

Human Capital Investment Operational Programme (2007- 2013)

FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD: January to December 2011

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

ACTIVITY NAME: Adult Literacy

ESF No.: 2.3

1. Activity description

The objective of the Adult Literacy programme is to provide literacy services, for adults with low levels of literacy skills, on a nationwide basis. Literacy tuition includes reading, writing, spelling, numeracy and other basic education provision including basic IT, learning to learn and personal development. The measure provides for an integrated service to support access to employment and a return to lifelong learning to empower participants with the basic skills needed to participate in the social and economic life of their communities.

2. Significant Changes in the Operating Environment

No significant changes have occurred.

The change in the economy has seen increased unemployment particularly in the construction and other manual industries. The numbers availing of literacy tuition have been increasing annually for many years. The increased unemployment has not resulted in any significant increases, to date, in demand over the regular increases experienced in recent years.

3. Commentary on Activity-related progress

Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

Background

Ireland is participating in PIAAC which involves surveying adults (between the ages of 16-64) in their homes on a range of skills covering the interest, attitude and capacity of individual adults to access, manage, understand, integrate and evaluate various types of information (principally text and numerical) as well as to respond and communicate with others in the information age. It will focus on the key cognitive and workplace skills that are required for successful participation in the economy and society of the 21st century.

Ireland participated in the initial development phase of the programme in 2008. In 2009, Ireland agreed to participate in the main phase of the programme and completed

a field test in 2010 which was undertaken to inform the development and organisation of the main survey.

Current Status

The process of interviewing adults in their homes commenced in August 2011 and is due to run until March 2012. The CSO is administering the survey in Ireland and results are expected to be published in 2013.

The total cost of PIAAC is estimated at some €5 million over the period 2009 to 2013 with the bulk of the cost arising in 2011 and 2012 during the data collection phase.

Expansion of the Literacy Service

The adult literacy service has expanded significantly over the last decade resulting in learner numbers increasing steadily from year to year and are now well ahead of the target of 42,000 per annum by 2009. In 2010, over 54,000 participants availed of the literacy service and this figure increased to over 56,000 in 2011. There has also been a continuous increase in the number and variety of programmes on offer.

Family Literacy and Intensive Literacy Initiatives

The family literacy initiative under DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) - An Action Plan in Educational Inclusion and the Intensive Tuition in Adult Basic Education (ITABE) programme both continued in 2011.

The aim of the family literacy Initiative is to address parents' literacy skills to enable them to participate in their children's education. 13 projects were approved for funding of €196,000 in 2009, 15 projects were approved for funding of €230,000 in 2010 and 16 projects were approved for funding of €229,000 in 2011. The working group overseeing the implementation of the project prepared and circulated family literacy guidelines in 2009. The purpose of the guidelines was to assist practitioners in developing family literacy projects.

ITABE

ITABE is a 14 week programme provided nationwide through the VECs sector providing six hours of tuition per week rather than the two provided normally over a longer period. Funding of almost €2 million was provided for the Initiative in 2009, 2010 and again in 2011. The initiative is targeted at the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups in society. Over 2,000 learners attended intensive tuition under the initiative in 2009, 2010 and again in 2011.

Multi Media

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) organised its first TV series 'Written Off' in 2008. The success of this first series resulted in a second series being broadcast on RTÉ One television the following year in 2009. This was the catalyst for the commissioning of further television programmes highlighting and promoting literacy in Ireland. In 2010 a new series "Stuck for Words" was commissioned and achieved an average weekly viewership of 200,000 per episode, representing almost 20% of the

viewing public. The Department contributed funding of €550,000 towards the distance education element of 'Stuck for Words' project in 2010.

'A Story with Me in it' was produced and broadcast during 2011, six episodes were aired which showed six well known Irish authors being teamed up with six adults who have struggled with writing throughout their lives and encouraged them to write a story. Viewing figures in excess of 200,000 per episode were achieved, approximately one in five of the viewing public.

The Department continued its support of the use of multi-media to highlight and promote the literacy services available during 2011. €150,000 in funding was provided by the Department towards National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) multi-media projects. This funding level is being maintained in 2012.

NALA which is funded by the Department of Education and Skills has worked with An post to create a number of advertisements to raise awareness about adult literacy.

4. Progress in relation to physical performance indicators and targets

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. The number of participants in Adult Literacy Training Programmes	BMW	8,084	10,804	18,888	38,320	52,201	90,521
	SAE	15,536	22,373	37,909	67,367	99,227	166,594
	NAT	23,620	33,177	56,797	105,687	151,428	257,115
B. RESULT							
	Region	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. The number of participants successfully completing programme or achieving certification	BMW	2,152	2,620	4,772			n/a
	SAE	3,020	4,138	7,158			n/a
	NAT	5,172	6,758	11,930			43,897
C. IMPACT							
	Region	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. Number of participants who have progressed to other further education training and employment	BMW			2,444			n/a
	SAE			4,201			n/a
	NAT			6,645			52,354

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

<i>Activity: Number of persons trained</i>			
<i>Indicator Used:</i>			
Region	Total	Gender break-down	
		Male	Female
<i>Border Region</i>	9,563	3,967	5,596
<i>Midland Region</i>	4,335	2,013	2,322
<i>West Region</i>	4,990	2,104	2,886
BMW Total	18,888	8,084	10,804
<i>South East Region</i>	5,863	2,671	3,192
<i>Mid East Region</i>	5,761	2,415	3,346
<i>Dublin Region</i>	15,326	5,904	9,422
<i>South West Region</i>	5,700	2,336	3,364
<i>Mid West Region</i>	5,259	2,210	3,049
SAE Total	37,909	15,536	22,373
National (BMW + SAE)	56,797	23,620	33,177

5. Progress with regard to expenditure

Table 1 – Expenditure for the Reporting Period 01/01/2011-31/12/2011

HCIOP €m	Total Programme Forecast	Total Programme spend	Expenditure as % of forecast	Total co- financed spend	EU Social Funds	National Public Co- financed	Private Co-financed
Source of information within financial tables		Column		Column	Column	Column	Column
Region							
Dublin		7.327	N/A	5.850	2.925	2.925	0.00
South East		2.993	N/A	2.390	1.195	1.195	0.00
Mid East		2.303	N/A	1.839	0.919	0.919	0.00
Mid West		2.959	N/A	2.362	1.181	1.181	0.00
South West		3.135	N/A	2.503	1.251	1.251	0.00
SAE Total	9.524	18.717	197%	14.944	7.472	7.472	0.00
Border		3.426	N/A	2.735	1.367	1.367	0.00
Midland		2.000	N/A	1.597	0.798	0.798	0.00
West		2.205	N/A	1.760	0.880	0.880	0.00
BMW Total	2.000	7.631	382%	6.092	3.046	3.046	0.00
National (BMW + SAE)	11.524	26.348	229%	21.037	10.518	10.518	0.00

In relation to the figures included in Table 1 above, note:

- **Total co-financed spend** amounts are estimated by calculating the percentage of Total Programme spend that is eligible for co-financing. The percentage applied is based on the 2009 claim amounts as a percentage of the 2009 Total programme spend. The EU Social Funds amount is at the revised activity aid rate of 50%.

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

HCIOP €m	Total Programme Forecast	Total Programme spend	Expenditure as % of forecast	Total co- financed spend	EU Structural Funds	National Public Co- financed	Private Co-financed
Source of information within financial tables		Column		Column	Column	Column	Column
Region							
Dublin		36.671	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00
South East		15.063	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00
Mid East		13.100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00
Mid West		15.074	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00
South West		14.725	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00
SAE Total	60.100	94.633	157%	73.548	36.774	36.774	0.00
Border		17.904	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00
Midland		9.395	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00
West		10.854	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00
BMW Total	37.660	38.153	101%	30.088	15.044	15.044	0.00
National (BMW + SAE)	97.760	132.786	136%	103.636	51.818	51.818	0.00

In relation to the figures included in Table 2 above, note:

- **Total Co-financing spend for the period 01/01/2007-31/12/2009** are the actual claim amounts submitted. The EU Structural Funds amount is at the revised activity aid rate.
- **Total co-financed spend amounts for the period 01/01/2010-31/12/2011** are estimated by calculating the percentage of Total Programme spend that is eligible for co-financing. The percentage applied is based on the 2009 claim amounts as a percentage of the 2009 Total programme spend.
- It is anticipated that the actual claim amounts for the period 01/01/2010-31/12/2011 will be available for the Autumn 2012 Monitoring Committee meeting.

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)	23,620	33,177	56,797
Leaving: (b)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Carry-over to next year [(a) less (b)]	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total:	23,620	33,177	56,797

6.2 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Participants:	23,620	33,177	56,797

6.3 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS ACCORDING TO STATUS IN THE LABOUR MARKET

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Employed (Total number of employed, including self-employed)	7,049	8,716	15,705
Self-employed	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unemployed (Total number of unemployed including long-term unemployed)	10,476	12,001	22,477
Long-term unemployed (> 1yr)	5,413	6,300	11,713
Inactive persons (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)	6,095	12,460	18,615
Inactive persons in education or training	n/a	n/a	n/a
Note: Employed + Unemployed + Inactive = Total number of Participants (by Gender)	23,620	33,177	56,797

6.4 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Young people (15-24)	2,195	2,693	4,888
Older workers (55-64)	3,365	4,608	7,973

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

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Minorities:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Migrants:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Disabled:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other disadvantaged people:	n/a	n/a	n/a

6.6 BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	17,545	21,658	39,203
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	4,356	7,814	12,170
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	971	2,371	3,342
Tertiary education (ISCED 5 AND 6)	n/a	n/a	n/a

7. Horizontal issues

SEE SEPARATE TEMPLATES

8. Compliance with EU and National policy

It is the policy of the Department of Education & Skills to comply with all EU regulations in relation to procurement, state aids etc. Details of compliance requirements, both EU and national, are set out in letters from the Department that issue to VECs setting out the terms and conditions of the annual adult literacy funding approved for co-funded project/schemes.

9. Added Value of ESF Interventions

Participant numbers have increased dramatically during the period of this Operational Programme, with numbers increasing from just under 46,000 in 2007 to almost 57,000 in 2011.

Adult literacy, in addition to reading and writing, now extends to such basic education as numeracy, social and personal development, learning to learn and IT skills. Specific literacy tuition is offered in groups or one-to-one in a variety of modes.

Targeted and focused programmes have been devised and developed including ITABE which provides 6 hours literacy tuition per week to small groups, as well as family literacy projects, programmes for the deaf, Irish speakers, those with dyslexia and Travellers.

All of these programmes are intended to achieve the Department's goal of enabling individuals to achieve their full potential, to participate fully as members of society and to contribute to Ireland's social, cultural and economic development, thereby promoting a more inclusive society.

The integration of literacy into further education and training programmes is being progressed and a Plain English campaign encouraging the use of plain English by public and private sector organisations is being promoted by the National Adult Literacy Agency, who are funded by this Department.

10. Publicity

Material such as publications, leaflets, approval letters etc include acknowledgement of the ESF funding, EU logo and NDP logo etc.

Details of publicity requirements are set out in letters from the Department that issue to VECs setting out the terms and conditions of the annual adult literacy funding approved for co-funded project/schemes.

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

None

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

None