

London Euroscene Bytesize



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

December 2008, Issue #19

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LVSTC News



Season's Greetings to one and all

LVSTC would like to extend season's greeting to all our members and to everyone who has supported us this year.

LVSTC will be closing on Friday 19th December for the winter break, and then reopening on Monday 5th January.

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ESF News



London Councils ESF Update

London Councils finished a recent tendering round, decisions for most will be announced on Friday 19th December 2008.

With 22 tender specifications in the prospectus to fill, this round has been able to address 19 of these. London Councils will be re-tendering at least 2 of the remaining specifications, details of which will be available on the London Councils website early January 2009.

12th of January 2009 is the deadline for the appeals procedure after which contract negotiations will begin for organisations with a view to commence projects from 1st April 2009.

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London Development Agency (CFO) ESF Update

The LDA (CFO) has extended the deadline for completion of the CompeteFor Questionnaire to **4pm** on **Tuesday 13th January**. If you have any interest in bidding into this ESF round, or indeed for any LDA procurement, then you must register on CompleteFor at <http://www.competefor.com/> under the correct Project Specification.

Applicants who are then shortlisted to the second, full application stage will be notified by email and will have until **4pm** on **Thursday 19th February** to submit their application.

If you need any assistance with your application then please contact us on 0845 262 2006 / 020 7538 4309.

LVSTC Partnership Portal

LVSTC has developed a portal aimed at organisations seeking partners for the latest LDA (CFO) ESF Round. Our Partnership Portals offer an essential system whereby organisations from all sectors can target prospective providers, ensuring closer cooperation, greater reach and improved cross sector involvement. To view the portal and to add your details through our easy-to-use form, please visit http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php.

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Learning and Skills Council ESF Update

From the two rounds of ESF earlier this year 53 contracts have been signed to date, equating to a total value of £24.1 million. Approximately one third of contracts have been signed with further contracts being issued throughout December 2008.

The LSC anticipate Invitations to Tender (ITT's) to be launched in the new year in late January 2009 for activity in relation to employer response.

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Department of Work & Pensions ESF Update

We are not expecting the DWP to launch any new ESF funding rounds until next year.

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Community Grants Update

The first Community Grants round closed on Wednesday 19th November after running for four weeks. Applicants should expect to hear the results of their applications in late January.

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ESF Innovation and Transnationality

Extension of deadline

The deadline for applications for Innovation and Transnationality has now been extended to 4pm on **Friday 16 January 2009** by the ESF Innovation, Transnationality and Mainstreaming Unit.

All the relevant documentation is available on the ESF website at:
http://www.esf.gov.uk/innovation_transnationality/

LVSTC Transnational Partnership Portal

LVSTC has developed a portal aimed at organisations seeking partners for ESF Innovation & Transnationality. To view the portal and to add your details through our easy-to-use form, please visit http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php.

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EU News



Partnerships for more family-friendly living and working conditions: how to get access to funding opportunities

This European Commission brochure aims to raise awareness on how funding opportunities offered by the European Structural Funds, in particular the European Social Fund, can be used to set up local partnerships and projects which support families. Presenting the structures and procedures of the Structural Funds, it targets regional and local policy-makers, social partners and civil society representatives interested in developing projects for more family-friendly conditions. Find it at http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/publications/2008/ke3008489_en.pdf

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Economic recovery plan at heart of joint NGO seminar on structural funds

"Structural Funds 2007-2013, a real step forward for social Europe?" was the central topic of the conference, EAPN co-organised on 8 December with the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing (CECODHAS) and the European Disability Forum (EDF) in the premises of the European Economic and Social Committee. Bringing together representatives from the social NGO sector, regional and local authorities, and EU institutions, this seminar aimed to confront these principles to the reality of cohesion policy's implementation for 2007-2013, and propose concrete steps to move forward.

Partnership, development of bottom-up approaches and positive approach to "activation" were central themes in the debate, which also put a particular focus on the Commission's proposals for economic recovery (making all structural funds more accessible and focusing on energy efficiency). The agenda for the day can be read here <http://www.eapn.eu/images/docs/agendasf0812.pdf> and for more information about the results of the conference, please contact: elodie.fazi@eapn.eu

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VCS News



Skills for London 2009 launches today - the search is on to find London's highest achievers

Are you making a difference through training and development? Are there particular learners who have exceeded expectations in their learning/training? Then make sure you enter the Skills for London Awards 2009.

The Skills for London Awards 2009 which will be held at the Natural History Museum next June, will showcase the talent and achievements of Apprentices, employers, providers and learners across London.

There are 14 awards in total including Apprenticeship categories, employer categories under both Train to Gain and Apprenticeships, additional learner categories and a provider category.

Full details, including online entry forms, can be found at <http://www.skillsforlondon.org/index.html>

The closing deadline for entries is **Friday 27 February**. Winners will receive a trophy, framed certificate, and learners can win vouchers worth up to £250.

Don't miss this opportunity to win the recognition you, your employees and learners deserve.

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Your chance to contribute to the Government's action plan of support for the third sector

On 24th November Kevin Brennan, the Minister for the Third Sector, chaired a summit with NCVO on the impact of the economic downturn on the third sector. Sector representatives highlighted a number of challenges they were facing in the current economic climate, and more importantly discussed how Government and the sector could work together.

Building on these discussions, the Minister announced plans to publish an Action Plan in the New Year. This represents a real opportunity for the sector and Government to work in partnership to address current and future challenges. It is crucial the sector gets involved from the onset in the development of this action plan

The OTS welcomes suggestions from the sector on innovative ways the government could help support the environment for a thriving third sector in the coming months and years, with a particular focus on the 6 key themes raised at the summit:

- Meeting demand for public services particularly in deprived areas
- Good quality contracting and commissioning
- Addressing potential income issues through local and national level funding and maximising charitable giving
- Modernisation of the sector to cope with financial pressures.
- Building social capital (volunteering, for example) and tackling worklessness
- Role of social enterprise

Your comments will play an important part in the development of the action plan and the OTS would very much welcome your thoughts and ideas by **31st December 2008**.

Please send any comments to actionplan@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

For further information and news updates, visit: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector.aspx>

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Big Thinking: Your chance to take part in the Big Lottery Fund's consultation

Thursday 29 January from 09.30 – 13.30

(timings are estimates and full details – including venue location - provided after the reply deadline).

Last month the Big Lottery Fund launched Big Thinking – a consultation on our strategic framework for 2009-15. This event will introduce you to the document and the questions it poses, and give you an opportunity to have your say on the future of funding in London. The challenge we face in the period 2009-2015 is to discover where our contribution can best be made. We need to draw on the evidence of what makes a difference to communities and people in need and we want to make hard-headed assessments of where needs exist that our approach is best placed to address. We must also recognise the impact of our funding, and ensure that the projects we fund are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. For more information on the consultation please visit <http://www.big-thinking.org.uk> , where you can also complete the formal consultation document online. To book a place please contact events.lon@biglotteryfund.org.uk by 16 January. Places are limited and we may not be able to offer space for more than one delegate per organisation.

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Resources & Information



Who does what in the skills system

Created by Edexcel, this is a really useful map of all the different agencies involved in the learning and skills sector, presented in an easy-to-read format. <http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/Who%20does%20what%20in%20the%20skills%20system.pdf>

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LSC Statement of priorities: investing in our future through learning and skills

The LSC's Statement of priorities for 2009/10 includes new duties to be placed on the LSC with regard to adult learners; the maintenance of the safeguard; the expansion of the remit of PCDL partnerships to include other elements of the safeguard; a new approach to ESOL provision; refreshing of the skills for life strategy, including numeracy assessments for literacy and language learners. <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-statementofpriorities200910-nov08.pdf>

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New Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) launched

Follow the link to read the press release from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills about the launch of the new QCF, which is a more flexible, modular approach to qualifications. <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=384238&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

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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 European Social Fund, London Councils, The Big Lottery Fund, City Bridge Trust and City Parochial Foundation.

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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