

ESF Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020

2017 Annual Implementation Report (AIR) Template

Article 125(2)(b) of the CPR requires the MA to prepare an AIR which is submitted to the Commission following approval by the Monitoring Committee. Article 50(2) of the CPR sets out that the AIR will contain key information on the implementation of the OP (including the YEI) by reference to financial data, common and programme specific indicators and quantified target values. A synthesis of the findings of evaluations undertaken, issues arising and measures taken are also to be included along with actions taken to fulfil ex-ante Conditionalities. Failure to include the required information will result in the AIR being inadmissible. Article 50(9) provides for a citizen's summary of the AIR's content to be published.

The 2017 AIR must be submitted to the Commission by 31st May 2017 and shall cover the 2016 financial year. Article 5(3) of the ESF Regulation (1304/2013) requires the MA to transmit electronically structured data for each priority axis broken down by investment priority. This data relating to output and result indicators is to be provided for both partially and fully implemented operations.

The **Intermediate Body** is required to complete this template for aggregation into the 2016 AIR. The responses provided such be succinct 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. **Indicator and data on participants is obligatory for all Activities and should be entered on the accompanying Excel workbook.**

Reporting Period:	January to December 2016
Priority:	Promoting Social Inclusion and combating discrimination in the labour market
Activity:	Gender Equality
AIP Ref:	ESF 2.9

1. Activity description

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

The objective of the ESF 2.9 Gender Equality is to engage with the most disadvantaged groups, including those distant from the labour market, with a view to raising their skills, ultimately increasing their future employment prospects.

The categories of persons in the target group are:

For Strand A – Women Returning to the Workforce (WRW) the target group is women who are detached from the labour market.

For Strand B – Women's Entrepreneurship (WE) the target group is women who can be supported to increase the rate of women's entrepreneurship.

The objectives of the activity under Strand A – WRW are to develop and deliver one or more training models to offer self-developmental training in employment related skills on a part time basis to women who currently detached from the labour market.

The objectives of the activity under Strand B – WE are to develop and deliver interventions

aimed at addressing the gender gap in entrepreneurial activity through targeted supports for women's entrepreneurship.

2. Significant Changes in the Operating Environment

Report on any significant changes in the operating environment that impact, either positively or negatively, on the performance of the Activity (such as changes in Government policy, socio-economic trends, etc.). Where there are no significant changes, this should be indicated.

No significant changes

3. Commentary on Implementation of the Activity – key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems:

This section requires an overall commentary on actions taken *during 2016* to implement the Activity. Outline key developments; new initiatives taken; issues/problems that arose and steps taken to overcome. Commentary should be confined to progress *within the area of Activity only*.

The EU Funds Unit was established in May 2016 in the Equality and Integration area of the Department of Justice and Equality. An initial priority task for the Unit was to issue an open Call for Proposals for projects seeking funding under the Gender Equality ESF 2.9 Activity.

On 22nd September, 2016, the Department of Justice and Equality opened Calls for Proposals, under the European Social Fund. Advertisements were placed in all national print media, on Activelink and a social media campaign was implemented.

The deadline date for submission of applications under ESF GE 2.9 was 8 November 2016

To assist potential applicants, the EU Funds Unit published an "Information and Guidance for Applicants" document for ESF PEIL 2.9

During the period when the Call was open, the EU Funds Unit put in place the systems and processes required to manage large volumes of applications in a fair and efficient way that would withstand scrutiny.

The preparation activities undertaken by the Unit were as follows :

- Design of EU Funds Unit Document Management System
- Preparation of Procedure Documents and Process Maps for all aspects of managing the Call including; Query-Handling Process, Process for Receipt of Applications, Initial Completeness Check Process and Project Appraisal Process.
- Preparation of Template documents and Appraisal Matrices
- "Dummy Run" of processes, using a fictional application
- Logistical Planning

31 applications were received under Strand A –Women Returning to the Workforce (WRW) and 22 applications were received under Strand B –Women’s Entrepreneurship (WE). All applications were appraised in accordance with the procedures developed and the various stages of appraisal were as follows:

Stage a -Initial Completeness Check

Stage b - First appraisal carried out by a named member of the EU Funds Unit.

Stage c- A moderation review carried out in conjunction with a second EU Funds Unit team member.

Stage d – Ranking of projects according to marks received and final team moderation.

All applications were fully appraised during the period 8 November to 30 November 2016.

Stage e –Project Appraisal Committee.

A separate Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) was convened to review and ratify the recommendations of the EU Funds Unit for each strand. The Project Appraisal Committee meeting for ESF PEIL 2.9 Strand B was held on 7th December 2016 and for Strand A, the meeting was held on 8th December 2016. Both Appraisal Committees included external representation.

The Committees recommended the following 14 projects for funding under Strand A and 4 projects under Strand B.

ESF PEIL Gender Equality - Strand A: Women Returning to the Workforce:

Project Name - Organisation

Healthcare Opportunities for Women - Ballyhoura Development CLG

Get Ready, Get Steady, Go - Cavan Monaghan ETB

Women into Employment Programme - Cork City Partnership

Working Women - Equal Ireland

Duhallow Work Opportunities for Women Project - IRD Duhallow

Women's STEPS to Employment Programme- NCCWN

Moving On - North East and West Kerry Development

New Futures for Lone Parents - Retail, ICT & Healthcare Careers - One Family

Women’s Integration, Skills and Employment (WISE) - People 1st

Bridge to Work - Ruhama

Wexford Women Working - South East Training and Education Centre Ltd

Repower - Southside Partnership

The Carlow Catalyst Programme for Women - St. Catherine’s Community Services Centre

Increasing Female Labour Force Participation and Employment in Westmeath - Westmeath Community Development Limited

ESF PEIL Gender Equality - Strand B: Women’s Entrepreneurship:

Project Name - Organisation

Empower - GMIT

Building Better Futures - Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

WEB NET - PARTAS

Women’s Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN) - SECAD (South and East Cork Area Development Partnership)

4. Progress in relation to physical performance indicators and targets

Statistical information relating to the reporting period should be entered in the format contained in the *Activity Implementation Plan* – as per the following table. A commentary on the main features of the statistical information should also be provided.

Note: Having regard to the 2018 target value of 4480 participants from disadvantaged groups on social inclusion employability programmes as indicated in the AIP, please comment in the comment box provided on your progress to date in achieving the 2018 target based on the output figures for 2016 below.

ACTIVITY SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS:		
Outputs and Results Indicator Targets	Measurement Unit	2016
OUTPUTS		
The number of participants from disadvantaged groups on social inclusion employability programmes, including personal development towards employability programmes - Number of women detached from labour market who participate in a training course See Note above *Figures should correspond with Annex III Grand Total	Number of participants	
RESULTS		
Number of participants from disadvantaged groups that have completed a social inclusion employability programme and/or are in training/education/job search/work related environments upon leaving - Number of women detached from labour market who completed a training course	Number of participants	

Comments:

As projects did not commence activity in 2016, there is no update on the 2018 target output figures.

5. Participant Indicators

The data on participants an ESF supported operations should be inserted in Common Output Indicators and Common Result Indicators tables in the attached Excel Workbook.

For guidance of the description of the indicators, please refer to:

- Annex B-D in the ESF Guidance Document on Monitoring & Evaluation of European Cohesion Policy.
- Annex D Practical Guidance on data collection and validation.

Please click on the link below to access these documents:

<http://www.esf.ie/en/Information-Centre/Monitoring-and-Evaluation/>

6. Compliance with EU and National policy

Declarations

It is a requirement that all Programme Activities comply with EU and national policy in areas such as;

- procurement,
- competition,
- state aids
- ESF information and publicity requirements
- Compliance with the project selection criteria as set out in the AIP.
- Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination
- Sustainable development
- Ensuring beneficiaries are provided with documentation setting out the conditions of ESF support.

Please confirm compliance with these requirements and advise on any deviations thereto:

Compliance Confirmed _____ Date _____
On behalf of the IB

Deviations from Requirements

Declared by _____ Date _____
On behalf of the IB

[Extract from Regulation 1304/2013 Annex I (the ESF Regulation)]

ANNEX I

Common output and result indicators for ESF investments

(1) Common output indicators for participants

"Participants"¹ refers to persons benefiting directly from an ESF intervention who can be identified and asked for their characteristics, and for whom specific expenditure is earmarked. Other persons shall not be classified as participants. All data shall be broken down by gender.

The common output indicators for participants are:

- unemployed, including long-term unemployed*,
- long-term unemployed*,
- inactive*,
- inactive, not in education or training*,
- employed, including self-employed*,
- below 25 years of age*,
- above 54 years of age*,
- above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long-term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training*,
- with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)*,
- with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)*,
- with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)*,
- participants who live in jobless households*,
- participants who live in jobless households with dependent children*,
- participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children*,
- migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)**,
- participants with disabilities**,
- other disadvantaged**.

The total number of participants will be calculated automatically on the basis of the output indicators.

These data on participants entering an ESF supported operation shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(1) and (2) and Article 111(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

- homeless or affected by housing exclusion*,
- from rural areas*²

¹ Managing authorities shall establish a system that records and stores individual participant data in computerised form as set out in Article 125 (2) (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The data processing arrangements put in place by the Member States shall be in line with the provisions of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31), in particular Articles 7 and 8 thereof. Data reported under the indicators marked with * are personal data according to Article 7 of Directive 95/46/EC. Their processing is necessary for compliance with the legal obligation to which the controller is subject (Article 7(c) of Directive 95/46/EC). For the definition of controller, see Article 2 of Directive 95/46/EC. Data reported under the indicators marked with ** are a special category of data according to Article 8 of Directive 95/46/EC. Subject to the provision of suitable safeguards, Member States may, for reasons of substantial public interest, lay down exemptions in addition to those laid down in Article 8(2) of Directive 95/46/EC, either by national law or by decision of the supervisory authority (Article 8(4) of Directive 95/46/EC).

² The data shall be collected at the level of smaller administrative units (local administrative units 2), in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1).

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The data on participants under the two above indicators will be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The data shall be collected based on a representative sample of participants within each investment priority. Internal validity of the sample shall be ensured in such a way that the data can be generalised at the level of investment priority.

(2) Common output indicators for entities are:

- number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations,
- number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment,
- number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level,
- number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy).

These data shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(1) and (2) and Article 111(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

(3) Common immediate result indicators for participants are:

- inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving*,
- participants in education/training upon leaving*,
- participants gaining a qualification upon leaving*,
- participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving*,
- disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving**.

These data shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(1) and (2) and Article 111(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. All data shall be broken down by gender.

(4) Common longer-term result indicators for participants are:

- participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving*,
- participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving*,
- participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving*,
- disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving**.

These data shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. They shall be collected based on a representative sample of participants within each investment priority. Internal validity of the sample shall be ensured in such a way that the data can be generalised at the level of investment priority. All data shall be broken down by gender.