

Gender and Wider Equal Opportunities Horizontal Principle Annual Reporting Template

For the period Jan. to Dec. 2011

1. Name of Activity: Disability Activation Project

No.: ESF Measure 2.2

2. What actions have taken place over the last year to incorporate the principle of gender and wider equal opportunities into the Activity?

(Examples: new objective created; new indicator developed; altered project selection criteria; collecting and/or reporting new data or collecting it in different ways; pursuing case studies; carrying out equality impact assessments; interpreting existing data in a different way; equality proofing exercises, promoting awareness and/or visibility of equality principle within activities, consultation with representatives of the wider equality grounds).

(a) Ongoing Actions:

The Disability Activation Project (DAP) continues to use methods of selection for engagement with the DAP that promote the attainment of an equal gender breakdown. However as engagement with the project on a totally voluntary basis the DAP has no control over the gender ratio who are willing to engage. The experience of DAP has continued to find that willingness to engage is predominantly determined by a person's health status at the time. 52% of those who engaged with DAP to date were female, 48% were male. Of those who participated in courses/programmes initiated and funded/co-funded by DAP to date, 46% were male and 54% were female.

Activity in 2011 was targeted at people referred from the mental health services. Educational attainment in this participant cohort was as follows: 82% had a primary or lower secondary education only, 6% had an upper secondary education, 3% had a post-secondary education and the remaining 9% had a third level education. Therefore the level of educational attainment for this group is low. The targeting of this cohort incorporates the principle of wider equal opportunities.

(b) New Actions:

A Disability Activation Project 'Call for Proposals' issued on a thematic basis is now being implemented. The 'Call for Proposals' opened on 13th Feb. 2012 and closed on 13th 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. It is expected that projects will be up and running by the end of 2012.

The 'Programme Performance Indicators' section (Section 3.12) of the application form advised applicant organisations that "The breakdown of the number of people participating should aim to reflect a gender balance of 50%Male / 50% Female."

The participant gender balance will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

3. Progress against Indicators (where established):

(This should be presented if possible in the tabular form laid out below)

Indicator	Baseline Position	Latest Position

None established

4. Taking account of the material presented under 2 and 3 above, what contribution is the measure making to the promotion of gender and wider equal opportunities?

Examples:

Gender:

Are participation levels of women or men increasing? Are different needs of women and men being addressed? Are different levels of access for women and men being addressed? Are differential outcomes for women and men being measured?

As stated above 52% of those who engaged with DAP to date were female, 48% were male. Of those who participated in courses/programmes initiated and funded/co-funded by DAP to date, 46% were male and 54% were female.

To date DAP has found no evidence that gender status plays a significant part in the choice of either gender to engage with the project or participate on a programme. The main barrier to participation appears to be the person's illness or medical condition.

Wider Equal Opportunities:

Are participation levels of wider equality grounds increasing? Are needs of wider equality grounds being more systematically identified and addressed by programme providers? By policymakers? Are differential outcomes for the wider equality grounds being measured?

The common denominator for participants is the fact that they have a medical condition which may act as a barrier to participation and progression. DAP activities are continually proofed to ensure that childcare/transport/medical etc. needs are accommodated to the greatest extent possible, and that the different needs of women and men are being met. Outcomes are measured not only with regard to gender but also with regard to educational attainments and age. Activity in 2011 was targeted at people with high progression support needs arising from mental health issues - educational attainment in this 2011 participant cohort was as follows: 82% had a primary or lower secondary education only, 6% had an upper secondary education, 3% had a post-secondary education, and the remaining 9% had a third level education, thus reflecting the relatively low educational attainment of this group.

5. Identify any issues arising that need to be drawn to the attention of the Managing Authority, the Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Representatives or other Departments.¹

None

6. Please feel free to attach any relevant additional material to this reporting template.

N/A

¹ The issues could relate to specific implementation concerns e.g. collection of data, or could relate to more general findings concerning the principle in question e.g. a particular policy in another department is obstructing your Activity from promoting the principle.