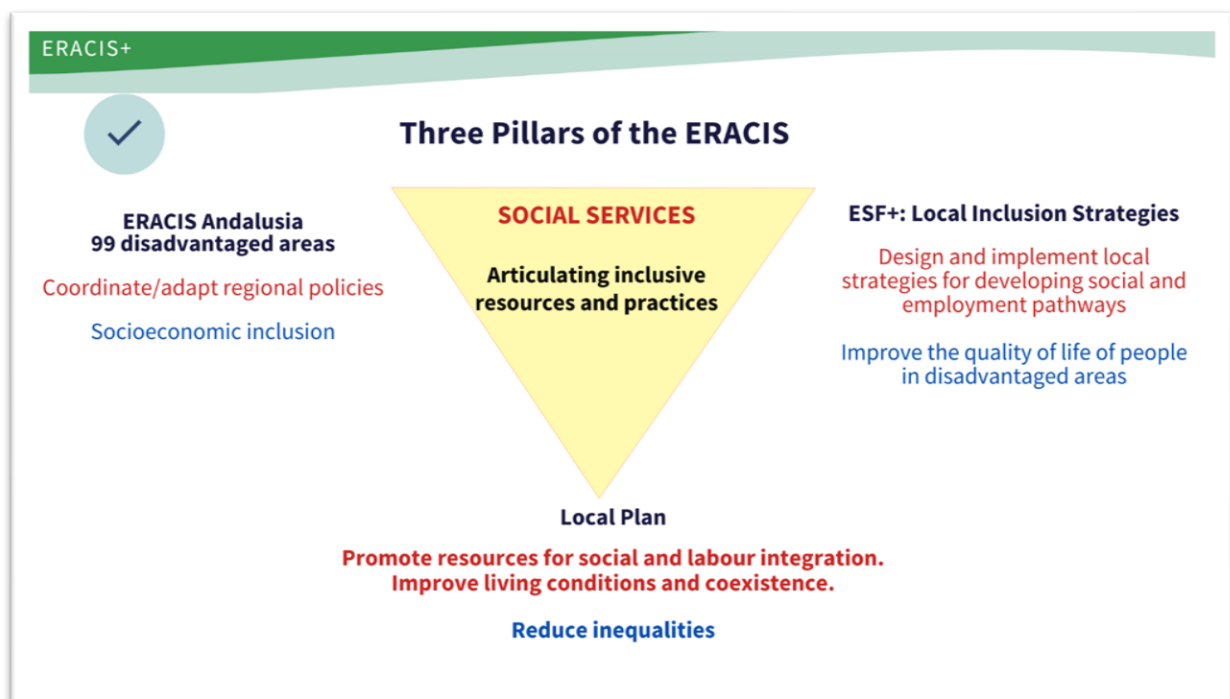


Figure 2: The three pillars of ERACIS.

Strategic lines of ERACIS

ERACIS has been developing since 2018 around two major strategic lines:

1. Rebuild a regional interdepartmental collaboration strategy that allows for the convergence of actions that promote the inclusion of people, based on a person-centered model and through the activation of integrated socio-labour inclusion pathways, with other actions that impact the improvement of these disadvantaged neighbourhoods, fostering development dynamics that make them safer, more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive.
2. Strengthen the role of local administrations. ERACIS is implemented through Local Plans in areas classified as disadvantaged, which have been developed following the principles, objectives, measures, procedures, and criteria defined in the Regional Strategy and with the active participation, based on their definition, of public and private stakeholders who work or live in these areas.

The importance of Community Social Services

The core of ERACIS implementation in the various Disadvantaged Areas revolves around Community Social Services, seeking to generate methodologies and interventions for social inclusion and organizational models for these social service centers that promote and lead networking with employment guidance and training services, educational centers, health facilities, and housing facilities located in the various local authorities, incorporating public and private entities into this process.

The organization and management of Community Social Services in Spain is the responsibility of Local Authorities, providing basic services to citizens such as:

- The information, assessment, guidance, and counselling service;
- The home help service, for families in need of home support;
- The service for improving coexistence and social reintegration, for families in situations of vulnerability or social exclusion;
- The social cooperation service, which promotes and strengthens community life, encouraging associations;
- And, finally, the complementary benefits service, which provides emergency social assistance (aid for extraordinary contingencies) and family financial assistance (temporary preventive benefits).

Within the framework of these services, ERACIS, incorporating ESF funding, is developing an innovative project that encompasses three dimensions:

1. It contributes to developing and consolidating a process that integrates services and resources to form a coherent set of actions that improves people's employability, increases their chances of accessing the labour market, and facilitates their social inclusion. To this end, a collaborative networking methodology is being promoted, supported by the creation of instrumental tools and social intervention methodologies that "guarantee the comprehensive nature of care for people and its continuity."
2. This process of integrating services and resources is supported by the implementation, development, and execution of local social inclusion strategies established in Local Plans prepared and implemented by each Local Administration (Municipalities) participating in the project. In each of these Local Administrations, Social Services play a central role in promoting this project, which is led by local policymakers. It is within the framework of these services that the personnel co-financed by the ESF are incorporated.
3. Private entities and NGOs also participate in these local inclusion strategies through a competitive grant line.

Key elements to addressing the work of socio-labour inclusion pathways

This work, which is coordinated and driven by Community Social Services, as already mentioned, is based on several key issues:

1. Clearly define the target population for the pathways. The goal is to prioritize young people and women, prioritizing those willing to participate and making commitments to develop their inclusion process.

The socio-labour inclusion pathway has a minimum duration of 6 months and can be extended as long as necessary to complete this process. This requires effective recruitment and selection of participants, and close support throughout the pathway to encourage active and ongoing participation in the project.

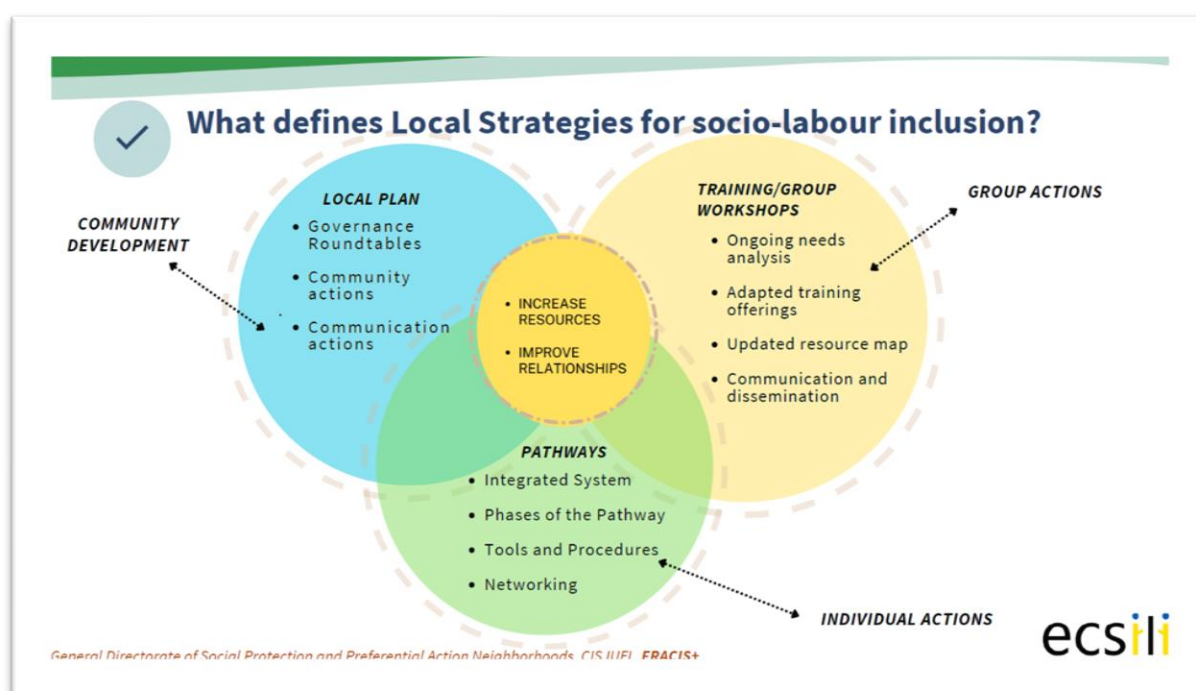


Figure 3: Components of Local Strategies for Socio-Labour Inclusion.

2. Have a complete map of resources that contribute to the social and labour inclusion of individuals. To achieve this, it is essential to establish a series of sectoral working groups at the local level, allowing for the coordination of resources and services available to individuals.

These spaces should prioritize the coordination of actions that improve the various processes and dimensions of inclusion for people in situations of vulnerability or social exclusion:

- Social inclusion processes, combining the dimensions of health, education, or housing;
 - the coordination of resources that impact educational inclusion and job placement;
 - adding those aspects that impact improving the living environment or conditions where people live, reducing those that promote or maintain social exclusion.
3. To support the registration and coordination of inclusion actions carried out with individuals, there are two essential instruments:
 - The participant registry, which records all the people served or attended during the process.
 - The tool that reflects all the actions carried out with the individual, and which can be accessed by all public or private entities that support the individual in their social and labour inclusion actions within the socio-labour inclusion pathways.

Grant lines for the management of ERACIS

To enable this entire process to be carried out, the Andalusian Government has provided a series of extraordinary funds to ERACIS, through two lines of grants co-financed by European Funds and, more specifically, the ESF:

1. Non-competitive grants have been awarded to 48 local authorities for the design and development of Local Intervention Plans in Disadvantaged Areas in Andalusia, as well as for the development and implementation of local strategies that promote the development of socio-labour inclusion pathways for groups at risk of exclusion.
2. Competitively awarded grants have been awarded to private entities and non-profit organizations for cooperation in the implementation and development of local intervention strategies in disadvantaged areas of Andalusia. The purpose of these grants has been to fund activities carried out by these entities within the framework of the Local Plan approved in each municipality.

These activities are carried out in coordination with the Community Social Services of the municipality in question and with employment offices, and contribute to establishing compensation mechanisms so that people living in disadvantaged areas can access the Social Protection Systems of the various public administrations, especially those for education, employment, housing, health, as well as other public services.

This compensation is provided through their participation in mentoring and/or mediation so that people in situations of or at risk of social exclusion can make standardized use of public resources, as well as through individualized social and labour integration pathways.

Actions carried out by ERACIS at the local level

Some of the actions carried out by these local teams, comprised of a public-private partnership and designed to promote the development of Local Plans and their respective social inclusion strategies, include:

1. Individualized support provided to candidates for a Socio-Labour Inclusion Pathway. To this end, these pathways are developed with an interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach, with a professional leading and articulating each personalized pathway. To this end, the creation of a "case work group" is promoted, where the entire work process with each participant is coordinated on an individual level, with an effort to include their family. All technical staff from the various public and private resources involved in developing the pathway participate in this process, led by local social services.



Figure 4: Key elements of the Socio-Labour Inclusion Pathways.

2. The construction of a methodology and a working model based on Socio-Labour Inclusion Pathways in each disadvantaged area, based on the development of local strategies to improve the socio-labour inclusion of the most vulnerable population, through governance spaces involving public services, private entities, and NGOs.

The objective of these strategies is to improve and expand the network of local resources that influence inclusion processes by increasing the quantity and quality of relationships generated between the different entities. The starting point is the creation of a governance space where the intervention methodology, procedures, processes, and instruments used by each leading professional for each pathway are designed, as well as the working methodology at the casework table.

3. In addition, ERACIS is provided technical direction by the Andalusian Regional Ministry of Social Inclusion, which oversees and supports the implementation and development processes of each local strategy.

Some of the numbers achieved with the implementation of ERACIS

In the first phase of ERACIS implementation, between 2018 and 2022, more than 33.000 people experiencing social exclusion or vulnerability, most of them women, have enrolled and participated in an integrated itinerary. The following two tables reflect some of the most significant data:

Table 1: Participants in ERACIS 2018-2022 by age group and sex.

Age range	Women	Men	Total	%
Up to 30 years	7,149	4,639	11,788	35.34
Between 31 and 44	8,664	3,562	12,226	36.66
45 years or more	5,779	3,560	9,339	28.00
Total	21,592	11,761	33,353	100

Source: Regional Ministry of Social Inclusion, Youth, Families, and Equality. Regional Government of Andalusia.

Table 2: Results achieved by participants in ERACIS 2018-2022.

Age range	Women			Men			Total
	Job placement	Improves social skills	Improve education	Job placement	Improves social skills	Improve education	
Up to 30	1,934	582	1,590	1,438	444	889	6,877
31 to 44	2,364	315	1,679	1,307	124	439	6,228
45 or more	1,196	192	1,076	978	86	451	3,979
Total	5,494	1,089	4,345	3,723	654	1,779	17,084

Source: Regional Ministry of Social Inclusion, Youth, Families, and Equality. Regional Government of Andalusia.

As registered in Table 2, of the 33,353 people participating in ERACIS during the 2018-2022 period, a total of 17,084 people, or 51.22%, achieved a life-changing outcome at the end of their individualized pathway. A total of 9,217 people, or 27.63%, achieved an employment.

In the second phase of ERACIS implementation, co-financed by the ESF+, which began in 2023 and is scheduled to end in December 2028, more than 10,000 pathways have already been developed.

In addition, we must highlight that ERACIS has actively participated in the period 2018-2022 with nearly 100 non-profit organizations that have developed more than 300 local projects. These organizations will also be joined by those participating in this new operational framework funded by the ESF+.