

# **Gender and Wider Equal Opportunities Horizontal Principle Annual Reporting Template**

**For the period Jan. to Dec. 2009**

**1. Name of Activity:** Equality for Women Measure 2008-2013

**No.:** ESF 2.8

**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:

Launched in 2008, the Equality for Women Measure is a positive action measure to promote equality of opportunity for women and to compliment the Government's National Women's Strategy 2007-2016. The Equality for Women Measure focuses on four main strands:

- Access to Employment;
- Developing Female Entrepreneurship;
- Career Development for women in employment; and
- Fostering women as Decision-Makers.

Strand 1 - Access to Employment was launched in Dublin Castle on 27 May 2008 by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Dermot Ahern, T.D. The Access to Employment strand aims to provide women (who are currently outside the labour market and in areas of socio-economic disadvantage) with the social skills, education, and training to enable them to enter or return to the labour market.

Following the economic downturn, the Measure was curtailed significantly during 2009

(b) New Actions:

Full funding in respect of Strand 1 of the Equality for Women Measure was notably reduced. Consequently, a total of 36 groups were offered €30,000 each in funding for 2009. This funding enabled groups to assist women from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop their skills and self-confidence to enable them to take part in mainstream education and training services and to enter the labour market. The aim is to break the cycle of disadvantage.

Two grant offers were rolled out in 2009 to further entrepreneurship projects under Strand 3 of the Equality for Women Measure. National Women's Enterprise Day is an event bringing together women entrepreneurs for a day of lectures, discussions, individual mentoring sessions and networking opportunities. 'Going for Growth' project is a mentoring programme for female entrepreneurs who have the capacity to grow and expand their undertakings.

### 3. Progress against Indicators (where established):

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

Indicator	Baseline Position	Latest Position
New actions	No baseline position	

### 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?

In 2009, the Equality for Women Measure provided funding to 36 groups throughout the country. Types of activities included:

- Projects supporting women in defining their skill needs and routes towards accessing training to meet these needs;
- Direct provision of education, training and self-development programmes to women not currently in employment;
- Outreach, information, mentoring and wider support programmes/services to support women's access into training and/or the labour market; and
- Projects offering practical advice and women-centred services and supports around job-seeking, accessing work and starting work.

### 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.<sup>1</sup>

None

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.