

london

euroscene

byte-size



No.10 February 2008

Welcome to byte-size Euroscene

LVSTC News

LVSTC ESF Partnership Portal / LVSTC ERDF Partnership Portal

Now live!!

The twin Partnership Portals run by LVSTC continue to expand with an increasing number of organisations signing up to look for partners, for both ESF and ERDF. We would very much like to continue to build on these numbers so please do keep on sending in your details and passing it on any other organisations who you think might be interested.

If you want to play your full part in developing collaborative working through the **Partnership Portal**, -you can find out more by going to http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php and completing the electronic form, detailing what other organisations need to know about you.

For help and information about the ESF Partnership Portal, contact the ESF Unit at LVSTC on 0845 262 2006 or 020 7538 4309.

Training room for Hire

LVSTC now has a fully equipped training room for hire at our premises in Bromley Hall, Tower Hamlets. With room for up to 20 delegates, and IT facilities available as well, our reasonable rates mean that Bromley Hall could be the ideal solution for you.

For more details, please contact Bill Burke on billb@lvstc.org.uk or 0845 262 2006

ERDF and ESF News

Learning & Skills Council ESF update

The LSC has now launched the Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) for the tendering of provision for 2008/09. The LSC is currently looking to procure two specific services plus mainstream delivery of Education & Training

The details are as follows:

- Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Services (IAG)
- Leadership and Management Services (L&M)
- Mainstream 08/09 with Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS)

The first two are considered as Priority Services under EU Procurement Regulations and as such follow a different process with more stringent minimum timelines. Part of this process is that we require individual Pre Qualification Questionnaires to be completed.

Mainstream provision is classed as a residual service under EU Procurement Regulations . Therefore if you completed and / or updated a PQQ in September, you can simply refresh your previously submitted answers presented to you when you log in to the e-tendering portal if it is right and appropriate to do so. If you didn't complete or update a PQQ in September you will be asked to submit a completely new PQQ specifically for this provision.

If you wish to submit a PQQ for either or both of the Priority Services and the mainstream you will need to

complete new, separate PQQs for the Priority Services and follow the process for submitting a Mainstream with OLASS PQQ.

We would also like remind everyone of the closing dates for this particular PQQs.

- Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) **18 February 2008 at 16.00**
- Leadership & Management (L&M) - **12 March 2008 at 12 Noon**
(Please note that this date has been extended from 4 March 2008)
- Mainstream with OLASS **3 March 2008 19.00**

Please make sure that you don't leave completion until too close to the deadline and remember that you can submit information throughout the time period and revisit and amend it up until the closing deadline. We advise you to use this approach; it will save you time and avoid any last minute panics.

London Councils ESF update

Tenders are currently being scored with moderation panels scheduled for mid-February, organisations should be notified whether or not they have been successful by the end of February.

It is expected that contracting meetings will be held throughout March to enable project delivery to begin on 1st April 2008.

London Development Agency ESF update

The LDA expect all scoring to be finished by the end of February 2008.

Department of Work & Pensions ESF update

In the new programme, 16 'prime' contractors have been invited to tender for 15 projects in the London region and it is hoped that delivery will begin by 23 June 2008

ERDF Bidding round

London has been allocated £120m ERDF over the period 2007-2013. The recent fall in the value of Sterling against the euro means that the value of the Programme is currently 8% higher than at the time of adoption of the Operational Programme. By the closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest, the LDA received 170 formal Expressions of Interest with an ERDF value of £144,306,917 (£345,239,074 gross). Of these, 42 were submitted by the voluntary/community sector (VCS) with an ERDF value of £19,704,309 (£43,291,312 gross).

If you would like LVSTC to help you with any future Expressions of Interest or simply with discussions on your project ideas in relation to the ERDF Prospectus, please contact our advisers either via our telephone/e-mail Helpline or ask for a bidding surgery at our premises. We also provide feedback on draft applications.

If you would like to receive more information or to join our Focus Group or to register on our Partnership Portal, then please contact: Angela Heap on angelah@lvstc.org.uk or Steve White on steveqw@lvstc.org.uk.

EU News

Everyone deserves a decent life: EAPN kicks off EU wide campaign for Adequate Minimum Income schemes!

The European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) has launched an EU wide campaign for Adequate Minimum Income schemes. 24 out of 27 Member States have minimum income schemes in place at this present time, but there are serious flaws with their accessibility and their adequacy. It is time to state clearly that adequate Minimum Income schemes are a fundamental prerequisite for an EU based on social justice and equal opportunities for all!

EAPN launched in Brussels an EU wide campaign for "Adequate Minimum Income schemes" in presence of NGO representatives, Members of the European Parliament, European Commission officials as well as national representations and social partners (ETUC, EPSU, etc.) representatives.

"Minimum income schemes do not exist in all EU countries and accessibility for all is not guaranteed in the

places that they do exist. Some groups are not entitled to Minimum Income due to their age, employment situation, or status as migrants", declared Ludo Horemans, President of EAPN.

"Complexities of the systems prevent people from taking up their rights. Moreover, Minimum Income schemes are often **not set at a level adequate enough to lift people out of poverty**. They do not take into account the rise in the cost of living nor the increasing price of services that people rely on, such as housing or energy."

17 October 2007 saw the launch of a second Commission consultation about concrete proposals on how to move the 'active inclusion' strategy forward, including a new EU Recommendation, and a new tool to support its implementation. It will only be implemented **if it is widely supported in the EU**, and notably if Member States respond favorably to this proposal by the end of the consultation period (February 2008).

"Against this background, EAPN calls on the EU Member States **to recognise Adequate Minimum Income schemes as an essential element of the Social Protection System** as well as to guarantee access to Adequate Minimum Income as a basic right **at national level**", said Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN. "We also call on the EU Member States to **engage positively in the current Commission consultation on Active Inclusion** and support the proposal that 'income support sufficient for a dignified life' should be given key importance in a comprehensive approach to the fight against poverty and social exclusion."

Fuse Jobs – free service!

Fuse Jobs is London's online job site that specialises in entry-level and lower-level vacancies and is completely free to use.

They specialise in providing relevant vacancies and online support for a range of jobseekers including people who have been out of work for a while (e.g. unemployed, lone parents), first jobbers (e.g. school/college leavers), and career changers (e.g. over 50s, people leaving the forces). During 2008 they will roll out dedicated support for other specific groups including the homeless, carers, ex-offenders and jobseekers with disabilities.

Fuse Jobs uses an advanced job aggregation technology to bring together vacancies from a range of sources, strip out those that are too high level for their audience, and categorise the vacancies by pre-defined roles to make them easy to search. This ensures that both providers and jobseekers have access to a wide range of relevant and appropriate vacancies. Fuse Jobs informs us that job information is

- ✓ available instantly at the click of a button
- ✓ is updated every hour
- ✓ and can all be accessed from the Fuse Jobs website.

Fuse Jobs are at www.fusejobs.co.uk – and welcome suggestions and feedback from providers to ensure that they are meeting your needs.

Contact them on info@fusejobs.co.uk with any questions or feedback. Fuse Jobs can also provide flyers/posters to help you inform your clients of how Fuse Jobs can help them.

Sector News

Grassroots Grants

The Community Development Foundation is inviting local third sector funders to apply to manage the local delivery of the £130 million Grassroot Grants programme set up by the Office of the Third Sector. This is split into two parts: £80 million small grants fund for community organisations, and a "groundbreaking" £50 million endowments programme to enable local funders to generate additional donations on a matched basis and invest them in endowments. The closing date for applications is 30th April and there is a briefing event for interested parties in London on 6th March, email grassroots@cdf.org.uk for more information or booking a place.

LAA Guidance Briefing

Urban Forum has produced a new BRIEFING (<http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/new/index/html>) providing you with information about new Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and drawing on several documents published recently by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Find out what New LAAs are, how they work, and some handy hints on how you can be more involved.

Learning for Action: tools and strategies for deepening democracy and tackling poverty

6th March 2008, London

A **FREE** participative event about learning to make a difference.

Commissioning from the Third Sector in the EU - Lessons from Europe

13th March 2008, London

The Third Sector European Network is pleased to invite you to this **FREE** seminar.

Further details on www.urbanforum.org.uk

UN declares 20th February as World Day of Social Justice

Recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment, the United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February annually – starting in 2009 – as the World Day of Social Justice.

In a unanimously adopted resolution (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=a/62/l.15>), the 192-member body also invited Member States to devote the Day to promoting activities at the national level in support of the objectives and goals of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen.

London Education Partnership Awards

Rewarding partnerships, raising aspirations

Proud of *your* partnership? Then make sure you enter (<http://www.lepawards.org.uk/Register.asp>) this year's London Education Partnership Awards. Deadline: 5.00pm, Thursday 20 March. For more information go to: www.lepawards.org.uk or call 0207 612 6313

Resources & Information

Lessons from Europe: Commissioning from the Third Sector

The Third Sector European Network (TSEN) are pleased to invite you to "Lessons from Europe, A comparative seminar on Commissioning from the Third Sector in the EU."

The seminar is from 9am til 4.30pm on **Thursday 13th March** 2008 and will be held at Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.

To book a place, email info@tsen.org.uk

Working out of Poverty: A study of the low-paid and the "working poor"

The rights to work and earn a decent living are timeless demands of the labour movement and basic characteristics of a fair society. However, almost six in ten poor households in the UK (57 per cent) have someone at work, up ten percentage points on a decade ago, according to new analysis presented in this report. For too many families, moving into work has not meant moving out of poverty.

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=581>

New Ethical Funds Index

A new searchable database of ethical funds has been launched by ethical investment analysts Eiris. The website features profiles of funds along with details of screening criteria and voting rights. www.eiris.org

Training

PQASSO Quality Mark peer review training

CES is recruiting NOW for people within the voluntary and community sector wishing to become **PQASSO Quality Mark peer reviewers**. This exciting role involves assessing organisations against the PQASSO standards. For more information and to apply to be trained as a peer reviewer, please visit www.pgassoqualitymark.org.uk

LVSTC European Consultancy Services (ECS)

Over the years LVSTC has built extensive experience in European funding. Increasingly, both agencies from the private and public sectors have accessed LVSTC European services and have expressed a wish for a consultancy service to help them access European funding. To meet this demand we are pleased to announce the launch of **LVSTC European Consultancy Services (ECS)**.

This service is aimed primarily at agencies from the private and public sector and will provide high quality training and support.

LVSTC ECS will be launched in February 2008 with a series of training seminars drawing on LVSTC's past experience, and incorporating the latest information on what to expect in the new European Structural Funds Programmes 2007-2013:

Managing ERDF Projects & Article 4 Inspection Visits.

20 February 2008, 19 March 2008

Aimed at both those new to ERDF project management and those who currently manage an ERDF project, this seminar will provide an extensive insight into managing ERDF funds and the new ERDF Programme beginning in 2008. The seminar will also cover what to expect from an Article 4 Inspection Visit.

Transnational Projects & ESF

5 March 2008

This seminar will introduce you to the various streams of European transnational funding available, how to identify various calls, how to put together a proposal stage 1 and 2, how to identify European Partners, how the new ESF Programme will incorporate transnational funding and how to access it.

Bid Writing Skills

29 February 2008, 14 March 2008

This seminar is aimed at those who wish to improve their bid writing. Beginners are welcome. The Seminar will cover project design, realistic goals, project-to-funder fit, and how bids are scored and assessed at appraisal stage. LVSTC has been on appraisal panels and scored bids for a range of funders and this seminar will include both bid writing and scoring exercises to give you an insight into the application process.

If you would like to book a place on one of the seminars please contact Angela Heap on 0845 262 2006/ 020 7538 4309 or email on angelah@lvstc.org.uk.

All places cost £250 per person, we can only accept payment in advance.

We also offer a bespoke service, on the above topics, which can be delivered at your own premises.

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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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LVSTC is funded by The London Councils, The Big Lottery Fund, City Bridge Fund and through Government Office for London, the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund

This e-bulletin is edited by Ian Foster. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of LVSTC.

If you would like to have an item included in the bulletin or have any feedback then please email

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