

London Euroscene Bytesize



lvstc

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

July 2008, Issue #14

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LVSTC News



Government Office for London in partnership with the Mayor of London presents **The London ESF Story**

Wednesday 4th June 2008 saw the London ESF Story, a conference and exhibition to celebrate the legacy of the European Social Fund 2000-2006 London Programme and the operational launch of the ESF 2007-2013 London Programme, at Chelsea Football Club. This was a highly successful event, with over 300 attendees, who got to hear from government speakers and from a number of case studies who had received ESF in the past.

If you missed the event then you can catch up on the speeches and much much more at LVSTC's dedicated webpage at http://www.lvstc.org.uk/London_ESF_Story_event.php

You can read what the national ESF Division had to say about the event at

http://www.esf.gov.uk/news/articles/esf_projects_rollout_london.asp and the Mayor's office produced this press release http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=17214

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ERDF Unit closing

As of the end of the ERDF programme, 2000-2006 LVSTC's ERDF TA project is coming to an end and we will be closing down the ERDF unit from the end of June 2008. The ERDF team will be moving on to other areas of work. We would like to thank all the people in the voluntary sector who we have worked with over the last 7 years for their valuable contribution to the ERDF debate, their input into our events, conferences, and focus groups. Their work has helped raise the profile of the voluntary sector in the ERDF programme and made a real contribution to the target beneficiaries lives and help deliver the EU funds where they have been needed most.

LVSTC will still be representing the sector in ERDF and will still provide advice and guidance through out telephone helpline.

Good luck, the best for the future and once again thank you all for your valuable contributions over the years.

The ERDF Team
LVSTC

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Forthcoming LVSTC events

Tuesday, 19 August 2008

"Equal Opportunities and Diversity"

A seminar 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

"Sustainable Development"

This event 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.

For more information about these events and how to book places, keep an eye on

www.lvstc.org.uk/events as more information will be posted there very soon.

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ESF News



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.

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.

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London Development Agency (CFO) ESF Update

The LDA is currently completing contract negotiations with organisations following their first tendering round under the new programme. A full list of successful organisations will be published on the LDA website shortly. A further tendering round will be launched in Autumn 2008 for around £20m of funding.

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Learning and Skills Council ESF Update

ESF funding for 2007-2013

Invitation to tender for ESF funding for projects supporting young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is open in July. The deadline for submission of tenders for NEET element of this funding will close on 1st August. ITTs for Adult activity seeking projects working with people with disabilities and ex-offenders/offenders will be launched at a later date. Please check the LSC website for further details and updates.

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/London/ESF/20072013programme/> and you can download the London LSC 2008 European Social Fund Overview from <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/London/lon-ESFOverviewLondon2008-jun08.pdf>.

The list of providers who have been invited to tender for mainstream provision for 2008/09 is now available to download from the LSC website. The list is split by region and then by programme:

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/provider-procurement/>

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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.

On the 23rd June DWP launched the two revised unallocated specifications and organisations interested to apply should have submitted their expression of interest by the 30th June closing date. Final tenders need to be submitted by the 18th July with a view to having provision in place from 3 November 2008. Further details can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/esf_london_230608.asp

The DWP is in the process of preparing feedback for those organisations who have been unsuccessful on this occasion and this will be sent out as soon as it is available.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/esf_winning_bidders_300508.pdf.

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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 Autumn 2008.

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EU News



European Parliament's Employment Committee discusses draft Report on social inclusion

On 6 May, the Employment Committee of the European Parliament (EP) discussed the first draft of the report "Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, including child poverty, in the European Union", prepared by MEP Gabrielle Zimmer.

The report underlines that the overarching aim of active inclusion policies must be to implement fundamental rights in order to enable people to live in dignity and participate in society as well as the labour market. It calls on the Commission to consider child poverty and social exclusion in a broader context of EU policy making including issues such as immigration, discrimination, gender equality and active inclusion.

To get up to date, you can download both the EP draft Report on Social Inclusion

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99931/Newsletter/draft-report-social-inclusion-Zimmer.pdf> and the Joint

Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/joint_reports_en.htm#2008

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"European Online Learning" launched

European Online Learning is a website that will enable young people to find out about Europe, its policies, be in touch with other young people from schools and groups all over Europe and offers learning through fun activities and games!

This is a unique and fresh opportunity for young people to have fun and learn, participating in the European Parliament decisions and be in touch with their fellow Europeans.

Please visit the website at www.european-online-learning.eu and find out more about the unique photo-gallery, take part in the on-line learning quiz and share ideas with other young Europeans in the forum!

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EU integration website

The Hague Programme on strengthening freedom, security and justice in the EU, adopted by the European Council in November 2004, called for the development of a Web Site on Integration. This unique EU-wide platform for networking on integration through exchange about policy and practice will be launched later in 2008. For more information visit the Migration Policy Group website at <http://www.migpolgroup.com/news/3979.html>.

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'Training and Learning for Community Development in Europe' is now available for free download.

This major report comes from Grundtvig 4, a seminar group working across 17 countries, assessing the challenges facing community development.

- Demonstrates clearly the common ground that can be found in community development training and learning, once differences are overcome
- Celebrates the unique contribution community development can bring to lifelong learning
- Provides an excellent overview of community development institutions across Europe, including contact details
- Essential for anyone implementing community development training initiatives.

Click here to download your free copy at

http://www.cdf.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF_DOCART/view.asp?Q=BF_DOCART_302358

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Cohesion policy: Commission publishes overview of 2007-2013 programming documents

Negotiations of structural funds Operational Programmes are almost closed now. These documents identify Member States' and regions' priorities for the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund, and have to be adopted in partnership between the Commission and national authorities before the programmes start.

To mark the closure of this crucial phase, the European Commission published on 14th May a Communication on the outcomes of the negotiations over some 450 Operational Programmes. This new programming period (2007-2013) is marked, the Commission argues, by a real change of priorities, with a stronger focus on objectives set out in the "Lisbon Strategy" and the earmarking of a significant proportion of the € 347 billion dedicated to the funds throughout the EU in this purpose. Priorities include research and innovation (€ 86 billion), information and communication technologies, support for business, environment (€105 billion), education and training (€26 billion), removing barriers to employment (€19 billion), social inclusion (€10 billion).

Click here for more information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/744&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=fr>

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VCS News



LSC Third Sector Engagement Compact Review

The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Third Sector Engagement Compact Review has been published today and is available on their website www.lsc.gov.uk/vcs in the news section.

The Review document seeks to address key areas highlighted in the Third Sector Compact (www.thecomcompact.org.uk) for the LSC's consideration. This first report looked specifically at the following Compact codes; of good practice funding and consultation and outlines strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement for the LSC.

The Review is part of the LSC's ongoing commitment to seek best practice; continually improve their reach to disadvantaged learners and to work with those organisations within the third sector that support this work through clear delivery of the Compact principles.

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Green Grants Machine

- Are you increasingly under pressure to prove your green credentials to clients and authorities?

- Would you like to minimise your impact on the environment but just don't have the cash to make the necessary changes?
- Would you like to save money, and the planet, by cutting your emissions and carbon output?
If so then help is at hand in the form of the Green Grants Machine www.greengrantsmachine.co.uk
A brand new website designed to help small business owners like you find funding to make the small changes that can make a big difference where the environment is concerned. Find funding to help you improve your environmental performance and save money on your energy bills.
Key features include Search for green funds, Funding alerts, Funding news and it is all completely free of charge.

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New guidance on CRB checks for volunteers published

The Office of the Third Sector has published guidance to help organisations that use volunteers to be clear about when they do and don't need to carry out Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on volunteers.

The guidance will help cut unnecessary red tape and responds to concerns voiced by the voluntary sector that potential volunteers can be put off if they are asked to undergo a CRB check without good reason.

You can access the guidance and find further information on the OTS website here
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080604_crb.aspx.

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Long Term Conditions Alliance (LTCA) promotes local involvement networks

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) bring new opportunities for the voluntary and community sector (VCS). LTCA have a LINKs Project Worker available to come along to meetings and events to present and talk through LINKs and the benefits and opportunities they offer VCS organisations.

For more visit www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/voluntarysector/.

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Adult Learners' Week results

Adult Learners' Week is a national campaign organised every year in May by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). The idea is to encourage people to pursue adult education by promoting learning achievements of adult learners through regional and national awards. The week was supported by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, the European Social Funds and has brought together a diverse range of private, public and voluntary organisations.

The London region winners were

Individual Award Outstanding Winner

- Paul McNeill, Hornchurch

Individual Award Winner

- Amal Dougahir, London
- Kevin Fitzpatrick, East London
- Momotaz Begum, West London
- Nazeem Durgahee, East London

National Group Award Winners

- Chelsea FC Senior Fans Project, London

National Learning Works Award Winner

- Vicky Nelson, West London

Learning and Skills Council Regional Learning Works Award Winner

- Ermal Nasi, London

European Social Fund Regional Award Winner

- Milton Wacha, London

National Opening Doors to Adult Learners' Award Winner

- Empowering Adults Who Stammer

National Opening Doors to Adult Learners' Award European Social Fund (ESF) Winner

- YMCAfit

National Senior Learner of the Year Award Winner

- John McAnuff, London

Regional Senior Learner of the Year Award Winner

- John Johns, London

Congratulations to all the Adult Learners' Week award winners: you can find out more about their individual stories and discover all the winners from across the country at NIACE's website:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/ALW/2008/default.htm>

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Platform2

Platform2 is a new DfID-funded scheme giving 18-25 year olds from the UK the chance to volunteer in a developing country for 10 weeks and then come back and creatively express their experience in the UK. Platform2 is different to most overseas volunteering opportunities because it's aimed at people who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to do something like this, so it's free.

<http://www.myplatform2.com>

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Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF)

From April 2007, the Department of Health is holding a Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) of £100 million over a four year period (£63 million capital and £27 million revenue from 2008/09 to 2010/11). In 2007/08, £1.7 million revenue and £8.9 million capital money was available to new and existing social enterprises*, delivering health and social care services, who applied successfully for this funding. In 2008/09, we are making a further £11 million capital and £6 million revenue funding available to new and existing social enterprises.

The closing date for this round is 31 July 2008, for further information and to apply for the fund please access the application form through the link below.

(* The government defines a social enterprise as 'a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners').

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Commissioning/Socialenterprise/index.htm>

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The Prevent Strategy: Stopping people becoming or supporting terrorists and violent extremists

The Government has published guidance to help and support local authorities, schools, community groups and the police to tackle violent extremism and prevent radicalisation in communities.

<http://digbig.com/4xbhb> or <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

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Energy saving opportunities for charitable organisations

The Carbon Trust has launched a free guide to reducing carbon emissions and cutting energy use in association with the Charity Commission. <http://digbig.com/4xbqf> or <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk>

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Resources & Information



OSW launch exciting new report

OSW have launched their new report - The Right Deal for Homeless People: Working towards suitable, sustainable and progressive employment. The report demonstrates a model of holistic, coordinated employment support for the most disadvantaged that, if funded and delivered in the right way, will enable more homeless individuals to achieve sustainable, progressive work. The Right Deal model will also significantly reduce costs for HM Treasury, and demonstrate the economic and social benefits of such investment. The Right Deal was developed with the support and input of Business Action on Homelessness, Crisis, East Thames, The Foyer Federation, Race on the Agenda, St Mungo's Association and Working Links.

The lunchtime launch at Bain and Co., and was attended by key organisations that work with homeless individuals from the private and charitable sectors, and across Government. The report was supported by David Freud, the 'architect' of the Department for Work and Pensions' welfare reform, and Fran Parry, the Chair of the Employment Related Services Association.

To read what David Freud had to say about the report, and what OSW plan to do next, click on

www.osw.org.uk/about/news.asp

To access the Right Deal report, please click on

www.osw.org.uk/librarydocs/Right_Deal_Report.pdf

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Community Development Network London

Community Development Network London is being organised by a small voluntary collective of community development (CD) practitioners.

It is being supported by the London Empowerment Partnership to provide a Community Development Workers Forum, which will meet 3 times a year.

The aim is to:

- provide networking and informal peer support opportunities,
- enable policy dissemination and critical discussion,
- develop a campaigning capability to raise the profile of community development,
- ensure accountability and support of the CD London regional representative.

Do you work (unpaid or paid) with communities in or near London to support them in their development? If so, this Network is for you. Come and join us. CD managers, policy workers, academics & consultants are also welcome as associate members.

Email your details (your name & address, London Borough/District & job/work title) to:

CDNLondon@nutbrook.demon.co.uk

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What is strategic planning?

If you are new to strategic planning then 'Thinking Ahead: An introduction to strategic planning' is for you. This publication, published by the Performance Hub, provides clear, practical guidance on developing an effective strategic plan. It shows you how to get started and how to bring your plan to life. £8 (£5.60 NCVO Members) To order visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/thinkingahead.

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Local Government Charity Toolkit

An online reference manual to help local authorities work with charities has been developed by the Charity Commission in liaison with the Local Government Association, the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) and the Commission for the Compact.

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/toolindex.asp>.

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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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Tel: 0845 262 2006 or 020 7538 4309

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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 ianf@lvstc.org.uk

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