Communications
- To examine and approve the Communication Strategy and any amendments thereto (Art 110(2)(d)).
- To examine the implementation of the Communications Strategy (Art 110(1)(c)).
- To give opinions on planned activities (Art 116(3)).

Programme Amendment
- To examine and approve any proposal of the ESFMA to amend the OP (Arts 49(3), 110(2)(e)).

Major Projects and Joint Action Plans
- To examine the implementation of Major Projects and Joint Action Plans (Arts 110(1)(d) and (e)). There are no such Projects or Plans within the PEIL at present.

Horizontal Principles
- To examine actions to promote equality between men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities (Art 110(1)(f)) and actions to promote sustainable development (Art 110(1)(g)).

Financial Instruments
- To examine financial instruments (Art 110(1)(j)). The PEIL has not availed of financial instruments to date. If financial instruments were to be implemented, an ex-ante assessment to establish market failures would be submitted to the PMC (Art 37(3)).
Legal Basis and Role of the PMC

Article 47 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (CPR) provides for the establishment of a PMC within 3 months of the Commission’s notification of its adoption. The Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL), which is the ESF Operational Programme in Ireland for the 2014-2020 period, was adopted on 25th February 2015 and the first PMC meeting was held on 24th April 2015.

The role of the PMC is to monitor the implementation and performance of the PEIL. The PMC draws up and adopts its Rules of Procedure in accordance with Article 47(2) and Article 11 of Commission Delegated Regulation 240/2014. The PEIL PMC’s Rules of Procedure are available at www.esf.ie.

The membership of the PMC includes representatives of the relevant national authorities and intermediate bodies in accordance with Article 48 and representatives of partners set out in Article 5, i.e. representatives of national and local authorities, economic and social partners, civic society, environmental, social inclusion, non-discriminatory and gender equality bodies. The European Commission participates in the work of the PMC in an advisory capacity and details of the membership are set out in the Rules of Procedure.

While the PMC is required to meet at least annually (Art 49(1)), in practice it meets biannually.

The PMC is chaired by the Head of the ESF/EGF Policy and Operations Unit and the Secretariat is provided by the ESF Managing Authority (ESFMA). Once approved by the PMC, the minutes of PMC meetings are published on www.esf.ie.

Responsibilities of the PMC

The specific responsibilities of the PMC, as set out in the EU regulations, are set out under the following thematic headings. The regulatory references are to the CPR, unless indicated otherwise.

Monitoring and Reviewing

- To review implementation of the PEIL and progress made towards achieving its objectives (Art 49(1)). The PMC has regard to financial data, common and programme-specific indicators and the milestones defined in the performance framework referred to in Article 21(1), and, where relevant, the results of qualitative analyses.
- To examine all issues that affect the performance of the PEIL including any performance reviews (Arts 49(2) and 110(1)(a)).
- To make any observations it sees fit regarding implementation of the PEIL including actions related to the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries and monitor actions taken as a result of its observations (Art 49(4)).

As Ireland availed of the ex-ante conditionality relating to statistics and the monitoring of result indicators, the PMC examines progress to fulfil the requirements (Art 110(1)(h)).

To examine the implementation of the YEI and the progress made towards achieving its objectives (Art 19(1) of ESF Regulation 1304/2013).

Activity Selection

- To examine and approve the methodology and criteria used for selection of operations (Art 110(2)(a)). An operation is a project, contract, action or group of projects that contributes to the objectives of a Programme priority. The PMC approves the inclusion of activities within priorities and approves the specific Activity Implementation Plan for each activity.
- To consent to any proposed operation that is to take place outside the programme area (i.e. Ireland) but within the European Union (Art 70(2)(c)).

Reporting

- To examine and approve the Annual and Final Implementation Reports (Art 110(2)(b)).

Evaluation

- To examine and approve the Evaluation Plan and any amendments thereto (Art 110(2)(c)).
- To monitor implementation of the Evaluation Plan, examine evaluations undertaken and monitor follow-up of evaluation findings (Arts 56(3), 110(1)(b)).
- To make observations to the ESFMA regarding the evaluation of the programme and monitor actions taken as a result of its observations (Art 49(4)).