



The project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union



Laois Sports Partnership

Title: ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport Officer

Office Location: Mill Court, Church Avenue, Maryborough, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Duration of Employment: 2 Year fixed term contract

Probation: 6 Months

Job Description

ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport Officer

Background

Every day in communities across the country, Sport Ireland through its network of Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) helps people irrespective of age, gender, disability, or social circumstance to get active. The role of the ESF + Social Innovation in Sport officer employed within the LSPs will be to use sport and physical activity to foster social inclusion and provide education, inclusion, and personal development programmes for people at risk of social exclusion and poverty such as ethnic minorities, youth at risk, persons with disabilities, and people from disadvantaged backgrounds throughout the country. All programmes will be developed with an innovation and user-centric focus.

This role is funded by the European Social Fund + (ESF+) Programme 2021 -2027 through Sport Ireland. The ESF+ Programme will support the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights by seeking to:

- Support access to employment for young people and underrepresented groups
- Promote skills and lifelong learning
- Tackle poverty and social exclusion

Sport and Physical Activity will be used as mechanism to support these principles and the LSPs will be the main drivers on this project locally.

Sport Ireland published its first policy on [Diversity and Inclusion in Sport](#) in 2022 which expresses its vision for a sport sector that celebrates diversity, promotes inclusion, and is pro-active in providing opportunities for lifelong participation for everyone. The ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport officer will work in collaboration with key local and national stakeholders to support the implementation of this policy.



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Job Purpose

The ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport officer will support the delivery of Sport Ireland's *Sport4Empowerment* (S4E) programme. This will involve leading with the delivery of the S4E programme with the objective of fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and active participation, and improving employability, in ESF + target groups and organisations locally. The programmes on this project will be designed, piloted, and scaled using design thinking principles.

Responsibilities

- Lead the design, planning and delivery of the S4E programme at a local level with a focus on building skills and confidence to foster social inclusion and engage with and maintain sport participation independently.
- Coordinate ESF+ programmes with the objective of fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in ESF + target groups locally.
- Ensure the design and delivery of the ESF+ programme aligns with European Social Fund requirements and complements existing Sport Ireland and LSPs policies and plans.
- Monitoring impact on programmes and supporting the sharing of information and replication of programmes in other LSPs.
- Provide timely, standardised data and reporting on activity and outcomes on the programmes.
- Collaborate with Sport Ireland to support the successful delivery of this project.
- Develop and support strong working relationships with other LSPs and other outside agencies and relevant stakeholders.
- Participate in regular supervision, appraisal and education as identified.
- Undertake any other relevant and related duties that may be required.

Diversity & Inclusion:

Sport Ireland and LSPs are committed to building a diverse sport sector and therefore strongly encourages applications from underrepresented groups. LSPs are committed to equality and inclusion and welcome applications from all individuals, regardless of their background. LSPs strive to be a diverse and inclusive workplace.



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Essential and Desirable Skills, Qualifications and Experience

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE	<p>A) Level 8 in any of the following areas Health, Exercise Science, Physical Activity, Diversity and Inclusion, Social Justice, Community Development, Education or related field.</p> <p>And</p> <p>Candidates should have a minimum of 2 years' relevant experience working with two or more of the target groups and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>B) Candidates should have a minimum of 5 years' relevant experience working with two or more of the target groups and stakeholder engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Education or Training relevant to the post in relation to physical activity, social integration/inclusion and D&I. • Experience of facilitating physical activity and sports activities with people of differing abilities and/or from underrepresented groups. • An understanding and experience in the delivery and/or implementation of social innovation/ design of innovation programmes and use of design thinking principles.
KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth knowledge and understanding of the lived experience of two or more target groups. • Excellent communication skills (written and verbal) such as report writing, grant applications and interpersonal skills. • Proficiency in MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook) • Good project management, organisational, stakeholder, and time management skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the sport and physical activity sector and policies



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of research and evaluation methods and an appreciation of research integrity and the ethical issues of carrying out research with target populations. • Effective team player in the context of a multidisciplinary team. • Ability to work under pressure. • Health/safety and risk awareness. 	
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a commitment to life-long learning. • Be prepared to work evenings & weekends when required. • Ability to travel efficiently between sites. • Must have access to a car and hold a current EU/Irish driving licence 	

Selection Process

Candidates will initially be assessed to ensure that he/she meets the minimum qualifications set down above under “Training, Qualifications, & Experience”.

Candidates will then be assessed based on the information contained in their CV and Letter of Suitability having regard to the requirements of the position and the number who have applied, if they should be called for interview.

Candidates may be shortlisted based on information provided in the Letter of Suitability and CV.

Canvassing will disqualify.