



EASI - EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION PROGRAMME

LONE PARENTS (DIGITAL ACTIVATION)

INNOVATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The use of digital technology to assist this specific target group of lone parents in integrating into the job market, notably in Ireland

SCALE AND TYPE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

- Incremental and Process Innovation

CALL NAME

Establishing and testing integrated interventions aimed at supporting people in (the most) vulnerable situations

COUNTRY

Ireland, Greece and Finland

POLICY AREAS

Labour market inclusion through active labour market policy measures
Social inclusion, as well as improved empowerment and activation
Combat long-term unemployment
Fight against poverty and social exclusion

TARGET GROUPS

National, regional and local authorities
Employment services

COORDINATOR

Department of Social Protection (Ireland)

CO- BENEFICIARIES

One Family (Ireland)
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Uusimaa (Finland)
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Greece)
Agalia (Greece)
Ark of the World (Greece)

EU CONTRIBUTION

€ 1,245,926 (80% of the total costs)

TOTAL COSTS

€ 1,557,509 (estimation)

DURATION

November 2021 – April 2024

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

The suggested Action describes the development of an inclusive activation framework that focuses on lone parents in vulnerable situations who face the highest social and labor market constraints. Ireland's collaboration with Greece and Finland is likely to provide significant synergies and complementarities across all phases of the action, making pre-activation and activation measures for lone parents easier.

New employability tools (profiling and distance travelled tools), creative referral alternatives, and integrated information distribution are all part of the nations' distinct measures to meet the unique issues encountered by lone parents. In Ireland, the Department of Social Protection (DEASP) will provide focused employability help to 100-120 participants, which will be supplemented by One Family's specialized bridging courses. The intervention will be tested on two separate sample groups of 100 people in Greece. Targeted occupational sessions and a customised strategy to address particular hurdles will be provided to the 'treatment' group. This group will also get a variety of services, including training and education, legal and psychiatric assistance, childcare, and other health services. The Action will be carried out by the Ministry's relevant divisions and two non-governmental organizations.

Keywords: lone parents; labour market integration; employment after parental leave

Lone parents in three countries (Ireland, Finland, and Greece), are the pilot's end-beneficiaries. Despite the fact that this group is confronted with diverse circumstances in each of the three pilot nations, there are common societal demands centered on the difficulties of balancing work and family life. Long durations of unemployment can result in the loss of skills and a reduction in employability. Consequently, lone parents are frequently forced into risky and low-paying jobs. As a result, lone parents have consistently been identified as one of the most vulnerable groups in each of the three nations.

“The collaboration between the three countries will create substantial synergies and complementarities and findings will provide invaluable feedback in addressing the challenges faced by these vulnerable groups.”

OBJECTIVES

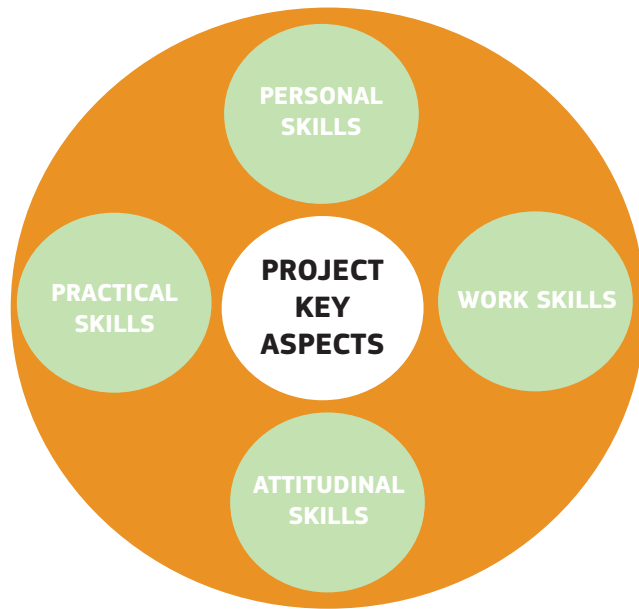
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Objectives slightly vary from country to country. The Irish and Greek pilots seek to integrate employability and social support through digital service and training delivery. The Finnish pilot will expand a pre-existing pilot focused on parents on extended parental leave to all unemployed single parents. All pilots ultimately work towards improving lone parents' employability and facilitating their (re-)integration into the labour market.

CONTEXT AND NEEDS

METHODOLOGY

- 1 THE PROJECT WILL GIVE TARGETED EMPLOYABILITY HELP TO LONE PARENTS WITH LOW INCOMES
- 2 TRAININGS AND OTHER MEASURES WILL BE SUPPLIED DIGITALLY
- 3 IN IRELAND, FINLAND AND GREECE



At sites in Ireland, Finland, and Greece, the project will give targeted employability help to lone parents with low incomes. The fact that a major number of trainings and other measures will be supplied digitally is a crucial component of this initiative. Parents who cannot afford to buy their own equipment will be given it free of charge.

Instead of a counterfactual assessment, the project team will do a “semi-experimental” evaluation. Because there will be no separate experimental and control groups, this is the case. Instead, the pilot’s participants will be statistically matched with non-participants who are similar. This was done so that as many lone parents as possible may benefit from the intervention without having to impose a rigid restriction on the number of people who could participate.

RESULTS

Lone Parents Digital Activation aims to make significant improvements in three main areas: (1) educational attainment; (2) training or work attainment; and (3) social inclusion. The consortium will compare these goals to the current situation. There are plans to collect data on a variety of different variables in order to better understand the success of lone parents. Data on key work skills (e.g., teamwork, communication, timekeeping, and literacy), attitudinal skills (e.g., motivation, confidence, responsibility, and self-esteem), personal skills (e.g., appearance, attendance, and timekeeping), and practical skills (e.g., appearance, attendance, and timekeeping) are included (e.g. ability to complete forms, ability to complete CVs and money management).

“Firstly, the project intends to enhance social inclusion and participation of lone parents in education, training and employment. Ultimately, the aim is to reduce poverty and vulnerability amongst those lone parent families”

“Secondly, the project will develop a framework to deliver the activation and employment support services to lone parents that better integrates the services offered across public and private bodies”



“We want to deliver specific employability enhancing courses targeted at lone parents. This means that we have to develop a tailor-made profiling tool which will be underpinned by a shift in focus to education and employability needs and social inclusion”

The use of digital technology to aid the labor market integration of this specific target group of lone parents, particularly in Ireland, is the most creative aspect of this initiative. To that purpose, the initiative will provide a new and improved evaluation instrument for lone parents' requirements. In addition, a distance traveled tool will be available, which will track personal development as well as criteria for review. Finally, the digital delivery of trainings and services is novel since it has never been done before for this target demographic and will help them to better balance work and family obligations.

TRANSFERABILITY AND UPSCALING

Given the early stages of deployment, there are presently no clear transfer plans. However, the project coordinator, who works for the appropriate government department's lone parents division, emphasizes that they are in constant contact with all relevant Irish government divisions.



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PROJECT CANVA



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