

**Meeting of the Consultative Forum for the Andersen EGF Programme
Rathkeale House Hotel, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick**

30th November 2015

Attendance:

Chairperson:	Liam Woulfe
EGF Managing Authority (EGFMA):	John McDermott, Tim Freeman
SOLAS EGF Coordination Unit (EGFCU):	Jim Wadden, David Smith, Joanne Morrissey
Department of Social Protection:	Jim Lynch
Limerick LEO:	Eamon Ryan
Enterprise Ireland	Meave Meehan
Limerick and Clare ETB	Paul Patton
Andersen worker representatives:	Tom Hogan[chair], Jenna Bourke, James McNamara

Apologies:

LCETB: Breda Flynn, Aobhan Haverty,

LIT: Seamus Hoynes

1.	Mr. Liam Woulfe, Chair, welcomed all present to the fourth EGF Andersen consultative forum meeting.
2.	With no matters arising, the Minutes of the third consultative meeting were agreed.
3.	<p>EGF Managing Authority</p> <p>Mr. John McDermott from the EGF MA provided members with a detailed activity update on the Andersen programme. In relation to the measure activity data, Mr McDermott highlighted the favourable activity statistics which set out that 96% of the targeted number of affected worker beneficiaries (132) had now received at least one intervention whilst 95% of targeted NEETs (131) had received same. A major factor in these favourable numbers was the success of the EGF training grant measure which enabled beneficiaries to access QQI and or industry-accredited courses across a wide range of disciplines as well as career guidance. The Course Expense Contribution (CEC) measure, which enabled beneficiaries to defray some of the day-to-day incurred costs of following their chosen course of study, had also been taken up by a significant proportion of both affected worker and NEET clients. That said there still, however, remained some work to do in order fully achieve the 138 targeted numbers for both cohorts.</p> <p>Focusing on outcomes, Mr McDermott highlighted that the rate of unemployment for Andersen affected workers, at just 12 persons out of the total 171 eligible cohort was below the live register rate of 8.9%. It was also noted that where the actual beneficiary sub-cohort of 132 was concerned the rate of unemployment at 7.6% was still below the national average, notwithstanding that</p>

	<p>it was still slightly higher than the non-beneficiary sub-cohort. He also highlighted in his comments those affected workers whose labour market status was unemployed or unknown (in the case of the latter such persons did not appear on either the Revenue Commissioners or DSP databases at the 3 October 2015 survey date). It was noted that of the 33 affected workers whose status was unknown at the latest survey date a total of 24 had undertaken at least 1 EGF support and that 10 of the 12 who were listed as unemployed had also taken up EGF supports.</p> <p>In commenting on the labour market status and activity figures the Chairman noted the much improved economic climate, stating that this appeared to have combined with what he detected to be an underlying vibrancy within the EGF cohort. He felt this had led to the much improved figures contained in the Third Implementation report. However, Mr Smith urged a little caution in saying that the Forum did not really know what the underlying status of those listed as being in employment was, adding that with the onset of winter some jobs gained by those within the affected worker cohort may well be of a time-limited nature and be shed. The positive side to this was that it might lead to more services being taken up as clients wish to further re-skill or up-skill themselves through the EGF.</p>
4.	<p>Service Provider Update</p> <p>Both Mr Lynch (DSP) and Mr Patton (LCETB) complimented the efforts of Mr Smith and Ms Morrissey (EGFCU) in their efforts at encouraging the take up of EGF supports – particularly in the context of assisting what was a challenging cohort of NEETs.</p> <p>Mr Eamon Ryan (LEO) advised that the LEO approved 2 Andersen for grant supports with one additional client pending. The remaining expenditure incurred by the LEO to date for a total of circa 9/10 clients was soft supports (training/mentoring). There were no NEETs amongst the LEO beneficiaries. Mr Ryan added that a small amount of soft supports expenditure had been incurred by Clare LEO but that for the purposes of declaration this would be administered by his office.</p>
5.	<p>Andersen Worker Representatives</p> <p>There was no major update from the affected worker representatives on the Forum. Mr Hogan said that he had only assisted one former worker recently in taking up supports by putting them in direct contact with the EGFCU (Ms Davis). Ms Bourke requested clarity from Mr Smith on the exact dates within which supports could be undertaken under EGF auspices. Mr Smith confirmed the dates. Mr McNamara doubted whether 18 months into the programme there would be any significant further interest in it.</p> <p>Mr Hogan and Ms Bourke also complimented the efforts of Ms Patricia Davis (EGFCU) in supporting locally Andersen EGF clients.</p>
6	Any other business
7.	Date and time of next meeting to be agreed

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