

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 December 2016
Priority:	Youth Employment Initiative
Activity:	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme (BTWEA)
AIP Ref:	ESF 4.1

1. Activity description

[Provide a paragraph briefly describing the objectives of the Activity and its target group.](#)

The main purpose of the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) is to encourage the long term unemployed on a social welfare payment to develop a business while allowing them to retain a reducing proportion of their qualifying social welfare payment, plus they may retain secondary benefits, over two years.

The period for which the allowance is payable is 2 years, the first year 100% of the existing welfare entitlement and 75% in the second year.

The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) is targeted at a broad range of social welfare recipients who satisfy the qualifying criteria. The scheme is available to jobseekers, one parent families and people on various illness related payments.

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.

There were no significant changes in the operating environment that impacted on the performance of the Activity.

In general the numbers on BTWEA who are under 25 are low as per the table below. As the economy recovers this number is ever decreasing.

Year	Total No. BTWEA	No. Under 25	% of Total
2011	10,751	324	3%
2012	10,811	312	2.8%
2013	10,098	266	2.6%
2014	11,167	255	2.2%
2015	11,861	204*	1.7%
2016	11,386	138	1.2%

*of these 101 BTWEA customers (under 25) qualify under the ESF Programme as it was introduced from 01st June 2015.

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.

A review of the BTWEA scheme was completed in 2016. The purpose of the review is to ensure the scheme is fully aligned with national policy and operational developments. We do not expect any material change in the volume under 25 as a result of the findings.

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.

Progress Report for PEIL 2014 - 2020

ACTIVITY SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS:		
Outputs and Results Indicator Targets	Measurement Unit	2016
OUTPUTS		
Number of participants aged under 25 on BTWEA *Figures should correspond with Annex III Indicator CO06	Number of YEI eligible participants	
RESULTS		
Participants leaving BTWEA after the two years are still in self-employment (60%)	Number of participants	
Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR01	Number of unemployed participants	
Unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR02	Number of unemployed participants	
Unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self- employed, upon leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR03	Number of unemployed participants	
LTU participants who complete the YEI supported intervention *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR04	Number of LTU participants	
LTU participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR05	Number of LTU participants	
LTU participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self- employed, upon leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR06	Number of LTU participants	
Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR07	Number of inactive participants	
Inactive participants not in education or training who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship, upon leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR08	Number of inactive participants	
Inactive participants not in education or training who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR09	Number of inactive participants	
Participants in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months after leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR10	Number of participants	
Participants in employment six months after leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR11	Number of participants	
Participants in self-employment six months after leaving *Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR12	Number of participants	

Comments:

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/Regulations/Evaluations-and-Guidelines/>

6. Data Action Plan (ex-ante conditionalities) - Update

Please state the current position in relation to the collection of Indicator Data including YEI Indicator Data as outlined in the Data Collection Summary Action Plan which accompanied the Operational Programme/Commission Decision.

7. Information and Communications 2016

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

A steering group, chaired by the Department of Social Protection (DSP), undertook a review of the BTWEA scheme in 2016 and the ensuing report was published in February 2017.

The review focused on assessing the extent to which the BTWEA is meeting its objectives and identifying best practice. Overall, it found that the scheme offers effective support for people who are long-term unemployed and who are interested in self-employment as a route to entering, or re-entering, the labour market and therefore should be continued.

The report found that the scheme plays a useful role in supporting the development of new enterprises. Feedback from the customer survey with scheme participants indicated that the opportunity to support themselves and their families through self-employment was clearly welcomed in many cases. The assistance received via the scheme was highlighted in many of the responses; in particular, the combination of mentoring support and the financial assistance was seen as a key element of the scheme's effectiveness and success.

A counterfactual evaluation of BTWEA participants was also carried out as part of the review. This examined the likelihood of participants being in employment following participation on the BTWEA, versus a comparable group of non-BTWEA participants from the Live Register. It compared participants' employment outcomes to those of a matched comparison group six months after the end of participation on the BTWEA. Based on the comparison with Live Register jobseekers who did not choose the BTWEA as an option, the BTWEA participant was over twice as likely to be off the Live Register at this point. This trend continues when the two groups are examined 18 months after BTWEA payments have ceased.

Budget 2017 has introduced a change to the eligibility conditions for the BTWEA. From January 2017, jobseekers who take up self-employment are able to access the BTWEA after 9 months, down from 12 months currently. This will enable access to the supports of the BTWEA to those wishing to commence self-employment at an earlier stage of their unemployment. This provision was also extended to those in receipt of other qualifying payments (e.g. One-Parent Family Payment, Jobseekers Transitional Payment, Disability Allowance, and Farm Assist.). Following on from the BTWEA Review & the budget changes new revised guidelines for BTWEA will issue in 2017.

8. 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 and II (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).

Progress Report for PEIL 2014 - 2020

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.

ANNEX II

Result indicators for the YEI

These data shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and in the report to be submitted in April 2015 as specified in Article 19(3) of this Regulation. All data shall be broken down by gender.

(1) Common immediate result indicators for participants

"Participants"¹ refers to persons benefiting directly from a YEI intervention who can be identified and asked for their characteristics, and for whom specific expenditure is earmarked.

The immediate result indicators are:

- Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention*,
- Unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving*,
- Unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving*,
- Long-term unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention*,
- Long-term unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving*,
- Long-term unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving*,
- Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention*,
- Inactive participants not in education or training who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving*,
- Inactive participants not in education or training who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving*.

(2) Common longer-term result indicators for participants

The longer-term result indicators are:

- Participants in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months after leaving*,
- Participants in employment six months after leaving*,
- Participants in self-employment six months after leaving*.

The data for longer-term result indicators 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.

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 must be in line with the provisions of Directive 95/46/EC, 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).