

**CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME FOR CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND
JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE**

ESF Performance Report

Purpose

To provide background and detail on ESF performance data

Recommendation

- To note the contents of this report and use this information to help inform the PMC of progress and issues in the delivery of the ESF Convergence Programme.

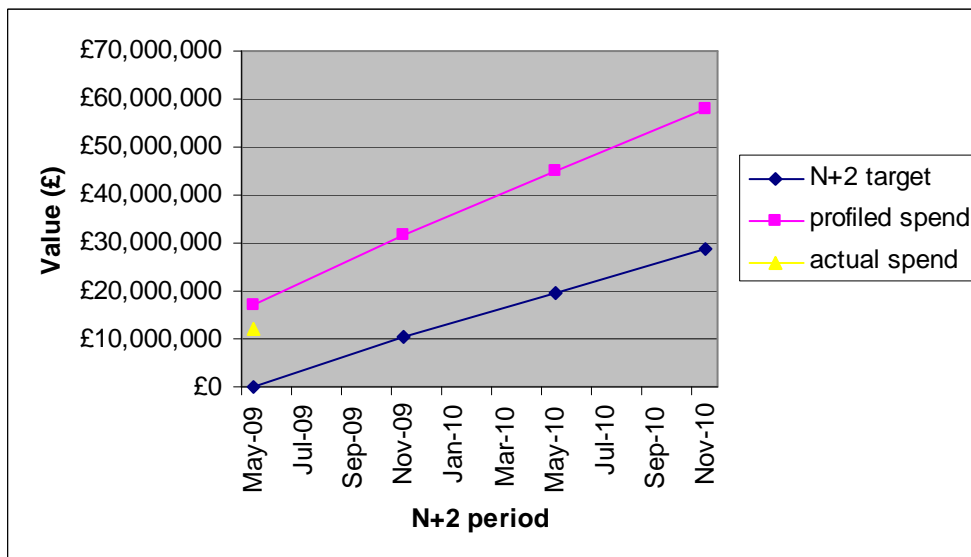
Please note: The information in the July update remains current and this report reflects that.

Performance

Spend

Claims have been submitted for the period ending May 2009. Total spend from the May claims was **£11,979,274**. This represents 90% of the 2009 N+2 target. Latest information from ESFD also indicates that further claims from DWP have also been submitted which means the 2009 N+2 target has actually been achieved (subject to exchange rate fluctuations).

Figure 1 – ESF spend against N+2 target



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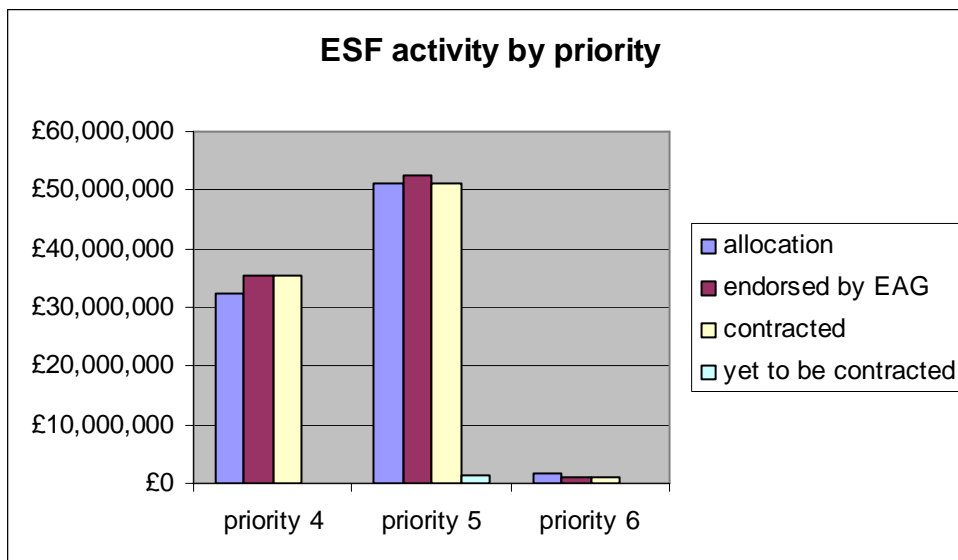


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Contracted Activity

GOSW, on behalf on the Managing Authority has contracted (contracts signed and received back from partners) £88,830,855 ESF with partners. There is currently one contract still outstanding for £1,312,500; issues have been resolved and we are awaiting an amended application form which will enable the contract to be released.

Figure 2 – Contracted ESF against 2010 Programme Allocations



Priority 4 Outputs and Results

Progress towards P4 Outputs is extremely encouraging. With 18 months to go until the end of the first half of the Programme (December 2010), we have already achieved 9,267 (66%) of planned participant starts and 633 (19%) of the job outcomes¹. The DWP prime providers have the majority of their job outcomes contracted for 2010. DWP/Jobcentre Plus are fully aware of this and are already working with the providers to help ensure the strong start to delivery can be maintained next year. Good progress has also made made on the movement of the NEET group into employment, education or training. The reported figure has increased from 21 to 742 (59%) of the 2010 target.

¹ Figures taken from the May National Monitoring Report; local data from Jobcentre Plus indicated that job outcomes are standing at 29%.



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Figure 3 – P4 ESF outputs delivered against 2010 output targets

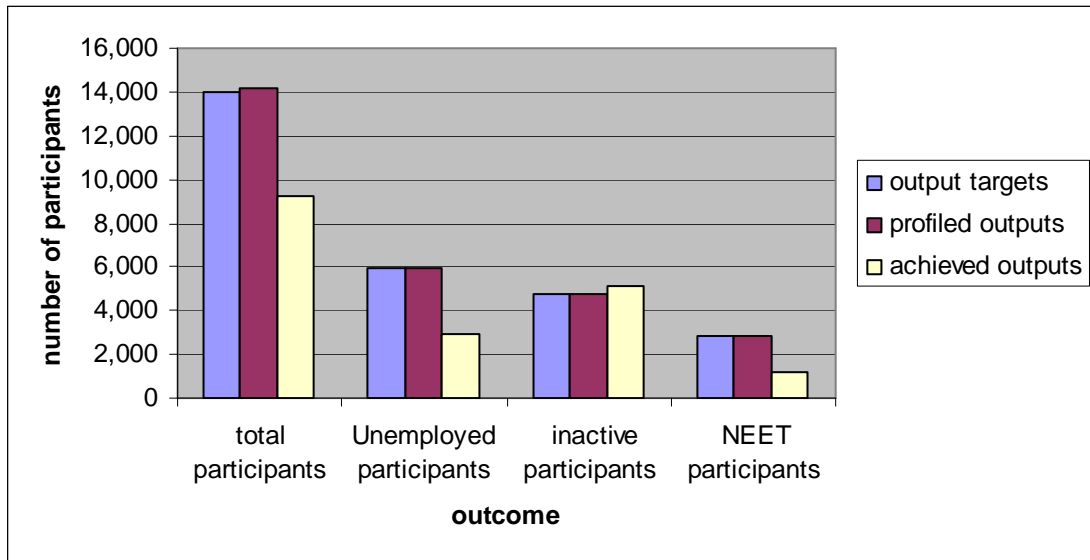
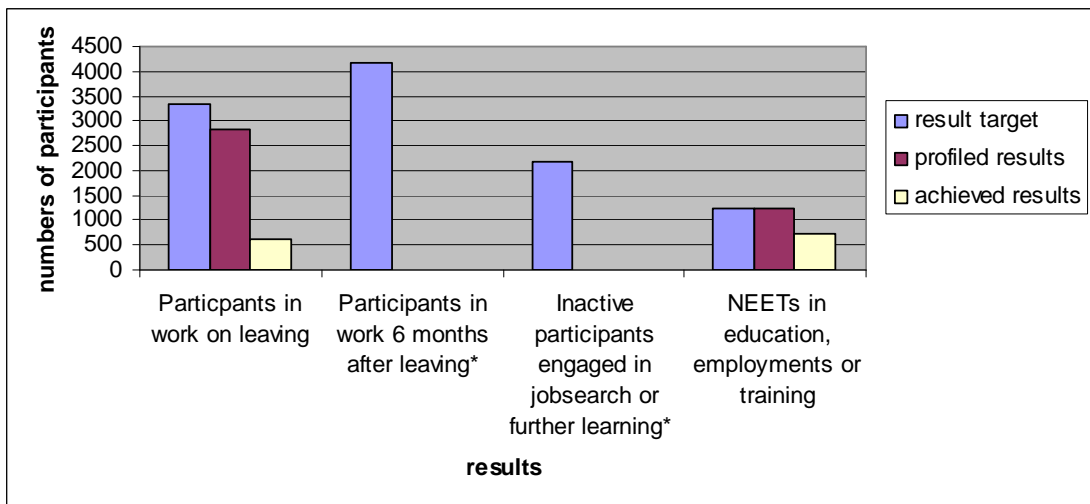


Figure 4 – P4 ESF results delivered against 2010 result targets



Priority 5 Outputs and Results

Performance against P5 outputs and results remain disappointing. Some of the output figures have shown improvements e.g. total participants stand at 9,187 (32% of the 2010 target) and engagement with those without a Level 3 qualification at 2,034 (64%). However, other outputs are still well below profile, with those with basic skills needs causing particular concern with only 1,088 (11%) of the target achieved to date. Results are below profile across the board. Some of this is understandable e.g. participants achieving a Level 4 or



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5 qualification when the period of training required tends to be longer. Once again it is the achievement of basic skills which show the biggest difference between the target and achievement with only 13 individuals (0.2%) being reported as at May 2009. The LSC has worked with all its projects to ensure that profiled activity is realistic and deliverable. Nevertheless, there is a recognition that due to the very high volumes of engagement needed to deliver the Programme, most providers still have a considerable way to go to realise their contractual commitments. Additionally, the LSC has undertaken individual project performance reviews against all of its projects. This has enabled the LSC to identify those projects where clawback of funds is necessary. GOSW has offered to support the LSC in these negotiations if necessary. GOSW will also work with the LSC to ensure that the funds are reinvested to best meet the delivery of the Programme; early indications from the LSC are that recovered funds may support additional Train to Gain provision.

Figure 5 – P5 ESF outputs delivered against 2010 output targets

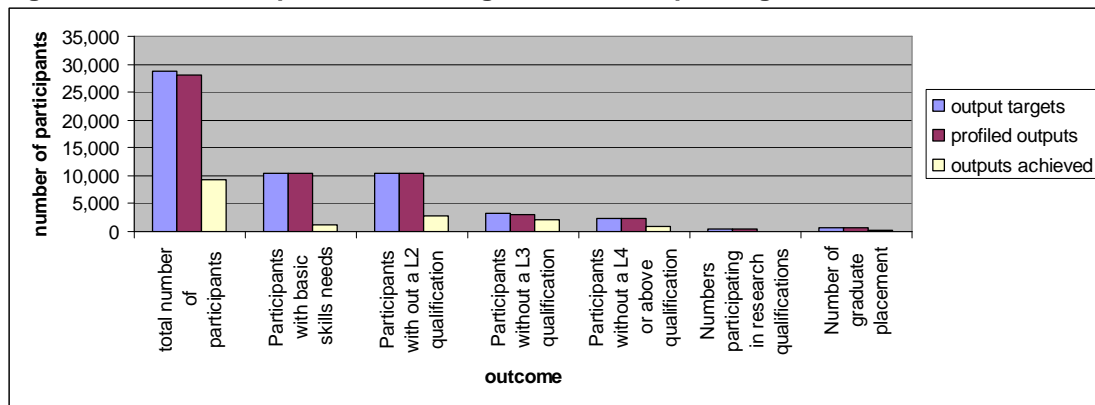
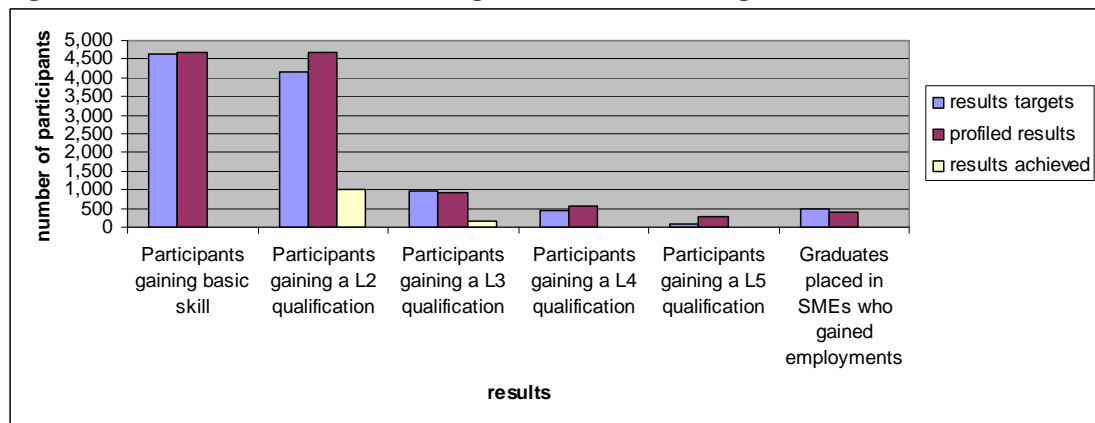


Figure 6 – P5 ESF results delivered against 2010 result targets



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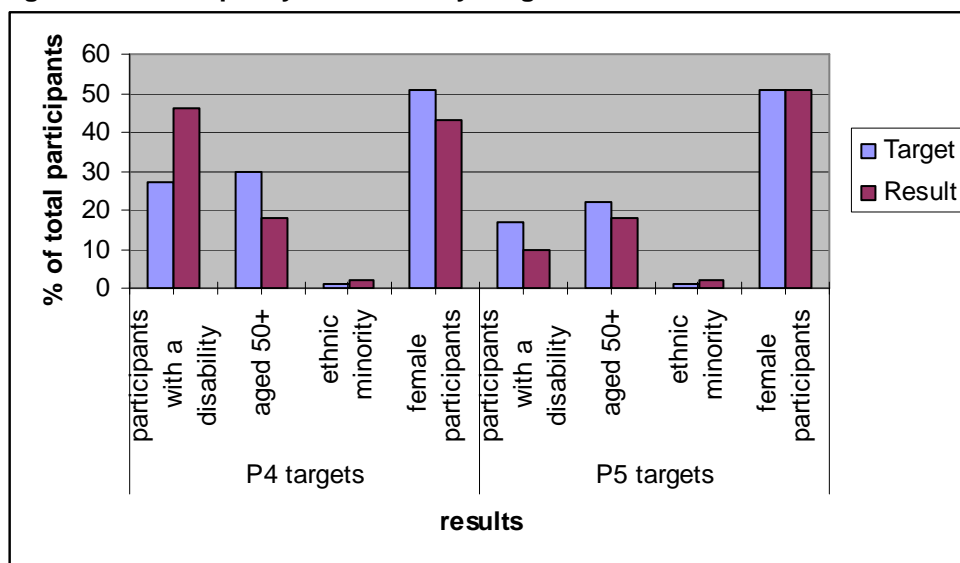


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Equality and Diversity Performance

Delivery of the ESF equality and diversity targets is progressing well. Both the LSC and DWP have systems in place to monitor and record equality and diversity and all providers (CFO and non CFO) have attended Equality and Diversity workshops run by Ecotech. Targets for engagement for those with a disability, from an ethnic minority or women are broadly in line, or exceeding, Programme targets. Engagement with those over aged 50, however, is below target. All providers have/will be asked to ensure they re-examine their recruitment processes to ensure the over 50s are more actively encouraged to participate on ESF programmes.

Figure 7 – ESF Equality and Diversity Targets



Summary

In summary, ESF spend is progressing well and ESF delivery is working well in parts. There are challenges facing the Programme for both P4 and P5. The key issue in P5 is to support the delivery partners to ensure that the job targets can be met even in this very testing economic climate. There is more work to be done to successfully deliver P5. The HE contracts are now all operational so higher level skills are now being delivered. The LSC is taking a firmer line with its providers to ensure programme delivery and is starting to withdraw funds from those providers who are not performing. It is hoped that this will send a clear message that all providers must improve their delivery and strive and fulfil their contractual obligations to the LSC and thus the Convergence Programme. GOSW will continue to monitor this closely and will report back to the PMC on progress.

GOSW



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