

**Minutes of the Human Capital Investment OP
Monitoring Committee meeting
held on the 24th January 2014
at Jurys Inn Hotel, Custom house Quay, Dublin 1.**

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vincent Landers, Dept. of Education and Skills

Attendance: See Appendix I – Attendance list

1. OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Vincent Landers, Chairman, welcomed the members of the Committee to the thirteenth meeting of the Human Capital Investment OP. He particularly welcomed Ms. Cornelia Grosser Deputy Head of Unit, DG EMPL, and Ms. Renate Schopf, DG EMPL, EU Commission to the meeting. He invited Ms Grosser to make introductory comments to the meeting. Ms Grosser summarised the progress made since the last meeting, the finalisation of the Regulations, and the acceptance of the AIR for 2012.

Apologies were received from Mr Brian Liggett, Special EU Programmes Body

2. AGENDA

The Chairman introduced the agenda and informed the meeting of a change in the order of the Agenda. He noted an amendment to the AIP item, i.e. ESF 1.1 was deferred to a later date and it was replaced by ESF 2.4. He sought adoption of the agenda by the Committee. No additional items for inclusion under AOB were proposed. The Agenda was adopted.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman sought the agreement of the Committee to the minutes of the last MC meeting held on the 10th July 2013. The Chairman stated that the proposal in the Minutes to have a presentation on Momentum had been deferred to the next meeting. He allowed a week for the submission of written comments to be provided to the Managing Authority and agreed to incorporate minor amendments where received. The minutes were adopted.

Matters arising:

AIR 2012 – the Annual Implementation Report for 2012 was submitted to the Commission by the end of June. The Commission deemed the Report acceptable without any additional clarifications or material being sought.

New Regulations: - the new Regulations had been finalised and published on the 20th December 2013.

Ex-ante evaluation: - the tender for the Ex-ante evaluation was awarded to Fitzpatrick Associates in December. Fitzpatrick Associates were due to make a presentation later on the progress of the evaluation to date.

VTOS: - the approval of the Monitoring Committee had been sought and received in December 2013 by written procedure to a proposal to include VTOS under the HCI OP, as a backstop to the BMW expenditure problem.

3. Presentation on the Ex-ante Evaluation

Mr Jim Fitzpatrick of Fitzpatrick Associates introduced the team who were working on the Ex-Ante evaluation of the ESF OP for 2014 to 2020 period. Mr Brendan Shiels then gave a brief overview of the Ex-ante Evaluation, its role (“to improve the quality of the design of Operational Programme”) and the objectives. He also outlined the regulatory requirements set out in the new regulations (2014-2020), the method and work programme and the timeframe for completion of the evaluation. The Chairman stated that a Steering Committee would be established to oversee the process and the final report.

4 Presentation on Future of Structural Funds

Ms. Cornelia Grosser, Deputy Head of Unit, DG EMPL, EU Commission, introduced her presentation on the future of the Structural Funds entitled “ESF 2014-2020 Policy Orientation”. The new Structural and ESF Regulations were adopted in December 2013. The priorities for the ESF for 2014 to 2020 were fully aligned with the Europe 2020 Strategy. She outlined the areas in the Regulations that were new from the previous round, such as the principle of non- discrimination (Article 7 of the CPR). The second part of the presentation related to the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). The YEI was meant to enhance and complement, not replace the ESF actions. The 2014-2020 programmes would focus primarily on results (monitoring and assessing results was in-built into the new Regulations and OPs). Another new area was the Performance Framework, which focussed on achievements and results. The full Presentation can be found on the ESF website at the following link:

http://www.esf.ie/en/hci_view_meeting.aspx?article=e37e1f45-2e23-443c-a165-8e5c90ded14a&meeting=58

The Chairman thanked Ms. Grosser for her presentation.

Mr Jim Deane, D/PER, Structural Funds Unit, provided an update to the Committee on the progress of the draft Partnership agreement between Ireland and the Commission in relation to the ERDF, the ESF, the Cohesion Fund, the EAFRD and the EMFF. The deadline for submission to the Commission of the completed document was the 22nd April 2014. An informal draft document had been sent to the Commission and comments had been received on that. He asked for cooperation from all the MA’s and IBs, etc. with the completion of the requirements set out in the Regulations to meet the

deadline. The Chairman outlined the information required from the ESF OP and its members on the completion of the performance framework, etc. The discussion was then opened to the floor for comments and contributions.

4 FINANCIAL TABLES and SUMMARY REPORT

Comment on HCI OP overall expenditure

The Chairman asked Mr William McIntosh, Head of the HCI OP Managing Authority to introduce the financial reports.

Mr McIntosh informed the Committee that a decision had been taken to include VTOS as part of the HCIOP 2007-2013. He referred the Committee to pages 2 and 3 of the Financial Summary Report, which showed the overall allocations, the expenditure to the end of June 2013 and the balance remaining to be spent for the OP as a whole. He noted the ongoing problem with expenditure in the BMW Region; the allocation to the BMW Region was 61% of the overall total with the S&E at 29%. The expenditure allocation for the S&E had been almost met. VTOS was introduced as part of the solution to the BMW problems. He outlined the claims process for to be adhered to for the 2014 claim drawdown.

Mr Tom Whelan, head of the ESF Certifying Authority outlined the requirements under the N+2 that had to be met in 2014 and what expenditure would be needed to meet that.

The Chairman stated that this rule would be changed for the new round of ESF funding to N+3. The financial reports and summary report were adopted.

5. Horizontal Principles

Social Inclusion Horizontal Principle

The Chairman welcomed the Review of the Social Inclusion Horizontal Principle presented to the Monitoring Committee by the Social Inclusion Division, D/SP. Mr Paul Kelly, Dept of Social Protection, presented his review of the twelve Social Inclusion Horizontal Principle reports for the Activities under the HCIOP. He provided some general overall comments on the reports and more specific comments were given for each Activity report. The Social Inclusion Review report can be found on the ESF website at:

http://www.esf.ie/en/hci_view_meeting.aspx?article=e37e1f45-2e23-443c-a165-8e5c90ded14a&meeting=58

6. AIPs for approval

A number of Activity Implementation Plans were amended and submitted for the approval of the Monitoring Committee. These AIPs were (i) ESF 1.3 BTEI, (ii) ESF 2.2 DACT, (iii) ESF 2.3 Adult Literacy, ESF 2.4 TLA, and ESF 2.5 Youthreach. The amendments relating to four were minor in nature. The DACT amendment related to a new round of projects being funded. In relation to the DACT AIP, the Equality Authority suggested that S 5.5 should be broadened to include the nine equality grounds. One AIP was deferred to a later date (ESF 1.1 Skills Training). The remaining AIPs were adopted.

10. A.O.B

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Monitoring Committee will be held in the BMW Region in the Spring of 2014.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, the hotel for its service, the sound engineer for his work and the Managing Authority staff the documentation and logistics for the meeting.

Appendix I

Attendance List MC Meeting 24th January 2014

Mr. Vincent Landers	Head of ESF; D/ES
Mr. Willie McIntosh	ESF/HCI OP; D/ES
Ms. Catherine Ryan	ESF/HCI OP; D/ES
Ms Fiona Reilly	ESF/HCI OP; D/ES
Mr Conor Shiels	ESF/HCI OP; D/ES
Ms. Cornelia Grosser	EU Commission, EMPL/F3
Ms. Renate Schopf	EU Commission, EMPL/F3
Mr Jim Deane	Dept. of Public Expenditure Reform
Ms Carole Sullivan	Equality Authority
Ms. Brid O'Brien	INOUE
Mr David Dunne	Solas
Mr Jim Walsh	Social Inclusion Division, DSP
Mr Paul Kelly	Social Inclusion Division, DSP
Mr Joe Gavin	Irish Youth Justice Service
Mr Jason McLoughlin	Irish Youth Justice Service
Mr Con O'Carroll	RDU, Dept. of Justice & Equality
Ms Susan Crilly	RDU, Dept. of Justice & Equality
Mr Gerard Roughneen	Dept. of Justice & Equality
Ms Pauline Moreau	GED, Dept. of Justice & Equality
Mr Patrick O'Leary	GED, Dept. of Justice & Equality
Mr Barry Guckian	BMW Regional Assembly
Ms Derville Brennan	S&E Regional Assembly
Mr Frank Vaughan	ICTU
Mr Jerry Murphy	Pobal on behalf of DECLG
Mr David Salter	ESF Audit Authority, DES
Mr Jim Fitzpatrick	Fitzpatrick & Associates
Mr Brendan Shiels	Fitzpatrick & Associates
Ms Sue Leigh-Doyle	Fitzpatrick & Associates
<u>Apologies:</u>	
Mr Brian Liggett	Special EU Programmes Body