



European Semester

**Country Specific Recommendations and
links to Operational Programmes**

**HCIOP PMC, Galway
15 July 2014**



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The European Semester: why, what and how?

Why?

- **Ensuring stronger coordination of plans under preparation, detection of imbalances/ inconsistencies**

What?

- **Publicly informing on national economic, labour market and social plans**



How?

- *Annual Growth Survey begins the process*
- *AGS discussed and guidance provided at March Council*
- *European Commission and MS hold bilateral meetings*
- *MS prepare and submit NRPs (after consultation with stakeholders) and Stability or Convergence Programmes (SCPs)*
- *Member States and Commission review implementation of previous years' CSRs in the Committees*
- *Commission publishes CSR proposals*
- *CSRs discussed with MS in the Committees*
- *CSRs endorsed by Council in June Council*
- *MS begin to implement CSRs*

EUROPEAN SEMESTER: A PARTNERSHIP EU-MEMBER STATES

	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
European Commission	<p>Autumn Economic Forecasts</p> <p>Commission publishes Annual Growth Survey and Alert Mechanism Report</p> <p>Commission opinions on draft budgetary plans</p> <p>AGS AMR</p> <p>€ Area</p>			<p>Winter Economic Forecasts</p> <p>Bilateral meeting with Member States</p>	<p>Commission publishes In-Depth Reviews of countries with potential risks</p> <p>IDR</p>	<p>Bilateral meeting with Member States</p>	<p>Commission proposes country-specific recommendations for budgetary, economic and social policies</p> <p>CSR</p>					<p>Bilateral meeting with Member States</p>
European Council / Council	<p>Finance ministers discuss opinions on draft budgetary plans</p> <p>€ Area</p>		<p>National ministers adopt conclusions on AGS + AMR and agree main priority areas</p> <p>AGS AMR</p>		<p>EU leaders adopt economic priorities based on AGS</p> <p>AGS</p>			<p>National ministers discuss the CSRs</p> <p>CSR</p>	<p>EU leaders endorse final CSRs</p> <p>CSR</p>			
Member States		<p>Member States adopt budgets</p>			<p>Member States present their Stability or Convergence Programmes (on budgetary policies) and National Reform Programmes (on economic policies)</p>						<p>Member States present draft budgetary plans + Economic Partnership Programmes (EDP countries)</p> <p>€ Area</p>	
European Parliament			<p>Debate / resolution on AGS</p> <p>AGS</p>								<p>Debate / resolution on the European Semester and the CSRs</p> <p>CSR</p>	



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Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)

A number of documents feed into the production of CSRs:

- *Annual Growth Survey*
- *Commission Staff Working Document (SWD)*
- *National Reform Programmes (NRPs)*
- *Stability and Convergence Programmes (SCP)*



CSRs in Ireland

7 CSRs for Ireland in 2014

Covering areas such as:

*Budget deficit; healthcare sector reform;
employment and skills; poverty reduction; financing
for the SME sector; banking sector; legal reform*



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Employment and Poverty Reduction CSRs

Pursue further improvements in active labour market policies, with a particular focus on the long-term unemployed, the low-skilled and, in line with the objectives of a youth guarantee, young people. Advance the on-going reform of the further education and training (FET) system, employment support schemes and apprenticeship programmes. Offer more workplace training; improve and ensure the relevance of FET courses and apprenticeships with respect to labour market needs. Increase the level and quality of support services provided by the *Intreo* labour offices. Put in place a seamless FET referrals system between *Intreo* offices and Education and Training Boards.



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Rationale for CSR

- *Ireland faces challenges relating to unemployment, particularly long-term and youth unemployment, and there is still a large working age population with low skills, resulting in inequality and skills mismatches*
- *LTU represents over 61% of total unemployment at the end of 2013*
- *Unemployment rate among young people peaked above 30% in late 2012 and early 2013*
- *Youth NEET rate one of the highest in EU*
- *In addition, participation in lifelong learning is lower than the EU average*



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Employment and Poverty Reduction CSRs

Tackle low work intensity of households and address the poverty risk of children through tapered withdrawal of benefits and supplementary payments upon return to employment. Facilitate female labour market participation by improving access to more affordable and full-time childcare, particularly for low income families.



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Rationale for CSR

- *Ireland has one of the highest proportions of people living in households with low work intensity in the EU, which generates serious social challenges (24.2% in 2011)*
- *Low work intensity is particularly severe among single-parent households with children.*
- *Unequal labour market participation of women which stood at 67.2% in 2013, as compared with 83.4% for men.*
- *The labour market is also affected by pockets of unemployment traps.*



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Links to Operational Programmes

- *Policy and result orientation are the key aspects of the new programming period*
- *ESF should only invest in CSR challenges – with justification, ESF can invest in other challenges other than what is outlined in CSRs.*
- *CSR broken down into challenges and challenges should be met.*
- *Investment priorities and specific objectives chosen in the draft OP to adequately address the CSR challenges*
- *Non-investment related CSRs do not have to be included*



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Further Information

- http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/index_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/csr2014_ireland_en.pdf
- http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/swd2014_ireland_en.pdf



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Thank You