Tips for writing brilliant applications

We have created this document to help you write a great application.

We have written a short case study of a made-up project called 'Project Youth Employment' which you can use as a guide.

This case study will show you how to use our terms correctly.

You can also find these terms in our SIFI Glossary of terms

Case Study: Project Youth Employment

- **Vision -** An Ireland where everyone has access to meaningful employment.

- **Mission -** To give disadvantaged young people access to work experience and practical training with local employers in skilled areas of employment, for example mechanical repairs.

- **Goal -** To find employment for a group of 10 young people.

- **Objective -** Find local employers willing to give young people work experience and practical training.

- **Output -** 10 young people gained employment as a result of the programme.

- **Outcome-** The youth unemployment rate was significantly lowered.

- **Impact-** Everyone in Ireland has access to job opportunities.

- **Research -** Project Youth Employment has found several sources that show the need for their project.

  These include the four listed below.

  a) Articles
  b) Reports
  c) Academic Research
  d) Statistics

  They have also conducted their own local surveys and interviews.

  The results of their research show their community would likely benefit from the solution they are offering.

- **Evidence base -** Project Youth Employment has found research showing that the model has been effective in New Zealand and Argentina

- **Testing -** The model has been tested in international contexts but not in Ireland.

Because of this, Project Youth Employment have run a pilot project which connected five young people with local businesses for work experience.

After the pilot group of five completed their program a survey was taken.

Pilot survey results showed beneficiaries felt increased levels of self-worth and increased awareness of future opportunities.

- **Model -** Project Youth Employment organises work experience placements for disadvantaged young people with local businesses that need skilled employees.

  An 8 step model was created to deliver this.

  Here are the steps included in the model:

1. Identify local businesses that are interested in taking on young people for work experience.

2. Ask the local social welfare office for help to do two things.

   Those two things are:

   a) To find unemployed people between the ages of 18 to 24 interested in taking part in the program.

    b) To ask those young people to fill out an online questionnaire.

3. Decide the length of the programme and set goals and objectives for beneficiaries for the length of the programme.

    This will be done using research into international examples of similar programmes.

4. Review the questionnaires, which are designed to answer these 2 questions:

    a) Is the young person would be a good fit for the programme?
    b) Which placement would be the most suitable if they are?

    These questionnaires will also give project coordinators help in deciding outputs and outcomes later in the programme.

5. Using information from the questionnaires assign young people to corresponding businesses.

6. Create a unique and tailored work plan and strategic objectives for each young person.

    This work plan will be based on programme goals and objectives for both beneficiaries and local business.

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7. Over the course of the programme regularly contact beneficiaries and their work placement managers to check the work plan is running smoothly.

    Solve problems if necessary.

8. At the end of the programme ask both businesses and beneficiaries fill out questionnaires.

    These questionnaires are designed to determine rates of satisfaction and overall outputs and outcomes.

    This includes asking whether any young people involved in the programme were hired in either a full or part-time capacity.

● **Beneficiaries -** The young people gaining work experience and vocational training through the project.

● **Scalable -** Project Youth Employment as led by the original organisation grows and delivers their project across Ireland.

● **Replicable -** Project Youth Employment is based in Cork.

    Because their project is heavily based on local networks, the organisation is unable to grow outward.

The project instead has developed a step-by-step guide for organisations across Ireland.

This guide will instruct them on how to successfully recreate their project model.

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