



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds

**European Structural and Investment
Funds
2014 - 2020**

Growth Programme for England

ESI Funds Growth Programme Board

ESF Scoring Framework

Purpose:

To seek Growth Programme Board approval of the ESF Scoring Framework (Version 8).

Recommendation(s):

GPB members are asked to note and approve the proposed updates to the ESF Scoring Framework.

A copy of the final draft of the ESF Scoring Framework (Version 8) is attached to this note.

Summary:

1. Background

A new, Single-Stage Full Application approach was put in place in the ESF Programme for all new open calls published from 29th October 2018 onwards.

The Growth Programme Board approved this change in approach at their meeting on 18th December 2018 and this approval was documented in paragraph 16 of the meeting minutes attached at Annex 1 of this paper.

The same minutes are also published here on GOV.UK -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/growth-programme-board#past-meeting-documents>

The introduction of the Single-Stage Full Application approach did not change the actual methodology used to score new and existing Full Applications (under a dual-stage or a single-stage process).

That said, in March 2019 we sought Growth Programme Board approval for amendments to the ESF Scoring Framework document to explain more clearly how the framework was being applied to Single-Stage Full Applications as well as the final, residual dual-stage applications still being appraised at that stage.

The Growth Programme Board approved the updated ESF Scoring Framework document at their meeting on 20th March 2019 and this approval was documented in paragraphs 27-30 of the meeting minutes attached at Annex 2 of this paper.

The same minutes are also published here on GOV.UK -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/growth-programme-board#past-meeting-documents>

2. December 2019 ESF Scoring Framework changes for Growth Programme Board approval

As part of the agreement to move to a Single-Stage Full Application process, the Managing Authority gave assurance that – once any remaining, residual Outline Applications had been fully assessed and completed – we would update the ESF Scoring Framework document again to remove the Outline Application and Assessment elements.

We are now at that point in the ESF Programme, so are requesting Growth Programme Board approval to publish Version 8 of the ESF Scoring Framework (attached at Annex 3).

In this version of the ESF Scoring Framework we have:

- i. Removed the Outline Application and Assessment elements;
- ii. Taken the opportunity to set out in the document to set out clear wording explaining the precise timeframe of validity for this edition of the ESF Scoring Framework (paragraph 1 & paragraph 13);
- iii. Introduced additional wording (paragraphs 4 & 5) explaining that the scoring methodologies for dual-stage applications received by the ESF Managing Authority in response to calls published prior to 29th October 2018 can be found in Versions 6 & 7 of the ESF Scoring Framework document and explained how copies of previous versions of the ESF Scoring Framework can be obtained on request from the ESF Managing Authority.

We can confirm that there are no changes to the actual scoring scale for Full Applications or how the scores will be determined per individual selection criteria.

We are now asking Growth Programme Board to approve the updated ESF Scoring Framework. Once approved, we will publish the updated version to GOV.UK.

Enclosures:

1. Annex 1 – GPB Meeting Minutes - 18th December 2018
2. Annex 2 – GPB Meeting Minutes – 20th March 2019
3. Annex 3 - ESF Scoring Framework V8 – DRAFT

Annex 1 - GPB Meeting Minutes - 18th December 2018



**181218 GPB Minutes
FINAL.pdf**

Annex 2 – GPB Meeting Minutes – 20th March 2019



**190320 GPB FINAL
MINS.pdf**

Annex 3 - ESF Scoring Framework V8 – DRAFT



**ESF_Scoring_Framework
v8 - DRAFT.odt**