



**European Union**

European Structural  
and Investment Funds

European Structural and Investment  
Funds  
2014 - 2020

Growth Programme for England

## ESI Funds Growth Programme Board

### Annual Implementation Report Update

#### **Purpose:**

To update the Growth Programme Board (GPB) on Annual Implementation Reports for the 2014-20 ESI Fund Programmes and agree how the ERDF and ESF 2016 reports will be signed off by the Board.

#### **Recommendations:**

The Board agrees for the 2016 ERDF and ESF AIRs to be approved by written procedure.

#### **Summary:**

Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) are one of the key elements for monitoring progress of the ESI Fund Programmes. All ESI Fund Programmes are required to provide an AIR the first of which is due in 2016. For ERDF and ESF the 2016 report needs to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.

All AIRs shall set out key information, both financial and narrative, on implementation of the programme and its priorities. As the 2016 report covers activity up until 2015 then there is no financial data to include so this year's reports are likely to be relatively minimal.

The ERDF and ESF AIRs need to be approved by the PMC prior to their submission to the Commission. Given the 31<sup>st</sup> May deadline for submitting the 2016 report it is proposed that the PMC approve the 2016 reports through a written procedure.

The AIR report to be submitted in 2017 shall set out and assess the information referred to above and progress made towards achieving the objectives of the programme. In addition, the AIR to be submitted in 2019 and the final AIR for the ESI Funds shall include information on, and assess progress towards, achieving the objectives of the programme and its contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Commission can provide comments on these reports once submitted and seek further information if required.

The annual and final AIRs, as well as a summary for citizens of their content, shall be made available to the public.

#### **Background**

1. All ESI Fund Programmes need to provide an Annual Implementation Report. There are fund specific rules for what needs to be covered and when reports

need to be submitted. For ERDF and ESF reports normally have to be submitted on the 31<sup>st</sup> May each year. In 2017 and 2019 this deadline is extended to 30<sup>th</sup> June. The ERDF and ESF AIRs need to be approved by the Board prior to their submission to the Commission.

2. As set out in the Regulations all reports shall set out key information on implementation of the programme and its priorities by reference to:
  - the financial data;
  - common and programme-specific indicators;
  - quantified target values, including changes in the value of result indicators where appropriate; and
  - beginning from the annual implementation report to be submitted in 2017, the milestones defined in the performance framework.
3. Each annual report will also set out:
  - a synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year; and
  - any issues which affect the performance of the programme, and the measures taken to address them.
4. The AIR to be submitted in 2016 may also set out, where relevant, actions taken to fulfil ex ante conditionalities if required.
5. The annual implementation reports submitted in 2017 and 2019 shall also set out:
  - progress in the implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations;
  - the results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy; and
  - the involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme.
6. The annual implementation reports submitted in 2017 and 2019 may, depending on the content and objectives of operational programmes, set out information and assess the following:
  - progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including development of regions facing demographic challenges and permanent or natural handicaps, sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the operational programme;
  - progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the Funds;
  - progress in the implementation of any interregional and transnational actions;
  - where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies;
  - the specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to prevent discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with

disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the operational programme and operations;

- actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with Article 8;
- progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation, where appropriate;
- progress in the implementation of measures to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of poverty, discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities and persons with disabilities, long term unemployed and young people not in employment, including, where appropriate, the financial resources used.

10 March 2016

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