

# London Euroscene Bytesize

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

14<sup>th</sup> April 2008, Issue #12

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### **LVSTC News**



#### **LVSTC Workshop**

#### **Exit Strategies – the Readiness Assessment Tool**

**16<sup>th</sup> May, 9.30am-1.30pm**

*And repeated on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 9.30am-1.30pm*

Many Government funded programming periods are coming to an end very soon in London. Uncertainties remain as to what future funding will be available to support training schemes, employment initiatives and regeneration. This represents a major threat to the future of projects that have come to rely on these sources of funding.

LVSTC are thus hosting this Exit Strategies workshop which will introduce participants to the Succession Strategies Toolkit commissioned by the Government Office for London (GOL) and aims to promote the principles and culture of developing effective succession strategies from Government Funding.

This workshop is primarily for Project Managers and Chief Executives who have been directly involved in ESF Government Funded projects which close no later than July 2008.

The workshops will be held at Bromley Hall, 43 Gillender Street, London E14 6RN . To book for either of these events or get more information, contact Misbah Javed on 0845 262 2006 or visit

<http://www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php>

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## LVSTC ESF Focus Group: Working with Prime Contractors

**16<sup>th</sup> May, 2.00pm – 5.30pm**

LVSTC would like to talk to third sector providers who have been approached by potential lead and prime contractors to be sub contracted to provide ESF or mainstream programmes. We will publish a qualitative report to participants and forward our findings to funders. Participants will be selected against criteria including geographical location and target groups. To book a place or to find out more information, contact the ESF team on 0845 262 2006 / 020 7538 4309 or go to

<http://www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php>.

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## ERDF & ESF News



### LSC ESF Update

The Learning & Skills Council is inviting further expressions of interest for delivery of its learning and skills provision to be tendered in 2008/09. This will include tendering the LSC's remaining ESF allocations under Priority 1 and Priority 2 of its 2007-10 ESF Co-financing Plan. Activity under Priority 1 will be targeted at extending employment opportunities for the unemployed and economically inactive or young people who are not in education employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET. Priority 2 will support activities aimed at creating a skilled and adaptable workforce.

For full details of how to apply, please refer to the Provider Procurement section of the LSC website: [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

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### DWP ESF Update

The Pre Qualification Stage of the 'ESF 2007-2013 Programme for England' competition has now come to a close and DWP has informed all providers who submitted a PQQ, both successful and unsuccessful, by individual letter. DWP invited the successful PQQ providers to submit a formal tender. DWP expects contracts to be up and running from 23/06/08.

Further information is available on the DWP website: [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

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### LDA (CFO) ESF Update

LDA (CFO)'s first application round for ESF Co-financing 2007-2010 completed on Monday 14th January 2008, the results for those that were successful will be announced in the week commencing 28th April 2008.

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### London Councils ESF Update

London Councils first application round for ESF Co-financing 2008-2010 completed on Friday 11th January 2008. Successful organisations have been contacted and London Councils are in pre-contract negotiations with 33 organisations across London, London Councils are hopeful that contracts will be confirmed within the next two weeks, with a view to start project delivery within April.

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## EU News



### Celebrate Europe Day 2008

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May organisations across Europe will celebrate Europe Day by flying the European Union flag and undertaking other activities: [http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/index_en.htm).

The annual Europe Day celebrations mark the day in 1950 when the proposal was presented which led to the creation of what is now the European Union. This year's Europe Day offers a good opportunity to celebrate the roll-out of the first projects in the 2007-2013 ESF programme. If you have interesting plans for Europe Day 2008 let us know and they could be featured in the next issue of 'ESF at work'. Send your contributions to Lynnette Keller: [esf.feedback@jiu.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:esf.feedback@jiu.gsi.gov.uk)

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### Follow-up of EQUAL and calls for transnational projects

EAPN has been following closely the follow-up of the EQUAL programme, which had been an important step for NGOs throughout the EU. EQUAL has now disappeared but its principles should now be "mainstreamed" in all ESF programmes. To this purpose, different "Community of Practices" (web-based) were set up to follow each of the principles, such as gender mainstreaming, transnationality, partnership, innovation. The membership of these Communities is in some cases open to "practitioners", which can get more information by registering on these sites. You will find links to all the specific communities on: <http://www.esflive.eu/>

With regard in particular to transnational programmes, you will find information on the calls for proposals to be soon launched in the Member States, as well as about National Contact Points: <http://www.transnationality.eu/>

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### **Child Poverty and Well being in the EU: Current status and way forward**

Using commonly agreed indicators, this report, drafted by the EU Social Protection Committee identifies the predominant factors affecting child poverty in each country of the EU. The report also reviews the national monitoring and evaluation systems in place and draws 15 recommendations to better assess and monitor child poverty and the multiple dimensions of child well-being across the EU.

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/spsi/docs/social\\_inclusion/2008/child\\_poverty\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/docs/social_inclusion/2008/child_poverty_en.pdf)

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### **Opening doors to learning and working in Europe**

Europass is a tool launched by the European Commission which aims to improve skills and competences for learners and workers across Europe, whether they are planning to join an education or training programme, looking for a job or getting experience abroad.

More information on Europass can be found at

<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/preview.action>

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## **VCS News**



### **Raising Expectations: the future for learning and skills**

Published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, "Raising expectations: enabling the system to deliver" is the long-awaited White Paper on how it intends to implement the transfer of funding for 16 - 19 year olds, and re-structure the learning and skills delivery system for young people, adults and employers.

One of the key measures is that the Learning and Skills Council will be dissolved by 2010 and a new agency, the Skills Funding Agency, set up to provide training and skills to adults.

Alongside this, local authorities will given "the necessary funding and commissioning powers" to achieve the raising of the education and training leaving age to 18 by 2013.

The document is 98 pages long and can be downloaded from

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/Raising%20Expectations%20pdf.pdf>

Edexcel's paper which covers the main points well can be accessed here and is only 2 sides long

[http://www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/95085/20\\_Raising\\_Expectations\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/95085/20_Raising_Expectations_White_Paper.pdf)

You might also be interested in the NIACE response to the proposals which can be seen on

[www.niace.org.uk](http://www.niace.org.uk) .

The deadline for responses to this consultation is Monday, 9th June 2008.

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### **Communities and Local Government consultation on community empowerment**

Following Communities Secretary Hazel Blears' announcement on 5 March of a new Empowerment White Paper, you are invited to join in the discussion about how you can help CLG to progress this agenda, by running your own local event on Empowerment.

The Community Power Pack is a collaboration between CLG and Involve, and is available to download <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/powerpack> . It contains suggestions on how to run an event, with advice for facilitators and organisers as well as detailed information about empowerment issues. It also poses some questions around empowerment issues that CLG would like to hear your views on.

This is an opportunity to feed into the Empowerment White Paper and tell CLG what you think Government needs to be doing to help give citizens a bigger voice locally.

Visit the Communities and Local Government website at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/communityempowerment/unlockingthetalent/> , where you can read the launch document about the White Paper - or email

[UnlockingTalent@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UnlockingTalent@communities.gsi.gov.uk) if you would like further information.

#### **CLG newsletter**

CLG run a free newsletter service. To receive updates about their work in this field, please visit the "Have Your Say" section of their website at

<http://haveyoursay.communities.gov.uk/content/HaveYourSay.aspx> and subscribe to the "Unlocking the Talent of our Communities" newsletter (registration required).

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### **Employability and Economic Development: Impact of Learning on Employability**

The Learning and Skills Council has published findings from a large scale survey of learners which

examined the impact of learning on employability. 10,000 learners aged 20-55 who had undertaken a range of learning programmes in Further Education and who had had fee remission because they were receiving out-of-work benefits took part in the survey, the findings of which are grouped into a number of different sections including:

- The impact of learning on employment and benefit outcomes
- Employability, skills, social and personal outcomes
- Further learning outcomes
- Entering learning
- Learners' situation before the course

Overall, the survey found that, whilst only 10 per cent of all learners in the survey had been in work prior to the start of their course, 38 per cent had gone on to work at some point after finishing their course. Those less likely to achieve a positive job outcome after learning included those experiencing multiple disadvantage, those with caring responsibilities, those who were most removed from the labour market, and those who undertook non-vocational, basic skills or lower level courses. Of the respondents that had had a paid job after completing the course (3,910 learners), 44 per cent felt that their job outcome was the result of having undertaken the course. Other sources of support in helping learners into work included friends and family, Jobcentre Plus and community and voluntary organisations.

Learning was found to have had a positive impact on respondents' perceptions of their employability. More than half of those surveyed indicated that their communication skills (66 per cent), job-related skills (64 per cent), team-working skills (60 per cent) and problem solving skills (57 per cent) had improved as a direct result of the course; and 56 per cent of respondents felt nearer to getting a job as a result of the course. On a personal level, 86 per cent of respondents claimed that they felt better about themselves because of the course, with 84 per cent agreeing that the course had given them a sense of greater opportunities.

The report concludes that "the findings show statistically significant positive effects from learning for welfare benefit recipients, in terms of both moving into work and of improving employability".

Key findings are available here

[http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Impact of Learning on Employability - key findings.pdf](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Impact%20of%20Learning%20on%20Employability%20-%20key%20findings.pdf)

and the main report can be accessed here

[http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Impact of Learning on Employability - main report.pdf](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Impact%20of%20Learning%20on%20Employability%20-%20main%20report.pdf)

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### **Cultural Diversity Weekend: Adult Learners' Week**

Cultural Diversity Weekend has always launched Adult Learners' Week. This year there is a new twist to the Weekend (Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May 2008) - to inspire the nation to jive, salsa, rock their way into Adult Learners' Week and discover the benefits of learning through dance.

Dance not only brings immeasurable health and well being benefits, but also enables stories to be shared across generations and promotes community cohesion and family learning. It is also a great hook to engage adults into the benefits of learning.

The Weekend will be used to raise the profile of dance as an integral part of promoting diversity and heritage. Attached to this email are pdf files of posters to help you promote these events, and a flyer to print off and distribute. Free resources designed around dance are also available. Click on the London Adult Learners' Week site

[http://www.cllp.org.uk/AdultLearnersWeek/SS\\_Microsite.aspx?site=148&Page=234](http://www.cllp.org.uk/AdultLearnersWeek/SS_Microsite.aspx?site=148&Page=234) to find out more.

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### **Is your organisation featured in the LORECA Directory?**

The 2nd edition of the LORECA Employment, Training, and Business Support Directory features nearly 750 organisations in London that provide support to refugees and asylum seekers. Visit the online version to see if your organisation is included at [www.loreca.org.uk/directory](http://www.loreca.org.uk/directory). If you'd like to have your organisation added to the online directory, please contact Archanah by email at [archanah@loreca.org.uk](mailto:archanah@loreca.org.uk). We can also provide your organisation with a copy of the directory, fliers for distribution, and posters to display.

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### **Are you a refugee? Are you also a story teller, a museum guide, a crafts-person, or a performer?**

#### **Paid staff and volunteers wanted for refugee week (June 2008)**

The Victoria and Albert Museum is looking for volunteers to take part in its Refugee Week (16th June – 22nd June) programme of events to be held at South Kensington and Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood.

We need paid staff and volunteers for the following events:

[My V&A](#)

[Refugee Arts \(paid staff\)](#)

We are looking for 2 individuals to lead separate craft workshops. These individuals should be highly skilled practitioners of a traditional craft from their country of origin and should also have the ability to transmit these skills to students. They will need to have a good level of English. These sessions (probably 4 hour morning or afternoon slots) will be paid.

#### Storytellers (paid)

We are seeking 2 storytellers from refugee backgrounds to entertain children (8 years and over) with fascinating stories from their countries of origin. They will need to have considerable experience of storytelling and working with children. They will also need to have an excellent command of English. It would also help if they can prepare audio visual material to accompany their performances. These sessions will be paid.

#### Public tours of the V&A (volunteers)

Tours led by Refugees who will use the objects in the galleries as a springboard for their own highly personal stories.

We are looking for volunteers with engaging personalities and a good command of spoken English. They should preferably have had experience of public speaking or be confident guiding up to 20 people. As they will need to research and prepare their own tours, they must be able to work independently. They will need to make a number of visits to the V&A when devising their tours so should ensure they have time to do this when accepting. We will provide support and guidance and reimburse travel expenses with lunch included on the day of the tour.

#### Refugee Performance (volunteers)

We are looking for refugee teenagers who belong to existing performance groups to prepare and perform short programmes of music, dance, drama or storytelling.

#### Display of Refugee Art (volunteers)

We hope to mount a display of refugee children's art at Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood. We would be grateful for any help you may be able to provide in sourcing such work.

If you are interested in applying to participate in any of these events, please contact: Clare Paul, ESOL & Arts Education Officer @ [c.paul@vam.ac.uk](mailto:c.paul@vam.ac.uk) or telephone: 07905 226423

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## Resources & Information



### A guide for developing social action in Europe

UNCCAS has published a guide for developing local social action in Europe which can be downloaded from <http://www.unccas.org/publications/docs/Guide-Europe-EN.pdf>.

It explains how the different European institutions operate and provides an overview of the different possibilities offered by the European Union for developing projects at local level.

There are also a number of appendices to be found at <http://www.unccas.org/europe/default.asp> under the European funding heading. The appendices contain direct links to the information sources mentioned in the guide, to funding programmes, and to examples of existing projects.

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### New Mental Health Europe Publication: "From Exclusion to Inclusion – The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems"

This Mental Health Europe report presents an overview of social inclusion of people with mental health problems across 27 Member States of the European Union.

It aims to explain the specificity of mental health and mental illness and to highlight the mechanisms that prevent people with mental health problems in many cases to be active citizens who can participate and contribute to the community and society in which they live. It sets out concrete suggestions that can help professionals and policy makers to strengthen the framework for national strategy development and policy coordination within and between the Member States in Europe on issues relating to this particularly vulnerable group.

Download the report from <http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/From%20Exclusion%20to%20Inclusion-Final%20version.pdf>

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### UK Civil Society Almanac 2008

Described by Ed Miliband MP as "the sector's most important reference book", the Almanac provides facts and figures on the shape and size of the sector. It gives valuable knowledge and data on charities and other civil society organisations, including housing associations, co-operatives and universities. The cost is £125 (£30 NCVO members)

To download the executive summary or order your copy visit [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/almanac](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/almanac).

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