



European Union

European
Social Fund

2014-2020 ESF Programme

Action Note

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Clarification on attributing qualification/ qualification credit results to ESF and match funded activity

Who

All ESF beneficiary organisations, European Social Fund Division & Greater London Authority.

What

In response to a request for clarification regarding attributable results, this action note confirms the need for immediate results to be attributable to the ESF/match activity being funded and delivered.

Cleared

Steve Spendlove

Action

ESF operations must ensure that any immediate results that they claim are directly attributable to the ESF/match activity actually being delivered or funded by the operation.

In the case of the immediate results relating to qualifications/credits, only qualifications/credits which have been achieved as a result of specific ESF funded activity designed to help people achieve such qualifications should be counted. The following examples show how such attribution can be made:

- ESF operation delivers a course/modules which is related to and leads to the participant achieving a qualification/unit/credit towards qualification;
- ESF operation pays an `external' college/provider to deliver a course to a participant which leads to the participant obtaining a qualification (attributable to the paying ESF operation only).

The points listed below illustrate some examples of the type of situations where immediate qualification results are not directly attributable to specific ESF support and therefore should not be claimed as immediate ESF results:

- Operation pays bus fare to a participant to attend a course delivered elsewhere (and paid for by different organisation unrelated to the ESF operation) and participant achieves a qualification;
- Operation inspires individual to take a course elsewhere and obtain qualification whilst not paying for it;
- Participant achieves a qualification as a result of attending an evening class (but the evening class is not funded/delivered by the ESF operation).

The examples above are not exhaustive but serve to illustrate that immediate results need to be directly attributable to the specific type of support provided under ESF/match funding and cannot be claimed as result of providing other less related/less-specific forms of support (however helpful such support may have been).

The above guidance is **in addition to** programme guidance on indicator definitions, data evidence requirements for eligibility and results and PDS guidance published on Gov.UK.

Contact

For questions please email esf.2014-202@dwp.gov.uk