



Measure:

Human Resources
Development and Skilling

Promoters:

FAS Training Services,
Letterkenny
Dept. Employment &
Learning, Belfast

Title:

Workforce 21

Through this project, FAS and DEL, the National Authorities responsible for training throughout Ireland, jointly developed a pilot training interventions programme for those most at risk of becoming marginalized through lack of relevant skills. The approach of this project is fundamentally different from existing programmes and required that it be delivered separately from existing activity.

The project was based on a particular model of training intervention, which sought to match the aptitudes of the participants with the skills needs of the economy in the North West. The programme therefore included elements such as individual skills auditing; aptitude testing and specific skills training.

There were approximately 178 participants on the Workforce 21 programme. The course was run at 12 different locations across the North West with 7 groups in Donegal and 5 groups in Derry and Strabane. Participants ranged from those in their late teens to mid-fifties with some having been unemployed for over 10 years. The majority of participants were women who were considering re-entry to the labour market after a long absence caring for children.

Participant's experience of both their training and placements were positive with 93% indicating that they were likely to undertake more education or training in the future as a result of their participation on the programme.

172 participants completed the course and of these, 47%(83 no) have since entered employment.

This programme successfully achieved its aims of introducing the concept of Lifelong Learning to participants and also of helping to address the current imbalance between existing and new / emerging skills, thus increasing the availability of a skilled labour force that is consistent with emerging labour market needs.

Total Project Cost: €1,164,340

Grant Awarded: €643,120

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Project Promoters and Trainees at the presentation of certificates evening in Donegal

