



2008-2010 ESF Co-financing Programme



Guide to Participant Eligibility

South East Region.

Introduction

This note sets out the eligibility conditions for participants wishing to access the ESF Co-Financing Programme in the South East in 2008/2010. The note looks at the overall eligibility for ESF as defined by the EU and also sets out the additional criteria that need to be established by providers under each individual specification

Eligible Participants- General Eligibility Rules

To be eligible for support from the European Social Fund an individual must be;

- Legally resident in the UK (or Gibraltar for those projects submitted by the Government of Gibraltar) **and**
- Able to take paid employment in a European Union member state

Exceptions

Special rules apply to the following groups and further guidance, if needed, can be found on the LSC ESF website http://www.esf.gov.uk/docs/manual1_final

- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Citizens of those states that joined the EU on 1 May 2004
- Romanian and Bulgarians citizens
- People in prison

Individual Project Criteria

ADULTS

SE/A/SO1- Learning as Stepping Stone to Employment

Aim- To support the low-skilled and those who have been out of education and learning for a considerable time to re-enter education and learning as a stepping stone to employment.

Target groups and priorities- Participants must be low-skilled workless adults aged 19 years and over and be either

- Those with parenting responsibilities **or**
- Returners to the workplace **or**
- Individuals at risk of mental health problems **or**
- On incapacity benefit and being prescribed learning by the GP as part of the treatment for a medical condition which is preventing them working and fulfilling their potential in life

Specific targets

- 22% with a disability or health condition
- 12% who are lone parents
- 18% are aged 50 and above
- 11% are from an ethnic minority
- 51% are female

SE/A/SO2- Encouraging employers to recruit the hardest to help

Aim- To encourage employers to increase recruitment opportunities for offenders and ex-offenders, older workers, and people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Target groups and priorities- On the day before they start the ESF programme participants must be unemployed or economically inactive **and either**

- Be an offender or ex-offender aged 19 and over **or**
- Have learning difficulties and /or disabilities or be recovering from mental illness, accident or critical illness (such as stroke or heart attack) aged 10 or over **or**
- Be aged 50 years or over

Specific targets

- 30% offenders or ex-offenders
- 30% adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- 30% aged 50 years and over

SE/A/SO3- Sector Routeways to Employment

Aim- To develop sector specific routeways for workless adults to progress into employment

Target groups and priorities- All workless adults are eligible to participate but LSC is keen to target the following key groups

- Ex-offenders
- Those with LLDD
- Those from ethnic minorities
- Those with registered disabilities
- Carers
- Single parents
- Those on incapacity benefits
- Those aged 50 and over

Specific targets

- 60% unemployed
- 40% economically inactive
- 22% with disability or health condition
- 12% lone parents
- 18% aged 50 and over
- 11% women

EMPLOYER RESPONSIVENESS

SE/E/S01- Skills development at Level 2 and 3

Aim- To deliver sector specific training and development opportunities at levels 2 and 3 for employees not eligible for support through Train to Gain or do not have access to Learner accounts or Apprenticeships 19+. There should be a focus on priority groups and those employed in small and medium sized organisations (SMEs)

Target groups and priorities- employees in the following groups and **in at least the minimum engagement rates**

- People with disabilities or health conditions -15%
- Older workers aged 50 and above- 20%
- People from ethnic minorities- 9%
- Females- 50%
- Men and women who are employed in non-traditional sectors (for example men in early years and childcare or women in engineering)

SE/E/S02- Basic Skills for Work

Aim- To develop and support a skilled and adaptable workforce through a holistic approach to skills for work and ESOL for Work in the workplace. There should be a focus on priority groups and those employed in small and medium sized organisations (SMEs)

Target groups and priorities- Individuals aged 16 and over who are employed in small and medium-sized organisations in any sector, and are not eligible for Train to Gain or Apprenticeships or have access to Learning Accounts. Participation should be prioritised as follows

- People with disabilities or health conditions- 15%
- People aged 50 and over- 20%
- People from ethnic minorities- 9%
- Females- 50%

YOUTH

SE/Y/S01- Tailored Training and Employment Support for Hard-to-Reach Groups

Aim- To provide personal development and employability skills to young people aged 14 to 19 who, because of their more complex or personal needs, have not achieved their full potential

Target groups and priorities- Young people aged 14 to 19 who are at risk of becoming NEET or who have left compulsory education and are not in employment, full or part time education or training (NEET). Recruitment must place a particular emphasis on young people in the following groups

- Young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities or health conditions with a particular focus on those with behavioural, emotional or social difficulties (BESD)
- Teenage parents

- Truants
- Looked after children and those leaving care
- Offenders or ex-offenders
- Travellers

SE/Y/SO2- Engaging Vulnerable Young People

Aim- To prepare vulnerable young people, aged 14 to 16, at risk of becoming NEET, for transition to working life and to help them to access further learning or training. There are two elements to the programme

Target groups and priority

Element 1- Pre-engagement Programme

Young people aged 14-16 who have been identified as being at risk of becoming NEET when they leave school

Element 2- Summer Transitions Programme

Young people in Key Stage 4, including the summer following their completion of compulsory education, who are NEET or potentially NEET.

Both elements should prioritise the following vulnerable young people

- Teenage parents
- Truants
- Young people with behavioural difficulties
- Young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Looked after children or care leavers
- Offenders or ex-offenders
- Travellers
- Young people educated other than at school

SE/Y/SO3- Work Ready Award- Construction

Aim- To improve the work readiness skills of 14 to 19 year olds who are interested in entering the construction sector, to improve their prospects of achievement and employment in that sector

Target groups and priorities- Young people aged 14 to 16 who are at risk of becoming NEET or young people aged 16 to 19 who are NEET and would like to progress into employment in the construction industry