

HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2007-2013	
Priority:	INCREASING ACTIVATION OF THE LABOUR FORCE
Theme/Dimension Code:	Development of a skilled workforce needed to meet Ireland's future needs, while also helping jobseekers to obtain employment or recognised qualifications.
Activity title:	<i>Labour Market Education and Training Fund (LMETF/Momentum)</i>
Overall Objective:	To provide training or education to long term unemployed participants that will enhance their chances of employment or progression.
Certifying Authority:	ESF Certifying Authority
Managing Authority:	ESF Managing Authority
Intermediate Body:	Department of Education and Skills
Intended Beneficiaries:	6500 long term unemployed (>12 months in the last 18 on UB or UA)
EU Co-financing Rate:	50%

1. CONTEXT/ PROBLEM/ NEED:

SOLAS has a requirement to deliver Education and Training Programmes to 6,500 individuals who are long term unemployed from a fund of circa €20m.

The aim of this funding is to enhance collaboration and engagement between employers and enterprise with education & training providers in the design and delivery of relevant projects for individuals, who are long term unemployed, in support of the Government's Action Plan for Jobs and the National Skills Strategy.

The concept is that funding will be utilised to provide solutions to the needs of both unemployed individuals and employers within the context of four themes, which may be broken into sub-categories.

- Three themes supporting occupational clusters where demand and vacancies exist within Labour Market sectors.
- A fourth theme focusing on the specific needs of people under 25 who are unemployed assisting them to access and/or return to the Labour Market.

Having regard to the needs of these groupings, the Fund was created with a dual purpose. Firstly, it was intended to ensure that young persons with low levels of education are given the chance to gain qualifications, and thus enhance their chances of benefiting from labour market opportunities as they return. Secondly, that long term unemployed needed to be assisted to re-skill and prepare themselves for occupations in new and different sectors of the economy. This was done by transferring significant financial risk from the state to the contractors.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

The Fund is targeted to benefit specific priority groups among the unemployed: long term unemployed, with particular emphasis on the under 25's. It is focused on funding upskilling programmes delivering qualifications up to Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or equivalent and re-skilling programmes providing qualifications up to NFQ Level 6 or equivalent.

3. ESF FUNDED ELEMENT OF ACTIVITY:

The ESF will provide co-financing for selected vocational training and education courses to meet the needs of unemployed job-seekers.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERMEDIATE BODY:

Intermediate Bodies shall be responsible in particular for:

- Submitting eligible expenditure in the format required by the Certifying Authority to the Managing Authority in order for payment claims to be prepared for submission to the Certifying Authority
- In respect of ESF funds the Intermediate Bodies will, for the purpose of drawing down EU funds, report expenditure to the Managing Authority.
- Ensuring that all payment claims for Structural Fund expenditure submitted by beneficiaries are supported with receipted invoices, audit documents and that a clear audit trail exists.
- Ensuring that only eligible expenditure actually incurred, in respect of co-financed measures/projects, is submitted to the Managing Authority
- Certification of all expenditure incurred by beneficiaries.
- Ensuring that public support under this programme complies with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the aid is granted
- Ensuring that public contracts awarded, concerning projects benefiting from the assistance of the European Social Fund, comply with the provisions of Directives 2004/17/EC, 2004/18/EC and the Treaty principles where applicable
- Collection and submission of statistical data in relation to co-financed activities, in particular in relation to the requirements of Annex XXIII of Implementing Regulation 1828 of 2006 (see extract attached below)

5. CONTRIBUTION TO HORIZONTAL THEMES	
A. Social Inclusion	<p>This activity will support social inclusion by assisting unemployed persons from the priority groups to obtain the necessary skills to improve their chances of progressing to employment or to educational attainment connected with labour market opportunity.</p> <p>Anyone who is in receipt of unemployment Allowance or unemployment benefit (UA or UB) for at least 12 months out of 18, are eligible to participate in the programme.</p> <p>Specific actions to incorporate the Social Inclusion Principle in the Measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local consultation to identify training and educational needs of the target groups named above • Provision and delivery adapted to meet learner needs (e.g. timing, location, duration, methodologies and learner supports) • Training to those who meet specific eligibility criteria • Guidance and mentoring support post the course provision • Budget management to provide for risk transfer and leverage at key points including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruitment ○ Course delivery ○ Support (during and after the course) ○ Reporting ○ Job placement or progression • Requirements on projects to promote learner centeredness, equality, accessibility and inclusiveness, recognising and accommodating diversity, quality assurance, local consultation, collaboration and innovation.
B. Gender Equality & Wider Equality Opportunities	<p>The activity will be open to all persons across all equality categories. The Department of Education and Skills will maintain and report on statistics on participation on the basis of gender, and educational qualification.</p>
C. Sustainable Development	<p>The focus on the programme is primarily about getting participants into full time jobs following the programme. On route to that goal, value has been placed on the education and training elements as well as work experience gained in the process. Follow up with participants after the finish the course will add to valuable and sustainable development of the participants and a high social return on the investment</p>

6. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:										
Annual Indicators										
OUTPUT										
	Region	Baseline (not applicable)			Mid Term Target (not applicable)			Target 2014		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
The Number of Persons Participating in Training and Education Programmes	BMW	-			-	-	-	1,600		
	SAE	-			-	-	-	4,400		
	NAT	-			-	-	-	6,000		
RESULTS										
	Region	Baseline (not applicable)			Mid Term Target (not applicable)			Target 2014		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Number of Persons completing programme and Gaining Certification	BMW	-			-	-	-			
	SAE	-			-	-	-			
	NAT	-			-	-	-			
Number of Persons obtaining employment during programme	BMW	-			-	-	-			
	SAE	-			-	-	-			
	NAT	-			-	-	-			
IMPACT										
	Region	Baseline (2010)			Mid Term Target (not applicable)			Target 2014		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
% of Persons Trained who are in Employment or Further Education at time of the follow up survey	BMW							%		
	SAE							%		
	NAT							%		

See end of document for ANNEX XX111 from Implementing Regulation 1828 of 2006

7. FINANCIAL INPUT			
Budget (€/m.)	SAE €13.910m	BMW €2.590m.	NAT €16.5m.
EU Intervention Field Code	72		
ESF Contribution €m	€8.25m		
Treatment of ESF	Treated as appropriations-in-aid		
National Co-Financing Basis (Net/Gross)	Gross – i.e. the Department of Education and Skills provides the ESF contribution and the match funding to Programme Providers.		
Max. ESF Co-Financing %	50%		
Max. Total Public Support %	100%		
Exch. Vote & S/Head	National Training Fund, Department of Education and Skills.		
Description of Financial Flows	Payments from the National Training Fund (NTF) Department of Education and Skills.		

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	
Certifying Authority	ESF Certifying Authority
Managing Authority	ESF Managing authority
Intermediate Body	Department of Education and Skills (D/ES)
Public Beneficiaries Body	SOLAS
Beneficiaries	114 projects
Nature of Support	SOLAS will directly fund programme providers to deliver a range of education and training programmes for the unemployed.
Operation of Scheme	1 Jan 2013 – 30 Dec 2014
Implementation Arrangements (Sub-Contracting?)	This Measure will be implemented fully by the Department of Education and Skills with the assistance of the contracted programme providers.

9. PAYMENT ROLES				
Ex-Ante Expenditure Verification checks (Art.13)¹ by:	Certified Claims Submitted by:	Submitted To:	Ex-Post Audit of Operations² by:	System Audits³ By:
Programme providers	Programme provides	SOLAS	ESF Financial Control Unit, D/ES	Internal Audit Unit D/ES
EO/HEO, Managing Authority D/ES	HEO/AP, Managing Authority D/ES	Certifying Authority D/ES	ESF Financial Control Unit, D/ES	Internal Audit Unit D/ES
EO/HEO Certifying Authority D/ES	Head of Certifying Authority D/ES	European Commission	ESF Financial Control Unit, D/ES	Internal Audit Unit D/ES

10. PROJECT SELECTION	
Project Selection Process	<p>There was a 2 stage process analogous to a framework procurement process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prequalification 2. Project selection <p>Prequalification:</p> <p>All LMETF projects have to meet two conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All participants taking a place on the programme will be subject to referral by DSP or its nominated agents (e.g. LES). Participants may be identified / recruited in the first instance by the project Provider / Contractor but their place on the programme cannot be granted without DSP sanction. 2. Providers will be required to take all people referred by DSP (subject to them meeting any minimum qualification criteria for the particular programme set by the Provider / Contractor). Where a course is oversubscribed with applicants who met the minimum programme qualification criteria DSP will determine the priority allocation of places. <p>In the second stage, when a Contractor has been pre-qualified and is listed on the FÁS LMETF panel, they can propose projects that will provide solutions to move people into employment and/or improve their employability through significant progression related to any or all of the four funding themes</p>
Project Selection Criteria	<p>As part of the open tender competition a Request for Tender (RFT) document was published. This RFT set out the criteria that tenderers were to meet in order to be eligible for inclusion in the selection process. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the type of jobs and quantify the job opportunities that are available for participants following this project and the specific need for this Project in the proposed Region • Description of the Project • The progression opportunities following the project

¹ Article 13, Reg. 1828/2006² Art. 62 (1)(b) Reg. 1083/2006³ Art. 62 (1) (a) Reg. 1083/2006

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project's recruitment plan and available participant supports for this project Overall feasibility of the Project – the projected needs identified versus the projected outcomes Contractor's capacity to manage the delivery of the Project Contractor's ability to identify the risks associated with the project Project Methodology and Tuition Standard Project Programme Delivery Cost 																																						
Composition of Project Selection Committee	<p>A selection panel comprising of FÁS staff as follows selected the projects:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Job Title</th><th>Relevant Skills</th></tr> <tr> <td>Manager Contract Training (Programmes and Standards)</td><td>Design and development of policy for CT in FÁS. Contract training regional support</td></tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Manager</td><td>Training Standards policy and management</td></tr> <tr> <td>E-College Support Assistant Manager</td><td>E-Learning Administration</td></tr> <tr> <td>Training Standards Officer</td><td>Training Standards and QA policy and management, Organisation Transitional policy</td></tr> <tr> <td>Contract Training Officer</td><td>Training Standards, Curriculum design</td></tr> <tr> <td>Training Standards Officer</td><td>Contract Administration</td></tr> <tr> <td>Contract Training Officer</td><td>QA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Training Standards Officer</td><td>Garda Vetting and Administration</td></tr> <tr> <td>E-College Officer</td><td>Training Standards, QA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Contract Training Officer</td><td>ICT Technical support, e-learning</td></tr> <tr> <td>Contract Training Officer</td><td>Financial standards, Contract training management</td></tr> <tr> <td>Contract Training Officer</td><td>Contract training management</td></tr> <tr> <td>E-College Officer</td><td>Contract training management</td></tr> <tr> <td>E-College Officer</td><td>e-learning design</td></tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Manager</td><td>E-Learning Administration</td></tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Manager</td><td>Contract Training implementation (Regions)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Manager</td><td>Regional Support</td></tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Manager</td><td>Training Standards policy and management</td></tr> </table> <p>The process was subjected to a review by an expert group; including members from the DSP, DES, FÁS and a National College</p>	Job Title	Relevant Skills	Manager Contract Training (Programmes and Standards)	Design and development of policy for CT in FÁS. Contract training regional support	Assistant Manager	Training Standards policy and management	E-College Support Assistant Manager	E-Learning Administration	Training Standards Officer	Training Standards and QA policy and management, Organisation Transitional policy	Contract Training Officer	Training Standards, Curriculum design	Training Standards Officer	Contract Administration	Contract Training Officer	QA	Training Standards Officer	Garda Vetting and Administration	E-College Officer	Training Standards, QA	Contract Training Officer	ICT Technical support, e-learning	Contract Training Officer	Financial standards, Contract training management	Contract Training Officer	Contract training management	E-College Officer	Contract training management	E-College Officer	e-learning design	Assistant Manager	E-Learning Administration	Assistant Manager	Contract Training implementation (Regions)	Assistant Manager	Regional Support	Assistant Manager	Training Standards policy and management
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11. PUBLICITY/INFORMATION PLANS

Publicity/ Information Plans for the Activity	<p>All programme providers have a contract setting out the terms under which funding was provided. In line with these contractual arrangements programme providers were advised of ESF publicity guidelines. All programme providers will exhibit signage regarding ESF funding as appropriate. Applications, brochures, reports and promotional materials will equally publicise the appropriate funding source in line with national requirements and those of Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 regarding information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning assistance from the Structural Funds.</p>
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12. FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE ACTIVITY

<p>Financial Tables relating to this area of activity are attached containing all ESF and National/Private funding broken down by each year of the programming period and detailing BMW, SAE and National Profiles.</p>

13. IMPLEMENTATION CONTACT		
Body: SOLAS	Contact Name:	Ciaran Conlon
Address: 27-33 Upper Baggot St D4	Phone:	00353 -1-6070500
	Fax:	
	Email:	Ciaran.conlon@solas.ie

Annex XXIII : Information**Skills Training for the Unemployed and Job-Seekers****Number of Participants per year**

Yes; No. who started, No. who finished, No. of carry-over.

Breakdown of Participants by Gender

Yes

Breakdown of Participants by Status

Employed (Not applicable)

Self-Employed (Not applicable)

Unemployed (Defined as on the Live Register)

Long-Term Unemployed (Self-Defined)

Inactive (Not applicable)

Inactive in Education/Training (Not applicable)

Breakdown of Participants by Vulnerable Group

Minorities (No. declared as Travellers)

Migrants (No. declared as 'Refugees/Leave to Remain' – from 2009 will refer to nationality)

Disabled (No. citing disability)

Breakdown by Educational Attainment

Breakdown by Primary/None, Junior, Leaving Certificates. In the longer-term information will be collected by NFQ levels (1 – 10) and approximately converted to ISCED.

[Extract from Implementing Regulation 1828 of 2006]

Annex XXIII : Data on participants in ESF operations by priority

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER YEAR

(people entering, those leaving, carry-over from one year to the next)

BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER

BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS ACCORDING TO STATUS IN THE LABOUR MARKET

- employed (total number of employed, including self-employed)
- self-employed
- unemployed (total number of unemployed including long-term unemployed)
- long-term unemployed
- inactive persons (total number of inactive persons, including those in education, training or retirement, those having given up business, the permanently disabled, those fulfilling domestic tasks or other)
- inactive persons in education or training

BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE

- young people (15-24 years)
- older workers (55-64 years)

BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY VULNERABLE GROUPS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL RULES

- minorities
- migrants
- disabled
- other disadvantaged people

BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)
- Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)
- Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)
- Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)