



# Pobal guidance note European Integration Fund & European Refugee Fund

## Framework for Demonstration of Outcomes

**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
April 2014**

*This note describes the requirements for the evaluation frameworks for ERF & EIF 2014 and clarifies expectations made of contract holders/projects.*

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY



government supporting communities

## 1. Background

When the EIF/ERF programmes were launched, the *Programme Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions* (section 3, pg 13) stated that there would be “ ... an evaluation framework and all funded groups will be required to carry out evaluation work in line with the framework. All successful applicants must prepare an external project evaluation in line with the EIF/ERF Evaluation Framework.... All applicants must include a maximum budget of €3,000 for the purposes of carrying out a project evaluation.”

This evaluation framework is an adaptation of the framework applied to the previous round of EIF and ERF funding.

Taking into account lessons learned from that round and acknowledging the shorter time frame of current EIF and ERF contracts, the emphasis here is upon provision of support for successful applicants to **improve measurement of outcomes at project level**. The outcome measures from all current projects will then be collated and expanded upon at the programme level.

## 2. Definitions

### *‘Project Level Evaluation’*

In the previous EIF/ERF programmes, the term ‘evaluation’ had a different meaning for all stakeholders. This may give rise to confusion about the scale and scope of requirements, especially in differentiating between programme level and project level results. We have therefore set out the following clarification:

- In order to reinforce the emphasis on measurement of outcomes, **the framework will be referred to from this point on as a Framework for Demonstration of Outcomes.**
- **Project level evaluation now refers to the collective planning, processes and activities undertaken by your project in order to measure and demonstrate outcomes of the work you do.**

## 3. Framework for demonstration of outcomes

The framework for demonstration of outcomes has three elements:

- i) Project-level monitoring and analysis, initiated and managed by projects
- ii) Focused analysis of ‘what works’
- iii) End of programme final report incorporating both of the above.

**NOTE:** the requirements of this framework are *additional to* the programme monitoring requirements which require you to report on output activities at the mid and end-year points.

### ***3.1 Project-level monitoring and analysis, initiated and managed by projects***

All EIF/ERF projects will be required to complete an *Outcomes Reporting Template* where they measure their projects’ outcomes against selected EIF/ERF programme outcomes.

All projects have up to €3,000 available in their project budget to support ‘project level evaluation’.

Pobal’s expectation is that projects will engage external support either to carry out work or to facilitate work on **measuring outcomes**.

This may include contracting a consultant who will devise indicators for your project’s outcomes and who will support you to complete your project’s *Outcomes Reporting Template*.

However, this does not mean that you have to engage a consultant to carry out this work on your behalf. You could for instance engage a consultant in guidance or mentoring capacity. It may be that your staff or board members have sufficient expertise in the field of outcomes measurement to be able to undertake this work. Even so, it is advisable to seek input from an external advisor in order to provide rigour and objectivity to your outcomes measurement.

**NOTE: We advise all EIF/ERF groups to contact Pobal for approval before making their final decision about how they will spend their evaluation budget.**

When you complete the *Outcomes Reporting Template*, you will need to demonstrate the extent to which the activities in your project have delivered outcomes in line with the stated programme outcomes.

The original EIF/ERF programme outcomes were listed in the application form and you were required to select which programme outcomes that your project would help to achieve.

One of the recommendations from the previous funding round was that this list should be consolidated into a shorter list in order to facilitate easier reporting. While these programme outcomes remain valid, we have devised a consolidated list to inform your project's outcomes measurement. The revised outcomes are listed below.

1. Target groups will have improved basic knowledge and skills to support their integration into Irish society
2. They will have increased access to training, education and employment
3. They will have better access to public and local services
4. Target groups and the wider community will have increased opportunities to engage in intercultural dialogue and to effectively address racism
5. There will be improved capacity, co-ordination and/or collaboration among public services and community organisations in meeting the needs of the target group
6. Target groups will have increased capacity to participate in collective action and in civil society.

### ***3.2 Focused analysis of 'what works'***

Three months prior to end of the programme, we will conduct the 'what works' analysis. The analysis of 'what works' involves identifying the activities, influencing factors and potential for reproducibility which contribute to good outcomes. We expect that we will select five projects for review.

Demonstration of outcomes is challenging and where projects are producing well evidenced results, we are keen to explore the factors that make this work successful. In order to give sufficient time to explore those factors we will be looking for projects that show promising results 9 months into the project.

We do not intend to adopt a rigorous selection process which may give the impression that projects not selected are somehow less effective. We will instead be giving guidelines on what may be considered to be good and well evidenced outcomes, from which we will be asking for some level of self-nomination to be included in a small sample.

Selected projects will be asked to provide further information on the influencing factors which contribute to good outcomes and the potential for reproducibility.

### ***3.3 End of programme final report***

Pobal will produce a final report that builds on learning from the previous round of funding and incorporates findings from all currently funded groups. All projects will be required to submit end of project reports on measurement of their outcomes. This will form the basis of the end of programme report and it will be supplemented by the examination of what works in ii) above.

#### **4. Summary of requirements**

- February 2014: Participation in Pobal workshop on the requirements of outcomes measurement.
- September: selection of projects to undergo more in depth analysis.
- December: submission of *Outcomes Reporting Templates*.

#### **5. Contact**

Any queries or questions regarding this Framework should be directed to:

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