

london

euroscene

byte-size



No.5 October 2007

Welcome to the new byte-size Euroscene

**Latest news on....DATES FOR ALL 4 CFOS!.....LVSTC AGM.....
PARTNERSHIP PORTAL..... NEW DWP PROCUREMENT ROUND**

LVSTC Events

Capital Cohesion: the new London ESF round explained and explored

LVSTC Annual Conference and AGM

Wednesday 28th November will see LVSTC host their Annual Conference and AGM at the University of London Union, Euston. This full day event will focus on the opportunities offered by the new ESF round and how best the sector can take advantage of the new money coming in.

Booking for the AGM will open very soon, so keep an eye out for the next Special London ESF Briefing edition of Euroscene which will be sent out next week, as a flyer and booking form for the event will be included.

LVSTC ESF Partnership Portal

***Launches 29th October,
Searchable from 14th November!***

LVSTC has one of the most comprehensive databases of voluntary and community sector providers in the region and we have been exploring ways in which we can exploit this technology for all organisations wishing to access the European Social Fund.

The new programme 2007 – 2013 has stressed the importance of collaborative and partnership working as it is envisaged that projects will be larger than in the previous programme, resulting in the need for well organised and sustainable partnerships and consortium.

Our new **Partnership Portal** offers an essential system whereby organisations from all sectors can target prospective providers, ensuring closer cooperation, greater reach and improved cross sector involvement.

You will be able to access the **Partnership Portal** and search our database of provider partners to deliver ESF projects. Simply either contact your prospective partner yourself, or ask LVSTC to make initial enquiries on your behalf!

We will also provide support for organisations, consortia, partnerships or other collaborative arrangements resulting from its use. If you want to play your full part in developing collaborative working through the **Partnership Portal**, -go http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php from 29th October to complete the electronic form, detailing what other organisations need to know about you!

For help and information about the ESF Partnership Portal, contact the ESF Unit at LVSTC on 0845 262 2006.

EU News

Overview of all CFOs' Tendering Rounds

As the Mayor seeks final agreement with the European Social Fund Division of the Department for Work & Pensions on the London Regional Framework for the European Social Fund 2007-2013, the timetable for each of the four CFOs is now beginning to coming into focus.

DWP

Invitation to Tender published	3/12/07
Delivery Commences	June 2008
LONDON COUNCILS	
Programme launch	14/11/07
Participants start	April 2008
LDA	
Invitation to Tender launched	Mid-November
Delivery starts	June 2008
LSC	
Invitation to Tender issued	12/11/07
Projects start	February+ 2008

DWP - ESF Opportunities to Tender

The DWP ESF Programme launched on the 3rd October, and follows a similar format to the recent LSC round in using the PQQ and ITT stages. Responsibility for employment programmes delivered by external providers was transferred from Jobcentre Plus into the centre of the Department for Work and Pensions from 1 April 2007. It was intended that this change will clarify roles, with the DWP taking responsibility for the provision we buy in the external market; and Jobcentre Plus focussing its expertise on the services it delivers directly to customers and so the DWP will be the managing agent for this co-financing round.

A lot of very useful information can also be found on this page of the DWP website, so do check this out before starting to fill out the PQQ: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/notice_to_providers.asp

(ESF) 2007-2013 Competition

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is offering organisations the opportunity to compete, through an open and competitive tendering process, for delivery of provision funded via the European Social Fund Programme 2007-2013 in England. Contracts will begin in June 2008 and will be for an initial period of 3 years, with the possibility of up to a further two years extension.

The competition will be a two-stage process:

Stage One (Provider Assessment) Submission of a "Pre Qualification Questionnaire" (PQQ) by interested organisations.

Stage Two (Invitation to Tender) Submission of a fully completed bid, by organisations successful at Stage One.

The following instructions and documents relate to Stage One of the competition only and can be viewed/downloaded by clicking on the relevant document.

[First Stage Pre Qualification Questionnaire Instructions](#): You must prepare and submit your PQQ in accordance with these instructions, as failure to comply may invalidate your **PQQ**.

[DWP Standard Terms & Conditions \(including schedules\)](#) - **these are currently in DRAFT form and will be subject to change before contract award.**

[Provider Guidance](#)

[Pre Qualification Questionnaire \(PQQ\)](#)

[Specification for England](#)

[Question and Answer Process](#)

The following link will take you to the individual **Local Specifications** which contain full details of delivery requirements: [London Jobcentre Plus Region](#)

You are only required to complete one PQQ irrespective of how many contracts you are interested in.

Your PQQ must be submitted in accordance with the documentation and instructions available via this website.

If you experience any problems accessing any of these documents or have any questions regarding this competition please email your question using the standard proforma to: ENGLAND.ESF2007-2013@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK

The deadline for receipt of your fully completed PQQ is no later than **10.30am on Friday 2 November 2007**. Please ensure that your PQQ is submitted in time to arrive by the deadline as a **late PQQ may not be accepted**.

New European Fund Tackles Domestic Violence

The third round of funding for the EU's 'Daphne' programme will be opened, with a call for proposals, this month. The programme supports projects which tackle violence against children, young people and women.

The scheme, which will run from 2007 – 2013, has a budget of €125 million with which to support organisations in developing projects which will tackle violent abuse. The programme runs alongside another scheme which will focus on Drugs, Prevention and Information.

Objectives of Daphne III include the prevention of domestic violence, with a special focus on vulnerable individuals and minority groups, human trafficking, and genital mutilation. There will also be an emphasis on providing long-term protection for victims. The scheme seeks to highlight particularly groups such as women living in poor rural areas, lesbians, women with disabilities and the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to abuse.

One proposal which is set to receive funding is an EU-wide phone support line for children who have experienced violence. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have also called for Daphne III to support NGOs (particularly in the third sector) which attempt to combat child abduction and paedophilia.

Proposals will be welcomed from the latter half of September, and the scheme is open to 'all [organisations] that directly or indirectly deal with violence in all its forms and with trafficking in human beings'. Projects should be innovative, and should be designed to last for five years, but with the potential to be extended, or rolled out beyond their original location.

For further information visit [Daphne](#).

ERDF Focus Group: meet the LDA

LVSTC will be hosting another ERDF focus group on **Friday 26th October at 10am**, so if you would like to attend then please do get in touch on 020 7538 4309. The LDA will be present at this focus group so this is an ideal opportunity to ask them for any clarifications or any questions that you may want answering.

EAPN calls on EU Employment Ministers to make "flexicurity" deliver the social cohesion citizens are expecting

At a time when the common principles on Flexicurity to be adopted by the Council on Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs in December are being elaborated, the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) calls on the EU Employment Ministers to make Flexicurity deliver the social cohesion citizens are expecting.

"We are worried that the dominant approach of flexicurity does not integrate enough the social, employment and economic dimensions", declared Fintan Farrell, EAPN Director. "This is particularly important given that, what is discussed under 'flexicurity' is a reform concerning our societies in their globality." He added: "Many people on the ground are experiencing employment-related aspects of poverty: in-work poverty and under-employment, unemployment, poor quality of work, difficulties to balance work and family life responsibilities, discrimination.... Sometimes even two or more of these aspects come together. These realities must be addressed by the flexicurity approach in order to deliver social cohesion". EAPN therefore calls on the EU Employment Ministers to put the fight against poverty and social exclusion high amongst the objectives of flexicurity. This should go along with high levels of social protection and respect of fundamental rights - notably human dignity, the right to engage in work and the right to social assistance. Active labour market policies that are needed for a flexicurity delivering social inclusion should also be precisely defined.

For EAPN, no real security can be built without progressing on the road to ambitious social standards, including adequate minimum income distinct from employment status. Last but not least, EAPN calls on the EU Employment Ministers to actively take on board the views of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion. "If flexicurity is supposed to have a positive outcome on social cohesion, it has to be also discussed with people concerned by poverty", commented Fintan Farrell.

- The [EAPN letter to the EU Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs](#)

- The EAPN response to the Commission Communication on Flexicurity: "[The security we need cannot be summarized by secured transitions between jobs! It requires high levels of social protection, quality employment and respect of fundamental rights](#)"

- The Commission Communication "[Towards common principles of Flexicurity: more and better jobs through flexibility and security](#)" **For further information**, please contact Audrey Gueudet (Information Officer) or Fintan Farrell (Director), tel. +32 2 226 58 50 - fax. +32 2 226 58 69 – E-mail: team@eapn.skynet.be – Website: www.eapn.org

What regional policy for tomorrow? Commission launches EU-wide consultation

An [EU-wide consultation on the shape of tomorrow's regional policy](#) was launched at the Cohesion Forum in Brussels on 27-28 September. This consultation, organised through the Commission's website, will run until 31 January 2008. It is open to all citizens, to all those concerned with regional policy on the ground (NGOs, economic and social partners), to the EU institutions and to national, regional, local public authorities.

The results of this consultation will be presented in spring 2008, together with the Fifth Progress Report on Economic and Social Cohesion. The conclusions will also be an important contribution to the budgetary review of 2008-2009.

The Reform of the EU budget: "a once in a generation opportunity"

The European Commission on 12th September adopted a consultation paper in view of the reform of the EU budget. The Commission is inviting actors at all levels to participate in an open debate on the EU's priorities.

The debate will look at

- the spending priorities
- the management of the EU finances
- the resources.

Find the consultation paper and other useful information on the EU budget at

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index_en.htm

Tackling child poverty and promoting the social inclusion of children in the EU: Key lessons

This report presents an independent overview of the reports on child poverty and social exclusion that a Network of non-governmental experts produced in April 2007. It covers all EU-27 countries and drawing on the 27 expert's reports, it provides information on tackling child poverty and promoting the social inclusion of children across the EU. [Download the experts' report](#)

Sector News

Farewell from the Disability Rights Commission

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) closed at the end of September, to make way for the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR), established under the Equality Act 2006, which opened on 1 October.

The new Commission replaces not only the DRC but also the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE). It will work to promote fairness for everyone and tackle discrimination in relation to gender, gender reassignment, disability, sexual orientation, religion, belief, age and race. The Commission will also promote human rights.

For more information about the CEHR visit www.cehr.org.uk

Big Lottery takes views on next round of BASIS funding

Third sector organisations are to have their say on what the focus of funding will be in the second round of the Big Lottery Fund's BASIS programme. A 12-week consultation has been launched to identify funding priorities for phase two of BASIS, which awards grants to organisations supporting the third sector.

The consultation is running for 12 weeks until 16th November 2007. Organisations can reply online via www.biglotteryfund.org.uk, by email, or by post, until 12:00pm, 16th November, 2007. Consultation events will also be run across the country. Please contact the Big Lottery Fund office in the England region relevant to your work for further details of these meetings, or Kevin Ashby (Kevin.ashby@biglotteryfund.org.uk) for information about England wide consultation events

Procurement For Integration and Employment Services To New Refugees

The competitive procurement of Refugee Integration and Employment Service, which will be administered on a regional basis, offering a standard set of services to all refugees throughout the UK has been launched by the Border and Immigration Agency. The service will consist of a mentoring service, an employment advice service, and a general advice and support service.

The key objective of this programme is to facilitate the integration of new refugees; defined as a person recognised under the 1951 UN Convention relating to the status of refugees and those granted Humanitarian Protection. The programme will make available a standard set of services to all new refugees wherever they live in the United Kingdom – enabling them to achieve their full potential, contribute to the community and exercise the rights and responsibilities that they share with other residents.

The Refugee Integration and Employment Service will consist of three distinct but complimentary service components: an employment advice service; a mentoring service and a general advice and support service.

The Authority intends to let contracts on a regional basis; for a period of 3 years.

Potential bidders are invited to submit a Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ), which sets out the scope of the Border and Immigration Agency's requirements, and requests information from potential bidders to assess their capacity to deliver the specification. This advert has also been circulated in a number of publications.

The deadline for expressions of interest is 26 October 2007. Those organisations evaluated as successful in satisfying the criteria to the appropriate standard will be invited by the Border and Immigration Agency to tender.

Interested organisations should register with the BravoSolutions website: www.homeoffice.bravosolution.com in order to receive the PQQ and additional information on the procurement process. Any questions should be submitted via the BravoSolutions website. Clarification will be provided to all bidders.

New form for charity registration

A new streamlined application form for charities wishing to register with the Charity Commission appeared on 1st October, and the old style won't be accepted after 30th November.
<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/newregform.asp>.

Ethical investment for charities

Eiris, the ethical investment research organisation, has created a web site aimed specifically at charities and their supporters, to encourage socially responsible investment. It covers what SRI is, reasons for doing it and how to go about it - <http://www.charitysri.org>.

Sustainable City Awards 2008

The City of London Corporation's Sustainability Awards is now open. Entry is open to multinationals, small businesses, the public sector and voluntary organisations both in London and across the whole of the UK. Last year's winners included cycling policemen and fire stations with solar panels on their roofs. The Awards close on the **3rd December** . [More](#)

Resources & Information

SKEIN (Skills for Economic Inclusion Network) Pilot Research

Staying Local, Going Global – Critical Praxis & Selby Trust

A study of global perspectives of SKEIN members seeking to promote social and economic inclusion in London.

If you would like a hard copy of this, or any of the other reports, then please email ianf@lvstc.org.uk . Alternatively, pdfs can be downloaded from http://www.lvstc.org.uk/skein_pilots.php

Updated LORECA directory features online and print enhancements

The 2nd edition of the LORECA Employment, Training, and Business Support Directory will be launched at the London Enriched Consultation event on Wednesday, 17th October. All organisations listed in the directory will receive a hard copy of the directory the previous week. The online version of the directory will be live from 17th October. Both versions contain enhancements designed to make the directory easier to use, and with additional information such as quality assurance standards listed by providers. To request additional copies of the directory, contact Resource Information Service at: ris@ris.org.uk or 020 7939 0641

Understanding the DDA - new guide for post-16 education providers

The new guide to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) aimed specifically at post-16 education providers is now available to download from the DRC website.

There have been many changes in recent years to disability discrimination legislation, especially to the DDA. The law now protects disabled people, including those with a long-term health condition, against discrimination and unfair treatment in almost every aspect of college and university life. This includes students, staff and others who use the services and facilities of the institution.

The guide provides an introduction to disability discrimination law in all areas of college and university life. It will be useful for managers and senior staff working in further and higher education, but is also an excellent learning and reference tool for all staff.

You can [download a copy from the DRC website](#) or order a free copy from here: [Helpline](#).

Developing the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service: the Prospectus

This sets out the LSC's proposals for developing and reforming the learning and skills service to offenders held in English public sector prisons and to those under supervision in the community in England.

<http://class.lsc.gov.uk/NR/exeres/BBCE18C8-4D2A-4340-AEE4-0A0E9E2FAFCA.htm>

The progress of the social exclusion taskforce

This gives information about the progress of the Social Exclusion Task Force one year on from the publication of the social exclusion action plan. It gives links to information about key milestones and ongoing cross-Government work.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/progress/

Grant aid essential for communities

A coalition of ten sector bodies has produced a pamphlet that argues that grant aid is an essential part of the local funding mix for community organisations and remains essential for thriving local communities. Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector, supported the arguments of 'Sustaining Grants' at its launch last week, and Iain Duncan Smith, who produced the Breakthrough Britain report for the Conservatives, endorsed it at a conference earlier this week. The publication can be downloaded (in pdf or Word format) from <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/sustaininggrants/>;

Events

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 be held in Central London.

For updates on speakers and to register, visit www.neilstewartassociates.com/id189

Focusing on the frontline - BTEG National Conference

Friday 9th November 2007, Haberdashers Hall, 18 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9HQ

Recently, the third sector has experienced a fast changing environment where investment into the sector has increased expectations of how we perform and how we demonstrate our services are making a difference to people's lives. Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) frontline organisations have an essential role to play in delivering services which promote integration and social justice. Only by the continued investment into the BME voluntary and community sector will frontline organisations continue to contribute towards a cohesive society where inequality is challenged and outcomes are improved for BME communities across the UK. Supported by the National hubs, Focusing on the Frontline conference will bring together policy makers as well as representatives from the BME voluntary and community sector to talk about the relevance of the BME third sector in tackling inequalities and social deprivation. It will highlight the work of Capacitybuilders and the role it plays in strengthening the sector. There will be workshops delivered by the 6 national hubs where you will gain practical advice, information and resources in areas such as performance improvement, finance and governance.

To book please contact Angeline Clarke at Angeline@bteg.co.uk or telephone 020 7843 6110

Training

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.mcgerly@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/

RARPA

Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement in Non-Accredited Learning

09 November 2007, London, Kings Fund

Following a successful training pilot for managers in April 2006, NIACE has delivered a series of training events nationally. In response to demand, additional events are now available for Autumn 2007. RARPA was implemented and embedded across LSC – funded provision as the “New Measure of Success” for non-accredited learning. RARPA is relevant to all non-accredited learning, future self-assessments and scoping for inspection. Even for organisations without LSC funding, RARPA is still a useful learner-centre approach for assuring the quality of the learner’s experience.

Cost £198, to register your interest please contact the team on courses@niace.org.uk or 0116 285 9661

Discovering Potential for Information, Advice and Guidance Practitioners

04 December 2007, London, Kings Fund

Building confidence and a sense of wellbeing is increasingly being seen as a means of enabling learners to make the most of their potential and to participate more fully in society. But how do you do it? *Discovering Potential* is a resource pack that supports practitioners and managers who work with learners with low self-esteem, it offers practitioners an effective yet simple model for delivering sustainable guidance to their clients or participants. The pack and the training will help you understand what is meant about health, self-esteem, learning and working in partnership, not just in relation to your work with clients, but for yourself and your organisation too. Cost £198, to book please visit <http://www.niace.org.uk/conferences/TrainingCourses/Discovering-LSS.htm>

For a full list of forthcoming NIACE Training Courses please click here
<http://www.niace.org.uk/conferences/TrainingCourses.htm>

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