

## **Active Inclusion (AI) Learning Network**

The Active Inclusion Learning Network will support individuals in disaffected groups and marginalised communities by bringing together experts to exchange and review processes to tackle employment difficulties. The network will guide these individuals into sustainable employment and provide the opportunity for them to earn an adequate income for a dignified life. The network will identify tools and develop strategies to help these individuals so as to understand and overcome the realities and challenges of the labour market. These individuals should subsequently be better equipped to access and benefit from majority support services such as healthcare and education with the aim of reducing their marginalisation and increasing integration into mainstream society.

This Network will work towards increasing the adaptability of Disaffected Youth, Marginalised Communities and Troubled Families to prevent the perceived stigmatisation which makes it difficult for them to find and maintain employment. It will enhance access to employment and related services for these groups by giving them confidence to challenge the stereotypical views of employers and combat discrimination in the market place. The network will examine government strategies and policies; it will identify programmes, interventions and innovative work across the EU that addresses unemployment for these groups.

The network will inform ESF managing authorities of their findings. Present it in a format that distinguishes between accredited, non-accredited, evaluated and non-evaluated interventions. The information will help ESF managing authorities in making informed decisions when introducing or assessing current policy when deciding where to allocate financial assistance for interventions in these areas. An overall goal will be to enhance the employability and social inclusion of these individuals and make employers aware of this pool of individuals who will be a beneficial addition to their workforce.

Finally, the results of the network will be disseminated through a European conference and on an EU website with a knowledge management section included. The website will be interactive; allowing for both ESF managing authorities and practitioners to access the information on current approaches being used across the EU and new initiatives that were assessed by the network as having the potential to deliver positive results for the disaffected and marginalised. The network expects to produce several reports informing the ESF authorities of the specific outcomes on the themes and sub-themes addressed.

The core objective of the network will be to enhance the employment prospects of socially disadvantaged groups by identifying where and what type of support is required, what policies work best and offer the best chance of success for the disadvantaged. This will encourage individuals within these groups to develop their confidence and skills to further their chances of gaining meaningful employment. The network will aim to identify the barriers faced by individuals and combat discrimination in the workplace when trying to gain and sustain employment through examining current policies and interventions.



## Outputs

- Website
  - Knowledge management section
  - Database of NGO's, Practitioners and Experts contact details and expertise.
- Guide to inform ESF Management Authorities on findings when reviewing policies.
- Information on obstacles when implementing interventions for inclusion into employment
- Opportunities to consider when implementing interventions for inclusion into employment
- Transnational cooperation between experts and practitioners when considering inclusion into employment for the disaffected and marginalised.
- Horizontal study looking at commonalities on issues encountered for inclusion into employment for the disaffected and marginalised.
- Systematic review into recent, high quality, recommended research into inclusion into employment for the disaffected and marginalised.
- Thoroughly tested recommendations by experts and practitioners working together
- Expert and NGO's workshops
- Practitioner and Expert quality assurance workshops
- Final conference report translated into 3 languages
- Active linking of learning networks to share knowledge and ensure longevity of outcomes
- Final conference

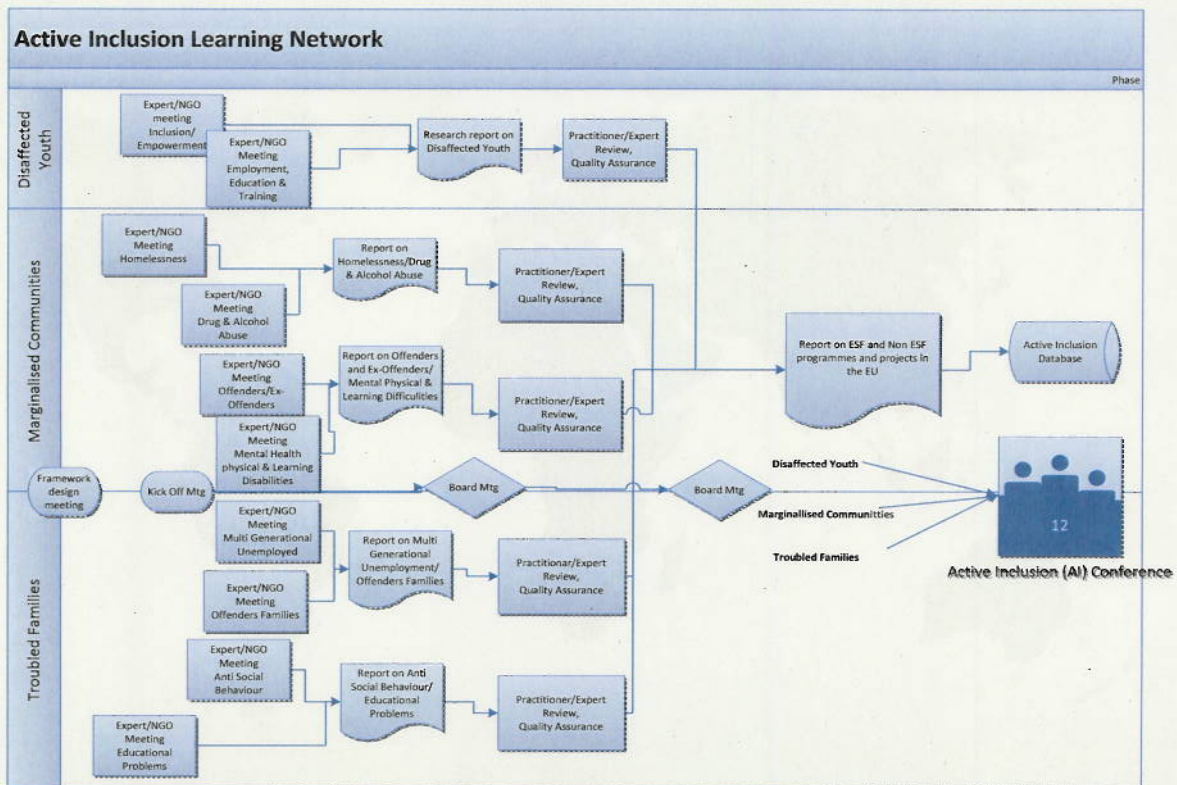
The network will build a database of interested NGO's Practitioners and experts which will be accessible through the website and linked to the knowledge management section. Dissemination of all key material will be sent to all interested parties.

The European Union logo and the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion support will be highlighted on all documentation throughout the networks life cycle and on the website

Network partners will be requested to promote and disseminate the outcomes through their own organisations and networks.

The network will co-operate closely with other learning networks and will ensure it provides added value to compliment parallel work being undertaken and not duplicate. It will assist in the communication of outcomes from other networks through the website and similarly other networks will be expected to highlight the Active Inclusion Learning Networks findings where possible through their communication strategies. The Active Inclusion Learning Network will invite to its steering groups, workshops and focus groups representatives from other networks to ensure cooperation on common themes and promotion across the EU of best practice and the transferability of policies, interventions and programmes.






The work programme will follow a 2 year cycle. It will aim to bring into the meeting structure the most current and up to date NGO's leading their fields in work with the themes in this learning network. Organisations such as Dynamo, FEANTSA, St Giles Trust, UNLOCK, Eurochild. The network will arrange a platform for these different experts with the same aim to meet and exchange knowledge which will be captured to inform ESF management Authorities and Policy advisors of the networks recommendations on inclusion into employment.

The network will have robust governance to which all partners will contribute to through regular meetings, highlight reports and use an electronic meeting infrastructure. The work packages will be clear, concise and agreed by partners and through effective governance, this will be managed centrally within NOMS to ensure delivery of findings within the agreed time frame. The partners will report their work package progress through a standardised reporting structure which will inform the highlight report and the network board on a regular agreed timeframe. This will be overseen by the ESF managing authority representative in the UK. The ESF managing Authority representative will receive the reports on a regular basis to ensure that the network is delivering its requirements within the timeframe agreed with the European Commission.

Work programme agreed by

X 

Ian Poree,  
Director Commissioning and Commercial

