

london

euroscene

byte-size



No.8 December 2007

Welcome to byte-size Euroscene: ERDF Briefing Special

Latest news on.....ERDF Programme Launch

ERDF News

Briefing note from LVSTC on the launch of the new ERDF programme for London 2007-2013

The new European Regional Development fund (ERDF) programme launched today on the 5th December 2007. For further information on the Operational Programme and documentation to assist you in making your application, click here:

http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.2300

The European Regional Development fund (ERDF) aims to reduce disparities of growth and development between regions of the European Union. The new programme will not be managed by Government Office for London and will now be administered by the LDA on behalf of the Mayor.

On behalf of the Mayor, the London Development Agency (LDA) will endeavour to set the direction of the ERDF programme 2007 – 2013 in the capital. It will deliver this through the 'Operational Programme,' the Strategic framework for identifying investment for London.

It is unclear at this early stage how many bidding rounds will take place, but early inductions are 1 this year and another in the following year. The LDA are keen to commit the money as soon as possible.

London as a region has been allocated £120 million over 7 years. This has been split between the following four priorities:

Priority Axis	Name		Allocation of funding %
One	Business innovation and research and promoting eco-efficiency		27.5%
	Theme 1 Developing a culture of, and capacity for, creating and using innovation throughout London's businesses to create sustainable economic growth.	Theme 2 Leveraging value from London's World class knowledge base to benefit London's economy.	
Two	Access to new markets and access to finance		28.5%
	Theme 1	Theme 2	

	Enabling access to appropriate investment finance to support innovation and growth.	Improving SME's access to new markets opportunities.	
Three	Sustainable Places for Business		40%
	1 Theme only		
	Environmental enhancement of working premises and surrounding spaces, and support for business clusters		
Four	Technical Assistance to support the implementation		4%

Information on these Priorities and further themes will be available from the London ERDF Programme 2007-2013 Prospectus (round 1): Click here for further information and follow the prompts to the Prospectus: <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.2300>

A strict timetable will be adhered to. The programme is later than anticipated due to delays at approval stage in the European Commission. If all goes according to plan, it is anticipated that contracts will be issued in May 2008 and projects will begin in June.

LVSTC Support

LVSTC, as a stakeholder in the new ERDF Programme for London, will ensure that you have access to support and assistance during this period.

If you are interested in ERDF we do urge you to read the overarching strategic framework document, the Operational Programme, before you proceed: <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.2251>

Workshops and 1:1s

From January 2008 through to the end of March, LVSTC will be offering a series of free workshops and 1:1s to support applications from the voluntary and community sector. You will be informed of the new dates for this support as soon as they have been confirmed. For organisations outside of the voluntary and community sector, LVSTC can now offer consultancy support, which will be available on request.

ERDF Partnership Portal

As part of the continuing support from LVSTC, we are currently piloting a partnership portal. The partnership portal for ERDF will be available on LVSTC website, www.lvstc.org.uk, shortly and is the result of discussions from our ERDF focus group on how to search for partners in your area and across the region. Please look out for this!

For more information on any of the above, please contact the ERDF Team Steve White, Angela Heap on angelah@lvstc.org.uk and Wayne Deane on wayned@lvstc.org.uk or call on 0845 262 2006 or 020 7538 4309.

Events

LVSTC Support: Application Workshop for LDA ESF Applicants 2007

This workshop aims to enable participants to gain an understanding of the LDA ESF programme, their target groups and priorities and ultimately to know how to complete the LDA application form.

The session will focus on three main areas to strengthen the application:

- Programme Overview
- The Application Form
- Cross Cutting Themes

The workshop will be held on **Thursday 13th December** at **Stockwell Community Resource Centre** from 9:30am – 1pm: places can be booked from here <http://www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php> or calling 020 7538 4309

Help to Claim Your Tax Credits

Tuesday 11th December 1:30 – 4:30, Bromley Hall, 43 Gillender Street, London E14 6RN

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT WORTH HUNDREDS OF POUNDS YET COSTS YOU NOTHING?

Did you know that Tax Credits are available to nearly everyone over 25 who is working more than 16 hours a week, even if they earn up to £58,000, plus anyone with young children under the age of 5 can give them a present from the government of £200 to pay into their Childs Trust fund account.

More than a million people who are eligible are not claiming, yet it is not too difficult to apply, particularly with the help of Wise Owls. If you apply now you should be able to know what benefits you will receive in the New Year, in time for Christmas

Wise Owls has been paid by H.M Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to help people to apply for their rightful entitlement to tax credits and benefits. All you have to do is to contact Wise Owls and either ask them to give you the necessary information and advice or come along to our training half-day where we will go through the forms and Guidance notes, give you all the necessary contact and helpline details to help you to claim your entitlement. After that Wise Owls are available on the phone once you have received your application form to answer any questions you may have in applying.

Please register with or contact Wise Owls through
Val Small – Tax Credit Project Manager
Tel: 020 8983 9716 ; Fax: 020 8983 5713 email marketing@wiseowls.co.uk

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.
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