

# London Euroscene Bytesize



lvstc

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

October 2008, Issue #16

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## LVSTC News



### **Forthcoming LVSTC Workshops**

#### **Succession Planning**

Thursday 16 October, 9.30am to 1.00pm  
Bromley Hall

Using the on line interactive toolkit, the 'Readiness Assessment Tool' [Version 2] and related information, delegates will be able to assess whether their current project needs to close or whether it could attract other funding in the future.

#### **Project Management– BAMER groups**

Wednesday 22 October, 9.30am to 1.00pm  
LVSRC, Holloway Road

This workshop aims to support project managers to look at the way they handle and manage ESF projects and how achieve project outcomes. The workshop will examine project management stages and processes from setting objectives through implementation to successful delivery and completion of the project.

#### **Partnership Brokerage & Development– BAMER groups**

Friday 29 October, 9.30am to 1.00pm  
LVSRC, Holloway Road

The aim of this workshop is to encourage networking and partnership brokerage amongst participants to enable projects to form consortia to access ESF and delivery.

#### **Sub-contracts and Partnership Agreements**

Wednesday 29 October, 2.00pm to 5.00pm  
LVSRC, Holloway Road

This workshop will enable delegates to design and maintain ESF partnership agreements and relationships required by CFO's for delivery partners in the current programme. LVSTC can draw upon considerable experience gained in the management of major ESF projects in conflict resolution, partnership maintenance, and compliance issues for delivery partnerships. This event will be appropriate for lead and main delivery partners, strategic partners and sub contractors.

#### **Equality and Diversity including Gender Equality**

Tuesday 4 November 2008, 9.30am to 1.00pm  
Bromley Hall

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.

### **Business Continuity -BAMER groups**

Wednesday 5 November, 9.30am to 1.00pm  
Bromley Hall

This is a half day workshop aimed at providing an awareness of the risks affecting an organisation and outlining measures that can be taken to ensure business continuity. The workshop is intended to help project managers to develop a plan to ensure business continuity in the event of a disaster such as a fire or a flood. It will highlight the importance of backing up data and explain the process of developing a back up plan. This workshop is aimed at project managers likely to be involved in this process but with little or no experience in this area.

### **Tracking Beneficiaries**

Thursday 6 November, 9.30am to 1.00pm  
venue: Bromley Hall

This workshop explores practical techniques in identifying outcomes for beneficiaries, recording them and reporting positive results to funding agencies.

### **Sustainable Development**

Wednesday 12 November 2008, 9.30am to 1.00pm  
Bromley Hall

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.

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### **LVSTC Training Directory**

The LVSTC London Training Directory is currently being updated and this is an ideal opportunity to join over 250 organisations in showcasing your services. Go online [http://www.lvstc.org.uk/training\\_directory.php](http://www.lvstc.org.uk/training_directory.php) and check it out.

If you would like to join the directory, there's an Entry form which you can complete and return. For more information please contact Humera Gondal on 0845 262 2006 / 020 7538 4309 or email [humerag@lvstc.org.uk](mailto:humerag@lvstc.org.uk).

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## **ESF News**



### **London Councils ESF Update**

The London Councils' first tendering round closed on 11 January 2008. 32 contracts have been awarded and a list of successful projects can be found on the London Councils website at <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants/esf/default.htm>.

London Councils is planning to launch a second tendering round in the autumn. Details should be published on the London Councils website in October.

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### **London Development Agency (CFO) ESF Update**

The results of the first London Development Agency's tendering round are available on the [LDA website](#) at <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.2163>.

It is anticipated that a further tendering round will be launched in winter 2008. Details will be published on the LDA website.

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### **Learning and Skills Council ESF Update**

Following the evaluation of the 2007 ESF round, results have been notified to organisations and contract clarification is underway. In total 328 ITTs were received from 237 organisations. Following evaluation, moderation and the contract award panels, 99 Projects have been taken forward across the three activity areas of Youth, Adult and Employer responsiveness. In total over £48 million of ESF has been allocated in this first LSC ESF round of the 2007 - 2013 programme.

Initial analysis of the result shows that 38% of the funding has been allocated to Third Sector providers, this figure does not include partner organisations.

Full detail of Projects, funding amount, location and partners will be confirmed once contract clarification is complete.

Further details can be found on the LSC website at <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/provider-procurement/>

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## Department of Work & Pensions ESF Update

The results of the first DWP ESF Co-financing funding round are available on the [http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what\\_we\\_buy/european\\_social\\_fund.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/european_social_fund.asp)  
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.

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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 the coming weeks.

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## EU News



### Innovation and transnationality

A call for proposals for innovative and transnational ESF activities will be launched later in the autumn.

The call will invite proposals for regional projects to develop, test and deliver innovative ways of extending employment opportunities and improving workforce skills. Each project will need to involve at least one partner from another EU member state to exchange knowledge, experience and best practice.

The Innovation and Transnational sub-committee has developed a menu of six themes for innovative and transnational activity in 2007-2010

- [active inclusion](#)
- [engaging with employers](#)
- [ICT and the digital divide](#)
- [demographic change \(older workers and migration\)](#)
- [skills for climate change and sustainable development](#)
- [social enterprise.](#)

Regional committees are currently choosing which of the themes they want to focus on in their regions. Projects are expected to start in spring 2009 and will usually run for up to three years, four projects will be supported in London.

Information about the launch of the call for proposals will be disseminated as soon as it is available. In the meantime, preliminary information, including draft descriptions of the themes, is on the ESF website.

[http://www.esf.gov.uk/innovation\\_transnationality/](http://www.esf.gov.uk/innovation_transnationality/)

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### ESF Communication Plan

The 2007–2013 England and Gibraltar ESF Communication Plan is now available here:

[http://www.esf.gov.uk/publicity/esf\\_communication\\_plan.asp](http://www.esf.gov.uk/publicity/esf_communication_plan.asp).

Approved by the European Commission in July 2008, the plan sets out the information and publicity measures that are being taken to promote the programme, its activities and achievements.

The publicity requirements are built into beneficiary agreements and guidance. In particular, Co-financing Organisations and providers will ensure that participants and the public are informed of the financial contribution of the ESF.

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### European Commission: "Do you know what social Europe can do for you?"

The European Commission has published a series of 26 easy-to-print factsheets which highlight how EU citizens can benefit from EU policies in the area of employment and social policy and point to future challenges and developments.

They are divided into 6 thematic areas:

[More and better jobs](#)

[Rights at work](#)

[Inclusion and equality](#)

[Job mobility](#)

[EU funding programmes](#)

[Policy in practice](#)

Download the factsheets here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/publications/booklets/general/pdf/ke0008001\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/publications/booklets/general/pdf/ke0008001_en.pdf)

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## European Parliament report on the promotion of social inclusion and combating poverty

Last month the report "Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, including child poverty, in the European Union" was voted on by the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee.

The report defends and advocates for a holistic approach to eradicating poverty, which seeks to ensure adequate incomes, quality jobs and better access to social services and services of general interest. The social risks of child poverty and homelessness are given particular attention.

The report recalls well-known but too often ignored social realities, for example across Europe, nearly 20 million children and eight per cent of workers and employees ("working poor") are at risk of poverty. Although having a job is the best defence against poverty, it is not always a guarantee.

Therefore minimum income schemes should be complemented by support measures to facilitate social inclusion e.g. in housing, education, training, and lifelong learning. The report also suggests Member States should provide targeted additional benefits for disadvantaged groups (such as people with disabilities or chronic diseases, lone parents or households with many children).

You can read the report here:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004\\_2009/documents/pr/712/712471/712471en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/712/712471/712471en.pdf)

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## VCS News



### National Action Plan on Social Inclusion – 2008–2010

The UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion, which is produced as part of the EU approach to developing better social cohesion, was published on 17 September 2008.

DWP has worked closely with people from across the UK to develop the plan, which sets out the UK strategies and programmes for tackling poverty and social inclusion from 2008–2010. The UK has been successful in moving towards its goal of full employment, but needs to go further. The plan reports on progress against the 2006–2008 plan and outlines the next stage in the Government's reforms to move people from being passive recipients of benefit into active jobseekers.

Much more information on the Plan can be found in the latest edition of the LVSTC newsletter, London Euroscene, available on the LVSTC website at <http://www.lvstc.org.uk/publications.php>

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### Views sought on a new legal form for charities

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is an entirely new legal form for charities. The Office of the Third Sector and the Charity Commission have launched a consultation on the draft details of what the new form might look like and the rules it will have to follow.

Currently, most charities can only incorporate as a company limited by guarantee, meaning they are regulated by both the Charity Commission and Companies House. The CIO is designed specifically for charities and will be regulated solely by the Charity Commission, significantly reducing this regulatory burden.

The consultation seeks responses from those who will use the CIO model and those who will work with them, including grant funders, contractors, and suppliers, ensuring the new legal form is effective and useful in practice.

Further information on the consultation can be found on

the [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/Consultations/current\\_consultations/cio.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/Consultations/current_consultations/cio.aspx)

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### Changes in Government: New Minister for Employment & Welfare Reform and New Minister for the Third Sector

Tony McNulty, MP for Harrow East has been appointed as the Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform at the Department for Work and Pensions and Minister for London. Part of his remit in this position is [welfare reform](#), [employment programmes including the future of the New Deal](#), [migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#), [adult disadvantage](#) and the [European Social Fund](#).

Also, Kevin Brennan, MP for Cardiff West, has been appointed as the new Minister for the Third Sector. He came from the Department of Children Schools and Families where his previous responsibilities included the third sector.

On his appointment Kevin Brennan said: "In the current economic climate it is more important than ever that the third sector has a strong champion within Government. I will be proud to carry this torch and build on the work of my predecessors. I look forward to working with all of you in the sector."

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## **Federation for Community Development Learning: Reviewing the Community Development Work, National Occupational Standards – Consultation**

► Are you a Community Development Worker (paid or unpaid) working at a grass-roots level, facilitating communities to take action to improve their lives?

OR

► Maybe you are an employer or manager of people undertaking this community development role?

OR

► You may be a community development trainer, researcher, field-worker, issue-based worker?

OR

► You might be working in housing, regeneration, planning, community relations – using a community development approach in your work?

Yes?

Then the Federation for Community Development Learning would like to hear from you! They are currently running a consultation in association with Lifelong Learning UK to review the National Occupational Standards for Community Development Work. These standards should describe what a person needs to do, know and understand to carry out their role in a consistent and competent way.

The Standards will have useful applications for all those charged with empowering their local community – helping with the recruitment and development of all staff involved in this work (from constructing job descriptions through to informing career development).

To complete an online questionnaire please see:

<http://www.fcdl.org.uk/NOS%20Consultation/Index.htm> . Or you may want to attend one of the free consultation events taking place, see:

<http://www.fcdl.org.uk/NOS%20Consultation/Events.htm> .

For further details please contact FCDL at: nosreview.org.uk or Tel: 0114 253 6770

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## **The London child poverty pledge**

This document provides information on the London Child Poverty Pledge, which is for any organisation that delivers services for families in London. By signing the pledge, organisations can make a strong and lasting shared commitment to increase their focus on child poverty and improve the impact of their services on parental employment, child poverty and the outcomes of poor children in London.

<http://213.86.122.139/docs/child-poverty-pledge.pdf>

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## **The media, poverty and public opinion in the UK**

How do the media in the UK represent poverty and how does its effect on wider public understanding? These are the questions this research published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation tries to answer.

The study shows that there is a general misperception of poverty among the public in the UK, but media coverage could prove to be an effective mean for generating public support for anti-poverty initiatives, and particularly for addressing child poverty.

Download the study here <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2261.asp>

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## **Resources & Information**



### **New research exploring monitoring and evaluation in the third sector**

Accountability and learning: developing monitoring and evaluation in the third sector is the largest ever research study exploring monitoring and evaluation demands and practice in the third sector. Capturing the experiences of more than 700 voluntary and community organisations, and over 100 funders and commissioners, the study finds accountability expectations have grown enormously during the past 20 years.

Key findings include:

- Despite an increase in the resources and training available, many organisations still struggle with the basics of monitoring and evaluation
- Reporting cycles, with their short timescales, often lead organisations to focus on monitoring outputs at the cost of gathering information about longer-term achievements
- In order to procure funding, organisations have frequently agreed a level of impact with their funders that cannot be realised or measured feasibly

"Value in third sector organisations is increasingly being defined by an organisation's ability to

demonstrate it, and often in ways imposed by external priorities and targets. In an environment of increasing competition, and smarter funding application and tendering procedures, many small organisations with insufficient resources, or those unable to frame their benefits in the language of quantifiable outcomes and impacts, have become increasingly vulnerable." - extract from research briefing

The briefing has a substantial recommendations section, highlighting areas specific to funders, commissioners, policy makers, voluntary and community organisations, support providers and evaluators.

Go here: <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=424&E-report-landing> for more information and to download the research briefing and full report

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## **Practitioner Research in the learning and skills sector: Developing professional identity and practice**

*Thursday 4 December 2008, 9:45am - 4:15pm, Thistle Marble Arch Hotel*

This annual Learning and Skills Research Network conference will provide participants with the opportunity to explore and debate the notion of professionalism, including questions around where, how and whether professionalism exists or is being eroded or developed (or not) for staff and students in the sector.

The theme of this year's conference, professional identity and practice is of huge importance to colleagues working across the sector. The nature of professionalism and professional identity in its current contexts continues to be problematic, contested, and debated.

This conference will:

- help participants engage with research and development in the learning and skills sector
- disseminate and debate research findings relating to professional identity and practice.

For more information, to download an application form or to reserve a place online, visit:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/Conferences/LSRN.htm>

Enquiries to NIACE Conferences Team - Tel: 0116 204 2833 E-mail: [gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk](mailto:gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk)

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## **Learning from Charity Commission's regulatory work**

The Charity Commission has a new annual report bringing together for the first time the themes and wider issues arising from its regulatory work, which seeks to ensure that charities comply with their legal obligations and investigates reports of serious abuse or mismanagement. Trends identified include lack of procedures to protect vulnerable beneficiaries, poor basic accounting and reporting causing long-term problems, and overlooking the basics of good governance. The report includes illustrative cases and key lessons for charity trustees. Download 'Charities Back on Track: themes and lessons from the Charity Commission's compliance work' from <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Library/investigations/pdfs/track.pdf>.

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## **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 West 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:**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008; 10.00– 17.00  
Ealing, West London

Consultancy support will be available throughout December and early January.

**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](mailto:clare.e@gle.co.uk) Alternatively please call Clare on 020 7940 1504 before Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008

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### **LLU+ National Conference: Looking Back, Moving Forward**

*Friday 5th December, 10am-4.30pm at London South Bank University*

- Ready for some new approaches to teaching and learning?
- Looking for an exciting menu of CPD?
- Want to spend a day thinking outside the box?

The LLU+ National Conference, "Looking Back, Moving Forward 20 years of development and critical reflection" offers an opportunity to rethink and review Skills for Life!

- Guest speakers: Roxy Harris and John Bird
- Free publication or resource to take home
- Interactive workshops
- Opportunities for debate
- Practical ideas for you to implement tomorrow
- Specialist advice on teacher qualifications and training
- Materials making workshops

There are limited places so book now by visiting <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/lluplus/news-events/events.shtml> or emailing [j.musson@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:j.musson@lsbu.ac.uk). Bookings **must** be accompanied by **payment**.

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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](mailto:ianf@lvstc.org.uk)**

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