

london

euroscene

byte-size



No.4 September 2007

Welcome to the new byte-size Euroscene

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

LVSTC Events

LVSTC PQQ Workshop

Thursday 20 September 2007, 9.30am – 1.00pm

The LSC in the London region are requiring all potential ESF providers to complete the online Pre - Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). If you complete this stage successfully, you will be Invited To Tender (ITT) for the provision of projects funded by the European Social Fund and the LSC in the next 3 years.

Our workshop aims to ensure that the content of the E-Document is fully understood by providers - enabling you to complete this stage as effectively and efficiently as possible. LVSTC advisers will be on hand to guide you through, and Paul Crosswell of the LSC will be chairing a Question & Answer session.

The workshop is free to all Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations including LVSTC Members, Third Sector Not-For-Profit Agencies, and present Associates of LVSTC. Other sector organisations can access LVSTC services by becoming an Associate; for more information go to our membership page <http://www.lvstc.org.uk/membership.php> or contact us on 0845 262 2006 / 020 7538 4309.

You can download the flyer and booking form from our website <http://www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php>

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 were overwhelmed with bookings for their briefing event on the new procurement round to the extent to which they held another 5 sub-regional briefing events, across the 5 LSC regions.

The LSC have also confirmed the timeline for the Pre Qualification Questionnaires for both ESF and mainstream provision and the deadline for publishing your fully completed PQQ on the designated portal is Friday 28th September. ESF Invitations to Tender will then be issued in the week beginning the 12th November, and these will be sent out to those providers who were successful at the PQQ stage.

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.

1 Million 4 Disability Campaign

The European Disability Forum (EDF) - a Brussels-based organisation representing the interests of disabled

people across the European Union (EU) - is campaigning to sign up 1 million people from across the 29 EU member states to its petition to introduce EU-wide disability legislation.

The petition calls for strong and comprehensive legislation that will protect disabled people in all member states from discrimination. It will be presented to the European Commission in October to demonstrate support for equality for disabled people. The presentation will coincide with a meeting of disability groups from across the EU that is being hosted by the EDF.

You can add your signature to the online petition at www.1million4disability.eu

ERDF Focus Group

LVSTC will be hosting another ERDF focus group on **Friday 12th October** 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

LVSTC will be hosting another ESF focus group on **Friday 5th October** at **10am**, so if you would like to attend then please do get in touch on 020 7538 4309. The ESF focus group will continue to run every month on the first Friday of the month.

Sector News

LVSTC Customer Survey

LVSTC are carrying out their annual Customer Satisfaction Survey 2007 and need your help. If you have used LVSTC services in the past year we need to hear from you by completing a simple on line questionnaire that will take just a few minutes to complete. The results of the survey will be published and a report based on its findings will also be forwarded to Government agencies.

Our funders are requiring us to confirm that we have further improved our training, learning and guidance support and that we can bench mark results with previous surveys and other providers. So we really need your help in making a comprehensive response to funders, clearly demonstrating our commitment to continuing service improvement.

Although we collect information about you and your organisation, we never share this information with other organisations or funding agencies. To complete this short, easy to understand and user friendly survey, please go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=iWitjmuTzoP_2fZjhbIKMwbw_3d_3d

LVSTC staff and the board extend our thanks for your continuing help and support this year.

European Commission launches public consultation on new anti-discrimination measures

The European Commission has launched an online consultation focusing on combating discrimination in the Member States and at European Union (EU) level. It aims to help the Commission plan new measures to tackle discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in areas beyond the job market.

The DRC supports the consultation's proposals and encourages all those who agree to respond to the consultation.

You can add your comments before 15 October 2007 on the [European Commission website](http://www.europa.eu).

London Marathon biased against smaller charities?

With the new online ballot for places in next year's London Marathon being completely filled up at an astonishing rate, the Guardian recently highlighted the increasing difficulty for smaller charities to secure places. Read more, <http://society.guardian.co.uk/voluntary/story/0,,2157462,00.html> Do note that whilst all the online places have been filled, you can still apply through the traditional postal ballot. More information can be found at <http://www.london-marathon.co.uk/site/?pageID=2&submenu=13&article=20> and the deadline for applications is 19th October.

SAVAGE-EUROPE launch online Forum

Join the Discussion! Find Funding Partners!

SAVAGE-EUROPE (southern association of voluntary action groups for Europe) are launching a new online service designed to create an interactive forum for you to discuss ideas, post questions, ask questions and propose partnership arrangements.

Why not register now? Registration is simple, just follow [this link](#),
Or click the Forum button from the front page of our website at <http://www.savage-europe.org.uk/>

If you experience any difficulties whilst registering please see the online FAQs at <http://www.savage-europe.org.uk/forum/faq.php>

Petition for British Sign Language Bill

Can I remind you to support the petition to create a new BSL Bill to detail how Deaf people will achieve their human and language rights.

You can sign the petition at: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/BSL-human-rights/>

There are:

2604 members of DeafUK.

50,000 to 70,000 Deaf people who use BSL

130,000 hearing people who use BSL personally or professionally

9 million deaf people in this country who may care about Deaf people who use BSL

1:4 disabled people share the same desire for human rights

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. 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>

Resources & Information

SKEIN (Skills for Economic Inclusion Network) Pilot Research

Social Enterprise Skills for Inclusion – Merton College

This is a development project exploring the skills required for economically viable social enterprises. Recommendations relate primarily to actions to be implemented in the London Borough of Merton, although most could be equally applied elsewhere.

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

Making your voice heard in the EU: A guide for NGOs

The Civil Society Contact Group has published a training handbook Making your voice heard in the EU - A guide for NGOs . It is specifically designed for those 'newcomer' NGOs and activists that are in the process of establishing a European strategy. It does so by providing tailored-made information on EU institutions, the way European NGOs work, as well as lobbying tips, illustrated by examples of EU level campaigns. It does not aim at being comprehensive but rather at giving you a first insight in the EU labyrinth and how to find your way. To prepare the next stages of your strategy, it also provides more specific links and contacts depending on your area of activity.

You can download it in English, French, German, Hungarian, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese and Slovene, Italian and Spanish. It will soon be available in Bulgaria, Romanian and Estonian.

To download the training book visit:

http://act4europe.horus.be/code/EN/actions.asp?id_events=120

Outcomes for projects

Charities Evaluation Services has produced a 'Your project and its outcomes' booklet which explains what

outcomes are and how to go about identifying and assessing them. It uses jargon-free language as far as possible and can currently be downloaded as a pdf (217kb) from <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=165>. Also limited no cost offer for printed version to frontline charities/community organisations employing 5 or fewer paid staff.

Events

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.

27 September: Training the Trainers Workshop – Applying for Tax Credits

DATE: Thursday, 27 September 2007

TIME: 10.30 – 13.00 PM

PLACE: LVSTC, Bromley Hall, 43 Gillender Street, London E14 6RN

This workshop is aimed at IAG advisers and others who provide advice in voluntary and community organisations. You will be provided with information to enable you to support your members with their tax credits claim.

The workshop will take you through the process of applying for tax credits. Specifically, it will:

- Provide you with an overview of Working Tax Credits (WTC) and Child Tax Credits (CTC)
- Clarify eligibility criteria & how to make a claim
- Explain how HMRC calculates tax credits
- Take you through the tax credit application form
- Explain what happens if the Revenue overpays

At the end of the workshop you will have the knowledge to advise and support your members and staff with their tax credit claim.

ATTENDANCE IS FREE.

TO FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK A PLACE

Call Joan or Valery on 020 8983 9716 alternatively you can email Valery at marketing@wiseowls.co.uk

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

Communiversy BA (Hons) Social Enterprise: a new kind of degree by Bromley-by-Bow Centre

Communiversy is a degree course with a difference. On the one hand it's an excellent academic programme that leads to a BA in Social Enterprise from the University of East London. But it's also a community-based degree that is accessible and rooted in real life.

The part-time course is taught by lecturers and tutors from the university, but most of our classes are based at the Bromley-by-Bow Centre, one of the most innovative and highly regarded grassroots community organisations in the country.

Much of the learning will also take place in your workplace as you study and write about the organisation that you work in, or its work with communities.

Introductory Programme workshops will be taking place at the Bromley-by-Bow Centre on Tuesday 18th September 6pm-8pm and Saturday 22nd September 10am-6pm with lunch provided.

For more information, please contact Rujie Nessa on 020 8709 9729 or rujie@bbbc.org.uk or Dan Hopewell on 020 8709 9840 or danhopewell@bbbc.org.uk

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.

Peer Coaching for Embedding Language, Literacy and Numeracy

LLU+ are currently offering a unique opportunity to take part in an exciting pilot course to train vocational and Skills for Life (SfL) teachers in using peer coaching approaches to improve embedded language, literacy and numeracy (LLN). The course aims to develop new approaches to embedding LLN in vocational training using peer coaching techniques. It will include a 3-day OCN accredited course at Level 3, membership of a pan-London coaching network and access to an on-line coaching forum. It will also count towards the new CPD requirement for teachers of adults.

This course will be delivered by LLU+ at London South Bank University and is part of the Transforming Teaching and Learning Project in partnership with the London Strategic Unit, based at the London Centre for Leadership in Learning at the Institute of Education. It is funded by ESF and the LSC and is free to both vocational and SfL tutors, who are qualified and working in London. There are currently 2 courses planned for October 2007 and January 2008, in central and south London respectively.

To find out more or to book a place please contact: Julia McGerty. j.mcgerty@lsbu.ac.uk Tel: 020 7815 6442 or follow this link www.lsbu.ac.uk/lluplus/training/generic.shtml#1

For information about all courses running at LLU+, London South Bank University visit: www.lsbu.ac.uk/lluplus/training/

ILM Level 3 Management Course for Women

Account 3, a women's organisation in Bethnal Green, in conjunction with Hillcroft Women's 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 e.g. 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.

LVSTC, Bromley Hall, 43 Gillender Street, London, E14 6RN

Tel: 0845 262 2006 or 020 7538 4309

Fax: 0845 262 2005 or 020 7005 0275

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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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