

london

euroscene

byte-size



No.2 July 2007

Welcome to the new byte-size euroscene

Latest news on . . . Mayor launches ... the European Social Fund (ESF) Regional Framework draft for London
. . .draft European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Programme 2007-13

LVSTC Events

Brussels Study Visit

-

ERDF/ESF & Urban Issues

Tuesday 30 October 2007 - Thursday 1 November 2007 inclusive (2 nights)

If you've run an Objective 2 (ERDF/ESF/URBAN) Project or are interested in the new London Structural Fund Programmes this is an opportunity you can't miss!

Learn from, and enjoy, a visit to the European Parliament as well as presentations on EU programmes.
£385 per person, **10% discount for LVSTC Members & Associates**

Book early to avoid disappointment. Please contact Angela Heap on 0845 262 2006/ 020 7538 4309 or email angelah@lvstc.org.uk for more information and booking details. **Deadline for bookings with payments: Tuesday 31 July 2007.** For more information go to www.lvstc.org.uk/obj2_current_news.php

LVSTC Workshops: Holding On, Moving On...from the Structural Funds

1 August 2007 – Quality Assurance

Why you should consider quality assurance systems (IIP, Matrix and PQASSO) for your organisation and overview of how to achieve them.

8 August 2007 – Evaluating your Project

Evaluation plays a vital part in capturing the legacy and proposing future pathways for ESF projects. This seminar will enable you to identify the aims, objectives and outcomes of effective evaluations.

All events are FREE for VCS organisations, and are scheduled to run in the morning from 9.30am to 1.00pm: for more information and booking details go to www.lvstc.org.uk/events

Other sectors will need to contact LVSTC on 0845 262 2006/ 020 7538 4309 before booking places on workshops.

EU News

Mayor launches the ESF Regional Framework draft for London

The Regional Framework – what is it for?

The London ESF Regional Framework draft document is now available from the LDA website for consultation. It details the key vision for the new programme in London, shaping objectives and detailing proposed management and oversight of the programme. This paper also defines the strategies to be employed to ensure that England's largest regional ESF allocation of £232m will be dedicated to meet learner's needs and defines the process by which the Fund will be allocated and distributed.

LVSTC has been representing the VCS at the ESF Stakeholder's group together with potential co-financing organisations and the GLA, and we plan to make a written response to the draft framework. The deadline for receipt of responses is the end of July, so do respond directly in good time. We need your help now if we are to make a broad and informed response.

How you can help!

The Framework draft and supporting technical information can be downloaded from <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.1961> and you can respond to the questions asked. Our draft response is being prepared for the end of July and we would welcome any contribution from the sector by the 25 July 2007. For more information go to http://www.lvstc.org.uk/news_consultations.php.

LVSTC – ESF [Objective 3] Follow Up Survey July 2007

We are contacting you to ask you to spare just two minutes of your time to complete a short survey. There are just 8 multiple choice questions and any ESF provider can respond.

We are also tracking organisations that responded to our previous survey [Mind the Gap Feb 2007] – which was designed to find out how providers were coping with the end of finance in the current ESF programme.

All respondents will receive a copy of the Survey Report which will be completed by the 2nd week of August. The Report will be forwarded to the Government Office for London, CFOs, and media, for their information. Please note that although we may ask you to enter your name and organisation details, they will remain confidential.

To go to the FOLLOW UP survey click

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jplnFBEJtcAvhd4lMTj97A_3d_3d

Thank you very much for your time

ERDF Operational Programme

The Mayor has just published the draft European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Programme 2007-13 on the LDA website. You can download the programme from here <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.1965>.

Over the coming months LVSTC will be in touch with you regarding the document for your views and to stimulate discussion on how the voluntary & community sector can access the new ERDF Programme. We shall be publishing supporting documents and articles on our website and in London Euroscene. If you are interested in accessing the new ERDF Funds or if you would like to take part in a Focus Group to help inform debate, please contact the ERDF team at LVSTC. For more information go to http://www.lvstc.org.uk/obj2_current_news.php

Culture Delivers... Cultural projects delivering economic & social outputs

This new report from EUCLID provides further and extensive evidence of the role of culture in economic and social development and regeneration, by documenting over 1200 cultural projects supported by the Structural Funds across the UK in the period 2000-2006, with an investment of over £400 million.

This report is presented in a format which highlights the objectives delivered by these projects. It is hoped that this will help prospective applicants to the new round of Structural Funds, particularly as they present their proposals to the agencies responsible for allocating these funds. In spite of considerable evidence in the last decade regarding the importance of culture and the creative industries to economic development, and publications such as the recent EC report on "The Cultural Economy in Europe", the cultural sector often feels that the agencies allocating the Structural Funds in the UK are less receptive to proposals from the cultural sector which seek to deliver the economic or social outcomes required by the Structural Funds.

The price for this publication is £30, for more information and to order, email peter@euclid.info

New A Social Europe... but not quite yet

The European Anti-Poverty Network has expressed mixed feelings about the agreement reached on 23 June by the European Council on the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) mandate which will provide the basis and framework for the drawing up of the new "Reform Treaty".

While welcoming the balancing between social and free market objectives and other positive elements concerning Social Europe, EAPN calls on the EU political leaders to secure social policy's rightful place at the top of the EU agenda in the upcoming IGC negotiations.

Other positive elements to mention are the statement that the Charter of Fundamental Rights will be legally binding (though concern is raised by the opt out option), the establishment of a new legal basis for public services, the addition of a protocol on Services of General Interests, as well as the retention of the new

horizontal social clause.

For more information see: - [EAPN's press release](#)
- The [European Council's conclusions](#) (21-22 June 2007)

Public Consultation to prepare for the European e-Inclusion strategy

Be part of it! The European Commission launches an [on-line public consultation](#) to gather opinions from the wider public on the following areas of e-Inclusion (digital inclusion): e-Accessibility, digital literacy and competences, inclusive e-Government, information & communication technologies for cultural diversity, information & communication technologies for active ageing at work, the role of stakeholders in reaching e-Inclusion goals.

As stated in the Communication on "[i2010 – A European Information Society for Growth and Employment](#)", the Commission intends to launch a European Initiative on e-Inclusion in 2008. In order to prepare for the initiative the Commission intends to propose a Communication on a comprehensive approach to e-Inclusion by the end of 2007.

The consultation will be on-line until 15th August 2007. Your feedback on the questions is very valuable and highly appreciated. Position papers, based on the issues raised in the questionnaire, can also be sent to the following e-mail: einclusion@ec.europa.eu

Europe thinking about post 2007-2013

As the European Commission publishes its 4th report on economic and social cohesion in Europe reviewing the changes observed over the past three years, our cities and regions are already turning their attention to the challenges they will face during the 2014-2020 programming period, when objectives targeting competitiveness will make way for those that are sustainability-oriented.

Read about this at <http://urbact.eu/index.php?L=0&id=1150>

Prince of Wales opens Roots & Shoots new eco-building

The Prince of Wales officially opened the new eco-centre at Roots and Shoots, the Lambeth environmental and educational charity, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. He was shown round the building, wild garden, plant nursery and wildlife study centre by its founder and manager Linda Phillips and patron Kate Hoey MP, meeting trainees, past and present, staff, supporters and friends.

Up to 20 young people between 16 and 19 spend a year at Roots and Shoots. All have a statement of educational need and have found their school years difficult. The charity takes a holistic approach to their training, teaching Key Skills alongside general life skills, horticulture and retail while working towards an NVQ Level 1 qualification in one of these industries. In Roots and Shoots' nurturing and supportive environment, the young people acquire social skills and confidence, together with purpose and direction to equip them for work and life. The project is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), via the London Learning & Skills Council (LSC). Find out more at www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/London/ESF/londoncentral/casestudies/

Sector News

Gateway to Excellence opens for further education staff in UK

The Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) Excellence Gateway has now been launched and can be accessed at <http://excellence.qia.org.uk>. The Gateway is the main online service for all those working in the further education system – including leaders, managers, teachers, tutors, trainers and support staff in further education colleges, sixth form colleges, school sixth forms and work-based learning, adult and community learning and offender learning organisations. By bringing together and showcasing a wide range of good practice resources from across the sector, the Excellence Gateway gives staff the opportunity to improve their own skills and professional knowledge by learning from others in the further education system

Olympics jobs, training and business opportunities website launched

BOOST is a new free service to help local people and businesses benefit from the jobs, training and business opportunities created by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. Londoners can register to receive updates on volunteering, training, job, and business opportunities. Free translation is available. For

more information call 0845 155 2012 or visit the [BOOST website](#).

Deaf and hard of hearing volunteers

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf has published information about working with deaf and hard of hearing volunteers: http://www.rnid.org.uk/howyoucanhelp/work_with_us/volunteering/dhohvolunteers/

Launch of the "Big Opportunity" to involve the Third Sector in London 2012

The Big Opportunity project works across community and voluntary groups of varying sizes to explore how they can contribute to the planning, delivery and legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Big Opportunity is officially launched on 26 June, with the Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Paul Deighton (Chief Executive London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games), Rt Hon Ed Milliband, Ade Adepitan MBE and representatives from across London's communities. You can also sign up to receive alerts direct on the [Big Opportunity website](#).

E-petition to protect adult education

The cuts that hit adult education last year look set to deepen from September. The budget for adult education in England for the academic year of 2006-07 has been cut by 4%. The government has estimated that this will mean a loss of around 500,000 more places on courses for adults. There is now an opportunity for individuals to support a 10 Downing Street e-petition calling for public funding for adult learning. The petition has been submitted by Maire Daley of the UCU (University and College Union) which has also been prominent recently in the campaign to protect ESOL provision (English for Speakers of Other Languages). The link leading to the petition is <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/EducationRights/>

Pre-Order new education guidance

A new guide to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) aimed specifically at post-16 education providers will be published in August 2007, and is available now to pre-order.

The comprehensive guide to the DDA for colleges, universities and adult community learning-providers across Great Britain incorporates details of the changes to the education provisions of the DDA in recent years. It is a useful introduction to the law in all areas of college and university life, as well as covering duties in relation to students, staff and service users.

The guidance will be useful for managers and senior staff working in further and higher education, including principals and governors. You can pre-order a copy of the guidance from the [DRC Helpline](#) or by emailing your details to: educationguidance@drc-gb.org

Resources & Information

SKEIN (Skills for Economic Inclusion Network) Pilot Research

2. [What works for Entry Level Skills for Life Learners](#) - NIACE & HTEN

This is a comparative study of factors enabling progression of Skills for Life learners, looking at adult literacy and numeracy provision in Hackney and Brent. Recommendations cover the following areas: guided learning hours and progression into the mainstream; progression into mainstream vocational provision; ensuring flexible and responsive provision; learner support – overcoming barriers to learning; initial teacher education and continuing professional development; course planning and delivery infrastructure and targets, testing and funding.

If you would like a hard copy of this, or any of the other report which will be featured in following e-bulletins, then please email ianf@lvstc.org.uk. Alternatively, pdfs can be downloaded from http://www.lvstc.org.uk/skein_pilots.php

Leadership in Communities

'Leadership in communities: an empowering approach' is a discussion paper from bassac. With effective community leadership now a major concern of Government in relation to achieving a range of key policy objectives, this challenges many of the assumptions about the nature of leadership and aims to inform policy making in the community sector. In pdf format, 837kb but only 4 pages, from <http://www.bassac.org.uk/images/news/bassac%20Leadership%20in%20Communities.pdf>.

Child Poverty and Welfare in Europe

The European Social Network (ESN) recently published a statement on Child poverty and Welfare in Europe

which sets out the values of social work with children, the role of social services in safeguarding children and flags up key issues for social services in the European framework of child poverty. The statement was shaped by an ESN seminar which took place in Copenhagen on 15-16 March 2007 and brought together social care managers and professionals from 17 European countries.

For more information: http://www.socialeurope.com/inclusion/child_poverty.htm

LVSTC is funded by The London Councils, The Big Lottery Fund and through Government Office for London, the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund

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

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