

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 2017 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:	Investing in Education, Training and Life Long Learning with a view to upskilling and re-skilling the labour force
Activity:	Third Level Access
AIP Ref:	ESF 3.1

1. Activity description

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

The objective of the Third Level Access Measure is to contribute to enhancing attainment of tertiary education qualifications by disadvantaged and disabled students, thereby supporting access to sustainable employment as skilled members of the workforce. There are two broad objectives under this measure: The Student Assistance Fund (SAF) which aims to support students facing ongoing or temporary financial hardship which would otherwise negatively impact on their chances of retention or completion of their Higher Education course. The Fund for Students with Disabilities (FSD) supports students in overcoming barriers to participation in higher education due to disability. Support under both these objectives are offered to eligible students on full-time higher education courses. For practical purposes, the two objectives are administered separately as sub-programmes.

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.

Both the Student Assistance Fund and the Fund for Students with Disabilities continue to operate as per the previous operational programme (HCIOP). In 2016, a review by an independent consultant was carried out on the operation of the Student Assistant Fund and a report was published. The report can be accessed from our website: <http://www.heai.ie/sites/default/files/safreport.pdf>. Implementation of the recommendations commenced in early 2017. There is an ongoing review on Fund for Student with Disabilities (FSD).

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.

As above

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 132,354 disadvantaged or/and disabled persons assisted in accessing third level education 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.

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ACTIVITY SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS:		
Outputs and Results Indicator Targets	Measurement Unit	2016
OUTPUTS		
Number of disadvantaged or/and disabled persons assisted in accessing third level education (Student Assistance Fund and Fund for Students with Disabilities) See Note above *Figures should correspond with Annex III Grand Total	Number of disadvantaged or/and disabled persons	25,311
Number of LTU disadvantaged or/and disabled persons assisted in accessing third level education (Student Assistance Fund and Fund for Students with Disabilities) *Figures should correspond with Annex III Indicator CO02	Number of LTU disadvantaged or/and disabled persons	0
RESULTS		
Number of disadvantaged and/or disabled persons assisted that gained a third level qualification upon leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex IV Indicator CR03	Number of disadvantaged or/and disabled persons	
Number of LTU disadvantaged and/or disabled persons assisted that gained a third level qualification upon leaving	Number of LTU disadvantaged or/and disabled persons	

Comments:

The 2016 figures are based on the numbers supported by the FSD in the 2016-17 academic year (all applications submitted Oct-December 2016). Data for Student Assistance Fund beneficiaries for both BMW and S&E regions is from 2015. SAF 2016 data will be available from Mid-October 2017 onwards and the figures can be updated in a revised report. Please note also that these figures refer to both BMW and S&E regions projects.

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. Information and Communications 2016

Please provide a paragraph describing the Information and Communication activities undertaken for the previous year.

7. 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.

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

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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*¹

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,

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).

¹ 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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— 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.