

PEIL 2014-2020 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ESF PR 4.1

ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning OP 2014-2020	
Priority:	PRIORITY NO 4: Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)
Thematic Objective:	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
Investment priority:	Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee
Specific objectives:	To raise the skills and education levels of people eligible for support under YEI, by providing education, training, work experience and/or work opportunities, including support for self-employment
Activity title:	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) Scheme
Overall Objective:	To improve the self-employment prospects of young people aged under 25 who have been in receipt of a social welfare payment.
Certifying Authority:	ESF Certifying Authority Department of Education and Skills (DES)
Managing Authority:	ESF Managing Authority DES
Intermediate Body:	EU Funding Compliance Unit Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)
Beneficiary Body:	Employment Support Services DEASP

1. CONTEXT/ PROBLEM/ NEED BEING ADDRESSED:

Ireland suffered a major employment shock in the recession that followed the financial crisis of 2008. In the period 2008 – 2012 employment levels fell by about 340,000, or 16%, from just under 2.2m to just over 1.8m. This led to an increase in unemployment levels of over 220,000, from 107,000 to a peak of about 328,000 – a threefold increase. The overall unemployment rate increased from less than 5% to about 15% in early 2012; it has fallen somewhat since then, to 12.5% in 2013. In relative terms the reduction in youth employment levels was more pronounced than for the working age population generally. The youth unemployment rate, having averaged about 9% in 2005-2007, rose sharply to reach a peak of 33% in mid-2012, before falling slightly to average 26.7% in 2013.

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2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) is designed to provide a monetary incentive for those who are long term dependent on social welfare payments to engage in self-employment. The Scheme does so by allowing participants to retain a reducing proportion of their qualifying social welfare payment over two years (equivalent to 100% in year 1 and 75% in year 2).

All participants must be NEETs (Not in Employment Education and Training) as defined by the nationally agreed definition, under 25 at the point of commencement and meet the BTWEA scheme's eligibility as set out at the time. The enterprise officers of the local integrated development company and Department's Case Officers work closely with applicants to develop business plans, projections and ensure supports to individual start-ups to contribute to effective running of a new business ventures. In assessing viability, cognisance is taken of the demand for and supply of, the particular service at local level.

Those approved under the Back to Work Enterprise allowance scheme may also avail of additional financial support with the costs of setting up their business through the Enterprise Support Grant (ESG). The ESG can pay a total of €2,500 in any 24-month period. The applicant must be able to make a matching contribution of at least 20% to access grant support.

3. ESF FUNDED ELEMENT OF ACTIVITY:

Payments to BTWEA participants from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERMEDIATE BODY:

In line with Article 123(6) of CPR 1303/2013, an administrative agreement between the Managing Authority and Intermediate Body for this activity will formally record in writing the responsibilities and tasks to be carried out by the Intermediate Body on behalf of the Managing Authority.

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5. CONTRIBUTION TO HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES	
A. Promotion of Equality between men and women	<p>This is a self-selection scheme that aims to ensure that everyone under 25 has equal access in line with relevant equality legislation.</p> <p>The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection is committed to equality including promoting equality and prohibiting discrimination in employment and in service delivery on nine grounds as defined in the Employment Equality Acts 1998-2011 and the Equal Status Acts 2000-2012. Employment Support Services consider the nine grounds of equality which are gender (including gender identity), family status, civil status, sexual orientation, age, disability (including mental health), race (including skin colour, ethnicity and nationality), membership of the Traveller community, religion (including non-religious belief) when approving a Back to Work Enterprise Allowance participant.</p> <p>Employment Support Services accommodate all people under 25 who wish to avail of the scheme if they meet social welfare criteria. They also provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities and people who may be disadvantaged in line with equality legislation.</p>
B. Promotion of equal opportunities and non-discrimination	As above.
C. Sustainable Development	<p>As set out in the Partnership Agreement, the principle of sustainable development requires that the needs of the present be met without compromising the ability of future generations. This requires that support for environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, sustainable management of natural resources, risk prevention and management are addressed through both dedicated funding streams and through their horizontal integration across the Operational Programmes.</p> <p>The Government's sustainable development framework document is intended to provide a platform for the integration of sustainable development principles into policies across all sectors. The framework broadly follows the thematic approach of the <i>EU Sustainable Development Strategy</i> and sets out a wide range of measures that seek to ensure an improvement in Ireland's quality of life into the future. Among the areas listed are sustainability of public finances and economic resilience, sustainable consumption and production, conservation and management of natural resources, climate change and clean energy, social inclusion, sustainable communities and spatial planning, education, communication and behaviour change, innovation, research and development, skills and training and global poverty and sustainable development.</p>

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6. INDICATORS and REPORTING

Reporting on the progress of each activity is required for the Annual and YEI Implementation Reports and the Programme Monitoring Committee. This reporting includes information on financial and non-financial indicators as outlined in the subsequent paragraphs.

High level Investment Priority and Priority Axis targets have been set as part of the output and results indicators and performance framework¹ tables included in the PEIL OP. The *ESF co-funded* and *ESF + YEI co-funded tables* below detail the activity level indicators that contribute to the higher level targets in the OP. In order to meet the reporting requirements the data in the table below must be captured and reported for this activity.

In addition to the capturing and reporting on the data for the high level targets included in the OP, data on common indicators is also required. These indicators are detailed in the attached Annex I ² in line with the requirements of Article 5 of the ESF Regulation 1304/2013.

An agreed action plan is in place for the fulfilment of this requirement by the end of 2016.

Priority 4(ESF + YEI co-funded)

Outputs and Results Indicator Targets	Measurement Unit	Target Value 2023	Performance Framework ³ Targets	
			Target Value 2018	Target Value 2023
OUTPUTS				
Number of participants aged under 25 on BTWEA	Number of YEI eligible participants	540	N/A	N/A
Certified Expenditure	€m	4.6m	N/A	N/A
RESULTS				
Participants leaving BTWEA after the two years are still in self-employment (60%)	Number of participants	324	N/A	N/A
Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention	Number of unemployed participants	324	N/A	N/A
Unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving	Number of unemployed participants		N/A	N/A
Unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employed, upon leaving	Number of unemployed participants	324	N/A	N/A
LTU participants who complete the YEI supported intervention	Number of LTU participants	324	N/A	N/A
LTU participants who receive an offer	Number of		N/A	N/A

¹ Additional information on the application of the performance framework and reserve are set out under Articles 20 to 22 of the CPR 1303/2013

² The information on each participant are set out in data fields included in section (1) of Annex I. The European Commission issued an ESF guidance note on the *Monitoring and Evaluation of European Cohesion Policy* in September 2014 and Annex C of this document includes definitions for common ESF/YEI indicators. A further guidance note on the completeness of data is to be issued by the European Commission to further clarify the requirements in this area.

³ Selected YEI targets are part of the performance framework (if expenditure allocated to activity is > €10m) but not performance reserve in line with Article 20(a) of CPR 1303/2013.

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of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving	LTU participants			
LTU participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employed, upon leaving	Number of LTU participants	324	N/A	N/A
Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention	Number of inactive participants		N/A	N/A
Inactive participants not in education or training who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship, upon leaving	Number of inactive participants		N/A	N/A
Inactive participants not in education or training who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Number of inactive participants		N/A	N/A
Participants in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months after leaving	Number of participants		N/A	N/A
Participants in employment six months after leaving	Number of participants		N/A	N/A
Participants in self-employment six months after leaving	Number of participants	293	N/A	N/A

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7. FINANCIAL INPUT	
Budget (€/m.) ESF + National Contribution	€4.65m
Priority 4 – YEI +ESF Contribution €m	€3.1m (YEI €1.55m + ESF €1.55m).
Priority 4 - ESF + YEI Co- Financing %	66.67%
EU Intervention Field Code	103

8. CERTIFICATION ROLES		
Ex-Ante checks by:	Certified Claims Submitted by:	Submitted To:
Employment Support Services & Operational Units DEASP	Employment Support Services DEASP	EU Funding Compliance Unit DEASP
EU Funding Compliance Unit DEASP	EU Funding Compliance Unit DEASP	Managing Authority DES
Managing Authority DES	Managing Authority DES	Certifying Authority DES
Certifying Authority DES	Certifying Authority DES	European Commission

9. PROJECT SELECTION	
Project Selection Process	<p>This activity is focused on participants who wish to start up their own business and is delivered directly by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. As such, there is no project selection process involved in the delivery of the activity.</p> <p>Participants must be NEETs (Not in Employment Education and Training) as defined by the nationally agreed definition, under 25 at the point of commencement and meet the BTWEA scheme's eligibility as set out at the time.</p>
Project Selection Criteria	Not applicable
Composition of Project Selection Committee	Not applicable

10. PUBLICITY/INFORMATION PLANS	
Publicity/ Information Plans for the Activity	Applications, brochures, promotional materials, social media and online services will publicise the appropriate funding source in line with national requirements and those of the relevant Implementing Regulation regarding information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning assistance from the Structural Funds, as per the Managing Authority Guidelines.

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	<p>The following Regulations apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulation No. 1303/2013 CPR (Articles 115-117)• Commission Implementing Regulation No. 821/2014 (Articles 3 and 4 and Annex II)
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11. IMPLEMENTATION CONTACT		
Body: EU Funding Compliance Unit Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Contact Name:	David Waters
Address: Gandon House Amiens Street Dublin 1.	Phone:	000 353 1 6732346
	Email:	David.Waters@welfare.ie

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ANNEX I

Common output and result indicators for ESF investments

(1) Common output indicators for participants

"Participants"⁴ refers to persons benefiting directly from an ESF intervention who can be identified and asked for their characteristics, and for whom specific expenditure is earmarked. Other persons shall not be classified as participants. All data shall be broken down by gender.

The common output indicators for participants are:

- unemployed, including long-term unemployed*,
- long-term unemployed*,
- inactive*,
- inactive, not in education or training*,
- employed, including self-employed*,
- below 25 years of age*,
- above 54 years of age*,
- above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long-term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training*,
- with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)*,
- with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)*,
- with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)*,
- participants who live in jobless households*,
- participants who live in jobless households with dependent children*,
- participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children*,
- migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)**,
- participants with disabilities**,
- other disadvantaged**.

The total number of participants will be calculated automatically on the basis of the output indicators.

These data on participants entering an ESF supported operation shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(1) and (2) and Article 111(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

- homeless or affected by housing exclusion*,
- from rural areas⁵

⁴ Managing authorities shall establish a system that records and stores individual participant data in computerised form as set out in Article 125 (2) (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The data processing arrangements put in place by the Member States shall be in line with the provisions of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31), in particular Articles 7 and 8 thereof. Data reported under the indicators marked with * are personal data according to Article 7 of Directive 95/46/EC. Their processing is necessary for compliance with the legal obligation to which the controller is subject (Article 7(c) of Directive 95/46/EC). For the definition of controller, see Article 2 of Directive 95/46/EC. Data reported under the indicators marked with ** are a special category of data according to Article 8 of Directive 95/46/EC. Subject to the provision of suitable safeguards, Member States may, for reasons of substantial public interest, lay down exemptions in addition to those laid down in Article 8(2) of Directive 95/46/EC, either by national law or by decision of the supervisory authority (Article 8(4) of Directive 95/46/EC).

⁵ The data shall be collected at the level of smaller administrative units (local administrative units 2), in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1).

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The data on participants under the two above indicators will be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The data shall be collected based on a representative sample of participants within each investment priority. Internal validity of the sample shall be ensured in such a way that the data can be generalised at the level of investment priority.

(2) Common output indicators for entities are:

- number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations,
- number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment,
- number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level,
- number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy).

These data shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(1) and (2) and Article 111(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

(3) Common immediate result indicators for participants are:

- inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving*,
- participants in education/training upon leaving*,
- participants gaining a qualification upon leaving*,
- participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving*,
- disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving**.

These data shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(1) and (2) and Article 111(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. All data shall be broken down by gender.

(4) Common longer-term result indicators for participants are:

- participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving*,
- participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving*,
- participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving*,
- disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving**.

These data shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. They shall be collected based on a representative sample of participants within each investment priority. Internal validity of the sample shall be ensured in such a way that the data can be generalised at the level of investment priority. All data shall be broken down by gender.

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ANNEX II

Result indicators for the YEI

These data shall be provided in the annual implementation reports as specified in Article 50(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and in the report to be submitted in April 2015 as specified in Article 19(3) of this Regulation. All data shall be broken down by gender.

(1) Common immediate result indicators for participants

"Participants"⁶ refers to persons benefiting directly from a YEI intervention who can be identified and asked for their characteristics, and for whom specific expenditure is earmarked.

The immediate result indicators are:

- Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention*,
- Unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving*,
- Unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving*,
- Long-term unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention*,
- Long-term unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving*,
- Long-term unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving*,
- Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention*,
- Inactive participants not in education or training who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving*,
- Inactive participants not in education or training who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving*.

(2) Common longer-term result indicators for participants

The longer-term result indicators are:

- Participants in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months after leaving*,
- Participants in employment six months after leaving*,
- Participants in self-employment six months after leaving*.

The data for longer-term result indicators shall be collected based on a representative sample of participants within each investment priority. Internal validity of the sample shall be ensured in such a way that the data can be generalised at the level of investment priority.

⁶ Managing authorities shall establish a system that records and stores individual participant data in computerised form as set out in Article 125 (2) (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The data processing arrangements put in place by the Member States must be in line with the provisions of Directive 95/46/EC, in particular Articles 7 and 8 thereof. Data reported under the indicators marked with * are personal data according to Article 7 of Directive 95/46/EC. Their processing is necessary for compliance with the legal obligation to which the controller is subject (Article 7(c) of Directive 95/46/EC). For the definition of controller, see Article 2 of Directive 95/46/EC. Data reported under the indicators marked with ** are a special category of data according to Article 8 of Directive 95/46/EC. Subject to the provision of suitable safeguards, Member States may, for reasons of substantial public interest, lay down exemptions in addition to those laid down in Article 8(2) of Directive 95/46/EC, either by national law or by decision of the supervisory authority (Article 8(4) of Directive 95/46/EC).