

London Euroscene Bytesize



London's Voluntary and Community Sector in partnership with Europe to promote Social Inclusion

August 2008, Issue #15

Summer Special

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LVSTC News



Sign up to receive **London Euroscene Bytesize**, LVSTC's monthly e-bulletin, straight into your inbox by sending your email address to geoffr@lvstc.org.uk.

Forthcoming LVSTC Workshops

Tuesday, 19 August 2008, 9.30am – 1.00pm

Equality and Diversity including Gender Equality

The workshop aims to ensure that all ESF providers and potential ESF providers can implement this cross cutting theme (via embedding EO in Policies/Procedures, monitoring/equality-proofing, targeting excluded groups) and share good practice.

Wednesday, 27 August 2008, 9.30am – 1.00pm

Sustainable Development

This workshop will enable ESF Providers to fully explore issues of this cross cutting theme under 5 broad themes (energy, water, waste, procurement and transport) and will also inform participants about attainment of the Green Mark.

Wednesday, 10 September, 9.30am – 1.00pm

Developing Project Quality

This workshop will introduce participant organisations to a range of quality systems and awards including IiP and PQASSO, Customer First, Matrix [IAG.]

Tuesday, 16 September, 9.30am – 1.00pm

ESF Project Management [Systems]

Systems management for ESF Providers has been identified as a key concern for providers – this event guides learners through the systems and strategies required for CFO funded projects.

Wednesday, 24 September, 9.30am – 1.00pm

Business Continuity – BAMER groups

The primary aims of this workshop are to two fold. Firstly, to help participants identify the project's strategic direction and goals. Secondly, to focus their project activities into short, medium and long term strategies and develop a workable plan for both internal and external uses.

Tuesday, 30 September, 9.30am – 1.00pm

Funding: - Writing Successful Bids – BAMER groups

The overall aim of this workshop is to explain general principles of bid writing from having an idea to submitting the final proposal and help participants turn project ideas into clear bid proposals which will give them a better chance to secure ESF

For more information about these workshops and how to book places, visit <http://www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php> or call on 0845 262 2006 / 020 7538 4309.

London Councils ESF Update

Through the London Councils European Social Fund Co-financing programme, London Councils has just awarded £7,385,981 million over 2 years to 33 organisations in the voluntary and community sector.

The list of 2008-2010 projects has now been published and can be accessed here <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/London%20Councils/webtableoffundedgroups20082010.pdf>. London Councils is planning to launch its next tendering round for ESF in autumn 2009.

London Development Agency (CFO) ESF Update

The 1st prospectus was worth a total of £20.26m (ESF & match), with £17.2m supporting activities under Priority 1.1 and £3.06m for activity under Priority 2.1 of the programme (Increasing the number of employees with Basic Skills needs). The LDA received 330 applications for funding. 41 delivery partners have been selected to receive funding to delivery projects under the LDA ESF Co-Financing Programme 2007 to 2010. The majority of projects came from the voluntary and community sector. Projects will run for two years. This does not include projects for the Personal Best Programme.

The LDA intends to launch the second round of funding in Autumn/Winter 2008 for £20m of funding. This will be informed by the recently launched London Skills and Employment Board (LSEB) strategy. Once launched Prospectus 2, application form and formal guidance will be available from the LDA site. A full list of successful organisations will be published on the LDA website shortly at <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.2163>

Learning and Skills Council ESF Update

LSC London region has launched Invitations to tender (ITTs) under the 2007 – 2010 ESF programmes for the Youth area. These tenders are open to organizations that passed the Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) under the 2007 & 2008 rounds. Initial analysis of the result of the first round shows that 38% of the funding has been allocated to Third Sector providers; [this figure does not include partner organisations.]

Sector	Number of contracts	Indicative ESF funding
Third sector	40	£18,546,318
Public sector	29	£14,145,699
Private sector	30	£15,543,038

Department of Work & Pensions ESF Update

Following the short delay notified earlier the DWP have now announced the winning bidders for the majority of the contracts on offer. The table details by Region, District and Local Specification the winning organisations for those contracts which have been awarded at this point in time.

The list of winning bidders across the UK can be found at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/esf_winning_bidders_300508.pdf.

In London – 14 contracts were let to 10 different organisations – one of the 'prime' contractors is in the third sector. Of the 30 sub contractors appointed to deliver services to prime contracts in the first round, 20 were in the third sector. DWP will be considering whether to tender for more ESF projects in early 2009.

Community Grants Update

Community Grants is being Co-Financed by the LDA under the new ESF programme. The programme will provide grants of up to £12,000 to small community and grassroots organisations. Contract negotiations are currently underway between the LDA and the proposed Grant Co-ordinating Body. The first call for applications for the Community Grants programme is now expected to be launched in early September 2008.

ERDF Update

A second ERDF bidding round will be launched by the EPMU at the LDA in October 2008. Following the first round held earlier this year, Priority 3 Sustainable Places for Business will not be available; funding allocated under this Priority will be allocated to the proposed JESSICA initiative - a European loan mechanism and will only be available as non grant funding. For Round 2, the Expression of Interest stage will be dropped, and there will be an emphasis on Experimental Project applications being sought.

Priority 1: Business innovation and research and promoting eco-efficiency

28 projects were approved (i.e. reached the contract negotiations stage) under this priority, including 4 Experimental Projects. This was worth a total of £20.8m of the £37.4m available.

Priority 2: Access to new markets and access to finance

18 projects were approved under this priority. This was worth a total of £16.8m of the £31.2m available.

Priority 3: Sustainable places for business

14 projects were approved under this priority worth £26.8m. Projects requested an average of £1.9m of ERDF.

It should be noted that the level of funds committed from the first round is not confirmed and that contract negotiations are taking place. Not until contract negotiations are completed is ERDF awarded to projects. It is likely that some projects will be required to reduce their funding requests especially in the over-committed Priority 3.

There were 7 VCS projects that were approved at the moderation stage. These are now dependent on a successful contracting stage. We shall keep you informed.

EU News



European Parliament to adopt report on partnership within cohesion policy

The European Parliament's draft initiative report on "Governance and partnership at national and regional levels and a basis for projects in the sphere of regional policy" which was discussed by the Regional Affairs Committee on 16th July represents a positive step in recognizing the current gaps and the need to move beyond rhetoric.

Noting that the "requirement to hold public consultations on the issue of programming (...) and that the efforts to involve the public in the preparations for the operational programmes for the period 2007-2013 were not entirely successful", the draft report calls on the European Commission to draw up an assessment of the implementation of partnership by the Member States, as well as guide designed to improve the current situation.

Partnership between public authorities, social partners and civil society play a major role to ensure better transparency, democracy and outreach to potential project promoters within structural funds. However, much remains to be done to ensure that such partnership really takes place in practice, and social NGOs are concerned that no major step forward has been taken for this new programming period.

The report can be found by clicking

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/732/732761/732761en.pdf

Commission launches consultation to make websites more accessible for the disabled

The European Commission recently launched a public consultation on further measures to make websites in Europe accessible, starting with those of public administrations, and invites stakeholders to give their views.

It also addresses other technologies like digital television. The consultation is open until **Wednesday 27th August 2008**.

15% of Europeans suffer from some form of disability, and many face barriers such as reading a website's small text or even knowing how to access websites and online services. Despite repeated calls by the EU and government leaders to improve this situation, progress remains limited.

Find it here: http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm

European Networks Aim to Boost Women in Power

Female decision makers from across Europe met for the first meeting of European Networks for Women in Power. The women represent 15 existing networks across Europe, including professional associations, and aims to promote women in decision making positions in politics and the economy across Europe. The first results will be published in 2009 and will highlight best practice examples. For further information, visit http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=409

European e-Inclusion Awards 2008

Have you created or implemented an initiative that has used ICT or digital technology to positively impact on socially disadvantaged or digitally excluded communities? If yes, then you could be recognised as being one of the best 35 e-inclusion projects in the European e-Inclusion Awards 2008! Winners will be presented at the e-Inclusion awards ceremony in Vienna on 1 December 2008. The awards raise awareness, encourage participation and promote and recognise excellence and best practice in using ICT and digital technology to tackle social and digital exclusion across Europe. Visit <http://www.e-inclusionawards.eu/> for more information.

European Commission adopts proposal for a 'horizontal' directive

On 2 July 2008, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a directive which provides for protection from discrimination on grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief beyond the workplace.

Click here for announcement

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1071&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> and Click here to read the proposal <http://www.edf.org.uk/news/Proposal.pdf>

VCS News



Innovation in Public Services Survey

In June 2008, the Cabinet Office published *Excellence and Fairness: Achieving world class public services*, which detailed our aspirations for the future of public services.

The third sector's approach to public service delivery is often described as innovative. To build upon *Excellence and Fairness*, this survey aims to improve our understanding of what supports and drives this innovation.

To access the survey, please click

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wG0o7UpHhKP99v79qqNuVA_3d_3d .

Who should complete the survey?

The survey is intended for third sector organisations that are currently delivering public services or have been involved in their delivery in the last 12 months.

Please complete and return the survey by 8th September 2008. Please return this survey even if it is incomplete. All answers are valuable.

How will the answers be used?

The information gathered will inform the development of the Government's policy on the future of public services.

If you have any queries about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact flexibilitysurvey@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk.

Local funders committed to distribute grants to third sector

Local funders across England have been selected to give out grants as small as £250 to grassroots third sector organisations as part of the Government's £130m Grassroots Grants programme. Grassroots Grants, funded by the Office of the Third Sector and administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF), will provide much needed grants to small third sector organisations and help local funders build endowment funds to provide a continuous source of small grant funding, by matching funds raised in the community.

63 local funders have been selected to distribute grants and set up endowments, and 57 have officially accepted. CDF are keen to give those which will be working in partnership more time and support to develop the structures, processes and relationships required to ensure they fully benefit from Grassroots Grants, as do the community and voluntary groups in their catchment areas. Local funders will distribute grants of up to £5000 to small community and voluntary groups in both urban and rural settings across England – with the potential to reach out to new projects and

communities that have not previously received funding.
A £50 million endowments programme sits alongside the £80 million grants programme, and these two elements of Grassroots Grants will work together for maximum impact.
The endowments programme will enable local funders to generate additional donations on a matched basis, invest them and build their capacity to provide long term funding for small community and voluntary organisations.
A list of the local funders providing the small grants and the endowment funds can be found at http://www.cdf.org.uk/bfora/systems/xmlviewer/default.asp?arg=DS_CDF_TECHART_23/_page.xml/27&xsl_argx=3

Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power: white paper consultation

The Communities in control: real people, real power white paper has just been published by Communities and Local Government: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/886224>
Measures in the White Paper include:

- councils will be subject to a new duty to respond to petitions
- Chairs and Chief Executives of local public bodies will face regular public hearings as part of plans to increase accountability.
- a £70m Communitybuilders fund – “government will be investing £70m in organisations that are the backbone of their communities. This will help strong community groups acquire buildings, take a role in running local services, and become more financially self-sustainable.”
- more visible 'local question times' to give the public a chance to question officials
- moves to ensure every area of the country has a 'community kitty' scheme - a pot of money that local people can decide how to spend
- new 'civic champions' - council staff or former councillors who will go out into the community and work with residents and community groups to increase understanding about civic roles they can take up
- a programme for young people to shadow government ministers and elected mayors and a programme of internships with local councillors

To have your say and leave feedback on the White paper visit

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/communityempowerment/communitiesincontrol/>

Minimum income standard for Britain: public consultation shows what people find acceptable

“A minimum income standard for Britain: What people think”, published recently by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, reveals what the public believe people need to earn to have an acceptable standard of living today

This report is the culmination of two years research, based on work with 39 focus groups involving more than 200 people, who were actively engaged in shaping the research, in combination with input from experts on heating and nutrition.

It sets out a series of minimum income standard budgets for 4 household types: single adults, couples with two children, lone parents with one child and couple pensioners.

The press release, report and other publications are available from the project website:

<http://www.minimumincomestandard.org/>

Majority of local councils make third sector a top priority

In a sign of unprecedented support for local third sector organisations, and in recognition of the invaluable work they do to strengthen communities and help the disadvantaged, almost two thirds of Local Authorities (LAs) have decided that having a vibrant and effective local third sector will be a priority for them over the next three years.

Under a new system in place this year, all top tier local authority areas will be measured on their performance against 198 new National Indicators (NIs), two of which focus on the third sector. In addition, each area has had the opportunity to prioritise 35 NIs that will particularly meet local needs, and will be the targets that sit at the heart of each council's Local Area Agreement
93 of England's top tier 150 LAs – 62 percent of them – have chosen to prioritise one of the two third sector indicators: NI6 – participation in regular volunteering; and NI7 – creating an environment for a thriving third sector.

Further information on National Indicators can be found at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080626_laa.aspx

Futurebuilders launches new Tender Fund

Futurebuilders England today launched a new interest-free loan fund for third sector organisations struggling to meet the cost of tendering for public sector contracts. Organisations may apply for a minimum investment of £3000 and a maximum of £50,000 (depending on the size of the contract). Loans will be repayable at 0% interest rate if repaid within three years. There is a limited pot of £1m available for this fund. The money will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

To be eligible for an investment from the Tender Fund, organisations must be:

- third sector organisations (voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals).
- preparing to tender for a specific public service contract
- unable to secure a loan for this purpose from a commercial lender
- reasonably likely to win the tender, and likely to be able to repay a loan
- working to benefit service users in England

The £1m Tender Fund is intended to help third sector providers win contracts where prohibitive tendering costs would otherwise make it difficult for them to bid.

To find out more about the Tender Fund, or to apply for a Tender Fund loan, call 0191 261 5200 or email info@futurebuilders-england.org.uk.

There is no closing date for applications, and the Fund will be available on a first come, first served basis until the £1m runs out.

Springboard for Success 2012

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games present tremendous opportunities for people and businesses in London to benefit from the investment and interest in London.

The greatest legacy of the Games will be in terms of skills, employment and business and economic growth. Agencies involved in securing the legacy have produced a document outlining the scope of the opportunity.

Entitled Springboard for Success, the document explains how business demand for skills and talent to exploit the opportunity of the Games, coalesces with Government ambitions to raise skills and employment.

Springboard for Success sets out some of the key targets to which the regeneration associated with the Games will contribute including higher employment rates and better qualified employees. It emphasises the business opportunities available to various sectors and how employers can respond.

Finally it explains the sources of support including Train to gain, Competefor and National Skills Academies.

The Springboard for Success document can be downloaded at

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/SpringboardForSuccess_web.pdf

Resources & Information



The six hallmarks of an effective charity

The Charity Commission has revised 'The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity' guidance (CC10) "to clarify the key areas of governance that will provide a governance framework based on good practice for all charities" and reflects the increasing importance of financial prudence and accountability.

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc10.asp>

Framework for Excellence publications

The LSC website now contains the following two publications:

Framework for Excellence: Provider Guide 2008/09:

<http://ffe.lsc.gov.uk/publications/Framework-for-Excellence-Provider-Guide-200809.htm>

Framework for Excellence policy document:

[http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Framework_for_Excellence-](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Framework_for_Excellence-Putting_the_Framework_into_Practice.pdf)

[Putting_the_Framework_into_Practice.pdf](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Framework_for_Excellence-Putting_the_Framework_into_Practice.pdf)

These are targeted at Colleges and Independent WBL providers, who are all expected to apply FfE (Version One) for the first time in 2008/09. Local Authorities (all funding streams) and Third Sector adult learning providers are now being contacted by local LSCs to discuss possible inclusion in piloting of a Version 2 FfE in the coming year. A formal document outlining that piloting is expected to be published in early Autumn.

You might be interested to know that the evaluation report of the Framework for Excellence (FfE)

pilot, which ran from June 07 to April 08, is also available on the LSC website. It involved 100

providers: http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Pilot_Evaluation_Report.pdf

Research in developing services for vulnerable groups

'Think Research: Using research evidence to inform service development for vulnerable groups' is guidance for professionals who have direct responsibility for designing, commissioning, providing or managing services for vulnerable groups. It has been published by the Social Exclusion Task Force in partnership with Barnardo's, Research in Practice and the National Foundation for Educational Research. You can download the report from:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/think_research.aspx

Community engagement and community cohesion

Government policies for community engagement have been high profile, as have community cohesion agendas – but these have been developed in parallel. This study explores the challenges of bringing them together. It examines ways of enabling new arrivals to become involved, promoting solidarity and cohesion rather than competition and conflict between newer and more established communities.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2240.asp>

Are you ready to work in partnership in the learning skills arena?

The challenge:

Many learning and skills contracts are too large in scale for third sector organisations to take on - the best way to deliver can be as part of a consortium. Finding the right partners, developing necessary systems, and planning delivery can take months of preparation - and that's before you've cracked the procurement process or caught up with the many funding and policy changes underway in learning and skills arena.

The solution:

This practical third sector-led three day workshop, followed by one day of tailored consultancy with a unique focus on supporting your organisation to:

- respond to changes in the learning and skills environment
- meet the challenges of procurement
- develop delivery partnerships and consortia

Who should attend?

Senior managers of third sector organisations in East London, working in the learning and skills arena.

The programme:

Day 1 looks at today's commissioning environment and how to access procurement opportunities. We will explore the role of the third sector and how to evidence its added value.

Day 2 focuses on developing your internal systems in line with funders' requirements, and managing and measuring contract performance. It will also explore the fundamentals of consortia development.

Day 3 focuses on developing your organisation's quality systems and accredited learning provision.

The benefits:

The course will be delivered by trainers with personal knowledge and experience of the learning and skills commissioning environment and consortia working

1:1 consultancy support will give you practical advice to help prepare your organisation's internal systems for consortia working.

The training is designed to include details of the inspection regime and reflects the latest commissioning requirements.

Details:

Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th September and Thursday 2nd October 2008; 10.00– 17.00
Stratford, East London

Consultancy support will be available throughout October.

Cost:

£300 for one learner or £450 for two learners from the same organisation.

This course is heavily subsidised by the Learning and Skills Council.

Contact:

For more information, or to book onto this course, please fill out the booking form at

<http://www.gle.co.uk/downloads/Forms/Services/CapacityBuilding/Training/Booking%20form-online-July08.doc> and return to Clare Engel at clare.e@gle.co.uk Alternatively please call Clare on 020 7940 1504 before Tuesday 9th September 2008

If you would like to send out information with our bi-monthly newsletter, Euroscene, thereby reaching a contact list of over 3,000 organisations, then please get in touch with Bill Burke on the numbers below.

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This e-bulletin is edited by Ian Foster.

Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of LVSTC.

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