

Gender and Wider Equal Opportunities Horizontal Principle Annual Reporting Template

For the period Jan. to Dec. 2011

1. Name of Activity: Adult Literacy

No.: ESF 2.3

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

(a) Ongoing Actions:

The split for learners attending literacy classes within the VEC sector has been 60% women and 40% men for the last number of years. There was a slight improvement to 58:42 in 2011.

Separate Men's and Women's literacy groups have been developed and supported to reduce specific barriers that the two genders may experience.

Family literacy activities have been encouraged through the family literacy initiative. There is a higher level of female parents engaging in family literacy projects than men. In 2011, approximately 1,900 parents engaged in activities under the family literacy initiative. These groups are aimed at educationally disadvantaged parents in an attempt to break the cycle of educational disadvantage and to enhance their involvement in their children's education.

(b) New Actions:

None

3. Progress against Indicators (where established):

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

Indicator	Baseline Position	Latest Position
No of participants in Adult Literacy	35,000	56,797

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?

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 numbers of men availing of literacy tuition has increased at a higher rate than women in recent years. In the period 2000 to 2011, the numbers of men has almost quadrupled whereas the increase in the number of female participants has almost trebled. In 2011, the gender breakdown on the ITABE programme was almost equal (51:49 Male: Female).

Despite efforts to encourage increased male participation and address men's specific needs, there continues to be a higher level of females amongst Adult Literacy clients with the ratio of female learners to male learners continuing to be in the region of 60:40 for a number of years. In 2011, there was a slight improvement in the female:male ratio to 58:42.

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.