

ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning OP 2014-2020	
Priority Axis:	PRIORITY NO 1: Promoting the attainment of sustainable and quality employment through relevant upskilling measures and supporting labour mobility.
Thematic Objective	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
Investment priority	Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility
Specific Objective	To raise the level and market-relevance of job seeker's skills, in particular, for LTU and young, through further/higher education and training opportunities, and by facilitating their labour mobility
Activity title:	ETB Training for the Unemployed
Overall Objective:	The objective of the activity is to help unemployed persons or other job seekers to obtain employment or improved employment through enhanced skills and employability.
Certifying Authority:	ESF Certifying Authority
Managing Authority:	ESF Managing Authority
Intermediate Body:	SOLAS
Beneficiary Bodies:	Education and Training Boards

1. CONTEXT/ PROBLEM/ NEED BEING ADDRESSED:

Ireland's future development depends upon having a skilled workforce. Prosperity is also linked to having a high level of participation in the labour force. Ireland needs to achieve targets for participation and reduce unemployment rates. ETB skills training for the unemployed and job seekers helps to achieve these national objectives. Essentially, the activity will address the need to provide unemployed persons and other job-seekers with the skills they need firstly to gain suitable employment, secondly to be productive at work, and thirdly to progress in the future to different or more advanced work.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

The activity provides a range of training courses to meet the needs of unemployed persons or other job seekers. Training courses are provided at different levels and in a wide range of subjects. Some courses concentrate on generic, foundation skills whilst others provide skills specific to a particular occupation or set of tasks. Within the range of specific skills are courses in computer applications and software development, financial services, caring, driving, machine operation, electronics and retail.

3. ESF FUNDED ELEMENT OF ACTIVITY:

The ESF will provide co-financing for a range of training courses to meet the needs of unemployed persons or other job-seekers, including those in receipt of or eligible for jobseekers payments or credits.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERMEDIATE BODY:

In line with Article 123(6) of CPR 1303/2013, an administrative agreement between the Managing Authority and Intermediate Body for this activity will formally record in writing the responsibilities and tasks to be carried out by the Intermediate Body on behalf of the Managing Authority.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES	
A. Promotion of Equality between men and women	<p>ETB's will support the principle of equality for women and men as set out in the Regulations and, in particular, will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pursue the objective of equality between men and women and ensure its mainstreaming through the integration of a gender perspective at all stages of the implementation of the funds, including preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, • include specific actions to promote gender equality including engagement with structures with a function to lead on gender-equality issues, • take careful account of how the implementation of projects may affect women and men (gender mainstreaming), • make arrangements for training of relevant staff in the fields of gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming related to the implementation of the funds, in accordance with the general ex-ante conditionality • promote gender balance on the monitoring committees
B. Promotion of equal opportunities and non-discrimination	<p>ETB's are committed to equality which includes promoting equality and prohibiting discrimination in employment and in service delivery on nine grounds as defined in the Employment Equality Acts 1998-2011 and the Equal Status Acts 2000-2012. The nine grounds are gender (including gender identity), family status, civil status, sexual orientation, age, disability (including mental health), race (including skin colour, ethnicity and nationality), membership of the Traveller community, religion (including non-religious belief).</p> <p>ETB's will provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities. ETB's will also allow for positive action to promote or ensure equality through preferential treatment or positive measures which promote equality of opportunity for people who may be disadvantaged because of their circumstances, or to cater for their special needs.</p>
C. Sustainable Development	<p>As set out in the Partnership Agreement, the principle of sustainable development requires that the needs of the present be met without compromising the ability of future generations. This requires support for environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, sustainable management of natural resources, risk prevention and management are addressed through both dedicated funding streams and through their horizontal integration across the Operational Programmes.</p> <p>The Government sustainable development framework document is intended to provide a platform for the integration of sustainable development principles into policies across all sectors. The framework broadly follows the thematic approach of the <i>EU Sustainable Development Strategy</i> and sets out a wide range of measures that seek to ensure an improvement in Ireland's quality of life into the future. Among the areas listed are sustainability of public finances and economic resilience, sustainable consumption and production, conservation and management of natural resources, climate change</p>

	and clean energy, social inclusion, sustainable communities and spatial planning, education, communication and behaviour change, innovation, research and development, skills and training and global poverty and sustainable development.
--	--

6. INDICATORS and REPORTING

Reporting on the progress of each activity is required for the Annual and YEI Implementation Reports and the Programme Monitoring Committee. This reporting includes information on financial and non-financial indicators as outlined in the subsequent paragraphs.

High level Investment Priority and Priority Axis targets have been set as part of the output and results indicators and performance framework¹ tables included in PEIL 2014-2020. The *ESF co-funded* and *ESF + YEI co-funded tables* below detail the activity level indicators that contribute to the higher level targets in the OP. In order to meet the reporting requirements the data in the table below must be captured and reported for this activity.

¹ Additional information on the application of the performance framework and reserve are set out under Articles 20 to 22 of the CPR 1303/2013

In addition to the capturing and reporting on the data for the high level targets included in the OP, data on common indicators is also required. These indicators are detailed in the attached Annex I ² in line with the requirements of Article 5 of the ESF Regulation 1304/2013.				
An agreed action plan is in place for the fulfilment of this requirement by the end of 2016.				
Priority 1 (ESF co-funded)				
Outputs and Results Indicator Targets	Measurement Unit	Target Value 2023	Performance Framework Targets	
			Target Value 2018	Target Value 2023
OUTPUTS				
The number of participants on training or up skilling programmes for the Unemployed and Job seekers (i.e. cumulative throughput)	Number of participants	108,681	74,145	108,681
The number of LTU participants on training or up skilling programmes for the Unemployed and Job seekers (i.e. cumulative throughput)	Number of LTU participants	20,975	N/A	N/A
The number of youth (<25yrs) participants on training or up skilling programmes for the Unemployed and Job seekers (i.e. cumulative throughput)	Number of <25yrs participants	15,759	N/A	N/A
Certified Expenditure	€m	245.7	37.0	245.7
RESULTS				
Number of participants completing an education/training programme - The number of participants gaining certification	Number of participants	86,945	N/A	N/A
Number of LTU participants completing an education/training programme - The number of LTU participants gaining certification	Number of LTU participants	16,780	N/A	N/A
Number of youths (<25yrs) participants completing an education/training programme -The number of youths (<25yrs) participants gaining certification	Number of <25 yrs participants	12,607	N/A	N/A

7. FINANCIAL INPUT	
Budget (€/m.) ESF + National Contribution	€245.702m.
ESF Contribution €m	€122.851m
ESF Co-Financing %	50%
EU Intervention Field Code	102

² The information on each participant are set out in data fields included in section (1) of Annex I. The European Commission issued an ESF guidance note on the *Monitoring and Evaluation of European Cohesion Policy* in September 2014 and Annex C of this document includes definitions for common ESF/YEI indicators. A further guidance note on the completeness of data is to be issued by the European Commission to further clarify the requirements in this area.

8. CERTIFICATION ROLES		
Ex-Ante checks by:	Certified Claims Submitted by:	Submitted To:
	ETBs	SOLAS
SOLAS	SOLAS	Managing Authority DES
Managing Authority DES	Managing Authority DES	Certifying Authority DES
Certifying Authority DES	Certifying Authority DES	European Commission

9. PROJECT SELECTION	
Project Selection Process	<p>A detailed planning process is undertaken each year to determine the optimum allocation of resources. This includes a comprehensive consultative process between SOLAS and the Education & Training Boards (ETBs) and the consideration of national economic data where appropriate, trends in demand for programmes and other relevant data.</p> <p>When the annual allocations are agreed, amounts are transferred in the form of grants by SOLAS to the ETBs. The funding received by ETBs is spent either directly through the network of training centres or by contracted training with external private suppliers of training services. If training is to be delivered through external contracting, the suppliers are selected via a competitive tendering process.</p>
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects are selected for funding on the basis of their alignment with the FET annual plan which will in turn contribute toward the achievement of the long term FET Strategy. The selection of a particular supplier is based on a series of objective selection criteria in line with good practice competitive tendering.</p>
Composition of Project Selection Committee	<p>The proposed funding of training programmes (projects) are agreed by senior management via a consultation process between SOLAS and the Education & Training Boards and are ultimately approved by the SOLAS Executive and Board. Individual external contracted projects are approved by ETB management at the appropriate level.</p>

10. PUBLICITY/INFORMATION PLANS

Publicity/ Information Plans for the Activity	<p>Applications, brochures, promotional materials, social media and online services will publicise the appropriate funding source in line with national requirements and those of the relevant Implementing Regulation regarding information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning assistance from the Structural Funds as per the Managing Authority Guidelines.</p> <p>The following Regulations apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation No. 1303/2013 CPR (Articles 115-117) • Commission Implementing Regulation No. 821/2014 (Articles 3 and 4 and Annex II
---	---

11. IMPLEMENTATION CONTACT		
Body: SOLAS	Contact Name:	Financial Manager (David Dunne) Management Accounting / European Finance
Address: SOLAS Block 1 Castleforbes House, Castleforbes Road, Dublin 1.	Phone:	00353 -1-533 2404
	Email:	david.dunne@solas.ie

Common output and result indicators for ESF investments

(1) Common output indicators for participants

"Participants"³ 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*⁴

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.

³ 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).

⁴ 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).

(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.