

Consultation Launch on EU Funding

Jim Burns, Government Office for London

On 28 February, the Government launched a Consultation on the UK Draft National Strategic Reference Framework, which will establish the broad priorities for future Structural Funds Programmes in the UK. The Consultation Document also invites comments on two related issues: the UK Government's proposals for dividing UK Structural Funds allocations under the new Competitiveness and Employment Objective; and administrative arrangements for delivering the Funds in the UK in 2007-13. The deadline for responses to reach the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is 22 May 2006.

The new Structural Fund Regulation, which is currently being negotiated, will establish three objectives for the Structural Funds in 2007-13:

- * a Convergence Objective (replacing the current Objective 1), to support the economic convergence of poorer regions with a GDP per capita below 75% of the EU average;
 - * a Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective (replacing the current Objectives 2 and 3), to increase competitiveness and employment in more prosperous regions; and
 - * a Co-operation Objective (which replaces the current Interreg Community Initiative), to finance cross-border and trans-national cooperation projects.
- The European Social Fund will operate within the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objectives, but not the Co-operation Objective.

The new Regulations will strengthen the strategic focus of the Structural Funds, ensuring that they support the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas for growth, jobs and sustainable development. This strategic approach would be established in 3 stages:

1. Member States and the European Parliament agree a set of Community Strategic Guidelines for cohesion policy;
2. Each Member State draws up a National Strategic Reference Framework setting out its main priorities for spending the Structural Funds; and
3. Each Member State draws up more detailed Operational Programmes, outlining plans for spending the Funds in specific regions.

ESF programmes will be expected to focus funds in line with:

- The European Employment Strategy ~ in recent years, the Employment Recommendations to the UK, emerging from this Strategy, have focused on the need for the UK to improve the employment prospects of disadvantaged people and tackle low skills in the workforce.
- The UK Lisbon National Reform Programme ~ this sets out the Government strategy of increasing employment opportunity for all: in particular, by helping disadvantaged groups move from unemployment and inactivity into work; and, generally, by developing the skills of young people and adults.

There would be two main priorities within a single ESF programme for England: extending employment opportunities; and developing a skilled and adaptable workforce. Regional Skills Partnerships will advise on regional employment and skills needs within the framework of England's ESF programme.

The Extending Employment Opportunities Priority concentrates on increasing employment to promote social inclusion. Examples of actions to be supported include:

- developing the employability and skills of unemployed and economically inactive people;
- overcoming barriers to work faced by disadvantaged groups (for example, people with disabilities and health conditions, lone parents, older workers and ethnic minorities amongst others), including where appropriate helping with caring responsibilities and working with the health sector; and
- supporting small community projects to mobilise disadvantaged and excluded people and facilitate their integration into the labour market (building on the experience of Global Grants).

The Developing a Skilled and Adaptable Workforce Priority will focus on raising levels of skills in the workforce to increase productivity, enterprise and competitiveness. Examples of eligible actions include:

- increasing participation and attainment in learning by young people (for example, by reforming vocational routes for 14 to 19 year-olds, and supporting 14 to 19 year olds not in education, employment or training or at risk of becoming so);
- improving basic literacy and numeracy skills among adults and supporting progression from foundation to level 2 learning;
- tackling the skills deficit in the workforce (for example, by helping workers to gain level 2 and 3 qualifications, especially workers who face redundancy, low skilled workers, and workers in sectors with weak training records and, where appropriate, supporting health and safety training);
- training men and women who want to enter occupations or sectors where they are underrepresented; and
- training managers and workers in small businesses who need to develop skills to compete in a knowledge-based economy.

With regard to delivery, the Consultation Document sets out the Government aim that future ESF spending in England will be closely aligned to policy priorities for domestic employment and skills funding currently deployed primarily through Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Councils. The Government is keen to ensure that ESF delivery is administratively simple and that EU requirements on public match funding do not prevent organisations from accessing ESF. By aligning ESF and domestic funds, organisations will be able to access a single funding stream and will not need to find their own match public funding.

As the overall allocation of Competitiveness funds for England is approximately 50% of the current programme

size, a new programme will certainly be much smaller, though still of strategic significance. The use of different indicators for allocating ERDF and ESF is likely to result in programmes of different sizes – the current ESF programme in London is three times the size of the ERDF programme.

Aside from considerations of programme size and strategy, London partners are also giving thought as to how any future programme will be managed. London's regional architecture differs from that of other regions and in his response to last month's consultation of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the powers of the Greater London Assembly, the Mayor suggested that the GLA should assume direct responsibility for European funds in the future. Ministers are expected to respond to the Mayor's proposal later in the spring.

Full details are in the DTI Consultation Document and Draft Framework (<http://www.dti.gov.uk/europe/nsrf.html>) and further information will be placed on the ESF website (www.esf.gov.uk).

Commentary

Ray Phillips

Seize the time!

After months of argument and delay in agreeing the new European Union Budget for 2007-2013, we're now seeing the first fruit of the decision that was finally reached at the end of 2005. The UK Draft Framework, described on this page, is one further building block on which the various Operational Plans will be set later this year. Only then, shall we be able to see the precise detail of measures that will determine the channels of funding for projects tackling employment, skills and social exclusion in London.

Meanwhile, the Framework is important for setting the overall tone and thrust of the European Structural Funds in the UK. There are key signs of encouragement, to which we as providers in the voluntary and community sector need to respond. Such a response is necessary, if we want the Funds to be targeted on street-level actions to engage the economically disadvantaged and to tackle the exclusion and poverty facing those furthest from the labour market.

Two references, in the Framework, are particularly notable. First, the recognition of the crucial importance of global grants (the Fast Forward Programme, in London). Second, the commitment to continue targeting Technical Assistance on the voluntary and community sector to enhance effective delivery by providers from that sector.

LVSTC will be launching a range of initiatives over the coming weeks to gather views from sector providers, including: pages on our web-site incorporating an e-Flash Consultation, focus groups, written Briefings and a Consultation Workshop.

The LVSTC Consultation Workshop, which will provide ample opportunity for participant feedback, will take place in central London on 4 May 2006. Further details are available from Siaffa Bunduka at siaffab@lvstc.org.uk.

Co-Financing Organisations Update

Adesola Osinowo

LDA/ LSC Olympics initiative

On 28 February 2006 a tri-Regional programme to support the employment and skills needs of the London 2012 Olympic Games was launched at City Hall. The London Prospectus ESF Olympic initiative that links with this programme, supported by the Pan-London LSC and LDA, was launched on 7 March 2006 and will allocate around £5.8 million to activities to help prepare Londoners for opportunities brought by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For further information, please contact ECOTEC, who have been appointed to manage the tender process for this programme, on 020 7089 1976 or www.londono3.ecotec.co.uk/panlondon2/olympics

LSC Pan London

The bidding process for the LSC Pan London ESF Programme 2 Objective 3 Prospectus is almost over. Deadline for submissions 5pm 17 March 2006. The bids will be assessed week commencing 20 March 2006 and the mediation panel will be on 28 April 2006. Results are expected to go out week commencing 8 May 2006 followed by the contracting process. Projects will be expected to start 1 August 2006 and end no later than 25 July 2008.

Please log on www.lvstc.org.uk for more details.

LSC London East

This sub-region is by far the biggest and most important area for the sector in London. We have many members who are in the sub region or providing services there, and contains the poorest wards and profound economic and social inclusion needs. There is significant involvement and interest in ESF funding and matters, evidenced by the high number of sector providers involved. Also, there was a very low level of 'failure' in the sub region as a result of our interventions and work by the second tier networks.

LSC London South and LSC London Central

We will shortly be liaising with contracted sector providers in this sub region to ensure that they benefit from the wide ranging help and guidance we are providing under our Getting On, Holding On and Moving On offer. For full descriptions, booking forms and information go to the centre pages and visit the LVSTC web site.

LSC London North

There was a low level of complaints or appeals in this sub region. We are also supporting by attending their ESF Providers and Funders Group and will continue to support these groups in the future.

The last Group meeting in late February included a comprehensive review of progress made so far by projects towards achieving targets for BME and disabled beneficiaries. LVSTC also presented our latest report I'm Simply Learning Much More, a survey of ESF beneficiaries and project managers in the London Objective 2 Programme.

Fast Forward Grants

The LDA will be providing additional funding to improve the availability of the FFG for the voluntary sector and this will be launched in spring 2006

LSC London West

The London West LSC Council has approved 34 projects in the ESF Objective 3 Co-financing Phase 3 round 2. Successful applicants will be contacted shortly by the LWLSC. Prior to this, they should familiarise themselves with the ESF regulations which can be found in the prospectus.

All applicants will receive written feedback on their tenders. The decision of the Council is final and no further correspondence can be entered into on unsuccessful applications. All offers of funding are subject to contract. The offer is conditional on a satisfactory Financial Health Assessment (FHA). Certain other conditions may be imposed on organisations.

The performance of the voluntary community sector was average and we will have more detailed information shortly on our website.

Please go to www.londonwest.org/Discretionary_funding/news for further information

London Development Agency

Following the launch of the Opportunities Fund in September 2005, the first round has now been allocated. Applicants will have received written notification of the decision regarding LDA Opportunities Fund applications during the first week of March 2006.

The LDA received an exceptionally high response to the LDA Opportunities Fund. 94 projects were selected from over 750 applications; a high proportion of these will be led by voluntary sector groups, ensuring that communities play a lead role in shaping their own futures.

Grants will be awarded for a maximum of three years, beginning in April 2006. Log on to the LDA website www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc for a full list of approved projects.

Jobcentre Plus

The Ratification Panel will now be held on 14 March at the Jobcentre Plus Regional office. The slippage in schedule has been of some concern to applicants. Please contact Jobcentre Plus for further information.

ALG

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund ESF Objective 3 co-financing programme - Closing date 17 March 2006 at 12 noon.

- This ALG round combines Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) from 10 boroughs with the European Social Fund (ESF).
- It is open to the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- You can still apply for funding under this programme even if you are receiving a grant

from the ALG Grants programme or from the borough in which your proposed activity is to be located.

Borough specific measures: Barking and Dagenham (8), Newham (4), Lewisham (3), Tower Hamlets (1), Ealing (2), Enfield (5), Haringey (3), Islington (3), Croydon (2) and Westminster (1).

Please Contact LVSTC 020 7429 4441 or ALG 020 7940 1565/020 734 9825.

Connexions-South London

Connexions South London is the only Connexions Partnership with Co-financing status in London. Connexions South London Co-financing programme started in August 2003 and will run until March 2008. On 25 January 2006, South London Connexions launched their new ESF prospectus following the revaluation of the European Social Fund Objective 3 Programme. Approximately £1.4 million has been allocated between June 2006 and March 2008 for the programme.

The closing date for the submission of application forms was 28 February 2006 and applications are currently being scored by Connexions, using independent scorers drawn from different sectors and also from a wide range of organisations. The timescale for the application and selection process is as follows:

For further details about the South London Connexion ESF programme, please contact Janet Cox, Contracts and Programmes Manager, on 020 8929 4822 or email janetcox@connexions-southlondon.org.uk Association of London Government

New Prospectus launched	25 January 2006
Application seminars	6 – 10 Feb 2006
Closing date for applications	28 February 2006
Internal Panel assessment of applications completed	31 March 2006
Moderation Panel meets (date tbc)	3-10 April 2006
Applicants notified of results	13 April 2006
Pre contract negotiations with successful providers	April/May 2006
Contracts signed by all providers	31 May 2006
Project Delivery begins	1 June 2006



On your marks

ESF and the Olympics

Sandi Rance, LVSTC

A Greater South East ESF programme supporting the employment and skills needs for the London 2012 Olympics

On the 28 February 2006 a tri-Regional programme to support the employment and skills needs of the London 2012 Olympic Games was launched at City Hall.

Developed by a partnership of Government Offices, Learning and Skills Councils and Regional Development Agencies from the East of England, London and the South East, it will support training and qualifications programmes in construction, logistics, land-based and environmental, sports and leisure sectors in those regions.

Pan London 2 London ESF Olympics Programme 2006-2008

The London part of the Greater South East ESF Olympics initiative, supported by the LDA and LSC, was launched on 7 March.

With one ESF measure each, the LSC policy field 3, Lifelong learning offers 7 projects and the LDA policy field 4, Adaptability and Entrepreneurship offers 7 projects.

Measure 3.1 is designed to promote wider access and participation in lifelong learning, especially for those groups least likely to take part in lifelong learning activities and lacking key skills, and has a value of £2,260,840.

Measure 4.1 is intended to update and upgrade employees' vocational skills, including basic and key skills, and has a value of £500,000.

Measure 4.2 is intended to identify and meet emerging skills shortages, including those at a higher level, and has a value of £3,020,000.

Application deadline	5 pm 28 April 2006
Assessment and appraisal	May/June 2006
Pre-contract negotiation	June/July 2006
Programme starts	1 August 2006
Programme closure	31 July 2008

There will be an information workshop on the morning of 28th March, venue to be confirmed.

Ecotec will be managing this round as part of the Pan London 2 programme.
Helpline: 020 7089 1976 Email: london03@ecotec.co.uk
www.london03.ecotec.co.uk/panlondon02/Olympics

LVSTC offers telephone and e-mail advice, guidance and one to one surgeries. Please refer to our website: www.lvstc.org.uk

Community Economic Enhancement Project

Kwasi Ofei, LVSTC

LVSTC has successfully secured a 3 year grant from the Big Lottery Fund and also further support from the European Social Fund to develop a new Capacity Building Project. This is called the Community Economic Enhancement Project or simply referred to as CEEP. This project aims to build the capacity of small /medium sized black and ethnic minority and refugee organisations that have grown from being micro-level grass roots groups to small/medium sized community organisations.

These organisations, working in and around the labour market, now find themselves at a critical point in their development and are experiencing difficulties in their transition in managing growth. Therefore, CEEP will systematically build the capacity of these groups to help them develop their operational systems and capabilities. It will also develop their staff and management committee's core skills in order to improve their effectiveness in service delivery.

CEEP activities from which the project output and outcomes will be generated will include:

- Diagnostic Reviews: an on-going diagnostic review of the participating organisations will be conducted to assess and advise them on the effectiveness of their core skills, planning, procedures and systems;
- Training Workshops & Seminars: CEEP will run regular training workshops and seminars for key staff and management committees on different management and operational techniques needed to sustain growth and development;
- Briefing Notes: Simple and easy-to read materials on finance, business planning, IT and partnership models will be produced as a source of reference for groups;
- Management Information System: organisations will be assisted to improve or develop their IT systems;
- Partnership Brokerage: CEEP will encourage and broker partnerships among small groups to enable them to bid for larger grants and also to bring about synergy;

Redbridge LEAD

Clare Engel, LVSTC

Redbridge LEAD (London East Action for Development) is based at Redbridge CVS in Ilford.

Staff

Aileen Shrimpton LEAD Programme Manager
Rajbir Athwal LEAD Capacity Development Officer

Steering Group

Meets bi-monthly and provides invaluable support to the staff of the project

Chair:

Bernadette Benn Barnabas Workshops

Elected Rep:

Brian Craven	City Gates
Phil Miller	NE London Community Foundation
Lee-Ann Lesage	Chigwell Disability Support Group

Recent achievements (in their own words)

- We had a target of attracting 35 groups into the network by June 2007 and have received 43 applications for membership.
- Staff have carried out 22 Training Needs Analyses with member organisations. To date 20 individuals from LEAD groups have signed up to participate in accredited training.
- We have gained membership of ASET and the Open College Network and have begun to deliver accredited training.
- By working in collaboration with us, local groups are being supported to pilot the delivery of accredited training and several are in the process of gaining their own centre licence.
- We plan to work in partnership with Havering LEAD and Barking and Dagenham LEAD to deliver training to groups on the Matrix Standard.
- In January, 7 groups attended training on the PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations) standard. This course is being run again in April and so far 10 people have registered.
- Awarded £6000 from the LSC to help groups access PQASSO and IIP assessment.

For more information Tel: 020 8514 9614
Email: aileen@redbridgecvns.net
Website: www.redbridgecvns.net/lead.htm

- On-Going Technical Support: The Project will provide an on-going telephone helpline and online support to answer any queries or provide information. There will also be follow-up visits to group premises to aid problem solving and training.



Holding On to, Moving On from European Funds-April to September 2006

LVSTC is delivering a series of workshops from April to December 2006. These training events are tailored for voluntary and community sector (VCS) providers under ESF/ERDF Objective 2 and the ESF Objective 3 European Structural Fund Programmes in London, as well as the ERDF Stockwell URBAN II Community Initiative in Lambeth.

In the last issue of Euroscene, we presented how we can support you to Get On to Structural Funds. In this issue, we concentrate on the next two stages of support: Holding On to EU funds and Moving On from this funding. All workshops refer to our new resource pack Managing with and without European Structural Funds which can be downloaded from our website after Easter.

Holding On workshops focus on helping you to satisfy all the requirements, including delivering outputs, account for expenditure and keeping records.

Moving On workshops will help you assess where you are and what you need to do to be better placed for new funding opportunities.

Please apply early to secure your free place. If you do not work for the VCS but would like to attend workshops and benefit from all our services, you are welcome to join LVSTC as an Associate Member. Please contact Siaffa Bunduka for more details (siaffab@lvstc.org.uk).

On our website (www.lvstc.org.uk) you will find full details for each workshop as well as a downloadable+ booking form which you must be completed. You will receive written confirmation if you are offered a place. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Karin Podschun or Baya Lawrence on 020 7249 4441.

Holding On

Project Management and Claims (Stockwell URBAN II)

This focuses on delivering your project, accounting for the money, and keeping records of implementation and achievement.

26 April 2006, 9.30am to 4.30pm @ Government Office for London

How to prepare for your Article 4 monitoring visit (Objective 2)

With the likelihood of a monitoring visit from the Payments and Monitoring Team from GOL, this workshop will highlight key stages to help you prepare.

Wednesday 3 May 2006, 09.30am to 12.30pm @ venue to be confirmed (tbc)

How to do Equal Opportunities? (Stockwell URBAN II)

This practical workshop will explore the embedding of EO in both the design and implementation of your project as well as setting and monitoring EO targets. 10 May 2006, 9.30am to 1.00pm @ Stockwell Resource Centre

Working in Partnership (All projects)

Working in partnership across sectors has become

essential. This event provides practical strategies for developing and running sustainable partnerships.

Wednesday 17 May 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ West London venue tbc

How to do Sustainability? (Stockwell URBAN II)

This will examine what is meant by 'sustainable development' and explore practical ideas for achieving environmental sustainability.

Wednesday 24 May 2006, 9.30am to 1.00pm @ Stockwell Resource Centre

Marketing and Publicity (All projects)

How to sell your project and your organisation and, at the same time, meet EU publicity requirements? This workshop examines how best to market your project for full take-up and how to maximise future funding.

Stockwell URBAN II: Wednesday 7 June 2006, 9.30am to 1.00pm @ Stockwell Resource Centre

Objective 3: Tuesday 14 November 2006, 9.30am to 1.00pm @ Central London venue TBC

Recruiting and retaining beneficiaries (All projects)

Attracting beneficiaries and securing completion is a key success measure of EU contracts. This workshop explores what motivates potential learners and how to help them achieve their potential.

Thursday 8 June 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ venue tbc

Systems Management (Objective 3)

Practical guidance in developing effective management systems to record information for lead and other partners to implement/monitor/control projects.

Tuesday 13 June 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ Central London venue tbc

Submitting ERDF claims with TESA (Objective 2 ERDF)

Over the next few months TESA (see Euroscene article) will replace the current GOL recording system Key processes will now be conducted on line. This workshop will introduce TESA and show you how to make the most of this new system.

Wednesday 5 July 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ venue tbc

Wednesday 12 July 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ venue tbc

Investors in People (All projects)

Investors In People (IIP) offers VCS providers a framework for continuous service improvement and support of staff. This seminar provides VCS organisations with

detailed information about how to prepare a submission for the award.

Wednesday 19 July 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ South London venue tbc

Delivering Equal Opportunities (All projects)

Why and how are equality and diversity relevant to your project? What are you meant to do? This workshop will help you to meet legal requirements and to provide effective services to the diverse range of Londoners.

5 September 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ East London venue tbc

Measuring Soft Outcomes and Distance Travelled (Objective 2 ESF & Objective 3)

Progress has been made to measure the distance travelled by beneficiaries. However many don't have their progression assessed on EU funded programmes. This workshop explores the scope for introducing 'soft' outcomes.

Wednesday 27 September 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ Central London venue tbc

Moving On

Preparing your Succession Strategy (All projects)

As we approach the end of the current EU Structural Funds programmes, all projects will need to determine the next steps. This workshop will introduce key principles for developing effective succession strategies, making use of the Readiness Awareness Toolkit recently commissioned by GOL.

Tuesday 9 May 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ venue tbc

Developing a Succession Strategy (Stockwell URBAN II)

The workshop will help you to take stock of where your project is now and how you can plan ahead under other income streams.

21 June 2006, 9.30am to 1.00pm @ Stockwell Resource Centre



Brent Education Art Recreational Service (BEARS) Youth Challenge see page 7

Quality Assurance (All projects)

IIP, PQASSO, Matrix, Customer First – the number of quality marks is increasing. Which is most appropriate for your organisation? This workshop will help you choose and describe the steps needed to achieve them.

Wednesday 28 June 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ venue tbc

LAAs, LEGL within the Future of Government Funds in London

This workshop will look in detail at the changing structures of governance and how funding of the VCS sector will be affected. The focus will be on Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI).

Tuesday 11 July 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ venue tbc

Accreditation (Objective 2 & Objective 3)

Gaining credit and value for learning is an essential component in funded training and learning courses. Government agencies are increasingly demanding nationally recognised accredited programmes. This workshop deals with the practical steps of introducing formal systems of accreditation within your project.

Wednesday 26 July 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ North

London venue tbc

Business Planning (All projects)

For those organisations who have already attended an introductory seminar or who have begun the process, this workshop will present practical solutions and strategies for developing business plans.

Wednesday 30 August 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ North London venue tbc

Mainstreaming your Project (All projects)

Mainstreaming is a one exit route for training and learning providers. This workshop will consider current provision and how project ideas may be funded from mainstream programmes in the future.

Wednesday 13 September 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ South London venue tbc

The Future of Capacity Building (Objective 2 ESF & Objective 3)

This seminar will provide second-tier capacity builders and first-tier providers with an opportunity to examine the effectiveness of project infrastructure in their area and discuss future strategies for support.

Wednesday 20 September 2006, 9.30am to 12.30pm @ Central London venue tbc ■

Skills for Economic Inclusion Network – SKEIN

Julia McGerty, LVSTC

The Skills for Economic Inclusion Network – SKEIN – is now entering its second year and membership is up to more than 1,000 small voluntary and community sector organisations. The Network is proving very popular with small training and support providers across the capital and feedback has been very positive. Members receive local and regional news and information via SKEIN's e-bulletins, newsletters, toolkit and website and are also able to access help from their local Learning Hub helpline. There is also a full programme of free training courses for member organisations and a number of one-day workshops and conferences offering members a chance to network with other similar organisations as well as keeping up-to-date with funding and training issues.

Funding Workshops

The recent series of Funding workshops has proved extremely popular with members. Funding and Partnership, Identifying Appropriate Funding and Full Cost Recovery were the topics covered in the workshops that have already run. They were all well attended and demand has been so high that we may run them again in the coming months. There are also a number of workshops still to run in April and May, including;

- Writing Funding Applications and Apportioning Costs
- Sustainable Planning
- Succession Strategies – Life after Funding.

Interest in these events has already been high and they are all expected to fill up quickly.

Training Programme

All SKEIN members can sign up for any of our free training programmes. Travel and childcare costs are offered to those attending the training to ensure that everyone

can access these courses. There are a number of courses available to members offering a variety of opportunities for organisations and individuals;

- Guidance Awards
- Community Leadership Awards
- Learning Coaches
- Get Learning
 - o Promoting Learning Opportunities
 - o Strengthening Existing Provision
- Towards Quality
- Developing Ability to Deliver

All courses will run throughout the year with a choice of days, dates and venues to suit participants.

Partnership E-bulletin

A new development for SKEIN members this month is the introduction of a SKEIN Partnership E-bulletin. With the emphasis everywhere on partnership, this new E-bulletin offers members an opportunity to make themselves known to potential partner organisations and explain both what they can offer to a partnership and what they are looking for in terms of partners. SKEIN members can then access support from their Learning Hub in putting the partnership together if they need it.

Free Membership

SKEIN is open to any small VCS organisation supporting disadvantaged people towards the labour market. If your organisation would like to join please contact Ian Foster at LVSTC on 020 7249 4441 or email ianf@lvstc.org.uk Membership is free and once you are signed up all the services of the Network are free. SKEIN is open to eligible organisations from across London. Why not give us a call and find out about joining SKEIN and taking advantage of the services on offer? ■

Free Capacity Building Training and Support

for Voluntary and Community organisations

Zena Nock, Enterprise Services Enfield College

Enfield College is the lead partner in The Capacity Building Toolbox programme, an innovative pan-London European Social Fund project co-financed by the London Learning and Skills Councils.

The college is working with 5 Partners, the Creative Collective, Triangle Fusion, Faith in London, Happy Computers and sphHousing to engage 300+ managers from 150+ voluntary and community organisations across London to develop their capacity to provide services, work with government and non-statutory agencies, develop social enterprises, promote economic sustainability and create jobs. The programme:

- Has developed a 'Capacity Building Toolbox' containing 10 customisable Leadership and Management training packages and six step-by-step, activity-based 'Toolkits'
- Is delivering five training programmes in different London locations – each programme consists of ten practical 3-day units specific to the voluntary and community sector. Participants can attend just one or all ten units depending on their role and responsibilities within the organisation
- Has developed sector-specific management standards independently endorsed at Level 4 equivalent, for 7 of the 10 units which are optional for participants
- Is providing mentoring and consultancy to the first 150 participating organisations to support training received and help capacity build organisations.

ESF funding of £600k means that this professional training and support is free to eligible participating organisations and is intended for managers and potential managers.

The programme is pitched at Level 4 of the National Qualifications Framework, a level equivalent to a Certificate of Higher Education, which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a broad range of complex work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and with a substantial degree of personal responsibility and autonomy. This means that participants should have good communication skills and must be able to participate fully in the training, attending all the scheduled sessions they book.

Participation is also encouraged by managers of groups who want to establish or further develop a social enterprise. Limited funding for childcare and travel expenses is available to assist those attending the training sessions.

You can find further information on the Capacity Building Toolbox on Enfield College's website www.enfield.ac.uk or by contacting Zena Nock on 020 88372 7619 or zenanock@enfield.ac.uk ■

Introducing TESA

François Josserand, LVSTC

The following applies to you if you currently run a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the London Objective 2 Programme or the Stockwell URBAN II Community Initiative.

Over the next few months a new system will radically transform the way you interact with the Government Office for London (GOL), including when you submit claims and receive payments.

TESA is a programme led by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) to transform the way the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is managed and delivered in England. TESA aims to streamline business processes and replace existing regional systems.

Key processes such as applications, claims, payments and project monitoring will all be conducted on-line. As all data will be stored in a central and secure repository, you will have a 'cradle to grave' view of your project so you can track its progress. TESA will also add more rigour and a better audit trail to ensure your project meets regulatory requirements. Last, TESA should help you publicise your project and its impact via the Internet.

TESA should help you in a number of ways. It aims to reduce the bureaucracy and paperwork

associated with ERDF projects and improve the speed of transactions between your organisation and the Government Office. The time you spend on administrative tasks should be reduced so that you can devote more resources to managing your project and delivering your outputs.

For instance, you will no longer need to submit your claims on paper. The new system will process all claims on-line. However, you will still need to retain evidence of expenditure documentation, such as invoices, etc. that support your claims for grant.

You will not need any new IT equipment as the system is accessed via the internet at www.erdfo.odpm.gov.uk. You will be provided with a log-in username and password by your Government Office and given training on how to use the system before it goes live.

TESA is being rolled out across all English regions from April 2006 with a launch date in London now forecast for July 2006. GOL will be writing to all ERDF projects in due course with an update on the TESA implementation plan. Over the next few months LVSTC will be offering a number of training opportunities for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. This should help you ensure that you understand the new system and start using it in the best conditions. Watch this space and check our website for further news! ■

Getting Ready for your Monitoring Visit

François Josserand, LVSTC

A new Monitoring and Inspection Strategy for all ERDF and ESF projects in London was presented by the Government Office for London (GOL) and approved at the February 2006 meeting of the London European Programmes Committee – the body which oversees the management of all European Programmes in London.

The requirements of European Structural Funds tend to be significantly more complex than those normally attached to UK Government programmes. The new strategy clarifies the different types of project visits undertaken by the European Unit and the Compliance and Audit Team at GOL, as well as the methodology that will be used.

GOL is required to monitor your project to ensure that funds are spent appropriately and in line with European wide Regulations and that all outputs claimed have actually been achieved and are backed up by appropriate evidence.

LVSTC can help you prepare your monitoring visit, checking that all appropriate systems are in place and conducting 'mock visits'. Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you are a voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisation currently running an ERDF or ESF project under the Objective 2 Programme or the Stockwell URBAN II Community Initiative. ■

3 Days in Brussels to Write a Succession Strategy continued

Margaret Trotter, Four Corners

We continue and conclude Margaret Trotter's relation of our intensive study visit to Brussels last October. LVSTC led a group of thirty managers of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to meet key decision-makers and discuss potential exit strategies for their European projects.

Thursday 6 October 2005

European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN)

The final day of an action packed agenda! We began the day with an early start and a coach trip back to London House from Leuven. Once we arrived one of the key NGO lobbying groups for our sector in Brussels talked to us about their work. Through listening to the European Anti Poverty Network, I gained an understanding of the value of intervention at the correct level and how much more effective we could be by using this direct approach.

European Commission's DG Employment and Social Affairs

After EAPN, a representative from the European Commissions' Department for Employment and Social affairs came to talk to us. I found this very useful. Julie Fonda gave us a breakdown of the UK position on the Structural Funds.

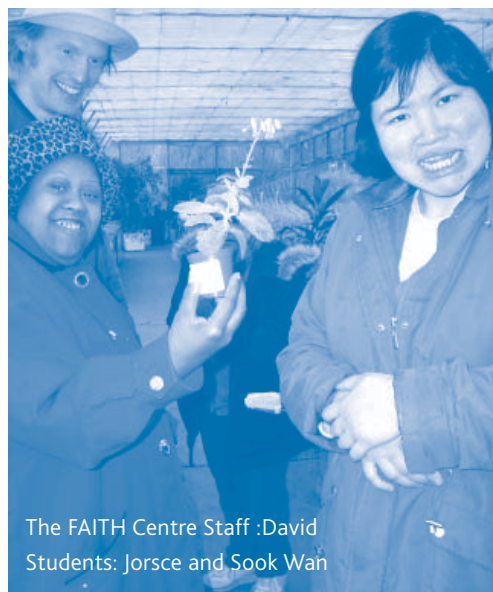
How did I Benefit from the Study Visit?

What did I gain from the Brussels Study visit? Many things! For starters, I have identified real concrete ways to improve my own project through contacts which will immediately feed into our work and therefore increase our work possibilities with beneficiaries.

Angela Heap was particularly helpful in explaining the current ERDF funding situation and gave me the confidence to approach directly my Area Partnership Technical Officers as well as the Government Office for London to engage with them.



Also, I will now be planning my future bids with a clearer idea of what direction European policy is taking. My thanks also go to Orishe Olugbo for the flattering photographs of me with Jean Lambert MEP at the European parliament! ■



The FAITH Centre Staff: David
Students: Jorsce and Sook Wan

Wayne Deane, LVSTC

In 1866, a twenty one year old apprentice engraver called John Groom decided that he must take action to tackle the shocking plight of destitution, disabled women and children in the city of London.

The vision shared by John Groom (the organisation), places disabilities at the heart of its activities, ensuring that all participants are treated equitably by way of providing an opportunity for all individuals to lead independent lives with real quality.

Whilst times have changed, there are still major obstacles operating within the twenty first century that seek to hinder the lives of many, therefore the question of combating social and economic exclusion within deprived communities remains a key concern within London today.

The Disabled People Go Green project, which started in March 2005, has successfully encapsulated the John Groom philosophy with the support of the European Social Funds, under the London Objective 2 Programme; delivering an integrated package

Disabled People Go Green With John Groom

ESF in Objective 2, Working in the Upper Lee Valley

of accredited training in horticulture targeting Community Economic Development (CED) wards in Haringey. Measure 1.3 provides the platform for Community Skills Development, encouraging both creditable and sustainable Pathways to employment with local people taking ownership of the community skills agenda.

The project objectives are delivered in a real –world environment of a fully functioning garden nursery designed to give learners the skills and information required to achieve either level 1 certificates in skills, or certificates in skills for working life horticulture entry level 2 or 3.

There is no end of course examination although trainees will be supported in submitting a work book portfolio of evidence by the time the course ends in December 2006. The total project cost is estimated to be £257,000 targeting eighty trainees, with an anticipated impact of reducing unemployment among disabled people living in the CED areas of Haringey.

The project is delivered at the Further Advancement In Training Haringey (FAITH) Centre, which was added to the John Groom portfolio in 2000, located on Wolves Lane Haringey. This unique programme of activities clearly demonstrates what can be achieved at street level using European funding as a platform towards increased participation and involvement.



The FAITH Centre Staff: David, Hengi, Robin
Students: Jorsce, Sook Wan and Lorraine
with Wayne Deane LVSTC

For more information about training opportunities at FAITH please contact Robin Pickard on: 0208 888 5306 ■

Stonebridge Community Pavilion

Angela Heap, LVSTC

Stonebridge Housing Action Trust (HAT): Stonebridge Community Pavilion: Objective 2 Priority 1 Measure 1

In a successful outcome which has been three years in the making. Working closely with the local community, Stonebridge HAT have recently been given the go ahead to start work on a new pavilion.

The aim of the project, and in fact the focal point of the pavilion, is to build a stronger community by providing a facility, which will support the development of young people living in Stonebridge and develop the capacity of organisations working with these young people. The pavilion will be part of a multi funded project with contributions from Stonebridge Housing Action Trust, Football Foundation, the Big Lottery Fund, Onyx Environmental Trust, London Marathon Trust, Sport England and of course ERDF.

ERDF will fund part of this project with specific interest in office space, a training room, interview rooms and a multi-use room for the local community and service providers. It is planned that the office

space will provide a base for Brent Education Art Recreational Service (BEARS) Youth Challenge in the Stonebridge area, from which they will deliver projects to develop young people's skills and qualifications leading to improved employment prospects.

The ERDF project is part of a larger development



on the site including provision for sport and leisure facilities. Access to high quality facilities and activities will assist groups and partnerships to devise and deliver local solutions to social and economic exclusion. Funding from ERDF will leave an important legacy in the Stonebridge Community Economic Development (CED) area.

This project has been developed in response to clearly identified needs within the community and ongoing community consultation.

To celebrate and launch the start of the capital refurbishment work, local teenagers from across the borough took part in a five-a-side football tournament on the 14th January. The day even included a visit from former England international, Watford and AC Milan player Luther Blissett!

Work started on the site in February and is expected to be completed by autumn 2006.

The project will cost £2.7 million. ERDF will be part funding the overall project by £255,993.

For further information on the project contact Sarah Moss on 020 8963 4917 ■

Diary

April

7 **Holding On** to European Funding: project management and claims (URBAN II) www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php

26 **Holding On** to European Funding: project management and claims (repeat) (URBAN II) www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php

24 - 30 Global Education Action Week

May

1 - 7 Deaf Awareness Week

10 **Holding On** to European Funding: implementing equal opportunities (URBAN II) www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php

13 World Fair Trade Day

20 - 26 Adult Learners' Week www.niace.org.uk/alw/2006/Default.htm

20 Cultural Diversity Day

24 **Holding On** to European Funding: sustainable development (URBAN II) www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php

25 Learning at Work Day

June

5 - 12 The Big Recycle

7 **Holding On** from European Funding: marketing and publicity (URBAN II) www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php

17 - 25 Green Transport Week

17 - 25 Bike Week

18 - 25 Learning Disability Week

21 **Moving On** from European Funding: developing a succession strategy (URBAN II) www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php

Would you like:

- Free entry onto the lvstc website and Training Directory
- Free information bulletins
- Priority for places at LVSTC events
- Reduced fee for study visits
- One-to-one advice sessions
- The right to elect and stand for the Executive Committee and other committees set up by LVSTC.

LVSTC has been a voice in Europe for London's voluntary and community sector for 15 years helping to increase funding for London's training providers.

We support voluntary sector training providers and promote partnership between local authorities, Learning and Skills Council, the European Union and others to secure the maximum resources for economic regeneration programmes in London.

For more information or a membership application contact Siaffa Bunduka siaffab@lvstc.org.uk

Skills for Life Email Updates

- Do you deliver training in Literacy, Numeracy or ESOL?
- Are you finding it difficult to stay abreast of all the developments in these subject areas?
- Would you like to receive information about Skills for Life by email?

If so send your name, address, telephone number and email address to Julia at juliam@lvstc.org.uk

Euroscene is available in large print

www.lvstc.org.uk/publications.php

Euroscene is printed with vegetable-based ink on 100% post-consumer waste paper by Calverts, a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited printer.

lvstc contacts

ERDF

François Josserand Unit Co-ordinator
Priority 1
francoisj@lvstc.org.uk

Wayne Deane ESF Technical Adviser
Contact for all ESF interventions
wayned@lvstc.org.uk

Angela Heap Regeneration Adviser
Priority 2 & 3
angelah@lvstc.org.uk

Baya Lawrence Administrative Officer
bayal@lvstc.org.uk

URBAN II - Community Sector Support Scheme

Barbara Deason, Consultant Co-ordinator
barbarad@lvstc.org.uk

Denni Turp, Consultant Adviser
dennit@lvstc.org.uk

ESF (Delivery)

Stewart Goldring Deputy Director / Unit Co-ordinator
London Central LSC, London North LSC, Pan London
stewartg@lvstc.org.uk

Kwasi Ofei Finance Adviser / CEEP Co-ordinator
London South LSC, Connexions South London
kwasio@lvstc.org.uk

Adesola Osinowo Employment Adviser
London West LSC, Jobcentreplus, LDA
solao@lvstc.org.uk

Karin Podschun Administrative Officer
karinp@lvstc.org.uk

LEAD

Barbara Deason - Consultant Co-ordinator
barbarad@lvstc.org.uk

Sandi Rance Technical Adviser
sandir@lvstc.org.uk

Clare Engel Technical Adviser
claree@lvstc.org.uk

ESF (Communications)

Steve White Unit Co-ordinator
stevegw@lvstc.org.uk

Ingrid Babcock ICT Co-ordinator
ingridb@lvstc.org.uk

Humera Gondal Information & Publicity Officer
humerag@lvstc.org.uk

Siaffa Bunduka Administrative Officer
siaffab@lvstc.org.uk

Directorate

Ray Phillips Director
rayp@lvstc.org.uk

Bill Burke Finance Officer
billb@lvstc.org.uk

SKEIN

Julia McGerty-Strategic Co-ordinator
juliam@lvstc.org.uk

Graham Moore Operations Co-ordinator
grahamm@lvstc.org.uk

Geoff Robinson Communications Snr Adviser
geoffr@lvstc.org.uk

Ian Foster Development Worker
ianf@lvstc.org.uk

Misbah Javed Hub Development Worker
misbahj@lvstc.org.uk

Orishe Olugbo, Hub Development Worker
orisheo@lvstc.org.uk

Dorrett Hobbs-Daley Hub Development Worker
dorretth@lvstc.org.uk

Chris Swift, Hub Development Worker
chriss@lvstc.org.uk

Michelle Curtis, Hub Development Worker
michellec@lvstc.org.uk



The Print House 18 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL
Tel: 020 7249 4441 Fax: 020 7923 4280
Web: www.lvstc.org.uk Email: info@lvstc.org.uk
Company No: 2433659 Charity No: 803077

"The London voluntary and community sector in partnership with Europe to promote social inclusion."

Euroscene is edited by Humera Gondal. Views expressed in Euroscene are not necessarily those of LVSTC.

