

**COMPETITIVENESS & EMPLOYMENT MONITORING COMMITTEE  
INNOVATION AND MAINSTREAMING WORKING GROUP**

**Note of Meeting held on 30 September 2008 at Queen's University Belfast**

In Attendance: Richard Millen, Chair (Queen's University Belfast)  
John Doran (Belfast International Airport)  
Councillor Cathal Mullaghan (Belfast City Council)  
Johnathan Wallace (University of Ulster Jordanstown)  
Declan Reilly (European Unit DEL)  
Anne Baker (European Division, DFP)  
Olwen Lyner (NIACRO)  
Amanda McAuley (Proteus (NI) Ltd.)

Not in Attendance: Malachy McAleer (South West College)  
Councillor Robin Newton MLA (Belfast City Council)

Apologies: Alderman Arnold Hatch (Craigavon Borough Council)  
Gerard Colgan (Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)  
John Neill (ESF Managing Authority, DEL)  
Maurice Mulvenna (University of Ulster Jordanstown)

Secretariat: Ian Getgood (ESF Managing Authority, DEL)

**1.0 Welcome**

- 1.1 Richard Millen opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance particularly Olwen Taylor and Amanda McAuley who would present to the Working Group.
- 1.2 Ian Getgood apologised to the Group for the poor turnout and advised that although the numbers attending the meeting did not constitute a quorum under the Terms of Reference it could proceed as there were no formal decisions to be

made. He also advised he would ask the DEL representative to raise the attendance issue at the next meeting of the Competitiveness & Employment Monitoring Committee on 14 October 2008.

## **2.0 Notes & Action Points from the Previous Meeting**

2.1 The group approved the notes of the meeting held on 15 April 2008. The Action points were dealt with as follows:

- **Action Point 1: Secretariat to produce draft Work Programme.** Declan Reilly explained that due to unavoidable delays in appointing a Support Structure for the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2007-13, the Managing Authority was proposing to delay the drafting of the Work Programme as it is felt that the experience and input of a Support Structure in developing Innovation within the programme is vital. The Action point will be carried forward to the next meeting.
- **Action Point 2: Secretariat to amend the ToR and re-issue to all members for consideration.** Cleared.
- **Action point 3: Secretariat to liaise with Chair on arrangements for next meeting.** Cleared.

## **3.0 Presentation from an Innovative Project**

3.1 Olwen Lyner of NIACRO gave a presentation on the Personal Progression Project which was delivered within the EQUAL Community Initiative. A Copy of the presentation is embedded in these minutes.



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3.2 The presentation showed the process NIACRO went through in implementing the project and the various barriers they had faced and how they had overcome them. It also highlighted the need for new and innovative methods to deal with the

problems offenders faced in returning to the labour and the successes the project had achieved :

- Approx. 60% of beneficiaries completing programme secure employment.
- Reconviction rate for completers 17%, non-completers 20% compared to 45% - general reconviction rate

3.3 Cathal Mullaghan requested more detail on the process that offenders went through under the Project and Olwen explained the identification and assessment process. John Doran also commented that employer conservatism was a major factor in relation to ex-offenders. Richard thanked Olwen for attendance and her presentation.

#### **4.0 Presentation on the Rickter Scale**

4.1 Amanda McAuley of Proteus gave a presentation on the Rickter scale which was an innovative tool used by a number of projects under the EQUAL Community Initiative to measure 'soft' outcomes i.e. participant movement along the employment continuum. A Copy of the presentation is embedded in these minutes.



Rickter Presentation  
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4.2 Ian Getgood explained that within Priority 1 of the project the target was 45,000 participants of whom 10,100 are targeted to be in work on leaving the programme and 11,700 in work six months after leaving the programme. Rickter and other tools are designed to show the achievements of those participants who do not achieve hard outcomes. Richard thanked Olwen for attendance and her presentation.

## **5.0 Assessment of Project Innovative Activity and Transnational Activity**

5.1 Declan Reilly explained due to the delay in appointing a Support Structure to the new programme and the relatively early stage of the new programme the Managing Authority had been unable to carry out a comprehensive assessment of Innovative and Transnational activity. This would be carried out in the new year following the appointment of the support structure alongside a draft work programme for the Working Group.

## **6.0 Any Other Business**

6.1 No further business was discussed.

## **7.0 Next Meeting**

7.1 It was agreed that the secretariat would liaise with the Chair with a view to holding the next meeting early next year following the appointment of the Support Structure. Jonathan Wallace offered that the University of Ulster Jordanstown would host the next meeting. This was agreed.