



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Briefing Paper

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# European Social Fund and the Department for Employment and Learning

## 1 Introduction

The following paper discusses the European Social Fund and how it is allocated to applicant organisations in Northern Ireland. The paper will also discuss the most recent funding tranche (Call 2, Priority 1) including the funding streams, the assessment process and the amounts allocated.

## 2 Key Points

- The European Social Fund is one of the EU's Structural Funds and focuses on promoting employment in the EU;
- In Northern Ireland ESF is delivered under three priorities: Priority 1: Helping people into sustainable employment; Priority 2: Improving workforce skills; and Priority 3: Technical Assistance;

- NI has a total of €414 million (£336.1m<sup>1</sup>) to fund the programme, with €166 million (£134.8m) allocated via the ESF and the remainder of the funding €248 million (£201.3m) provided via the Department for Employment and Learning;
- Projects that apply for ESF funding are funded via three sources (as part of the funding milieu) – ESF (40%), DEL (25%) and other Public Match Funding (35%). Applicants must source the public match funding themselves;
- Priority 1 funding is the main focus for this paper, with Priority 2 a government run programme and Priority 3 providing technical assistance. There have been two calls for funding to date under the 2007-2013 ESF programme. The most recent call (Call 2) had a budget of £30 million ESF funding;
- Applicants who apply for ESF funding must (normally and under EU Regulations) score at least 65% (130 marks out of 200) on their application forms in order to be eligible for funding;
- In Call 2, DEL, as Managing Authority, shifted this funding threshold to 134 marks as a result of the high number of applications - 112 applications were received and 100 scored over the 130 mark;
- When the threshold mark was moved to 134, 84 projects were eligible for funding – however, each of these projects were required to reduce their funding request by 25% in order to maximise the number of groups recovering funding. As a result of this 84 projects were able to access funding rather than 49;
- It should be noted that when the amount of ESF funding available under the second call is examined there appears to be a discrepancy. In a number of Assembly Questions it is stated that ESF funding of £30 million was available under this call. However, the 82 projects were granted ESF funding of £42,482,075. In addition, an FOI which received DEL documentation stated that there was £40.32m of ESF available under the second call) – the Department has been asked for clarification by RaISe of this figure;
- 17 projects met the initial threshold but failed to secure funding. They sought funding of £9,744,700 of which approximately £5,992,991 was ESF and £3,751,710 DEL; and
- Assembly Questions identified that two organisations withdrew from the second round of the ESF Programme, with funding of £1,270,337 having been allocated. Of this, £781,257.26 was ESF and £489,079.74 DEL. A request has been sent by RaISe to the Department asking whether this funding has been reallocated. No response has been received to date.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on current euro to pound exchange rate

### 3 The European Social Fund in Northern Ireland

As per the EU Commission:<sup>2</sup>

*The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of the EU's Structural Funds, set up to reduce differences in prosperity and living standards across EU Member States and regions, and therefore promoting economic and social cohesion. The ESF is devoted to promoting employment in the EU. It helps Member States make Europe's workforce and companies better equipped to face new, global challenges.*

The ESF has been part of the EU's funding strategy for Member States since the 1950s, targeting funds at various groups and industries in order to encourage employment.

In the 2000s, the focus of the ESF was shifted to help meet the goals of the Lisbon Strategy i.e. that of making the EU the most advanced knowledge based economy in the world.

For 2007 – 2013 the main priority for ESF funding is to increase the adaptability of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs by improving the anticipation and positive management of economic change. This includes supporting the modernisation and strengthening of labour market institutions, active labour market measures and lifelong learning.<sup>3</sup>

The ESF programme in Northern Ireland is delivered via three priorities:<sup>4</sup>

- **Priority 1:** This is intended to increase employment and reduce unemployment and inactivity by improving the employability of those groups experiencing significant employment gaps such as people with disabilities and health conditions, lone parents and other disadvantaged parents, older workers, young people not in education, employment or training, women and people with no or low qualifications, and other disadvantaged groups, including people experiencing multiple disadvantage;
- **Priority 2:** This is intended to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce by improving the qualifications and skills of workers without essential (basic) skills and low or no qualifications; and
- **Priority 3:** This provides technical assistance. Technical Assistance funds will be available to finance the specific responsibilities associated with the management and implementation of the programme, and to provide a Support Structure for the Managing Authority.

In addition:

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<sup>2</sup> EU Commission, European Social Fund What is the ESF? <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=35&langId=en>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2007-2013 <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/esf/niesfprog0713.htm>

*The Programme's cross cutting themes are gender equality and equal opportunities and promoting sustainable development, including the creation of sustainable communities.*<sup>5</sup>

NI has in total €414 million (£336.1m<sup>6</sup>) to fund the programme, with €166 million (£134.8m) allocated via the ESF. The remainder of the funding (€248 million - £201.3m) is provided via the Department for Employment and Learning.<sup>7</sup>

Projects that are successful in their applications for the NIESF programme have three sources of funding – the ESF (40%), DEL (25%) and public match funding (35%). Groups must source the public match funding themselves.

It should be noted that only one project is funded under Priority 2 - The Apprenticeships NI Programme which is managed by the Department for Employment in Learning. The Apprenticeships NI Programme has a total funding cost of £45,900,000, with £18,360,000 of ESF funding and the remaining £27,540,000 met by DEL funding.<sup>8</sup>

The table below details the total payments received from the Commission. It shows the most recent figures available.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 1:** Total payments received from the Commission

ESF Priority	Total ESF Funding 2007-2013	2008	2009	2010	Total ESF payments received	Remaining ESF Funding
Priority 1	95,597,174	4,779,859.22	9,104,180.83	8,657,040.00	22,541,080.05	73,056,093.95
Priority 2	67,280,121	3,364,005.63	6,357,288.01	13,198,654.00	22,919,947.64	44,360,173.36
Priority 3	2,900,005	145,000.15	136,465.62	0.00	281,465.77	2,618,539.23
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>165,777,300</b>	<b>8,288,865.00</b>	<b>15,597,934.46</b>	<b>21,855,694.00</b>	<b>45,742,493.46</b>	<b>120,034,806.54</b>

Please note, no financial transactions took place in 2007.

Please note, as mentioned earlier Priority 2 covers Government programmes and as such it does not have external applicants. As a result the focus of this section of the paper will be on Priority 1.

There have been two calls to date under the 2007-2013 NIESF Priority 1 Programme.

The first call was made on the 11 October 2007, with 86 completed applications received and 76 offered funding. This funding comprised £30,385,969 (40% ESF), Match Funding of £19,022,745 (25%) to be provided from the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) with the balance of £25,071,320 (35%) public match

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Based on current euro to pound exchange rate

<sup>7</sup> Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland European Social Fund Directory – Round 2 Making a Difference in Life

<sup>8</sup> DEL, ESF Successful programmes April 2010 <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-euro-funding/esf-successful-projects.htm>

<sup>9</sup> DEL, Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2007-2013 Annual Implementation Report 2007,2008,2009 and 2010

fund to be found by the applicants. Match funding is provided by various bodies including Belfast City Council<sup>10</sup> and the Department for Social Development<sup>11</sup>.

Call 2 was launched on the 23 of September 2010 and closed for applications on the 5 November 2010. The call has a budget of £30 million<sup>12</sup> - please note, there appears to be a discrepancy regarding this figure in published information from DEL. This will be discussed in further detail later in this paper.

## 4 ESF Application Assessment Process

Project applications submitted under the ESF Programme undergo an assessment process established by the European Commission and regulated by EU Regulations.<sup>13</sup>

Applicants complete a two part application form:

- **Part A:** is completed on line at the central Northern Ireland European Union Structural Funds website [www.eugrants.org](http://www.eugrants.org). This part identifies the Programme and Priority to which groups are applying and seeks some common information that is relevant to all applications irrespective of the type of grant sought; and
- **Part B:** Is in two sections, with B1 an Excel sheet that requires information on areas such as eligibility, participants and project cost.<sup>14</sup> B2 is a Word document which asks for detailed responses (within a set word limit) in areas such as why the project is needed and how it will help participants.

The applications are then submitted to the Department and scored by an assessment panel, with Part B2 having marks attributed to it. For Part B2, a scoring threshold of 65% is applied (as detailed in the ESF Guidance). As stated in DEL guidance:

*This means that if your project does not score at least 65% of the highest number of points available for your application, your project cannot be selected for support.*<sup>15</sup>

The guidance goes on to state that:

*A score equivalent to 65% will not of itself guarantee funding as applications will be scored and ranked and the finite amount of funding will be allocated to the highest ranked projects.*<sup>16</sup>

In total, there were 200 points available, with the 65% mark at 130 points.

<sup>10</sup> Belfast City Council, Report to Development Committee

[http://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/s61213/EUROPEAN\\_SOCIAL\\_FUND\\_-\\_MATCH\\_FUNDING\\_REQUESTS.pdf](http://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/s61213/EUROPEAN_SOCIAL_FUND_-_MATCH_FUNDING_REQUESTS.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Department for Social Development, Colin Neighbourhood Renewal funded organisations,

[http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/urcdg-urban\\_regeneration/neighbourhood\\_renewal/neighbourhood-renewal-funded-organisations/belfast-nr-funded-organisations/colin-nr-funded-org.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/urcdg-urban_regeneration/neighbourhood_renewal/neighbourhood-renewal-funded-organisations/belfast-nr-funded-organisations/colin-nr-funded-org.htm)

<sup>12</sup> AQW 10291/11-15

<sup>13</sup> Please see <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=33&langId=en> for links to these Regulations

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.delni.gov.uk/ni\\_esf\\_priority\\_1\\_application\\_form\\_part\\_b1\\_september\\_2010.xls](http://www.delni.gov.uk/ni_esf_priority_1_application_form_part_b1_september_2010.xls)

<sup>15</sup> ESF Promoters Operating Manual Part 1 <http://www.delni.gov.uk/esf-promoters-operating-manual-2007-2013-part-1-amended-amended-february-2012.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

Please see Annex 1 for a copy of the questions and scoring criteria used in Part B2.

In addition, applications are assessed as to how projects fit in with the ESF programme objectives and their value for money. This information is also used in the selection process.

Following this preliminary selection process, Economic Appraisals are commissioned in order to fully assess the bid with a final offer of funding made following their completion and successful acceptance.

As stated in the ESF promoters operating manual, once this process is completed, applicants:

*will be given feedback on your application and will be told the score your project has achieved. This will allow you to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your application.*<sup>17</sup>

The manual goes on to state that for those who have not been selected for funding will be informed in writing with the marks the application received included, which:

*might help you identify the strengths and weaknesses of your proposal, for consideration when making future applications.*<sup>18</sup>

Applicants who did not receive project funding can request a review, although they have to demonstrate that:

- The outcome was a decision no reasonable person would make on the basis of the information provided in the application; and/or
- There was a failure in adherence to procedures or systems.<sup>19</sup>

#### **4.1 Reallocation of Funds**

It is possible for ESF funding to be moved. It can be reallocated within a Priority (if for example there is an underspend) or it can be moved between Priorities.

It is important that groups which believe they cannot continue with a project inform the appropriate authorities. Under ESF guidance it states that:

*You must write to the ESF Managing Authority as early as possible if you intend to withdraw from an approved project. This will allow funds to be re-allocated for other applicants to use and minimise any potential underspend at Programme level.*

In addition, it is also possible to move funds between Priorities. This is governed under Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 Article 65 (G)<sup>20</sup> which states that the monitoring committee:

<sup>17</sup> European Union, European Social Fund Promoters Operating Manual 2007-2013 Part 1 – ESF Requirements  
<http://www.delni.gov.uk/esf-promoters-operating-manual-2007-2013-part-1-amended-amended-february-2012.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

*shall consider and approve any proposal to amend the content of the Commission decision on the contribution from the Funds.*

The Department for Employment and Learning has been asked for further information by RaISe on how funds are reallocated and when this information is made available it will be forwarded to the Committee.

## 5 Priority 1, Second Call

This section of the paper discusses the second call of Priority 1 (the most recent call for funding) in more detail.

For the second call of funding 112 applications were received <sup>21</sup>(please note, for Call 1, 86 applications were received – this amounts to an increase of over 30% in applications). The total bid for funds was approximately £50 million (with £30 million ESF funding available over a three year period).<sup>22</sup> The Committee may wish to note that there is a discrepancy regarding this figure. In an FOI request by the Training for Women Network (TWN), it is stated that:

*The second call will make available up to £62.52 million (£40.32m of ESF and £25.2m from DEL).*<sup>23</sup>

The Department has been asked for confirmation of this figure; however at the time for writing this information has not been received.

Of these applications 100 scored over the 130 mark threshold, with these projects bidding for £43.1 million, £13 million more than available.<sup>24</sup>

A Freedom of Information request by the TWN to the Department for Employment of Learning identified that the Department had considered three options as a result of the high number of applicants scoring over the 130 threshold mark.<sup>25</sup>

It should be noted that the FOI information regarding the number of successful applicants does not match the number provided in the Assembly Question responses. The Committee may wish to ask the Department for confirmation regarding these figures.

The options considered were:

- **Option 1:** Allocated the available ESF funding to eligible projects in rank order until the available resources have been exhausted. This would result in 49 of the 101 successful projects being funded;

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<sup>20</sup> AQW 10177/11-15

<sup>21</sup> AQW5061/11

<sup>22</sup> AQW 10291/11-15

<sup>23</sup> Training Network for Women FOI, DEL response, Communication dated the 17 December 2010

<sup>24</sup> DEL, ESF Annual Implementation Report, 2010, see also AWQ 4936/11

<sup>25</sup> Training Network for Women FOI, DEL response, Communication dated the 17 December 2010

- **Option 2:** Allocate the available ESF funding to all 101 eligible projects on a pro rata basis. This would result in all projects over the 130 mark receiving funding, but at 40% below what each group applied for;
- **Option 3:** Reduce the funding requested by 25% and distribute it to eligible projects in rank order. This would provide 84 projects with funding but at a lower level than expected.

Option 3 was considered to be the most viable option – as stated by the Minister for Employment and Learning in response to an Assembly Question:

*The Department applied a cut-off point of 134 marks to ensure that available funds were distributed to as many projects as possible i.e. fund the greatest number of projects, but at a reduced level that would still be feasible for the projects.<sup>26</sup>*

In regards to the reduction in project funding by 25%, the Minister stated:

*This arrangement resulted in a much greater number of projects funded than would have been the case. Had all top scoring projects been allocated the full amount bid for, only 49 projects would have been supported in the second call.<sup>27</sup>*

As a result of this, 83 of the 100 successful applicants received ESF funding (please note, whilst 83 applications were successful, only 82 projects are currently active<sup>28</sup>).

A list of successful ESF projects, second call, is provided on the DEL website. The list, attached as Annex 2 to this paper, provides information on 82 projects which received ESF funding and the total project cost for each group.<sup>29</sup> The headline figures are provided on table 2 below.

**Table 2:** Successful ESF Projects (Second Call) Totals

Total project cost	Total eligible project cost	ESF (40%)	DEL Contribution (25%)	Public match funding contribution (35%)
£109,428,102	£107,063,726	£42,482,075	£26,541,299	£38,040,352

The Committee may wish to note that the ESF funds provided to the successful projects exceeds the quoted available ESF funding figure of £30 million by £12,482,075.

When a 25% reduction is applied this amounts to £10,620,518.75, leaving a remainder figure of £1,861,556.25.

<sup>26</sup> AQW10291/11-15 30 March 2012

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

<sup>28</sup> AQW 10250/11-15 29 March 2012 , AQW 10294/11-15 30 March 2012

<sup>29</sup> Department for Employment and Learning, List of Successful ESF Projects – Second Call <http://www.delni.gov.uk/list-of-successful-esf-projects-second-call.pdf>



**The Committee may wish to ask the Department to clarify if these figures are before or after the 25% reduction in project bids was applied.**

As mentioned above, 17 applications met the initial threshold, but failed to secure funding following the shift to 134 marks. These 17 projects sought funding of £9,744,700<sup>30</sup> (this includes ESF and DEL funding – approximately £5,992,991 ESF and £3,751,710 DEL<sup>31</sup>).

Table 3 below provides details on total project cost and ESF funding requested for the 17 projects which did not receive funding.<sup>32</sup> Please note, the reference column does not denote ranking, rather it is for ease of reference by Members. Projects are listed as provided by DEL.

**Table 3:** Unsuccessful Projects which scored between 130 and 134 marks

Reference	Total Eligible cost	ESF Sought	Score
1	£2,688,650	£1,075,459	133
2	£299,635	£119,853	133
3	£487,744	£195,098	132
4	£767,612	£307,045	132
5	£903,363	£361,345	132
6	£682,349	£270,369	132
7	£1,646,771	£658,708	132
8	£2,277,000	£910,800	132
9	£498,000	£199,200	131
10	£689,208	£275,683	131
11	£798,090	£319,236	131
12	£329,821	£131,909	131
13	£613,350	£180,609	130
14	£462,995	£185,197	130
15	£579,250	£231,700	130
16	£55,540	£16,000	130
17	£1,396,433	£558,572	130

As can be seen above:

- Two projects scored 133;
- Six projects scored 132;
- Four projects scored 131; and
- Five projects scored 130.

It should be noted that Assembly Questions identified that two organisations withdrew from the second round of the ESF Programme having been successful in their

<sup>30</sup> AQW10252/11-15

<sup>31</sup> Based on 61.5% ESF and 38.5% DEL

<sup>32</sup> Training Network for Women FOI, DEL response, Communication dated the 17 December 2010

applications, with funding of £1,270,337 having been allocated.<sup>33</sup> As stated in the ESF Operating Manual, beneficiaries...:

*...must write to the ESF Managing Authority as early as possible if [they] intend to withdraw from an approved project. This will allow funds to be re-allocated for other applicants to use and minimise any potential underspend at Programme level.<sup>34</sup>*

The £1,270,337 includes both ESF and DEL funding<sup>35</sup>, as such withdrawn ESF funding amounts to approximately 61.5% (**£781,257.26**) and the DEL funding to 38.5% (**£489,079.74**).<sup>36</sup>

If this funding was reallocated (as per the Operating Manual) it may be possible to fund an additional project. For example, if a 25% reduction in costs is applied (as per the same conditions applied to the 83 successful projects) to Table 3 Ref 1, this amounts to a total project cost of £2,016,487.5, with an ESF funding requirement of £806,594.25 (a shortfall of £25,336.99 in ESF funding).

Please note, a query was sent to the Department (29 May 2012) regarding the reallocation of these funds but no response has been received at this time. The Committee may wish to ask the Department what progress it has made in reallocating the ESF funding.

## 6 Summary

The Committee may wish to note the following points:

- There appears to be limited information available in the public domain in regards the process of reallocation of funds under the ESF. The Committee may wish to ask the Department for a detailed description of this process, both in terms of moving funds between Calls and between Priorities;
- There appears to be a discrepancy in the publically available information on how much funding was made available under Call 2 Priority 1. The Committee may wish to ask the Department for clarification on what ESF funding and what DEL funding was available under this call;
- The Committee may wish to ask the Department what has happened to the £1,270,337 of ESF and DEL funding which was allocated to projects which have since withdrawn and what progress has been made in its reallocation;

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<sup>33</sup> AQW 10249/11-15

<sup>34</sup> European Union, European Social Fund Promoters Operating Manual 2007-2013 Part 1 – ESF Requirements  
<http://www.delni.gov.uk/esf-promoters-operating-manual-2007-2013-part-1-amended-amended-february-2012.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> AQW 10279/11-15

<sup>36</sup> Please note, this figure has been calculated by the Papers author and is to be confirmed by the Department for Employment and Learning.

- The Committee may wish to ask the Department for a yearly breakdown of ESF and DEL spending on Priorities 1, 2 and 3 (under ESF programme 2007 – 2013) and how much of the €414 million of the initial ESF allocation remains unallocated.

## Annex 1: Questions and Scoring Criteria for Application Form B2

Question	The highest number of marks available	How marks will be awarded
<p><b>B2.1</b></p> <p>What is the purpose of your project and how will it provide added value?</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><b>S</b> Scoring question</p> <p>Your answer, <b>in no more than 800 words</b>, should fully take into account the three points listed below.</p> <p>You will be scored against these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the objectives of your project fit with your chosen Northern Ireland ESF Programme Priority.</li> <li>• How your project will add value to either current central, regional or local government provision.</li> <li>• What types of activities your project will deliver to achieve added value.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B2.2</b></p> <p>Why is your project needed?</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><b>S</b> Scoring question</p> <p>Your answer, <b>in no more than 800 words</b>, should fully take into account the four points listed below.</p> <p>You will be scored against these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local detailed evidence and, if appropriate, evidence from a particular sector to support your proposed activity. This can include labour market evidence, local surveys and consultation with employers.</li> <li>• The barriers faced by the target groups and how your project will help to overcome these barriers.</li> <li>• How your project links with or complements <b>but does not duplicate</b> government strategies or initiatives.</li> <li>• Any relevant research you have undertaken.</li> </ul>

<p><b>B2.3</b></p> <p>Who does your project aim to help?</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><b>S</b> Scoring question</p> <p>Your answer, <b>in no more than 800 words</b>, should fully take into account the five points listed below.</p> <p>You will be scored against these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the priority target groups identified in your chosen <b>Priority</b> in the Northern Ireland ESF Programme does your project aim to help?</li> <li>• If your target group is different from those identified in your chosen Priority, explain why.</li> <li>• Show that the number of people your project will help is achievable.</li> <li>• How will you recruit participants on to your project? Show that this recruitment process is appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>How will you measure and monitor the needs of your target group?</p>
<p><b>B2.4</b></p> <p>How will your project enhance the employability of individual participants?</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><b>S</b> Scoring question</p> <p>Your answer, <b>in no more than 800 words</b>, should fully take into account the four points listed below.</p> <p>You will be scored against these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local knowledge of complementary activities, including national programmes;</li> <li>• The level of expertise and relevant experience of staff employed to be in project delivery;</li> <li>• The full range of specific support measures available to individual participants;</li> <li>• Involvement of employers in the project.</li> </ul>

<p><b>B2.5</b></p> <p>How will you design, deliver and manage your project to ensure it delivers value for money?</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><b>S Scoring question</b></p> <p><b>Please note: All projects will be subject to an independent economic appraisal proportionate to costs to ensure economic viability and projected expenditure represents value for money.</b></p> <p>Your answer, <b>in no more than 800 words</b>, should fully take account of the five points listed below.</p> <p>You will be scored against these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the main processes and stages in carrying out the project.</li> <li>• With specific reference to the project's proposed budget describe how you will deliver value for money with respect to the project's unit costs.</li> <li>• Describe any relevant experience your organisation has had in running previous projects.</li> <li>• How will you publicise your project during its life and when you have finished it?</li> <li>• How will you keep the project going after ESF support finishes?</li> </ul>
<p><b>B2.6</b></p> <p>What will the results of your project be?</p>	<p>20</p>	<p><b>S Scoring question</b></p> <p>Your answer, <b>in no more than 500 words</b>, should fully take account the three points listed below.</p> <p>You will be scored against these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the project lead to any of the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Participants entering employment.</li> <li>➢ Participants gaining full qualifications at NVQ level 2 or above.</li> <li>➢ Participants gaining essential (basic) skills.</li> <li>➢ Participants gaining other relevant qualifications/units.</li> <li>➢ Participants achieving measurable soft outcomes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do the results relate to the Operational Programme?</li> <li>• How will you make sure that the project gets these results?</li> </ul>
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<p><b>B2.7</b> How will your project support and promote equal opportunities?</p>	<p>10</p>	<p><b>S</b> Scoring question</p> <p>Your answer, <b>in no more than 500 words</b>, should fully take into account the three points below. – <b>Please note your answer must score a minimum of 50% of the 10 marks allocated to this question to progress.</b></p> <p>You will be scored against these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you expect your project to impact on the groupings included in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998?</li> <li>• How will equal opportunities be incorporated into the design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project activity?</li> <li>• How will progress be monitored throughout the lifetime of your project?</li> </ul> <p><b>Key eligibility criteria – Applicants that do not commit to and sign the statement on Equality of Opportunity included in the Application form – Part B1 will not be eligible for selection.</b></p>
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**B2.8**

How will your project support regional approaches to sustainable development?

10

**S** Scoring question

Your answer, in no more than 500 words, should explain how your project will observe one or more of the six guiding priorities listed below. – **Please note your answer must score a minimum of 50% of the 10 marks allocated to this question to progress.**

- Living within environment limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

**B2.9**

How will your project engage in innovative activity?

Please tick:

either:

Inherent Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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or:

Dedicated Innovative activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
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10

**S** Scoring question

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**Please note: Innovation will be promoted under the Northern Ireland ESF Programme. Innovation should be inherent in any project activity but the programme will also support dedicated innovative activity. It is not an essential requirement that projects funded under the ESF Programme must engage in dedicated innovative activity. Priorities 1 and 2 of the Northern Ireland ESF Programme each have a theme for dedicated innovative activity.**

Your answer, in no more than 500 words, should fully take into account the relevant points below.

**Inherent Innovation only:**

**You will be scored against the points below and will be assessed against the full 10 marks allocated to this question.**

- Describe your project's inherent innovation.
- Describe any inherent innovative outcomes your project will achieve and any plans for dissemination.

**Dedicated Innovative activity only:**

**You will be scored against the points below and must score at least 6 marks from the 10 marks available to be**



<p><b>B2.10</b></p> <p>How will your project fit in with local initiatives?</p> <p>Please tick:</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If you tick 'yes' please follow the guidance aside.</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If you tick 'no' please take no further action.</p>	<p>Non scoring</p>	<p>I Information question</p> <p><b>Please note: It is not an essential requirement that projects funded under the ESF Programme must form relationships with other local partnerships. However, the overall success of the project is likely to be enhanced if the opportunity is taken to complement the work of other local actors who are also responding to local needs.</b></p> <p>If you tick 'yes', your answer, <b>in no more than 500 words</b>, should fully take into account the two points below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent to which you will involve any local partnerships in the development or delivery of your project; and</li> <li>• how flexible your project will be in responding to local needs.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>deemed a dedicated innovative project.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe your project's planned dedicated innovative activity.</li> <li>• How will your project fit with your chosen Priority's theme for dedicated innovative activity?</li> <li>• Describe the dedicated innovative outcomes your project will achieve and plans for dissemination.</li> <li>• How will your project monitor and evaluate dedicated innovative activity?</li> <li>• Describe your project's plans for co-operation with one or more Member States.</li> </ul>

<b>B2.11</b>	Non	I Information question
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<p>Will your project engage in trans-national or inter-regional activity?</p> <p>Please tick:</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If you tick 'yes' please follow the guidance aside.</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If you tick 'no' please take no further action.</p>	<p>scoring</p>	<p><b>Please note: It is not an essential <u>requirement</u> that projects funded under the ESF Programme must engage in trans-national or inter-regional activity. It is envisaged that projects wishing to engage in this type of activity will already have partners or contacts in other Member States and will build on existing links. However projects without existing partners may also apply to engage with new contacts and apply for funding to support new plans for eligible transnational activity.</b></p> <p>If you tick 'yes', your answer, <b>in no more than 500 words</b>, should fully take into account the three points below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of trans-national or inter-regional activity and output;</li> <li>• Key issues that your project will address by means of trans-national or inter-regional activity; and</li> <li>• Describe any existing trans-national or inter-regional partnerships that your project will build on.</li> <li>• Transnational costs must be separately identified and included in Part B1 of your application.</li> </ul>
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LIST OF SUCCESSFUL ESF PROJECTS - SECOND CALL

ORGANISATION NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT TITLE	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS FOR 3 YEARS				Public match Funding Contribution (35%)
			TOTAL PROJECT COST	TOTAL ELIGIBLE PROJECT COST	ESF (40%)	DEL Contribution 25%	
Now and Stepping Stones NI	Belfast	Workforce II	£2,689,824	£2,689,824	£1,075,929	£672,456	£ 941,439
Action Mental Health	Belfast	The New Horizons Project	£8,577,516	£8,240,051	£3,296,020	£2,060,012	£ 2,884,019.00
Derry Youth and Community Workshop Ltd.	Derry	Jobs for US	£577,000	£577,000	£229,538	£143,462	£ 204,000.00
Ashton Community Trust	Belfast	Women's Training Project	£438,895	£438,895	£175,557	£109,723	£ 153,615.00
GEMS Northern Ireland Limited	Belfast	M-Power	£740,097	£740,097	£296,039	£185,024	£ 259,034.00
Youth Action Northern Ireland	Belfast	REACH	£770,525	£770,525	£308,209	£192,631	£ 269,685.00
Disability Action	Belfast	Support Works	£635,096	£635,096	£254,038	£158,774	£ 222,284.00
The Cedar Foundation	Belfast	The Cedar Foundation's Vocational and Employability Service	£7,168,910	£7,168,910	£2,867,564	£1,792,227	£ 2,509,119.00
Royal Mencap Society	Belfast	Pathway to Success	£3,912,315	£3,912,315	£1,564,926	£978,078	£ 1,369,311.00
The Prince's Trust	Belfast	Journey to Success	£5,452,727	£5,452,727	£2,181,090	£1,363,182	£ 1,908,455.00
Lenadoon Community Forum	Belfast	Lenadoon Community Forum Training for Employment Project	£365,051	£365,051	£146,020	£91,262	£ 127,769.00
Action Mental Health	Belfast	AMH Skills Build Project	£769,508	£702,228	£280,890	£175,556	£ 245,782.00

GEMS Northern Ireland Limited	Belfast	Minority Ethnic Employment Support Project (MEESP)	£313,760	£313,760	£125,504	£78,440	£ 109,816.00
South West College	Omagh	SUSE (Stepping up for Sustainable Employment)	£3,290,382	£3,290,382	£1,316,152	£822,595	£ 1,151,635.00
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	Dungannon	SETTLED Sustainable Employment Through Training Learning Education and Development	£405,515	£404,115	£161,640	£101,025	£ 141,450.00
Clanrye Group Ltd	Newry	Newry Technology Centre	£818,129	£818,129	£327,252	£204,532	£ 286,345.00
Ashton Community Trust	Belfast	Progress to Employment	£1,065,528	£1,065,528	£426,210	£266,382	£ 372,936.00
Insight Accessibility	Belfast	Skills to Succeed	£364,808	£364,808	£145,923	£91,202	£ 127,683.00
Footprints Womens Centre	Belfast	Routes to Skills and Employability for Women	£576,528	£576,528	£230,611	£144,132	£ 201,785.00
The Women's centre	Derry	PROSPER	£697,366	£697,366	£276,887	£173,054	£ 247,425.00
North Belfast Partnership	Belfast	Local Employment Access Partnership (LEAP)	£454,648	£454,648	£181,858	£113,661	£ 159,129.00
Barnardo's Northern Ireland	Belfast	Dr B's Kitchen	£1,193,277	£939,177	£375,670	£234,794	£ 328,713.00
North West Play Resource Centre	Derry	Creative Approaches to Literacy	£851,496	£851,496	£322,213	£201,383	£ 327,900.00
Association for Real Change (NI)	Belfast	Get a Life!	£238,733	£238,733	£95,492	£59,683	£ 83,558.00
Belfast Metropolitan College	Belfast	Engineering Skills for Industry III	£292,694	£292,694	£115,277	£72,048	£ 105,369.00

Enterprise Northern Ireland	Limavady	Exploring Enterprise Programme II	£3,607,384	£3,607,384	£1,442,953	£901,846	£ 1,262,585.00
Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland	Belfast	Training for Employment	£922,083	£922,083	£362,606	£226,629	£ 332,848.00
The Appleby Trust Ltd.	Dungannon	Print it Dungannon	£177,179	£152,879	£61,140	£38,213	£ 53,526.00
NIACRO	Belfast	JOBTRACK	£5,688,321	£5,688,321	£2,274,974	£1,421,858	£ 1,991,489.00
RNIB Northern Ireland	Belfast	Eye Work	£546,065	£546,065	£218,426	£136,516	£ 191,123.00
The Orchardville Society	Belfast	Orchardville Society Employment and Skills Service	£3,469,865	£2,511,345	£1,004,538	£627,836	£ 878,971.00
East Belfast Enterprise	Belfast	Megabyte Programme	£226,224	£226,224	£90,489	£56,555	£ 79,180.00
North City Training	Belfast	Young Person's Employability Initiative	£848,610	£845,420	£244,502	£152,814	£ 448,104.00
Workforce Training Services	Belfast	Employment Connections	£686,947	£641,947	£256,779	£160,487	£ 224,681.00
Gingerbread NI	Belfast	Choices Plus	£1,201,239	£1,201,239	£480,495	£300,309	£ 420,435.00
Ballybean Women's Centre	Belfast	Skills to Employment Project (StEP)	£259,134	£259,134	£103,653	£64,783	£ 90,698.00
Triax	Derry	Helping People into	£3,308,367	£3,308,367	£1,323,347	£827,092	£ 1,157,928.00
Time Associates	Belfast	Learn 2 Earn	£269,999	£269,999	£107,998	£67,499	£ 94,502.00
Ulster Supported Employment Limited	Belfast	S.T.E.P (Skills Training for Employment Progression)	£2,132,943	£2,132,943	£853,177	£533,234	£ 746,532.00

Belfast South Community Resources	Belfast	Reach Project	£462,032	£462,032	£184,813	£115,509	£ 161,710.00
Praxis Care	Belfast	Moving UP!	£2,895,689	£2,895,689	£1,158,270	£723,918	£ 1,013,501.00
Opportunity Youth	Belfast	Switch onto Employment SOE	£860,958	£860,958	£344,383	£215,239	£ 301,336.00
Roe Valley Community Education Forum	Limavady	More Flexible Steps (MFS)	£530,040	£530,040	£212,016	£132,510	£ 185,514.00
Extern	Newtownabbey	Extern Recycle Programme	£2,764,617	£2,633,322	£1,037,448	£648,405	£ 947,469.00
Derry City Council	Derry	Kickstart to Work	£2,187,758	£2,187,758	£875,103	£546,940	£ 765,715.00
First Steps Womens centre	Dungannon	Women towards Education and Employment	£1,414,500	£1,414,500	£565,785	£353,615	£ 495,100.00
RNID	Belfast	Employability Programme for Deaf People	£445,567	£445,567	£178,227	£111,392	£ 155,948.00
East Belfast Mission Stepping Stone Project	Belfast	jobs4u	£570,763	£570,763	£228,303	£142,695	£ 199,765.00
Reconnect	Belfast	Reconnect Social Enterprise	£441,688	£381,688	£152,675	£95,422	£ 133,591.00
Southern regional college	Newry	EMPLOY ME!	£2,103,281	£2,103,281	£841,266	£525,791	£ 736,224.00
Belfast City Council	Belfast	HARTE	£613,800	£613,800	£234,492	£146,558	£ 232,750.00
Omagh District Council for and on behalf of Omagh District Training Consortium	Omagh	OTES (Omagh Training and Employability Support)	£1,983,710	£1,983,710	£793,483	£495,927	£ 694,300.00
Belfast Metropolitan College	Belfast	Further Progress	£441,961	£441,961	£176,784	£110,490	£ 154,687.00

Clanrye Group Ltd	Newry	Clanrye Retail Social Enterprise Project	£829,775	£604,775	£241,910	£151,194	£ 211,671.00
Women in Business NI Ltd	Belfast	Women into Business	£515,875	£515,875	£206,350	£128,968	£ 180,557.00
Advantage	Carrickfergus	Youth Employability Programme	£1,089,316	£1,056,784	£422,713	£264,195	£ 369,876.00
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	Belfast	J.E.T. (Jobs, Education and Training)	£1,027,018	£1,027,018	£410,807	£256,754	£ 359,457.00
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	Belfast	Tools for Life	£599,367	£599,367	£239,746	£149,842	£ 209,779.00
Triangle Housing Association Ltd.	Ballymoney	Triangle Progression to Employment Service	£3,198,054	£3,123,054	£1,209,639	£756,024	£ 1,157,391.00
Compass Advocacy Network Ltd.	Ballymoney	Can Can STEP (Steps towards employment programme)	£582,894	£542,050	£206,000	£128,750	£ 207,300.00
Include Youth	Belfast	The Give and Take Scheme	£3,528,916	£3,528,916	£1,411,566	£882,228	£ 1,235,122.00
Upper Springfield Development Trust	Belfast	Jobs on the Move	£1,045,820	£1,045,820	£418,325	£261,453	£ 366,042.00
East Belfast Enterprise	Belfast	Lipstick & Money 2 Programme	£246,154	£246,154	£98,462	£61,539	£ 86,153.00
Ashton Community Trust	Belfast	North Belfast Works	£858,923	£858,923	£343,568	£214,730	£ 300,625.00
Windsor Women's centre	Belfast	Thalia Education and Training Project	£449,659	£449,659	£179,864	£112,415	£ 157,380.00
Visual Access NI (Ltd)		Skills for Future Employability	£199,747	£199,747	£79,898	£49,936	£ 69,913.00

Network Personnel Limited	Belfast	"Up for Work"	£4,066,542	£4,066,542	£1,626,617	£1,016,635	£ 1,423,290.00
Shankill Women's Centre	Belfast	Education, Training and Employability Project	£608,135	£608,135	£243,253	£152,035	£ 212,847.00
North Belfast Employment Centre	Belfast	Re-Start	£675,762	£675,762	£270,305	£158,939	£ 246,518.00
East Belfast Enterprise	Belfast	Health2Wealth Programme	£401,461	£401,461	£160,583	£100,365	£ 140,513.00
North City Training	Belfast	Grey Workers Programme	£392,532	£389,082	£153,447	£95,905	£ 139,730.00
Banbridge District Council	Banbridge	Restore Project	£554,700	£449,700	£179,880	£112,425	£ 157,395.00
Women's Tec	Belfast	Extending Training in Communities	£859,215	£859,215	£343,686	£214,803	£ 300,726.00
North Belfast Employment Centre	Belfast	Improving Your Future	£653,154	£653,154	£261,261	£163,289	£ 228,604.00
Job Directions Ltd	Strabane	Doorstep Job Directions	£168,608	£168,608	£67,096	£41,935	£ 59,577.00
Springvale Learning	Belfast	Transition Through Technology	£667,056	£667,056	£239,727	£149,829	£ 277,500.00
Newstart Education Centre	Belfast	Realising Actual Potential	£555,120	£555,120	£145,022	£90,639	£ 319,459.00
North City Business Centre	Belfast	The E-Skills Programme for North Belfast	£276,812	£276,812	£75,673	£47,295	£ 153,844.00
Strathfoyle Women's Activity Group Ltd	Derry	SWAG Community Empowerment Program	£732,947	£732,947	£293,179	£183,237	£ 256,531.00
Th Bytes project	Belfast	Connect Youth	£340,234	£340,234	£136,093	£85,058	£ 119,083.00



Women's Resource and Development agency	Belfast	Facilitating Women into Employment	£268,972	£268,972	£107,589	£67,243	£ 94,140.00
Job Directions Ltd	Strabane	Able for Work	£314,282	£314,282	£125,182	£78,239	£ 110,861.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£109,428,102</b>	<b>£107,063,726</b>	<b>£42,482,075</b>	<b>£26,541,299</b>	<b>£ 38,040,352</b>