



EMPLOYABILITY DAY

Friday 28 June 2019

#EmpDay19

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Coordinated by

ersa
Employment Related
Services Association

Introducing this year's theme for Employability Day on Friday 28 June...

#WeAreClosingTheGaps

Did you know?

- Disadvantaged young people are three times less likely to stay in education or find a job after school.
- Disabled women earn on average 22 per cent less than non-disabled men.
- Graduates are over three times more likely to participate in training than adults with no qualifications.
- People in social housing households are 17 per cent less likely to be in full or part time employment.
- Black African, Bangladeshi and Pakistani graduates are significantly more likely to be overqualified for their jobs than white graduates.

This year's Employability Day theme is Closing the Gaps. We want to highlight the tireless efforts of organisations across the UK who help to close employment gaps by supporting disadvantaged people to enter, sustain or progress in work.

Despite record employment, **there are still significant disparities between (and within) groups** in terms of employment rates, pay and career progression.

Moreover, there are **acute skills gaps** in several sectors, including hospitality, communications, healthcare and construction.

Closing these gaps is important because it helps build an inclusive, productive and prosperous society where **everyone has the chance to thrive.**

So, let's use this **#EmpDay19** to show off your programmes and activities that help close the gaps in your local community and demonstrate the need for high quality employment support.

Demonstrate how the European Social Fund helps close the gaps

This year, it is vital to demonstrate the importance of the **European Social Fund (ESF)** for closing employment gaps in the UK. The ESF invests over £3bn to support people who may not be served by mainstream government provision. It is a crucial source of income for organisations supporting disadvantaged communities.

After Britain leaves the EU, we will lose access to the ESF. The Government has committed to replace it with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which will seek to 'improve productivity and reduce economic inequalities'. However, the size and administration of the new fund still need to be determined and the Government must act quickly to avoid a funding gap when the current ESF round ends.

The timing of Employability Day could not be better as **key decisions on the UKPSF will be made during the Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review process** expected to begin this summer. It is therefore the perfect platform to raise the profile of ESF programmes and demonstrate their importance for supporting disadvantaged people to enter, sustain or progress in work.

So, if you deliver ESF projects, why not take the opportunity to invite stakeholders and local press to visit your centres and shout about your achievements on social media?

Together, let's use Employability Day to make the case for **well-designed, well-funded and properly integrated investment in employment and skills support after Brexit.**

To find out more, visit www.ersa.org.uk/empday19 or contact empday@ersa.org.uk.

Join the conversation at [#EmpDay19](https://twitter.com/EmpDay19) and follow [@ersa_news](https://twitter.com/ersa_news).