

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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: *Youth Employment Initiative*  
Activity: **JobBridge**  
AIP Ref: **ESF 4.4**

#### 1. Activity description

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

JobBridge, the National Internship Scheme, is a Government initiative designed to offer jobseekers who have a live claim and have been in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance/ Jobseekers Benefit/ One Parent Family Payment/ Jobseekers Transitional Payment/ Disability Allowance/Blind Persons Pension/Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's contributory/non-contributory Pension/Deserted Wives Benefit/Deserted Wives Allowance or signing for Social Insurance Contribution Credits for at least three months (78 days) within the last six months the opportunity to enhance their current skills and develop new ones. JobBridge provides work experience placements for participants for a six or nine month period. Its aim is to assist in breaking the cycle where jobseekers are unable to get a job without experience, either as new entrants to the labour market after education or training or as unemployed workers wishing to learn new skills. Participation on JobBridge is wholly voluntary for both participants and host organisations.

JobBridge will provide at any one time up to 8,500 work experience placements for unemployed individuals in organisations in the private, public, community and voluntary sectors.

Participants in the scheme will receive through the Department of Social Protection, €52.50 per week (Internship allowance) on top of their equivalent existing social

welfare entitlements. No employer contributions will be allowed. JobBridge is part of the National Employment Action Plan (NEAP) and is being used by the Department of Social Protection as a means of activating unemployed people.

One of the specific actions outlined in the Irish Pathways to Work document to implement the EU council recommendation is to introduce to the existing JobBridge National Internship Scheme an additional 'developmental internship variant for the most disadvantaged young people'. The target cohort for First Steps are people aged 18-24, with low levels of education and, who may have experienced long periods of unemployment and possibly have additional barriers to employment.

The First Steps initiative was introduced in February 2015 and provides for an initial 1,500 placements of 3 months with an option to extend this to 6 or 9 months. Placements will be for unemployed individuals in organisations in the private, public, voluntary and community sectors.

## **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.

Due to an upturn in the economic environment there has been a negative impact on the scheme as a whole and employers are not seeking to offer placements. Following an independent external evaluation of the scheme which highlighted the positive outcomes from participation on same, the Minister for Social Protection announced the closure of JobBridge with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016. There are plans to replace the scheme with a more targeted programme during 2017.

With regard to the First Steps programme, the Department found it difficult to get employers to engage and offer placements during 2016 due to the cohort of jobseekers the scheme is targeted at. However, since the closure of JobBridge, interest in First Steps has increased slightly.

**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.

Upon review of the First Steps programme the JobBridge Policy unit made some changes to the scheme to allow a smoother roll-out of same whilst encouraging maximum participation levels.

The scheme was originally targeted at those under 25 who had been unemployed for 12 months, we have now added a criterion whereby if unemployed for less than 12 months and considered by a Case Officer to face a significant barrier in his/her efforts to find work a candidate can be considered for the First Steps programme.

The standard First Steps Programme was originally for 6 months we have now amended this to 3 months with the option to extend to a 6 or 9 month placement.

Previously a participant would work for 4 days per week with the option of meeting their Case officer on the fifth day. This is now a requirement as we feel that one-to-one reviews on a weekly basis are required given the target group. The Case officer will also meet with the Host organisation on a monthly basis to review its experience and to address any issues arising. This meeting may also be combined with the participant's meeting.

A critical success factor will be the young person's motivation. Therefore participation, although offered and encouraged, is now voluntary.

**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 10,440 participants aged under 25 on JobBridge 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 2014 and 2015 below.

# Progress Report for PEIL 2014 - 2020

ACTIVITY SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS		
Outputs and Results Indicator Targets	Measurement Unit	2015
<b>OUTPUTS</b>		
Number of participants aged under 25 on JobBridge <b>See Note above</b> <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex III Indicator CO06</b>	Number of YEI eligible participants	
<b>RESULTS</b>		
Number of participants who complete the intervention	Number of participants	
Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR01</b>	Number of unemployed participants	
Unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR02</b>	Number of unemployed participants	
Unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employed, upon leaving <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR03</b>	Number of unemployed participants	
LTU participants who complete the YEI supported intervention <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR04</b>	Number of LTU participants	
LTU participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR05</b>	Number of LTU participants	
LTU participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employed, upon leaving <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR06</b>	Number of LTU participants	
Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR07</b>	Number of inactive participants	
Inactive participants not in education or training who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship, upon leaving <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR08</b>	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 <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR09</b>	Number of inactive participants	
Participants in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months after leaving <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR10</b>	Number of participants	
Participants in employment six months after leaving <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR11</b>	Number of participants	
Participants in self-employment six months after leaving <b>*Figures should correspond with Annex V Indicator CR12</b>	Number of participants	

## Comments:

**This target is not now realistic due to the closure of the JobBridge Scheme in October 2016, and the expected time lapse that will be incurred before any potential new scheme/programme is introduced in its place.**

## 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 Communication 2016

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

### JobBridge Scheme

In November 2015, an independent external review of the JobBridge Scheme was commissioned by the Department. The aim of the review is to assess the suitability; relevance and effectiveness of the JobBridge internship programme to date, and will consist of an econometric review of the scheme.

In May 2016, the Minister announced his plan to replace JobBridge with a more targeted scheme later in the year because he believed that economic and labour market conditions had changed for the better since the scheme was introduced in 2011 and that it was time for a more targeted programme. The Minister asked the Labour Market Council to assist the Department in designing the new scheme. The Labour Market Council includes representatives from the INOU, ICTU, IBEC and the National Economic and Social Council.

In September 2016, the Indecon evaluation was completed, while the final report and recommendations were presented to the Minister for his consideration. The Labour Market Council also presented their proposals and recommendations for a new scheme to the Minister.

The Indecon Report indicated that JobBridge has been very effective in increasing the employment outcomes of the jobseekers. 79% of participants - about 38,000 people - have had some employment spell in since completing the internship, over 64% are still in employment and a further 10% are now involved in further education.

Compared to a matched group of non-participants, jobseekers who participated in JobBridge improved their employment outcomes by 12 percentage points – or 32%.

In October 2016, the Minister officially launched the Indecon Report along with the Labour Market Council proposals, while he also announced the closure of the JobBridge Scheme with effect from 21<sup>st</sup> October.

The JobBridge Scheme will be replaced with a new Work Experience Programme which will be launched in towards the end of 2017. This will allow the Department to wind down the existing scheme in an orderly manner and allow people currently participating on a JobBridge internship to complete their placement. It will also provide the Department with an opportunity to consult with key stakeholders on the design principles for a new work experience programme.

## 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"<sup>1</sup> 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\*<sup>2</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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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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"<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).