

Human Capital Investment Operational Programme (2007- 2013)

Progress Report Template

*Each **Intermediate Body (IB)** in the HCI OP is required to submit a progress report at Activity Implementation Plan level to the Managing Authority once a year as follows:*

Spring: relating to the entire preceding calendar year 2013

This template sets out the reporting requirements for each Monitoring Committee meeting. The Progress Report to be completed by each IB should be brief and relate only to activity within the reporting period itself. An entry must be made under each heading, even if only to formally record no change.

N.B. Please use Font 11 "Times New Roman" only

FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD: January to December 2013

PRIORITY: No. 2 INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND REDUCING INEQUALITY IN THE LABOUR FORCE

ACTIVITY NAME: Youthreach and Travellers

ESF 2.5

1. Activity description

Provide a paragraph *briefly* describing the objectives of the Activity and its target group.

REPLY:

Youthreach is the national response to the needs of unqualified early school leavers in Ireland. The programme is designed to offer two years integrated education, training and work experience for young people aged 15-20 who have left school early without qualifications or incomplete qualifications or vocational training.

The Senior Traveller Training Centre programme was phased out at the end of June 2012.

2. Significant Changes in the Operating Environment

Report on any significant changes in the operating environment that impact, either positively or negatively, on the capacity of the Activity to perform. Examples would include changes in Government policy, socio-economic trends, etc. Where no significant change has occurred, this should be indicated.

REPLY:

Establishment of SOLAS

An tSeirbhís Leanúnagh agus Scileanna (SOLAS) was established on 27th October 2013.

The main objective of SOLAS is to develop, fund and oversee an integrated further education and training sector. One of the first major tasks to be carried out by SOLAS was the development of a national five year strategy for further education and training. This was developed following consultation with the key stakeholders and sets out a

roadmap for the FET sector in response to needs and opportunities for the short, medium and longer term.

3. Commentary on Activity-related progress

This section requires an overall commentary on actions within the Activity *for the period to which the report relates, 2013*. Inclusion of historical information should be avoided. Items of interest to the Monitoring Committee would include, for example:

- Any new initiatives or issues which arose *in the reporting period*;
- Any reports/studies either started or finalised/published *within the reporting period*;
- Any obstacles encountered.

Commentary should be confined to progress *within the area of Activity* only.

REPLY:

i) Evaluations of Centres of Education

The Departments Inspectorate undertook 3 evaluations of Youthreach centres in 2013 and these were published in 2014.

Copies of the evaluation reports are available on the Department of Education and Skills website www.education.ie

The Departments Inspectorate began work on developing new Inspection Guidelines for Youthreach Centres in 2012 and these were finalised in 2013.

ii) Guidance, Counselling and Psychological Services

In 2013, just over €1 million was allocated for guidance, counselling and psychological services. Services are made available in Youthreach (VEC Youthreach centres and FÁS Community Training Centres). Centres use their allocations to prioritise from a spectrum of needs ranging from initial orientation and guidance and vocational information to psychological services.

New guidelines on the use of guidance, counselling and psychological services funding were being developed in 2012 and these were finalised in 2013.

iii) Special Educational Needs Initiative (SENI) in Youthreach

In 2013, just over €1.5 million was allocated to VECs for the SENI in Youthreach. This support was introduced in 2007 and is available in 20 Youthreach centres.

iv) Quality Framework

During 2013, Youthreach centres continued to engage in the Quality Framework Initiative (QFI). The QFI involves centre development planning and internal centre evaluations.

v) Literacy Guidelines

Work was undertaken by The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) on developing new Literacy guidelines for Youthreach in 2012 and these were finalised in 2013.

4. Progress in relation to physical performance indicators and targets

Statistical information relating to the reporting period should be provided in the format contained in the programme *Activity Implementation Plan*- in the table below.

A commentary on the main features of the statistical information should also be provided.

If your Activity does not lend itself to report on the Indicators by calendar year (Jan to Dec.), then please state this fact and complete the table on a mid-year to mid-year basis (e.g. June 2008 to May 2009).

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:							
Annual and Cumulative Indicators							
A. OUTPUT							
	Region	Current period/Year: (e.g.) Jan. – Dec. 2013 as applicable			Cumulative totals 2007-2013		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. The number of participants in Youthreach	BMW	587	413	1000			
	SAE	1268	962	2230			
	NAT	1855	1375	3230			
B. RESULT							
	Region	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. The number of Youthreach Participants successfully completing programme or achieving certification	BMW	170	111	281			
	SAE	430	291	721			
	NAT	600	402	1002			
C. IMPACT							
	Region	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. Number of Youthreach participants who have progressed to other further education or employment	BMW	99	58	157			
	SAE	292	203	495			
	NAT	391	261	652			

REPLY:

In addition, statistics on activity at NUTS III (i.e. Regional Authority) level should be provided in the format contained in the table below and should be gender disaggregated where appropriate. The nature of the indicators available at this level may vary from Activity to Activity (e.g. Number of people trained, number of companies assisted, etc). The type of indicator used should, therefore, be stated. Any significant development at NUTS III level should be commented on.

NUTS III Activity Indicator Report for reporting period (Jan – Dec. 2013)

Activity: <i>Number of persons trained</i>			
Indicator Used:			
Region	Total	Gender break-down	
		Male	Female
<i>Border Region</i>	425	265	160
<i>Midland Region</i>	219	121	98
<i>West Region</i>	356	201	155
BMW Total	1000	587	413
<i>South East Region</i>	310	148	162
<i>Mid East Region</i>	371	223	148
<i>Dublin Region</i>	856	507	349
<i>South West Region</i>	379	218	161
<i>Mid West Region</i>	314	172	142
SAE Total	2230	1268	962
National (BMW + SAE)	3230	1855	1375

Whilst IBs are free to provide *any other additional information* they feel is relevant, this should be provided *separately by way of an appendix* to the main progress report.

5. Progress with regard to expenditure

This section of the report relates to the performance of the Activity with respect to the Revised Forecast on the Financial Tables. Financial information should be provided for the reporting period, as well as cumulatively since the start of the OP, in the format contained in the tables at Annex 1.

A commentary should be provided on progress in relation to the annual and cumulative forecasts at National and BMW/SAE levels. Where cumulative expenditure to date is below 75% of forecast, Intermediate Bodies are required to provide reasons for the under-spend along with proposals for remedial action.

REPLY:

Table 1 – Expenditure for the Reporting Period Jan. to December 2013 (€m)

HCI OP €m	<i>Total Programme Forecast*</i>	<i>Total Programme spend</i>	<i>Expenditure as % of forecast</i>	<i>Total co- financed spend</i>	<i>EU Social Funds</i>	<i>National Public Co- financed</i>	<i>Private Co-financed</i>
<i>Source of information within financial tables</i>		<i>Column</i>		<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>
Region							
<i>Dublin</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>South East</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Mid East</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Mid West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>South West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAE Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Border</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Midland</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BMW Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
National (BMW + SAE)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 2 – Cumulative Expenditure since January 2007 (€m)

HCI OP €m	<i>Total Programme Forecast*</i>	<i>Total Programme spend</i>	<i>Expenditure as % of forecast</i>	<i>Total co- financed spend</i>	<i>EU Structural Funds</i>	<i>National Public Co- financed</i>	<i>Private Co-financed</i>
<i>Source of information within financial tables</i>		<i>Column</i>		<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>
Region							
<i>Dublin</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>South East</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Mid East</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Mid West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>South West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAE Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Border</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Midland</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BMW Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
National (BMW + SAE)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

* See Financial Tables.

6. Data On Participants In Programme Activity Implementation Plan
(Commission Implementing Regulation 1828/2006 - Annex XXIII)

COMPLETE ALL THESE SECTIONS

6.1 NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER YEAR

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

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Entrants: (a)	676	538	1214
Leaving: (b)	1140	748	1888
Carry-over to next year	715	627	1342
Total:	1855	1375	3230

6.2 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Participants:	1855	1375	3230

6.3 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS ACCORDING TO STATUS IN THE LABOUR MARKET

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Employed (Total number of employed, including self-employed)	0	0	0
Self-employed	0	0	0
Unemployed (Total number of unemployed including long-term unemployed)	253	180	433
Long-term unemployed	18	16	34
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)	1602	1195	2797
Inactive persons in education or training	1489	1084	2573
Note: Employed + Unemployed + Inactive = Total number of Participants (by Gender)	1855	1375	3230

6.4 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Young people (15-24)	1855	1375	3230
Older workers (55-64)	0	0	0

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

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Minorities:	257	240	497
Migrants:	10	6	16
Disabled:	112	59	171
Other disadvantaged people:	235	180	415

6.6 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	1832	1351	3183
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	23	24	47
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	0	0	0
Tertiary education (ISCED 5 AND 6)	0	0	0

7. Horizontal issues

Reporting on the Horizontal Principles

(1) Social Inclusion

(2) Gender Equality and (3) Wider Equal Opportunities

will be required only for the Spring Monitoring Committee meeting each year. The templates for reporting on the Horizontal Principles will be issued to IBs by the OP Managing Authority for completion in advance of Spring Monitoring Committee meetings.

SEE SEPARATE TEMPLATES

8. Compliance with EU and National policy

It is a requirement that all Programme Activity Implementation Plans comply with EU and national policy in areas such as procurement, competition, state aids etc. Confirmation of compliance should be formally recorded in the progress report with any deviations reported on specifically.

REPLY:

It is the policy of the Department of Education and Skills to comply with all EU regulations in relation to procurement, state aids etc.

9. Added Value of ESF Interventions

Please supply a paragraph(s) explaining the benefits and giving examples of how ESF is adding value to national policies and projects, e.g. (the following are examples):

- an increase in the number of participants;
- the support of specific target groups or activities which are not covered by national programmes;
- the testing of new approaches, and/or
- the improvement of processes.

Please feel free to add any further information that might help understand how ESF adds value in Ireland.

An increase in the number of participants

- i. ESF funding facilitated the provision of additional places under 'Towards 2016'. 400 new Youthreach places were provided in 2007 increasing the numbers of places available from 3,292 to 3,692. The fact that the programme received ESF co-funding was a major consideration in providing the new places. These places are now fully operational in the VECs and have allowed an additional 400 learners per annum attend the programme.

The support of specific target groups or activities which are not covered by national programmes

- ii. The continued ESF funding allows the Youthreach programme to provide two years integrated education, training and work experience for unemployed early school leavers without any qualifications or vocational training who are between 15 and 20 years of age. Up to 3,700 learners attend the programme annually.

The testing of new approaches

- iii. ESF funding allowed for the introduction of a new Special Educational Needs Initiative. In 2007, additional funding was allocated to provide for the introduction of additional staffing resources such as community workers, counsellors, mentors or resource personnel, to address the Special Educational Needs of students aged between 15 and 20 years of age, across 20 Youthreach programmes. Young people enrolled in Youthreach centres throughout the country need additional supports to enable them to develop skills which will ensure they can reach their full potential, socially, personally, educationally and economically.
- iv. ESF funding allows the continued provision of Guidance, Counselling and Psychological services for Youthreach learners. In 2012, just over €1 million was allocated to Youthreach centres (VEC Youthreach centres and FÁS Community Training Centres). Centres use their allocations to prioritise from a spectrum of needs ranging from initial orientation and guidance and vocational information to psychological services.

The improvement of processes

- v. The Quality Framework (QF) for Youthreach Centres was established in November 2000. The aim of the Initiative is to develop and implement a quality assurance model that would lead to continuous improvement in the service offered by centres and in a manner that meets the needs of learners,

staff and management. The Quality Framework forms the basis of the quality assurance system. It comprises four interconnected building blocks:

1. Quality Standards
2. Centre Development Planning
3. Internal Centre Evaluation and
4. External Centre Evaluation

All centres are now actively engaging with the QF. Centres should engage in Internal Centre Evaluation on an annual basis and engage in Centre Development Planning approximately every four years.

- vi. Since 2006 the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills has evaluated the Youthreach and STTC centres. These evaluations are designed to:
- introduce the practice of external evaluation to centres for education, as provided for in the Education Act (1998), section 7 (2) (b)
 - identify, acknowledge and affirm good practice in centres
 - identify, in a constructive way, areas for improvement in centres
 - promote the goals of the quality framework initiative
 - provide and assurance of quality in the non-formal sector of the education system based on the collection of objective, dependable and high-quality data
 - inform Department of Education and Skills policy towards future development.

Since 2006 57 Youthreach centre evaluations have been completed and published by the Departments Inspectorate. A composite national report on the 25 Youthreach centre evaluations conducted during 2006 and 2007, describes the considerable successes of the programme. It acknowledges the effectiveness of Youthreach at recruiting its target group and highlights the strong focus that the programme places on the holistic development of the individual learner.

The report also highlights the challenges that still exist for Youthreach.

Other new developments for Youthreach

- vii. Youthreach staff have access to national SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) in service training programmes.

Looking back at Value Added issues considered at the start of the round

- viii. In addition, as set out at the beginning of this round, ESF funding ensures that the programme has;
- Received international support
 - Attracted more public recognition and therefore increased awareness of the programme
 - Allowed for innovative approaches to recruitment and teaching
 - Promoted learner centredness, equality, accessibility and inclusiveness
 - Been underpinned by quality assurance
 - Recognised and accommodated diversity and
 - Enabled learners to progress

10. Publicity

All ESF co-funded Activities are required to comply with Social Funds information and publicity requirements (see also Section 11 of the AIP). Confirmation of compliance should be formally recorded in the progress report with any deviations reported on specifically.

Specific **examples** of compliance with the requirements should also be provided HERE (e.g. articles in the local or national papers, media, Commission visits, launches, etc).

REPLY:

On the basis of the publicity guidelines circulated by the Structural Funds Unit of the Department of Education and Skills in March 2009, beneficiaries are required to show the following on material concerning Youthreach (includes websites, stationery, forms, publications, advertisements, information leaflets, launches, seminars, conferences etc):

- Ireland's EU Structural Funds logo
- ESF logo
- NDP logo
- 'Investing in your future' tagline

11. Proposals for re-profiling of expenditure (where applicable)

Any proposal to reprofile expenditure should be contained in this section of the report and should include the rationale for doing so. Reprofiling of expenditure can only be carried out with the approval of the Monitoring Committee (and the European Commission depending on the nature of the reprofiling proposed).

REPLY:

12. Proposals to amend Programme Activity Implementation Plans (where applicable)

Amendments to Activity Implementation Plans require the approval of the Monitoring Committee. Any proposal to amend an existing Activity Implementation Plan should indicate the precise change sought and the rationale for doing so. A copy of the proposed new Activity Implementation Plan should also be provided.

REPLY:

APPENDIX 1 – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Material from the 31st December 2013 Survey of learners

a) Age profile of learners

YOUTHREACH	Male	Female	Total
Aged 15	89	67	156
16	342	267	609
17	484	344	828
18	499	362	861
19	280	196	476
20	115	93	208
21-25	46	46	92
Total	1855	1375	3230

b) Educational attainment at entry

YOUTHREACH	Male	Female	Total
Primary Education	464	314	778
Junior Cert (1- 4 subjects)	232	152	384
Junior Cert full award	984	755	1,739
Leaving Cert (1 – 2 subjects)	7	9	16
Leaving Cert (3 – 4 subjects)	33	22	55
Leaving Cert Applied	42	63	105
FETAC level 3 – minor award	32	14	46
FETAC level 3 – major award	38	22	60
FETAC level 4 – minor award	14	15	29
FETAC level 4 – major award	9	9	18
Total	1855	1375	3,230

c) Progression information on learners completing the programme

YOUTHREACH	Male	Female	Total
Employment	125	54	179
Post Leaving Certificate	99	67	166
BTEI (part time)	12	20	32
Other Further Education	84	77	161
Higher Education	12	7	19
SOLAS	24	15	39
Other Training	33	21	54
Unemployment	136	91	227
Other	13	26	39
Not known	62	24	86
Total	600	402	1002

d) Information on reasons for leaving programme early

YOUTHREACH	Male	Female	Total
Employment	63	17	80
Other Further Education	57	44	101
Returned to school	15	17	32
SOLAS	9	2	11
Family commitment	12	43	55
Health issues	13	21	34
Personal issues	88	73	161
Joined another programme	21	18	39
Course not meeting needs	53	25	78
Financial barriers	5	0	5
Childcare barriers	0	9	9
Transport barriers	10	3	13
Moved location	56	42	98
Asked to leave	117	32	149
Detention	43	19	62
Unknown	89	49	138
Total	651	414	1065

e) Information on certification achieved

YOUTHREACH	Male	Female	Total
Junior Cert 1-2 subjects	7	5	12
Junior Cert 3-4 subjects	5	6	11
Junior Cert Full Award	52	29	81
Leaving Cert Applied	143	149	292
Leaving Cert 1-2 subjects	0	2	2
Leaving Cert 3-4 subjects	1	0	1
Leaving Cert Full Award	35	22	57
FETAC Level 1 Award	3	1	4
FETAC Level 2 Award	17	17	34
FETAC Level 3 1-2 modules	217	125	342
FETAC Level 3 3-4 modules	109	91	200
FETAC Level 3 5-6 modules	59	43	102
FETAC Level 3 Full Award	94	50	144
FETAC Level 4 1-2 modules	319	189	508
FETAC Level 4 3-4 modules	190	111	301
FETAC Level 4 5-6 modules	132	65	197
FETAC Level 4 Full Award	184	187	371
Other	276	224	500
Total	1,843	1,316	3,159