

london

euroscene

byte-size



No.3 August 2007

Welcome to the new byte-size Euroscene

Latest news on.... NEW LSC PROCUREMENT ROUND.....European Social Fund (ESF)
Consultation news.....LVSTC Focus Groups.....

LVSTC Events

Brussels Study Visit

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ERDF/ESF & Urban Issues

Due to the number of projects coming to an end this year, LVSTC has decided to postpone the study visit to Brussels until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience caused, but we will keep you informed as to when any new opportunities arise.

LVSTC Workshops:

Transactional ERDF & State Aid (TESA) Workshops

TESA the new ERDF claim system will go live for claimants on Monday 24 September; the cut-off date for claims under ERDF 2000 will be Monday 20th August. LVSTC will be running two workshops on TESA at our offices at Bromley Hall on **21st** and **28th September 2007**. The workshops will include practical hands on exercises on the new system to help projects complete their claims. Places are limited so please book early by calling Steven White on 020 7538 4309.

EU News

Learning & Skills Council – NEW PROCUREMENT ROUND 2008/09

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have announced a series of briefing events on its forthcoming e-procurement round for all 2008/09 LSC funding – including co-financing funding from the ESF 2007-13 programme.

The LSC is running a two stage e-tendering process, the first stage of which will be a Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) followed by an Invitation to Tender (ITT). This approach applies to both the mainstream 2008/09 funding as well as the initial funding opportunity made available through the ESF 2007-13 programme

Pre-Application Requirements

In order to apply for LSC funding, all prospective applicants will need to have 2 registration numbers: One is a UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN). Existing LSC providers will already have a UKPRN and this can be looked up in PIMS by their contract manager. If you do not have one, then log on to <http://www.ukrlp.co.uk>, click on "Register" and simply fill out the form.

The second pre-requirement is a Data Protection Registration Number. This process is explained at this site http://www.ico.gov.uk/what_we_cover/data_protection/notification.aspx: applications can be made three ways, and will cost you £35.

Workshops

The half day briefings, scheduled for late August will include presentations on:-

- Our overall approach to 2008/09 and how we intend to make this accessible to potential providers
- The ESF 2007-13 programme and key areas for delivery
- Detail on the intended procurement process and its associated timetable
- A more detailed look at the e-tendering software (Bravo) and how it should be used to complete the PQQ online.

The briefings will include a Question and Answer panel.

There will be nine regional events hosted by the regional LSC. It is not intended to restrict you to a particular region; however, there is a limit of two places per organisation.

We would encourage the attendance of the organisation's key decision maker to support the first half of the event. The programme has been constructed to allow a break before the presentation on the software which is aimed at your operational representative.

To register for an event please visit <http://www.lisce-procurementevents.org.uk/registration.aspx> for the dates, venues and to register for your regional or preferred event - from which an email confirmation will be generated. This will include an email address to which you can direct any queries.

Full information on the events will be emailed to delegates and will shortly be posted on <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/provider-procurement/>. These events will also be advertised in the national and regional press.

Note: Many of these activities are co-financed by the 2007-13 ESF programme; please visit www.esf.gov.uk for more information on the European Social Fund.

LVSTC will be keeping you informed as soon as we find out more information so check out our website regularly at www.lvstc.org.uk for all the latest news and developments.

ESF Consultation

The ESF consultation for the ESF Regional Framework 2008-2011 has now finished, having run throughout the month of July. The Consultation focussed on a conference held midway through the month where over 200 participants were able to share their views on how the new Programme can best meet the needs of those at most risk in the labour market.

The LDA have collated all the material received during this time and are compiling a consultation report which will then inform the final draft of the European Social Fund Regional Framework. This draft will be signed off by the Mayor at the end of August and forwarded to the Government ESF Division in September for final approval alongside the anticipated agreement of the European Commission to the England ESF Operational Programme.

ERDF Focus Group

The ERDF team hosted a focus group on Friday 3rd August, where representatives from 8 organisations involved with ERDF worked through a number of issues around the new Operational Plan and the priority axes. Talking about when the new Programme might launch, participants were keen to know how the timeline would affect them and their projects, and what opportunities there will be to partner up with other sectors.

LVSTC will be hosting another ERDF focus group on **Friday 14th September at 10am**, so if you would like to attend then please do get in touch on 020 7538 4309. The ERDF focus group will then run every month on the second Friday of the month.

ESF Focus Group

On 10 August 2007 LVSTC convened an ESF Focus Group to discuss the ESF Draft London Regional Framework 2008 - 2011. Although the formal consultation on the Framework finished at the end of July, there are aspects of the new programme that remain open to influence.

The event was attended by 14 delegates from the voluntary and community sector. The meeting was chaired by Winston Costello, board member of LVSTC and Chief Executive of Camden ITEC who led the discussion on the basis of LVSTC's Response to the Consultation Questionnaire for London ESF Regional Framework Action Plan.

Key issues arising from the discussion included;

- Resources for Capacity Building are needed to build strong partnerships and consequently enable small organisations who can reach those furthest away from the labour market to take part in the programme
- There are barriers working with employers as they don't always understand the ESF programme and the needs of beneficiaries
- Organisations need technical assistance and guidance to enable them to complete the Post Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ)
- Concerns were raised about the direction of ESF in the future: it was seen to be originally supporting pilot and innovative projects to reach the poorest, - and now ESF money is subject to heavy administration costs.

A full report containing detailed information about these discussions will be on the LVSTC website in the near future.

LVSTC will be hosting another ESF focus group on **Friday 7th September at 10am**, so if you would like to attend then please do get in touch on 020 7538 4309. The ERDF focus group will then run every month on the first Friday of the month.

New Minister for the Sector

Following Gordon Brown's Cabinet reshuffle, the Minister for the Third Sector is Phil Hope MP, previously Minister for Skills at the Department for Education and Skills. He is a former teacher who has also worked as youth policy adviser for NCVO and was head of the young volunteer resources unit at the National Youth Bureau. He chaired the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Voluntary Sector when he was first elected as an MP. His predecessor as Third Sector minister, Ed Miliband, is now Minister for the Cabinet Office.

At the same time, David Blunkett has been appointed to develop policies on the voluntary and community sector for the next Labour election manifesto. The former Home Secretary is one of a 14-strong group that will be drawing up 'mini-manifestos' for Ed Miliband, who will have overall responsibility for pulling together the manifesto.

The new government Departments established by Gordon Brown are

- **Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)**, which also takes on science from the old DTI, their website can be found at <http://www.dius.gov.uk>.
- **Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)** Currently still using the old DFES website at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/aboutus/>. The new department will coordinate work across government relevant to youth and family policy, including children's social services. The department also holds responsibility for pre-19 education, working alongside the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) on higher education policy for 14-19 year olds
- **Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR)** takes over much of the Department for Trade and Industry, <http://www.berr.gov.uk>

Learning & Skills and the Government restructure

This restructure means that the purview of the Learning & Skills Council is now spread across 2 of the new departments. The LSC will be accountable to the DIUS, but will also be maintaining close links to the DCSF, especially on matters of 14-19 policy, funding and delivery. Despite these changes, and with the Further Education Bill making its way through Parliament, the LSC have confirmed that for the next three years, they will be responsible for securing and funding all forms of post-16 education and training outside of higher education

Changes to funding streams

Also adapting to the new machinery of these changes are some government funding streams.

The following 5 Funding Schemes now sit under the new DCSF:

- Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme (open to applications)
- Local Network Fund for Children and Young People (open to applications, administered by local bodies)
- Community Champions Fund (open to applications, administered by local bodies)
- Independent/State School Partnerships Scheme - Building Bridges (closed to applications)
- Parenting Fund (closed to applications, administered by National Family and Parenting Institute)

An extremely useful site for more information on this and other changes is www.governmentfunding.org.uk

Sector News

Launch of the Small Charities Coalition

The Coalition is a new body set up and run by small charities to help provide stability and growth, to tackle head on the gap between large and small charities, and to get government, businesses and organisations to sit up and take notice.

For details, visit: www.smallisbest.com or email: patrick.cox@malecancer.net.

DCLG Consultation

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have launched their third sector strategy for discussion and are looking for comments from third sector organisations, local government and other stakeholders.

There is a deadline for comments of **20 September 2007**.

The Government defines the third sector as non-governmental organisations that are value driven and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives. It includes voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals. Communities and Local Government also include housing associations within the third sector. The strategy is available to download [here](#). For further information please contact them on 020 7944 4400 or Contactus@communities.qsi.gov.uk

Capacitybuilders strategy for the delivery of ChangeUp

The strategy has been put together as a result of the consultation programme that ran from December 2006 to March 2007. It takes full account of the various views expressed from across the sector and is designed to indicate the way forward for Capacitybuilders in relation to the ChangeUp programme as a whole. As no sensible strategy is set in concrete, Capacitybuilders have to be both focused on achieving specific objectives and flexible in responding to changing circumstances.

We currently have two Destination 2014 documents available for review - ***Destination 2014 - our strategy for the delivery of ChangeUp*** and ***Destination 2014 - consultation and context***. If you would like to download a copy of either / both of these, please click on the link below:
<http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/content/OurStrategy/Destination2014.aspx>

Alternatively, please email info@capacitybuilders.org.uk to request copies.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

If you know a group of volunteers who devote their time to helping others in the community and improve the quality of life and opportunity for others, you can nominate them for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service now!

The Queen's Award is a UK National Honour (equivalent to an MBE) launched to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and will be awarded to outstanding voluntary organisations nominated by their local community.

The nomination period for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service has begun and we urge you to nominate your chosen voluntary organisation for this year's Awards round.

For more details on the awards, or to download a nomination form, please visit:
www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk Alternatively you can email queensaward@volunteeringengland.org or call our Award hotline on 0845 000 2002 for further information.
The deadline for nominations is **30th September**.

Greater London Volunteering: new website

Greater London Volunteering have just launched a new website as a resource for organisations who want to help people with additional support needs to volunteer. The site brings together the latest funding news and research on issues related to working with volunteers, resources and helpful hints, a discussion forum where people can seek others advice, and details of relevant events taking place. It has specific pages around supporting people with learning disabilities, mental health needs, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, drug and alcohol dependencies and homeless people. Registration is free and everyone who registers before the end of August 2007 will be entered into a free prize draw.

To access the website, click on www.supportedvolunteering.org

Consultation: Mayor's Refugee Integration Strategy for London

The Mayor, while recognising some excellent local practice in this field, feels that a city-wide strategic framework is now needed to meet the long-term challenge of integration for refugee communities.

The Board for Refugee Integration in London (BRIL) has prepared a draft strategy aiming to offer that framework: London Enriched: the Mayor's Draft Strategy for Refugee Integration in London. It explains the need for a strategic approach, sets out basic aims, and analyses gaps and barriers to achieving integration. Then it suggests actions which might help to move London towards that goal. The Strategy was launched on 10 July for consultation and the deadline for responses is Monday 29 October. The Strategy document and its Summary can be found on the GLA website at <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/equalities/immigration/strategy.jsp> or <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/equalities/immigration/strategy.jsp>

SKEIN (Skills for Economic Inclusion Network) Pilot Research

London's Public Libraries as Community Learning Hubs - LLDA & MLA

This is a study of the role and potential of London's libraries within the community learning sphere. Recommendations aimed at public library leaders and managers included considering how adult and community learning might be developed in their service, whether their existing provision could be extended as appropriate, analysing requirements for effective partnership working and examining the contribution of public libraries to lifelong learning..

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 janf@lvstc.org.uk . Alternatively, pdfs can be downloaded from http://www.lvstc.org.uk/skein_pilots.php

Raising our Game - the LSC's Annual Statement of Priorities 2007/08

Raising our Game sets out the LSC's ambitious funding and planning priorities for 2007-08. These aim to increase achievement and promote economic competitiveness and social inclusion in England

Building Effective Local VCS Infrastructure

This report, published by NAVCA, is the result of research undertaken by Dr Rob Macmillan and colleagues at Sheffield Hallam University with funding from the Big Lottery Fund. 'Building Effective Local VCS Infrastructure' discusses the findings from a nine-month research project examining the development, effectiveness and sustainability of over 80 local infrastructure organisations. [Download the PDF here.](#)

"Hearts and Minds": Commissioning from the voluntary sector

The Audit Commission published a report entitled 'Hearts and Minds: Commissioning from the voluntary sector',

This report sets out findings on: the extent and nature of the voluntary sector's delivery of public services; the locally perceived impact of government efforts to build capacity; the current state of commissioning; and procurement practice. The report is primarily for managers in local councils who are responsible for commissioning services, but it will also be of interest to voluntary organisations and national policymakers. It contains a number of recommendations for local public bodies, voluntary organisations, regulatory bodies, central government and the Audit Commission itself

The full report and a summary is available from the Audit Commission website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Events

12 September: Enterprise, Inclusion & Diversity Conference '07

An engaging and interactive conference showcasing new models of enterprise development and social inclusion.

The conference is on Wednesday 12th September from 1pm til 6pm, with a networking reception from 6pm til 8pm. It will take place at the Mermaid Conference Centre in Blackfriars and is completely free of charge.

You can book online through www.enterprise-07.org or call 020 7619 6262

20-22 September: Leadership for a New Europe: The Third Sector Solution

This is a 2 day workshop run by Calouste Gulbenkian in Lisbon, offering a unique opportunity for peer to peer learning for third sector leaders from across Europe. Improve your skills and develop cross border collaboration through shared experiences

Find out more at <http://www.euclidnetwork.eu/events.php?id=44> and also on how to join Euclid.

28-29 September: Pocklington Resource Centre Open Days 11am-4pm

If you are Blind or visually impaired, if someone in your family or a friend has some sight loss or if you work with blind people or if you would like to do some volunteering work, then these open days are for you!

Come and find out about the activities and services our centre has to offer.

Pocklington Resource Centre offers services, activities information and advice to blind and visually impaired adults living in Wandsworth.

Come and discover the latest developments in technology to help with work, study or daily living.

On both open days there will be stalls where you can try out or buy special equipment such as talking watches, Brailers, talking GPS, CCTV magnifiers, and many more.

You can find out how to receive and sample one of our talking news tapes, and visit our recording studio.

Light refreshments and demonstrations on both days.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to help us.

So if you are looking to do some voluntary work come and speak to Mark our volunteer coordinator.

Pocklington Resource Centre
1c Yukon Road Balham
London SW12 9PZ
Tel: 020 8675 4246

Email: odetteb@pocklington-trust.org.uk
Website: www.pocklington-trust.org.uk

25 October: Regional Skills and Employment

Set in the context of the Government's response to the Leitch Review, the new Commission for Employment and Skills and the move towards a demand-led system, this conference will map out the changing policy landscape for regional learning and skills and look at the implications for the regional development agenda. This is a one-day conference to held in Central London.

For updates on speakers and to register, visit www.neilstewartassociates.com/jd189

Training

Skills for Life Support for Small Training Providers

- Are you a training provider in central London with less than 250 staff?
- Do your clients need support with literacy, numeracy or English language?
- Are you struggling to keep up with all the changes in Skills for Life required by funders and awarding bodies?

Help is at hand!

Between now and the end of September 2007, LLU+ at London South Bank University can offer **FREE** one-to-one support for small organisations wanting some information and advice regarding Skills for Life training and development for their staff. This support is available to organisations offering stand-alone ESOL, Literacy or Numeracy training or those wanting to offer better support to clients in these areas, while they are studying other subjects.

To find out more or to book a visit please contact Julia McGerty at LLU+: j.mcgerty@lsbu.ac.uk or telephone 020 7815 6442.

Free Film, Fashion & Other Creative Courses for 14-19 year old

Fishing Road Experience (FRE) are delighted to offer young people a chance to make their own short film, advert or documentary on a topic of their choice.

Working in partnership with London Youth, The Prince's Trust, South London Press & Greenwich Community College. Our courses allow learners to experience the creative and media industries such as music, film/TV, journalism, fashion and beauty, drama and multimedia.

FRE is currently delivering a range of ESF and LDA funded courses & Learning Experiences (one day to 5 days). These can be delivered flexibly on your own premises and tailored to the needs of your group. If you run a youth club, community group or work with young people from any background or any level of ability we can help.

Call Sarah on 0207 255 8205 or email sarah@fre.org.uk to **book a course** & find out more

ILM Level 3 Management Course for Women

Account 3, a womens organisation in Bethnal Green, in conjunction with Hillcroft Womens College, will be providing training for the ILM Level 3 Management Qualification from September.

Account 3 have secured ESF Co-financing meaning that they are able to offer the course for free to women who do not already have a management qualification but are working or volunteering in supervisory positions in small businesses, voluntary and community organisations or small charities within any area of London. There will also be childcare and travel provided.

The course is open to women from any part of London who are employed in supervisory position within businesses or organisations which are classed as SME eg less than 250 staff. Women in the third sector could take advantage of this project to gain a nationally recognised management qualification based on the work they are already doing.

Account3 has not fixed venues yet and will book them where there is most interest, in order to make it as accessible as possible. So if you want you could form a study group with people you know and do the qualification together close to where you live.

Start: September 2007 **Ends:** April 2008

Mode of study: small group and 1:1 tutorials with optional on line learning or optional residential weekends

Time required: Classroom based study 2 days per month - for example, one Thursday and one Saturday per month, plus home work

If you are interested please contact admin@account3.org.uk or call on 0207 739 7720 and leave a message.

Vacancies

Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre

Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre is a leading women's community centre in Camden working with Bangladeshi women. We now have vacancies for the following positions on a new exciting project working with unemployed Bangladeshi women.:

- **Childcare Assessor/Trainer:** responsible for leading on an entry level Childcare course and providing Skills for Life support
- **Health and Social Care Assessor/Trainer:** responsible for leading on NVQ Level 2 level Health and Social Care course and providing Skills for Life support

Both positions are offered part-time for 17.5 hours a week with a salary of £26,277 (pro rata with a pay award pending).

You should have experience of teaching and setting up Individual Plans with learners, the ability to train and enable others, a good understanding of the qualifications, and hold recognised teaching and occupational qualifications.

You should hold an NVQ assessment qualification or equivalent. Experience of working in a community based setting with unemployed women is desirable.

For further information about these roles please contact Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre. If you wish to apply please send your CV to:

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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

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