

london

euroscene

byte-size



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Welcome to byte-size Euroscene

LVSTC News

LVSTC ESF Partnership Portal

Now live!!

LVSTC's Partnership Portal continues to expand with an ever-increasing number of organisations signing up to look for partners. We would very much like to continue to build on these numbers so please do keep on sending in your details and passing it on any other organisations who you think might be interested.

If you want to play your full part in developing collaborative working through the **Partnership Portal**, –you can find out more by going to http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php and completing 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

Training room for Hire

LVSTC now has a fully equipped training room for hire at our premises in Bromley Hall, Tower Hamlets. With room for up to 20 delegates, and IT facilities available as well, our reasonable rates mean that Bromley Hall could be the ideal solution for you.

For more details, please contact Bill Burke on billb@lvstc.org.uk or 0845 262 2006

ERDF and ESF News

New ERDF Bidding round

The new European Regional Development Fund bidding round was launched in December 2007.

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

Priority 1: Business innovation, research and development and eco –efficiency. 27.5%

Theme 1 Developing a culture of and capacity for creating and using innovation throughout London's business to create sustainable growth.

Theme 2: Levering value from London's world class knowledge base to benefit London's economy.

Priority 2: Access to new markets and Access to finance. 28.5%

Theme 1: enabling access to appropriate investment finance to support innovation and growth

Theme 2: Increasing new and established SMEs access to new market opportunities

Priority 3: Sustainable Places for Business. 40%

Theme: Environmental Improvements to employment premises, sites and their surrounding environments, support for de-centralised energy, water and waste systems and support for business clusters

Priority 4: Technical Assistance. 4%

There are minimum amounts of ERDF funding you can apply for as follows:

Minimum ERDF request

- Priority 1 £100,000
- Priority 2 £100,000
- Priority 3 £500,000

The maximum intervention rate you can apply:

Maximum Intervention Rate

- Priority 1 Theme 1 - 50%
- Priority 1 Theme 2 - 50%
- Priority 2 Theme 1 - 50%
- Priority 2 Theme 2 - 50%
- Priority 3 Theme 1- Average 35%

Priority 3 will have an average intervention rate of 35% which means a capital project will have to contribute 65% match funding.

The first stage is the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) the deadline for this is **12pm, 1st February 2008**. Followed by:

- Mid-February 08 Notification for Full Applications
- 28th March 08 Full Application Deadline
- Early-April 08 Appraisal
- Mid-May 08 Notification of Contract Negotiations
- Late-May 08 Offer letters to Successful Applicants

The Expression of Interest will be scored and those who are unsuccessful will not have a right of appeal but will be able to request feedback on their bids.

As this is the first round, we urge you to submit an expression of interest to ensure that your project idea is considered. We expect further rounds possibly towards the end of the year and submission of your EOI now will expedite this.

LVSTC will be available for surgeries if you wish help with the EOI. Please contact Angela Heap on angelah@lvstc.org.uk or Steve White on steveqw@lvstc.org.uk or call LVSTC on 0845 262 2006.

Learning & Skills Council ESF update

The deadline for providers to complete their Invitation to Tender for the LSC ESF round passed on Friday 11th January, and the LSC are to anticipating issuing contracts in April 2008.

The timeline for the next PQQ round has slipped slightly due to the slippages on the first round. This round will now be launching early 2008. We will keep you posted as soon as more specific dates have been announced.

London Councils ESF update

All tenders will be scored throughout January and the first two weeks in February. Moderation panels are scheduled for mid-February and all organisations should be notified whether or not they have been successful by the end of February. Contracting meetings will be held throughout March to enable project delivery to begin on 1st April 2008.

London Development Agency ESF update

The deadline for applications passed on 14th January

Department of Work & Pensions ESF update

The deadline for completion of ITTs for the DWP ESF round is the 4th February 2008. As the DWP are utilising the Prime Contractor approach, smaller providers might like to publish their partnership details on LVSTC's Partnership Portal, http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php, in order to let potential Prime Contractors see what they have to offer.

Network News: special issue on Inclusion in Structural Funds 2007-13

The new issue of Network News (http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=3134), looks at inclusion in the Structural Funds 2007-2013.

Often presented as the EU's main success story and solidarity instrument, structural funds have been at the

heart of the EU's 50th anniversary in 2007. Yet as the 2007-2013 programming period is entering its operational phase, time has come to go beyond self-celebration, learn lessons from the past and make structural funds a better tool against exclusion.

This new issue of Network News presents the opportunities (but also the limits) offered by the new programming period for social NGOs, as well as testimonies from NGOs about accessing the funds.

EU News

Everyone deserves a decent life: EAPN kicks off EU wide campaign for Adequate Minimum Income schemes!

The European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) has launched an EU wide campaign for Adequate Minimum Income schemes. 24 out of 27 Member States have minimum income schemes in place at this present time, but there are serious flaws with their accessibility and their adequacy. It is time to state clearly that adequate Minimum Income schemes are a fundamental prerequisite for an EU based on social justice and equal opportunities for all!

EAPN launched in Brussels an EU wide campaign for "**Adequate Minimum Income schemes**" in presence of NGO representatives, Members of the European Parliament, European Commission officials as well as national representations and social partners (ETUC, EPSU, etc.) representatives.

"Minimum income schemes do not exist in all EU countries and accessibility for all is not guaranteed in the places that they do exist. Some groups are not entitled to Minimum Income due to their age, employment situation, or status as migrants", declared Ludo Horemans, President of EAPN.

*"Complexities of the systems prevent people from taking up their rights. Moreover, Minimum Income schemes are often **not set at a level adequate enough to lift people out of poverty**. They do not take into account the rise in the cost of living nor the increasing price of services that people rely on, such as housing or energy."*

17 October 2007 saw the launch of a second Commission consultation about concrete proposals on how to move the 'active inclusion' strategy forward, including a new EU Recommendation, and a new tool to support its implementation. It will only be implemented **if it is widely supported in the EU**, and notably if Member States respond favorably to this proposal by the end of the consultation period (February 2008).

*"Against this background, EAPN calls on the EU Member States **to recognise Adequate Minimum Income schemes as an essential element of the Social Protection System** as well as to guarantee access to Adequate Minimum Income as a basic right **at national level**",* said Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN. *"We also call on the EU Member States to **engage positively in the current Commission consultation on Active Inclusion** and support the proposal that 'income support sufficient for a dignified life' should be given key importance in a comprehensive approach to the fight against poverty and social exclusion."*

Growth and Jobs are not delivering social inclusion

The European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) launched its response to the Lisbon Implementation Reports 2007 and the Commission's Annual Progress Report on the revised Lisbon Strategy. EAPN has established a social inclusion score board assessing the contribution made to social inclusion by the revised Lisbon Strategy.

"While the Commission may congratulate itself on delivering on growth and jobs the assessment of the EAPN members is that the revised strategy is not delivering on inclusion and social cohesion, despite the commitments made by the Spring Council " said Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN.

EAPN **calls** on the Commission, the Council and the Parliament to take **urgent steps** before the Spring Council 2008 to respond to the growing demands for change, to forge a new integrated vision consistent with a sustainable development model.

EAPN therefore asks the EU to:

- 1) Rename the Strategy as the strategy for **Growth, Jobs and Inclusion**.
- 2) Insert an overarching Guideline based on the new **Horizontal Social Clause** (Article 5b) of the Lisbon Treaty into the Integrated Guidelines.
- 3) Develop a Communication which sets out the strategy for ensuring a dynamic and mutually reinforcing link between the National Reform Programmes and the National Strategic Reports on Social Protection and Social Inclusion and Structural Funds.
- 4) Advise Member States urgently on the need to **improve governance and active stakeholder involvement** at all stages of the National Reform Programmes process, with particular emphasis on the

involvement of NGO's and other civil society organisations.

The EAPN's Response to the Annual Progress Report outlines five key ways that the Commission has failed to strengthen the social dimension of the strategy as promised at the Spring Council 2007.

"It is time for the EU to give attention to the social dimension if it is to re connect to the citizens", said Mr Farrell "Our members have underlined the serious consequences for inclusion at the national level, if this doesn't happen".

See:

- Growth and Jobs but not Inclusion! EAPN Response to the Annual Progress Report (http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=3173)

- Social Inclusion Scoreboard - EAPN Response to the National Implementation Reports 2007 of the revised Lisbon Strategy – Main report (http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=3174)

- Social Inclusion Scoreboard - EAPN Response to the National Implementation Reports 2007 of the revised Lisbon Strategy: Executive Summary (http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=3174)

Sector News

Adult Learners Week: Calling all tutors

Do you have a learner in your class whose story and experiences could be used to provide inspiration to other learners? Do you feel that your whole class deserves some special recognition for the work they have done? Would you like to celebrate the achievements, however modest, of any of your learners?

Then you should nominate them for an adult learners' award!

The nomination process is simple and quick. You can get the forms either electronically or on paper from <http://www.niace.org.uk/ALW/nominations/default.htm>, or by calling 0116 204 4200. It will only take you and your learner(s) half an hour to complete, but it is a fantastic way to celebrate achievement and share inspirational stories with other adults.

This year there is even a specific award for those working in the voluntary sector undertaking work-related learning. The LVSC Award for Learning in the Voluntary Sector has £100 worth of vouchers for the individual winner and 2 free training days for their organisation!

All nominated adults will get a certificate, which will be presented either at the national awards ceremony at the QE11 conference centre, or at the London Regional Awards Ceremony in May. What better way to celebrate your learners, highlight your courses to others and promote your organisation to adults as a way of returning to learning?

The best inspiration to others are current learners, and this is the best way to provide it!

Nominations close on the 28th January, so get your forms prepared and sent off as soon as you can!

UN declares 20th February as World Day of Social Justice

Recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment, the United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February annually – starting in 2009 – as the World Day of Social Justice.

In a unanimously adopted resolution (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=a/62/l.15>), the 192-member body also invited Member States to devote the Day to promoting activities at the national level in support of the objectives and goals of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen.

Support for Social Enterprises

Business Link London will in March 2008 launch a new service to support the Social Enterprise sector. If you are want to find out more about what we can offer, please contact Ramesh Prema, Service Development Project Manager on: 0207 111 0349 or e.mail ramesh.prema@blondon.co.uk.

Grassroots Grants

The Cabinet Office unveiled the name of the new, multi-million pound funding programme, Grassroots Grants, to boost local

community organisations with much-needed access to small grants and long-term financing. It also announced the appointment of the Community Development Foundation as its lead national partner in delivering the scheme.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_releases/071212_community.aspx

Resources & Information

LSC Summary of Priorities 2008/09

Please click on the link below to an LSC document summarising their policies for 2008/09, please note that it is 100 pages long. <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-policysummaries0809-nov07.pdf>

Training

PQASSO Quality Mark peer review training

CES is recruiting NOW for people within the voluntary and community sector wishing to become **PQASSO Quality Mark peer reviewers**. This exciting role involves assessing organisations against the PQASSO standards. For more information and to apply to be trained as a peer reviewer, please visit www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk

LVSTC European Consultancy Services (ECS)

Over the years LVSTC has built extensive experience in European funding. Increasingly, both agencies from the private and public sectors have accessed LVSTC European services and have expressed a wish for a consultancy service to help them access European funding. To meet this demand we are pleased to announce the launch of **LVSTC European Consultancy Services (ECS)**. This service is aimed primarily at agencies from the private and public sector and will provide high quality training and support.

LVSTC ECS will be launched in January 2008 with a series of training seminars drawing on LVSTC's past experience, and incorporating the latest information on what to expect in the new European Structural Funds Programmes 2007-2013:

Managing ERDF Projects & Article 4 Inspection Visits.

20 February 2008, 19 March 2008

Aimed at both those new to ERDF project management and those who currently manage an ERDF project, this seminar will provide an extensive insight into managing ERDF funds and the new ERDF Programme beginning in 2008. The seminar will also cover what to expect from an Article 4 Inspection Visit.

Transnational Projects & ESF

5 March 2008

This seminar will introduce you to the various streams of European transnational funding available, how to identify various calls, how to put together a proposal stage 1 and 2, how to identify European Partners, how the new ESF Programme will incorporate transnational funding and how to access it.

Bid Writing Skills

6 February 2008, 29 February 2008, 14 March 2008

This seminar is aimed at those who wish to improve their bid writing. Beginners are welcome. The Seminar will cover project design, realistic goals, project-to-funder fit, and how bids are scored and assessed at appraisal stage. LVSTC has been on appraisal panels and scored bids for a range of funders and this seminar will include both bid writing and scoring exercises to give you an insight into the application process.

If you would like to book a place on one of the seminars please contact Angela Heap on 0845 262 2006/ 020 7538 4309 or email on angelah@lvstc.org.uk.

All places cost £250 per person, we can only accept payment in advance.

We also offer a bespoke service, on the above topics, which can be delivered at your own premises.

If you would like to send out information with our bi-monthly newsletter, Euroscene, thereby reaching a contact list of over 3,000 organisations, then please get in touch with Bill Burke on the numbers below.

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