

london

euroscene

byte-size



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Welcome to byte-size Euroscene

LVSTC News

Reaching Out! : a national conference on how the new 2007-2013 European Social Fund is being prepared to tackle poverty through transnational grants and small grants

Monday 31st March 2008, 9.30am-1.00pm, lunch included
London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA

Jointly organised by LVSTC and TSEN with support from national ESF.

As the new 2007-2013 Programme of the European Social Fund gets underway, there is concern about the progress of the UK against the target of halving child poverty by 2010, on the way to eliminating child poverty by 2020. Similarly, the Report from the London Child Poverty Commission, "Capital Gains", argues for urgent action to be taken, in part, on the employment and poverty agenda.

2010 will be the European Year for Combating Poverty & Social Exclusion and the European Commission has just completed a second Public Consultation on "Active Inclusion". The European Social Fund is seen as a key EU instrument for contributing to the delivery of social inclusion. Indeed, employment is considered to be the major route out of poverty, with ESF financing schemes inside and outside the labour market including those working with the most disadvantaged.

Within ESF, two important measures are still in preparation. The "community grants" programme will take over from earlier small-grants initiatives; whilst "active inclusion" will be a main theme of the new ESF transnational programme likely to go out to direct bidding, later in 2008.

In promoting the above, providers from the third sector have a crucial role to play both in terms of being close to people economically excluded at street level and being actively involved in EU-wide organisations, such as the European Anti-Poverty Network.

If you want to know more and would like to get ahead of the emerging ESF Programme, then don't miss the chance to come along to this half-day event! Book your place now by completing the booking form here <http://www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php> and returning it to us by fax on 020 7005 0275 or by email to ianf@lvstc.org.uk

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.

Support LVSTC – Become a Member! New members' webpage

Our Membership scheme helps LVSTC continue to provide strategic support for the voluntary and community sector, offering telephone help-lines, surgeries, newsletters, information sheets, visits, a referral service, and training sessions/workshops on a variety of topics. We have also now introduced a new feature on the website, a members' page which is crammed with useful resources and which will be continually updated throughout the year.

Annual Membership is only £50 for organisations with an annual turnover of more than £60K, and £25 for those with a an annual turnover of less than £60K: become a member by filling out the membership form at <http://www.lvstc.org.uk/membership.php>

Training room for Hire

LVTSC 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

London Councils ESF update

A total of £7.220m was available under Measure 1.1 'Improving the employability and skills of the unemployed and economically inactive' for 11 specifications. London Councils is in the process of scoring 138 applications and it is anticipated that the list of successful projects will be published at the beginning of March, allowing delivery to start from 1st April.

London Councils will launch a second bidding round in autumn 2009 to commit the remaining 50% of their 2007–2010 funding allocation.

London Development Agency CFO update

The LDA-CFO has recently had the first bidding round for the new ESF Programme. The round covered 2 measures: 1.1 Improving Employability and 2.1 Basic Skills – Skills for Life Provision in the Workplace. The total funding available through this Prospectus is £21.26 million.

They received 320 applications and expect all scoring to be finished by the end of February, with moderation panels meeting, in March, to confirm project approvals. Successful projects will be notified in the week commencing 17 March for the main programme and 25 February for the Personal Best programme. This should enable projects to start on 1 April 2008.

A second bidding round is expected this Autumn.

Department of Work & Pensions ESF update

The current programme for ESF is beginning to wind down with some projects extending to May, including the Pre-Employment Security Programme.

In the new ESF Programme, 16 'prime' contractors have been invited to tender for 15 projects in the London region. Hopefully, delivery will begin by 23 June 2008. This Measure 1.1 programme clearly focuses on job outcomes and a feature of delivery will be the involvement of all sectors through partnership and consortium arrangements.

The LVSTC Partnership Portal has offered both prime contractors and voluntary/community providers a useful mechanism to assess potential for cross-sector delivery. Both the impact and formation of delivery partnerships will be reviewed and monitored.

ERDF News

Currently the EPMU has just finished processing the Expressions of Interest received for the new ERDF

programme. The successful Expression Of Information applicants have been informed. LVSTC will be available for support to those applicants going onto full application and we will be contacting those who were successful soon.

If you would like any support from LVSTC concerning the new ERDF round or for existing projects in the current ERDF programme please contact the ERDF team on 0845 262 2006.

EU News

Social Europe: Four key questions for EU Prime Ministers

In a letter sent today to EU Prime Ministers ahead of the European Spring Council due to take place on 13-14 March, the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) raises questions about whether Member States will strengthen their cooperation to address growing inequalities and seriously tackle the unacceptable high levels of poverty in the EU. EAPN asks the forthcoming Spring Council to give clear answers to four key questions.

Successive Spring Council conclusions have called for the strengthening of the social dimension of the Lisbon Strategy and have raised hopes for EAPN and others concerned about Social Europe, that the ambition to achieve "greater social cohesion" would once again become a key focus of the Lisbon Strategy.

"However the preparation for the Spring Council 2008 seems not to have responded to the strong social messages from previous Council conclusions" said Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN. He called on Prime Ministers to "follow through on the social commitments made in previous Spring Council conclusions and to demonstrate that the EU and the Member States are working together to promote access to high level social standards for all in the EU as well as for a socially responsible globalisation".

In a [letter sent today](#) to EU Prime Ministers, EAPN thus asks that the forthcoming Spring Council gives clear answers to the following key questions:

- How precisely do you propose to **strengthen the social dimension of the Lisbon strategy**?
- Given the reality of growing levels of inequality and that 78 million people are living in, or at risk of poverty, what **precise actions** are proposed to meet the commitment "to **make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty**"?
- Given that 3 times more people in work (18.9 million) are in, or at risk of poverty, than those who are unemployed (6.9 million), what measures are proposed to address in **work poverty**?
- Given the focus on energy at this Spring Council, what measures are proposed to ensure that **rising energy prices do not threaten social cohesion** and social inclusion?

Potential new impetus for Social Europe: EAPN responds to Commission's Active Inclusion consultation

In its [response to the Commission's consultation on Active Inclusion](#) sent on 28 February, EAPN strongly confirms its support for the Commission's initiative. EAPN calls on the Member States of the EU to adopt under the French Presidency active inclusion principles which respect the integrity of the active inclusion package and recognises that adequate income and access to quality services are a prerequisite to successful employment and social integration.

"The Commission's consultation on Active Inclusion has responded to EAPN's major analysis and demands, such as the need for an integrated approach in the fight against poverty, the fact that employment alone is not the only route out of poverty, the need to address the inadequacy of minimum income schemes", declared Fintan Farrell, the EAPN Director. "However, EAPN is concerned that the active inclusion approach may not be implemented consistently and that the "work first" approach that we see dominant in the EU would undermine the integrated approach that is reflected in the Commission's communication"

EAPN therefore calls on the EU Member States to respect fundamental rights in the follow up, implementation and evaluation of the active inclusion approach. In the principles on active inclusion to be adopted under the French Presidency an overarching principle is needed, stressing that its three components, Employment, adequate income and access to services, are strictly interdependent.

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 fliers/posters to help you inform your clients of how Fuse Jobs can help them.

Sector News

London Skills & Employment Consultation Strategy Consultation

The LESB's draft Strategy - Skills and Employment in London: Proposals for the London Skills and Employment Board's Strategy – was launched for public consultation on 30 October 2007. The draft Strategy sets out an ambition for London, and proposes five interconnected challenges along with priorities and proposed actions. It calls for action by Londoners, London's employers, education and skills providers, funding and delivery agencies, and Government.

The consultation on the Strategy closed for comments on Monday 21 January. Many thanks to everyone who responded to this consultation. The Board is currently feeding the responses received into the development of the final Strategy which is expected to be published in May 2008.

If you have registered on the site previously you can login to the website at <http://lseb.dialoguebydesign.net/reg/login.asp> and view the responses made to the consultation.

If you are not registered but would like to view the results and be notified when the final strategy is published, please register at <http://lseb.dialoguebydesign.net/reg/reg.asp> to be provided with a username and password.

Alternatively, if you do not want to register your details you can login by using the 'general access details' at <http://lseb.dialoguebydesign.net/reg/login.asp>.

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, email grassroots@cdf.org.uk for more information.

Lead the Skills Revolution: Join the LSC's Regional Councils for England

Improving the skills of the nation has never been more important. They are key to building a cohesive society and to enabling the UK to compete in an increasingly competitive global economy.

The LSC, the organisation responsible for ensuring the delivery of high quality education and training for young people and adults, is looking for people to take up key positions on nine LSC Regional Councils. The Councils -established as part of the Further Education and Training Act 2007 - will inform the LSC's decision making and make sure the Government's strategy for education and skills works on the ground.

The LSC has a huge job to do, overseeing the investment of £11.6bn in 2008-09, £12bn in 2009-10 and £12.6bn in 2010-11 – including large sums of capital investment – for the benefit of young people, adults and employers. The new Regional Councils will have a key role in ensuring that this investment is spent in the right

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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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