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2014-2020 ESF Programme

Action Note

Reference Number:	002/17
Date Issued:	24 July 2017
Review date:	23 July 2018

Change to IP 2.2 Reporting Process

Who

All Grant Recipients

What

This action note requires Grant Recipients and Applicants to note and understand the changes to IP 2.2 reporting and take the required action detailed within this document.

Cleared

Emma Kirkpatrick Head of ESF Delivery.

Background

1. In November 2016 ESF Managing Authority (MA) introduced a further assurance point to robustly test value for money (VfM) evidence within Investment Priority (IP) 2.2. Additional questions were introduced on an Annex to be completed by applicants to assess the impact the project would have within the LEP area, particularly around the number of individuals it looked to support. The end beneficiary against IP 2.2 is the entity SME rather than individuals, and the associated IP 2.2 indicators reflect this. The Annex and its additional questions were added to allow the MA to better understand the numbers of individuals supported by the project and the impact the project has on the LEP area which in turn contribute to VfM considerations.
2. At present Grant Recipients are not accountable for the statements and figures provided in the IP 2.2 Annex and do not formally report on these in the way Grant Recipients do with the data provided in the Indicators Annex. The information provided in the 2.2 Annex is captured and used purely to inform the VfM template, which as you are aware, is the final assurance test prior to a Funding Agreement being signed off.
3. As the current process doesn't formalise the assumptions made by the project in the IP 2.2 Annex, it is our intention to assign greater emphasis to these assumptions. Projects will now be asked to report back on the information they provided in the Annex in future quarterly performance updates.

Action

Grant Recipients and projects applying for ESF funding will need to note, understand and take the appropriate action according to the date they applied for ESF funding. This may mean a slight change to the approach used when your project was agreed. The change will require Grant Recipients and projects to provide assurance by formally reporting on the impact the project is having on individuals via different mechanisms depending on when projects applied for ESF funding

With this change, there will be three distinct tranches separating 2.2 projects. The paragraphs below describe how to establish which tranche projects will fall into and sets out how the MA expect these to be managed and reviewed.

Tranche 1

All projects that applied for ESIF funding prior to 08/11/2016 will not have to undertake any action. Projects will continue to see active contract management and will be monitored against the Entity specific Outputs and Results for I.P 2.2 provided when their project was agreed.

Tranche 2

All projects that applied for funding between 08/11/2016 and **24/07/17** should continue to see active contract management around the project's performance against the Entity specific Outputs and Results for I.P 2.2. In addition Grant Recipients will be expected to provide an update on the assumptions provided in their IP 2.2 Annex. This update will be included in the Progress Report that is provided with claims.

Tranche 3

All projects applying for ESF funding from the 24/07/17 will need to complete the IP 2.2 Annex and provide the number of participants the project is aiming to support, detailing this within both their application and the Indicators Annex. Applicants will need to include the Output 01-Total number of Participants in their Indicators Annex alongside the other Outputs and Results associated with IP 2.2. Applicants will be monitored against the Entity Specific Outputs and Results for I.P 2.2 which will now include Output 01 Total Participants underperformance methodology will be used if appropriate.

Contact

Inderjit Sanghera 0121 626 2762 INDERJIT.SANGHERA@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK

Claire Maguire 01752 618094 Claire.Maguire@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Pete Long 0121 626 2294 PETE.LONG@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK