

# London Euroscene Bytesize



London's Voluntary and Community Sector in partnership with Europe  
to promote Social Inclusion

October 2010

## Overview

Much is currently awaiting the Coalition Government's announcement on the Comprehensive Spending Review on Wednesday 20th October. Once the Government's spending plans are known, we expect the final details of the main CFO tendering rounds of the second half of the ESF London Programme 2007-2013 to fall into place.

## News

[National Developments with ESF](#)

[LVSTC ESF Partnership Portal now live and searchable](#)

[CFO Procurement Timetables](#)

[Prime News](#)

[New conference: Building a Fairer Future](#)

## CFO News

[Skills Funding Agency \(SFA\)](#)

[National Offender Management Services \(NOMS\)](#)

[London Councils](#)

[Department for Work & Pensions](#)

[London Development Agency - ESF Co-financing Programme 2011-2013](#)

## National Developments with ESF

Following the change in Government, the European Programmes Management Unit received guidance from the central Managing Authority to put on hold arrangements to finalise the funding allocations for DWP and the Skills Funding Agency, subject to clarity over emerging national policies and their impact on ESF. As a result, it was agreed with the GLA to postpone formal sign-off of all CFO Plans subject to further national guidance.

DWP is currently in discussion with Ministers as to how ESF can be best utilised to add value to the impending Work Programme. There is also discussion about the split of responsibility between the Skills Funding Agency and DWP, which may impact on the activities and targeting agreed by the CFOs. The outcome of these negotiations may not be clear until after the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.

As a result, the procurement timetables for DWP and the Skills Funding Agency have now moved to December 2010 and January 2011 respectively. The LDA has kept to its autumn launch timetable, launching its PQQ on 24th September, in order to accommodate a longer procurement timetable and meet match funding expenditure commitments.

## LVSTC ESF Partnership Portal: now live

LVSTC are pleased to announce the launch of its new Partnership Portal which is now live and searchable on our website at [http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership\\_portal.php](http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php). With the prospect of application rounds starting towards the end of the year, it is a good idea to start thinking about prospective partners for your application.

The portal is slightly different than those produced for earlier application rounds in that the data captured relates to the work of your organisation only and does not ask questions about specific tenders.

When a funding application round is launched, we will contact you about your interest in order to provide additional search filters to the portal.

Registration is free and you can enter your details at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/portal\\_main](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/portal_main)

## **CFO Procurement Timetables**

For details on the expected procurement timetables for each of the 5 ESF Co-financing organisations (Skills Funding Agency, DWP, LDA, NOMS and London Councils), please visit: <http://www.lda.gov.uk/our-work/european-funds/ESF/Co-financing/index.aspx>. You can also download a copy of the [London ESF 2011-2013 Programme Update](#) from this webpage, which provides an outline on the type of services to be commissioned under each area of the programme.

## **London ESF Awards**

The London ESF Awards ceremony will be hosted at City Hall on 8 November with Mayor of London Boris Johnson opening the ceremony. Awards are being given to providers funded by the London 2007-13 ESF Programme in a range of categories including Community Grants organisation of the year, an award which has been sponsored by the European Year Against Poverty. You can find out more by visiting the [London ESF Awards website](#) and we will be featuring the winners in the next edition of this bulletin.

## **New conference: Building a Fairer Future**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am-4.30pm  
Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road Entrance, St George's Cathedral, London, SE1 7HY  
Part of the London Programme of events marking the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, this event in Southwark will bring together people with different roles in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.  
Places can be booked by registering here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Fairer> and more information will be available on our website from next week.

## **Skills Funding Agency (SFA)**

The Young People's OCT provision PQQ has now closed, but the SFA do hope to launch their Workless/Employed Adult OCT PQQ in December with ITTs to come in January. All timetabling is purely anticipated at the moment until the Spending Review, but this does give a view of the rough timescale currently envisioned.

For further information on the Skills Funding Agency and ESF, organisations should visit <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/programmes/esf/>

## **NOMS**

A decision on the awarding of the NOMS ESF contracts is expected in November.

## **London Councils**

London Councils is currently conducting a review of the future role and scope of the London Borough Grants Programme. Under the LBGP, there are 3 strands to London Councils' ESF Co-Financing Programme with a 4th being considered. Two strands use funding from London Councils Grants Programme (the Main ESF Programme and Technical Assistance Programme) and one uses contributions from 13 boroughs (the ESF Borough Programme). Sources of funding are currently being sought for the 4th strand (the Community Grants Programme).

As one of the 5 CFOs in London, London Councils is required to match equally ESF money received to run its programme and does this with funding from both the London Borough Grants Scheme, on which there is currently a Consultation, and directly from some boroughs. The uncertainties caused by the review and the forthcoming financial position in 2011/12 mean that the provision of match funding is unclear.

It is anticipated that ESF projects currently commissioned will continue until the end of their contracted period. If, however, this should not prove to be the case, providers will be informed as soon as this is known and given at least the statutory notice required under ESF contracts (40 calendar days).

The future of the London Councils' ESF Programme beyond 2012 is not assured however, and in order to help shape how future funding is utilised in response to local and London-wide priorities, stakeholders are encouraged to respond to the Consultation by the deadline of 10th November 2010 at <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants/aboutourfunding/futureofgrants.htm>.

## Department for Work & Pensions

The DWP have been holding consultation sessions with the voluntary and community sector on issues like the Work Programme and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Welfare and how it is anticipated that these programmes will roll out. You can find out much more about by contacting Steve Kerr at LVSC and/or joining the London Employment and Skills Policy Network at <http://www.lvsc.org.uk/Templates/information.asp?NodeID=100468&i1PNID=90619>

## LDA ESF Co-financing Programme 2011-2013

### Learning and Skills Commissioning Event - an overview

The presentations and delegate videos used at the above event are now available for everyone to download from the LDA's website at <http://www.lda.gov.uk/news-and-events/events/2010/learning-skills-commissioning-event.aspx>. Many issues were covered especially in the roundtable discussions, which covered a wide range of issues including:

- partnership building
- involvement of third sector organisations in bidding
- the benefits and risks posed by outcome-based funding
- how LDA can best incentivise targeting hard-to-reach clients
- the LDA's procurement approach
- employer engagement, self-employment and enterprise
- project innovation

The LDA is using the feedback gained to inform the commissioning process for the upcoming ESF Programme and you can find further details of how they are acting on this feedback on the ESF webpages on the LDA website.

### ESF Programme 2011-13

The LDA has now launched the first bidding round of its ESF Programme 2011-13, match-funded by LDA and European funds. This programme aims to strengthen London's labour market and focuses on tackling worklessness and supporting young people not in employment, education and training.

They are launching 11 specifications under this programme. Under Priority 1.1 Adult Employability there are 6 project specifications, looking to grant funding to 14 projects.

Under Priority 1.2 Youth Employability there are 4 specifications where they are looking to grant funding to 9 projects.

You can find full details of the programme, specifications and tips on applying on their website: <http://www.lda.gov.uk/our-work/getting-london-working/esf-co-financing/index.aspx>

The first application stage will be through the CompeteFor system. You need to be registered on CompeteFor to apply for funding - please register at: [www.competefor.com](http://www.competefor.com).

## Prime news

**GLE has formed Work Sustain to deliver contracts through DWP's Framework for Employment Related Services in partnership with the National Housing Federation, EDS, and major London housing associations, and working with local authorities.**

With more than 10 years' experience of working to deliver employment services, we understand what it takes to support people into sustained work. We have proved that we deliver results.

Over the last decade we have delivered employment services in partnership with the voluntary, public, college and private sectors.

We are experienced supply chain managers and our model will ensure your organisation can continue to deliver effective services, and will

### We aim to:

- build new networks that will support individuals into sustained employment
- reinvest profits into employment services for the communities in which we operate
- treat and reimburse all of our partners and suppliers fairly
- take some of the uncertainty out of the picture for our suppliers and customers

**We are now looking for experienced suppliers to work with us to deliver DWP Work Programme. GLE is also interested in hearing from potential suppliers for ESF projects.**

**If your organisation is interested in**

help you get your customers working. And we will treat and reimburse all of our partners and suppliers fairly.

**becoming a member of our supply chain, register your interest at:**

**[www.gle.co.uk/worksustain](http://www.gle.co.uk/worksustain)**

Madeleine Williams, Managing Director at [madeleine.w@gle.co.uk](mailto:madeleine.w@gle.co.uk) / 020 7940 1511  
Stephen Boon, Managing Consultant at [stephen.b@gle.co.uk](mailto:stephen.b@gle.co.uk) / 020 7940 1565

**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.**

**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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