



MONITORING COMMITTEE for Operational Programme II

Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life
Cohesion policy (2007-2013)

Employment Aid Programme 2007-2013



Operational Programme II – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life
Aid Schemes part-financed by the European Union
European Social Fund (ESF)
Co-financing : EU Funds; National Funds; Private Funds
Investing in your future



Objectives

The EAP aims to reach the following:

- Increase in job opportunities for disadvantaged groups in the labour market;
- Upgrade the skills of the disadvantaged groups through work experience and therefore enhance their employment prospects;
- Enhance the financial independence of disadvantaged persons and prevent social exclusion and marginalisation.

General Information

- **Intermediate Body** – Employment and Training Corporation (managed by the Employment Services Division)
- **Funding** – Priority Axis 3 ‘Promoting an equal and inclusive labour market’ under the ESF Operational Programme

Changes to the Criteria approved by MC following the new State Aid Regulations 800 of 2008

- The EAP was originally based on the Commission Regulation (EC) No **2204/2002** (Employment Aid Block Exemption)
- In August 2008, the Commission Regulation (EC) No **800/2008** revised and updated the above regulation (General State Aid Block Exemption);
- This, amongst other, **affected the aid intensity for persons with disability; the inclusion of the Shipbuilding Sector; and changes in client Groups.**

1. Aid Intensity for Persons with Disability

As approved:

- Aid intensity: 60% of the actual wage, excluding the Employer's NI.
- Duration: 52 weeks.

As proposed in line with the new regulation:

- Aid intensity: **75%** of the actual wage for the first year and **60%** for the **subsequent second and third year**, excluding the Employer's NI.
- Duration: 156 weeks – 3 years (or till 2013, which ever comes first)
- Condition imposed: Retention of persons with disability in employment for a further one year after the subsidy period.

2. Amended/New Eligibility Criteria for Employers

Definition of employer / Eligible economic sectors:

As approved:

all employers, including a partnership, company, association or other body of persons, whether vested with legal personality or not, excluding the coal and shipbuilding sector;

As proposed:

The scheme shall apply to all sectors of the economy with the exception of those listed in Article 1(3) of Regulation EC No. 800/2008.

(Reference to the exclusion of coal and shipbuilding sector removed, since the shipbuilding is now covered by the new regulations)

Amended/New Eligibility Criteria for Employers ...

Quota :Not exceeding the maximum quota of 10 participants per calendar year (amended):

As approved:

Exception clause: *this is not applicable for employment based in Gozo, or when an employer recruits persons who have been made redundant **in the past three months** or received a letter of notice in the previous **three months**.*

As proposed:

Exception clause redefined: *this is not applicable for employment based in Gozo, or when an employer recruits persons who have been made redundant **in the past six months** or received a letter of notice in the previous **six months**.*

Amended/New Eligibility Criteria for Employers ...

Recruitment represents a net increase (amended):

As approved:

the recruitment of the participant must represent a net increase in the number of employees in the establishment concerned.

As proposed:

The word **establishment** has been replaced by **undertaking** to be in line with the new regulation.

3. Amended Participants' Eligibility Criteria

As approved: Any person who wishes to enter or to re-enter working life and who has been absent both from work and from education for at least two years, **and** particularly any person who gave up work on account of the difficulty of reconciling his or her working life and family life.

- The word '**and**' has been removed to clarify that there is no dependence on the last part of the criteria.

As proposed: Any person who wishes to enter or to re-enter working life and who has been absent both from work and from education for at least two years, particularly any person who gave up work on account of the difficulty of reconciling his or her working life and family life.

3. Amended Participants' Eligibility Criteria ...

As approved: Any person living as a single adult looking after a child or children.

- To replace child/children by dependents since this has been widened by the new state aid regulations.

As proposed: Any person living as a single adult looking after dependents.

Amended Participants' Eligibility Criteria ...

As approved: Any person who has not attained upper secondary level qualifications or equivalent who has been made redundant in the past six months or has been served with a notice of termination of employment.

- To qualify the 'or equivalent', ISCED level 3 has been inserted.

As proposed: Any person who has not attained upper secondary level qualifications or equivalent (ISCED level 3) who has been made redundant in the past six months or has been served with a notice of termination of employment.

Amended Participants' Eligibility Criteria ...

As approved: Any person older than 50 who does not have a job or who is losing his or her job.

- Losing a job has been qualified as 'has been served with a notice of termination of employment'.

As proposed: Any person older than 50 who does not have a job or who is losing his or her job, i.e. has been served with a notice of termination of employment.

Removed Participants' Eligibility Criteria

The following two client groups were removed;

- Any registered unemployed recognized to be or to have been an addict in accordance with national law;
- Any registered unemployed who has not obtained his or her first regular paid employment since beginning a period of imprisonment or other penal measure.

This is no longer possible in line with the new state aid regulations. These specific categories will be eligible if they fit in one of the other client groups.

THANK YOU

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