

# Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020

## EU and National Developments and Progress Towards Europe 2020 Targets

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## EU Developments

### White Paper on the Future of the EU

- Commission contribution to Rome Summit, marking 60 years of the EU.
- Challenges/Opportunities for the EU to 2025
- 5 “scenarios”
- Implications for ESIF bound up with “the future of EU finances”

### Council Conclusions on Cohesion Policy

- Published in April 2017
- Making cohesion policy “more visible” to citizens
- Measurable outcomes/impacts
- More simplification post-2020

## EU Developments

### YEI/Youth Guarantee

- YEI extended in September 2016 – IE no longer qualifies.
- Court of Auditors report on the Youth Guarantee published in April – visited 7 countries including Ireland.

### Skills Agenda/Guarantee

- New Skills Agenda For Europe was launched by the Commission in June 2016
- 10 Actions
- Skills Guarantee – “Upskilling Pathways” adopted by the Council in December 2016

## National Developments

### Migrant Integration Strategy

- Minister Fitzgerald launched a new Migrant Integration Strategy in February 2017
- Actions for all Government Departments
- Mix of mainstream approaches and targeted initiatives

### National Strategy for Women and Girls

- Published on 3 May.
- 6 objectives

## National Developments

### Strategy Implementation

- Higher Education Strategy
- Further Education Strategy
- National Skills Strategy
- Action Plan for Education 2016-2019
- Action Plan for Jobs
- Pathways to Work Strategy 2016-2020
- Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015-2024

# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## Main Economic Indicators

- GDP increased by 5.2% in 2016
- Employment increased by 2.9% in 2016, all sectors positive
- Unemployment Rate in April, per CSO, was 6.2%, down from 6.4% in March and 8.2% in April 2016.
- Inflation remains low at ~1%.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### Main Fiscal Indicators

- Underlying Government deficit of 0.8% in 2016
- Gross Voted Expenditure ~ €56 billion
- Tax Receipts expected to rise by 5.2% in 2017
- Debt-to-GDP ratio of 75.4%

## EUROPE 2020

Europe 2020 is the EU's ten-year growth and jobs strategy, launched in 2010. Five headline targets have been set for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020, of which three are relevant to this Programme.

- Employment
- Education
- Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction



## EMPLOYMENT

“To raise to 69-71% the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64, including through the greater participation of young people, older workers and low-skilled workers, and the better integration of legal migrants, and to review the target level of ambition in 2014, in the context of a proposed mid-term review of the Europe 2020 Strategy.”

- 2010 – 64.7%, 2016 – 70.3%
- Action Plan for Jobs, Pathways to Work, National Skills Strategy 2025 (National Skills Council and Regional Skills Fora), FET Strategy 2014-2019.

## EDUCATION

“To reduce the percentage of 18-24 year olds with at most lower secondary education and not in further education and training to 8%; and to increase the share of 30-34 years olds having completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 60%.”

- Early School Leavers: 2010 – 11.4%, 2015 – 6.9%
  - DEIS Plan 2017, SICAP, Youthreach.
- Tertiary Attainment: 2010 – 50.1%, 2015 – 52.3%
  - HE Strategy, SUSI, National Access Plan 2015-2019, SAF and FSD reviews.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

“To reduce the number experiencing consistent poverty to 4% by 2016 (interim target) and to 2% or less by 2020, from the 2010 baseline rate of 6.3%. The Irish contribution to the Europe 2020 poverty target is to reduce by a minimum of 200,000 the population in combined poverty (either consistent poverty, at-risk-of-poverty or basic deprivation).”

- “Combined Poverty” rate fell from 37.4% in 2014 to 33.7% in 2015.
- National Action Plan for Social Inclusion to be reviewed in 2017.
- Further progress required.