

## Human Capital Investment Operational Programme (2007- 2013)

### Progress Report Template

*Each **Intermediate Body (IB)** in the HCI OP is required to submit a progress report at Activity Implementation Plan level to the Managing Authority twice a year as follows:*

*Spring: relating to the entire preceding calendar year*

*Autumn: relating to the period January-June of the current year.*

*This template sets out the reporting requirements for each Monitoring Committee meeting. The Progress Reports to be completed by each IB should be brief 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.*

**FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD:** January to December 2011

**PRIORITY:** No. 2 INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND REDUCING INEQUALITY IN THE LABOUR FORCE

**ACTIVITY NAME:** Disability Activation Project

**ESF No.: 2.2**

#### 1. Activity description

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

REPLY:

The strategic aim of this European Social Fund (ESF)/Department of Social Protection (DSP) co-funded initiative is to increase the capacity and potential of people in receipt of DSP disability/illness payments to participate in the labour market, based on a case management approach.

The target group is persons of a working age resident in the BMW area in receipt of an illness or disability payment from the Department of Social Protection.

#### 2. Significant Changes in the Operating Environment

Report on any significant changes in the operating environment that impact, either positively or negatively, on the capacity of the Activity to perform. Examples would include changes in Government policy, socioeconomic trends, etc. Where no significant change has occurred, this should be indicated.

REPLY:

The Mid-Term Evaluation of the ESF Human Capital Investment Operational Programme 2007-2013 was undertaken in 2011, and the future direction of the Disability Activation Project (DAP) was examined as part of the evaluation process. The period since the DAP commenced in 2008 has coincided with a number of significant policy and institutional developments relating to the Department of Social Protection generally and to responsibilities

regarding profiling and case-management, labour market activation and employment supports for people with a disability. These have been significant for the DAP as for its future.

Essentially the Department of Social Protection (DSP) has taken over responsibility, from FÁS, for Employment/Activation services, and for the development of a profiling and case-management approach for all people of working age in the context of the new National Employment and Entitlements Service (NEES).

DAP activity to date has piloted a case-management approach specifically for people with disabilities, and learning from DAP activity will help inform the development, for people with disabilities, of the NEES. While the DAP has piloted many initiatives that provide learning and improved the lives of participants, it was not considered that any new learning would be obtained from a continuation of the project in its original form. Hence an alternative approach – ‘Call for Proposals’ issued on a thematic basis – is now being implemented. The ‘Call for Proposals’ opened on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2012 and closed on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012. DSP is being assisted by Pobal in the management of the call. The call invited proposals from the BMW region across 4 strands:

- i. Improving Access to Employment for people with disability
- ii. Progression programmes for young people with disability
- iii. Support for Progression and retention of people with an acquired disability
- iv. Innovative Employer Initiatives.

Appraisal of proposals has now commenced. It is expected that projects will be up and running by the end of 2012.

### 3. Commentary on Activity-related progress

This section requires an overall commentary on actions within the Activity *for the period to which the report relates*. Inclusion of historical information should be avoided. Items of interest to the Monitoring Committee would include, for example:

- Any new initiatives or issues which arose *in the reporting period*;
- Any reports/studies either started or finalised/published *within the reporting period*;
- Any obstacles encountered.

Commentary should be confined to progress *within the area of Activity only*.

REPLY:

Summary: As outlined above, while DAP activity in the period 2008 to end 2010 piloted many initiatives that provide learning and improved the lives of participants, it was not considered that any new learning would be obtained from a continuation of the project in its original form. Some residual ‘original form’ activity was completed in first half of 2011. In this period 35 disability/illness payment recipients engaged directly with the Disability

Activation Project and were in contact with project staff on a one to one basis to complete personal progression plans and progress actions under their respective plans. 2 training programmes targeted specifically at people on illness/disability payments were organised and held, as follows:

Project name: 'CSI Longford'

Lead agency: Longford Community Mental Health:

The project ran for 12 weeks and comprised 3 modules (cooking, self-expression/development and computers). It targeted people currently recovering from mental health difficulties. By participating and sharing their experience it enabled clients to commence their return to the world of work/education/training. All the participants were in receipt of a disability/illness payment. They were recovering from depression, anxiety and some have an enduring mental illness. The clients were of working age and this programme provided an introduction that opened a window of opportunity for future training.

Project name: 'Castlerea Organic Garden Project'

Lead agency: HSE Mental Health Services

This 20 week programme was client driven and was developed from the participants request for further development of skills learned on the DAP Social Farming Course in 2010. The content identified was a natural progression from previous content. FETAC accreditation was integrated to promote better employment opportunities following the programme. Participants also had the option of availing of a short VEC 10 week gardening course for therapeutic or personal interest or opting in for the Fetac Level 3 programme to avail of an educational focus.

A total of 33 people participated in these programmes.

The DAP also supported a 'Disability Open Day', held in Athlone in July 2011. The purpose of the open day is to bring together service providers and service users to improve networking between providers, and provide an opportunity for service users to obtain information on the various supports available to them and/or their families. The project provided support for the event, made contact (by mailshot) with 4,000

Illness/Disability payment recipients in the Westmeath area to advise them of the open day, and project staff attended on the day.

In the main project activity in 2011 was concentrated in developing the future direction of the DAP and preparing for the issue of the Call for Proposals.

#### 4. Progress in relation to physical performance indicators and targets

Statistical information relating to the reporting period should be provided *in the format contained in the programme Activity Implementation Plan* for each individual Activity. A commentary on the main features of the statistical information should also be provided.

If your Activity does not lend itself to report on the Indicators by calendar year (Jan to Dec.), then please state this fact and complete the table on a mid-year to mid-year basis (e.g. July/Aug 2007 to June 2008).

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:							
Annual and Cumulative Indicators							
A. OUTPUT							
	Region	Current period/Year: (e.g.) Jan. – Dec. 2011 as applicable			Cumulative totals 2007-2011		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. Number of persons with Disabilities engaged with	BMW	27	8	35	522	562	1084
	SAE						
	NAT						
B. RESULT							
	Region	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. Number of Persons with Disabilities progressing to further education or employment	BMW	25	7	32	125	148	273
	SAE						
	NAT						
C. IMPACT							
	Region	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. Number (%) of participants who continue to engage in economic activity after 12 months (sample survey)	BMW	8%	14%	9%	20%	20%	20%
	SAE						
	NAT						

#### REPLY:

In the period Jan 2008 of the end of Dec, 2011, 1084 illness-related payment recipients engaged directly with the DAP. Of these, some 699 people have been in contact with project staff on a one to one basis to complete personal progression plans.

From commencement of project in January 2008 to end Dec 2011 22 training programmes targeted specifically at people on illness/disability payments, have been held. A total of 243 people have participated in programmes.

Employment and progression opportunities continued to contract and are limited. The various agencies involved in the project again experienced increased demand on all service, generally without any additional resource allocation. There is also greater competition for training and educational programmes due to the increased demand from people on the live register. Consequently from the aspect of the Disability Activation Project there is a difficulty with the availability of opportunities for progression of the target group be it into education/training or employment.

In addition, statistics on activity at NUTS III (i.e. Regional Authority) level should be provided in the format contained in the table below and should be gender disaggregated where appropriate. The nature of the indicators available at this level may vary from Activity to Activity (e.g. Number of people trained, number of companies assisted, etc). The type of indicator used should, therefore, be stated. Any significant development at NUTS III level should be commented on.

**NUTS III Activity Indicator Report for reporting period (e.g., Jan – Dec. 2011)**

<i>Activity: Number of persons case managed</i>			
<i>Indicator Used:</i>			
Region	Total	Gender break-down	
		Male	Female
<i>Border Region</i>			
<i>Midland Region</i>	35	27	8
<i>West Region</i>			
<b>BMW Total</b>			
<i>South East Region</i>			
<i>Mid East Region</i>			
<i>Dublin Region</i>			
<i>South West Region</i>			
<i>Mid West Region</i>			
<b>SAE Total</b>			
<b>National (BMW + SAE)</b>	35	27	8

Whilst IBs are free to provide *any other additional information* they feel is relevant, this should be provided *separately by way of an appendix* to the main progress report.

## 5. Progress with regard to expenditure

This section of the report relates to the performance of the Activity with respect to the Revised Forecast on the Financial Tables. Financial information should be provided for the reporting period, as well as cumulatively since the start of the OP, in the format contained in the tables at Annex 1.

A commentary should be provided on progress in relation to the annual and cumulative forecasts at National and BMW/SAE levels. Where cumulative expenditure to date is below 75% of forecast, Intermediate Bodies are required to provide reasons for the underspend along with proposals for remedial action.

REPLY:

Disability Activation Project (DAP) expenditure for 2011 amounted to circa. €28,000, 114% of the last forecast of spend (forecast @ €24,542 in Nov. 2011) for year ending 31/12/2011. Cumulative net spend at 31/12/2011 amounted to €921,175.06; this represents 98% of the revised projected spend. Hence spend is in line with revised profiles.

**Table 1 – Expenditure for the Reporting Period Jan. to December 2011 (€m)**

<b>HCI OP €m</b>	<i>Total Programme Forecast*</i>	<i>Total Programme spend</i>	<i>Expenditure as % of forecast</i>	<i>Total co- financed spend</i>	<i>EU Social Funds</i>	<i>National Public Co- financed</i>	<i>Private Co-financed</i>
<i>Source of information within financial tables</i>		<i>Column</i>		<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>
<b>Region</b>							
<i>Dublin</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>South East</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Mid East</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Mid West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>South West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>SAE Total</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<i>Border</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Midland</i>	0.24542	0.28017	114%	0.28017	0.14008	0.14008	0.00
<i>West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>BMW Total</b>	0.24542	0.28017	114%	0.28017	0.14008	0.14008	0.00
<b>National (BMW + SAE)</b>	0.24542	0.28017	114%	0.28017	0.14008	0.14008	0.00

**Table 2 – Cumulative Expenditure since January 2007 (€m)**

<b>HCI OP €m</b>	<i>Total Programme Forecast*</i>	<i>Total Programme spend</i>	<i>Expenditure as % of forecast</i>	<i>Total co- financed spend</i>	<i>EU Structural Funds</i>	<i>National Public Co- financed</i>	<i>Private Co-financed</i>
<i>Source of information within financial tables</i>		<i>Column</i>		<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>
<b>Region</b>							
<i>Dublin</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>South East</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Mid East</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Mid West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>South West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>SAE Total</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<i>Border</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Midland</i>	0.943000	0.921175	98%	0.921175	0.460587	0.460587	0.00
<i>West</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>BMW Total</b>	0.943000	0.921175	98%	0.921175	0.460587	0.460587	0.00
<b>National (BMW + SAE)</b>	0.943000	0.921175	98%	0.921175	0.460587	0.460587	0.00

\* See Financial Tables.

**6. Data On Participants In Programme Activity Implementation Plan**  
*(Commission Implementing Regulation 1828/2006 - Annex XXIII)*

**COMPLETE ALL THESE SECTIONS**

**6.1 NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER YEAR**

(People entering, those leaving, carry-over from one year to the next)

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Entrants: (a)	27	8	35
Leaving: (b)			
Carry-over to next year [ (a) less (b) ]			
<b>Total:</b>	27	8	35

**6.2 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER**

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Participants:	27	8	35

**6.3 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS ACCORDING TO STATUS IN THE LABOUR MARKET**

	Male:	Female:	Total:
<b>Employed</b> (Total number of employed, including self-employed)			
Self-employed			
<b>Unemployed</b> (Total number of unemployed including long-term unemployed)			
Long-term unemployed			
<b>Inactive persons</b> (Total number of inactive persons, including those in education, training or retirement, those having given up business, the permanently disabled, those fulfilling domestic tasks or other)	27	8	35
Inactive persons in education or training			
<b>Note: Employed + Unemployed + Inactive = Total number of Participants (by Gender)</b>	27	8	35

**6.4 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE**

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Young people (15-24)	2	0	0
Older workers (55-64)	7	1	8



## 6.5 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY VULNERABLE GROUPS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL RULES

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Minorities:			
Migrants:			
Disabled:	27	8	35
Other disadvantaged people:			

## 6.6 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	22	6	28
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	3	0	3
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	0	1	1
Tertiary education (ISCED 5 AND 6)	2	1	3

## 7. Horizontal issues

### Reporting on the Horizontal Principles

(1) Social Inclusion

(2) Gender Equality and (3) Wider Equal Opportunities

will be required only for the Spring Monitoring Committee meeting each year. The templates for reporting on the Horizontal Principles will be issued to IBs by the OP Managing Authority for completion in advance of Spring Monitoring Committee meetings.

SEE SEPARATE TEMPLATES

## 8. Compliance with EU and National policy

It is a requirement that all Programme Activity Implementation Plans comply with EU and national policy in areas such as procurement, competition, state aids etc. Confirmation of compliance should be formally recorded in the progress report with any deviations reported on specifically.

REPLY:

All DAP 2011 Programme Activity was compliant with EU and national policy in areas such as procurement, competition, state aids etc.

## 9. Added Value of ESF Interventions

Please supply a paragraph(s) explaining the benefits and giving examples of how ESF is adding value to national policies and projects, e.g. (the following are examples):

- an increase in the number of participants;
- the support of specific target groups or activities which are not covered by national programmes;
- the testing of new approaches, and/or
- the improvement of processes.

Please feel free to add any further information that might help understand how ESF adds value in Ireland.

REPLY:

There exists a sizeable and persistent gap in employment rates between people with disabilities and people without a disability. There is evidence that the current system of supports aimed at enabling people with disabilities access the labour market and employment is limited in its effectiveness. In the main national labour market activation programmes target ‘unemployed’ people (i.e. people on the ‘Live Register’): the capacity of ‘inactive’ people (e.g. people in receipt of illness/disability payments) in not actively targeted. The ESF/DSP funded Disability Activation Project has been instrumental in testing models that promote and support the progression of people with disability and in enhancing the coherence and connectedness of existing services for certain people with a disability.

As referred to above the period since the DAP commenced in 2008 has coincided with a number of significant policy and institutional developments relating to the Department of Social Protection (DSP) generally and to responsibilities regarding profiling and case-management, labour market activation and employment supports for people with a disability. These have been significant for the DAP as for its future. Essentially DSP has taken over responsibility, from FÁS, for Employment/Activation services, and for the development of a profiling and case- management approach for all people of working age in the context of the new National Employment and Entitlements Service (NEES). DAP activity to date has piloted a case-management approach specifically for people with disabilities, and learning from DAP activity will help inform the development, for people with disabilities, of the NEES.

## 10. Publicity

All ESF co-funded Activities are required to comply with Social Funds information and publicity requirements (see also Section 11 of the AIP). Confirmation of compliance should be formally recorded in the progress report with any deviations reported on specifically.

Specific **examples** of compliance with the requirements should also be provided HERE (e.g. articles in the local or national papers, media, Commission visits, launches, etc).

REPLY:

All letterheads, DAP business cards, and correspondence carry appropriate logos. Plaque, with required logos etc., was in place outside DAP premises. All trainees commencing on programmes were advised by DAP staff on ESF contribution to programme and backdrop with relevant logos is present and visible at each training venue.

## 11. Proposals for re-profiling of expenditure (where applicable)

Any proposal to reprofile expenditure should be contained in this section of the report and should include the rationale for doing so. Reprofiling of expenditure can only be carried out with the approval of the Monitoring Committee (and the European Commission depending on the nature of the reprofiling proposed).

REPLY:

There are no current proposals to reprofile expenditure. Spend is in line with current profile.

## 12. Proposals to amend Programme Activity Implementation Plans (where applicable)

Amendments to Activity Implementation Plans require the approval of the Monitoring Committee. Any proposal to amend an existing Activity Implementation Plan should indicate the precise change sought and the rationale for doing so. A copy of the proposed new Activity Implementation Plan should also be provided.

REPLY:

The AIP was revised in 2011; further revisions are not proposed.