

## Focus on the Community

LDA Press Office

**Organisations that offer innovative programmes to get people into work have the chance to benefit from a new round of funding soon to be announced by the London Development Agency (LDA). Up to 480 groups are expected to benefit from the money being invested between now and 2010. Organisations such as social enterprises, registered charities, voluntary and community groups are encouraged to apply.**

Grants will be available as part of the European Social Fund's Community Grants programme. It will provide

### Mayor looks forward to maximising benefit of £1 billion European Programmes for London

**My responsibilities as Mayor include oversight and strategic direction of European Structural Funds in London; and I am determined that we make the most of the opportunities these £1 billion programmes will provide over the next seven years to regenerate deprived areas and to get more Londoners into sustainable jobs. Both European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) programmes have got off to flying starts, ahead of other English regions, and I will ensure we keep up that momentum.**

In particular ESF is a great opportunity to tackle the huge problems faced by those in London who currently do not have the skills to compete effectively in the labour market. We must ensure that the projects help address the needs of our youth, especially those at risk of offending or who require another opportunity to turn their life around. If we are to turn the corner and reverse the tragic trend of youth murders, then we must focus on prevention. Prevention is key to success and an essential part of that is giving young Londoners who are failed by our education system a second chance.

Coordination of funding is fundamental to maximising the impact of London's skills and jobs programmes. Therefore, I will be encouraging the four ESF co-financing organisations (the Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, the London Development Agency and London Councils) to continue to build upon the work started last year to avoid duplication; and to align closely with the strategy set out by the London Skills and Employment Board.

I expect the voluntary sector to play a key role in ad-

up to £12,000 to organisations that help Londoners take the first step towards employment and encourage progression into the workforce. It's hoped that by targeting unemployed and economically inactive people where and when they need it most, a seamless support network will be created.

Simon Menneer, Group Director of Business Engagement and Skills Development at the LDA said: "This programme will help community groups break down the barriers that stop people from entering the workforce. There will be a clear focus on smaller organisations so everyone has the chance to access training and advice."

Addressing the social inclusion agenda as well as in the implementation of the ESF programme. The knowledge and experience of voluntary and community groups is fundamental in the success of this programme.

The ERDF Programme's key priorities are of encouraging innovation in London. I have a particular interest in measures to promote carbon reduction, recycling, waste management and retrofitting, and will introduce an annual Mayoral prize for low carbon technology. I look forward to European-funded projects generating innovative ideas that help reduce London's mammoth carbon footprint.



Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) provide 40% of London's business employment and I will be ensuring a stronger focus on their views. I am glad that the ERDF programme will be supporting initiatives that encourage the development, promotion and growth of SMEs through access to new markets and finance.

We've had an excellent response to our first ERDF bidding round, and we will want to take a close look at the results of that round; and any lessons we can learn, before we embark on the next round in the autumn.

Boris Johnson  
Mayor of London

**MAYOR OF LONDON**

The new round of funding builds on the success of the Global Grants scheme, known in London as Fast Forward Grants.

More news on the upcoming announcement will soon be available along with details of the simple application process. Organisations should check the LDA website at [www.lda.gov.uk](http://www.lda.gov.uk).

### Commentary

Ray Phillips

### Inequality ~ the great divide

A recent Harris international poll, commissioned by the Financial Times across Europe, Asia and the USA, found that public opinion is "strikingly consistent" in considering that the gap between rich and poor is too wide. Strong majorities in 5 EU countries were recorded: Germany 87%; France 83%; UK 78%; Italy 77%; and Spain 76%.

In a European Union of 27 nations with 78 million poor people, this finding should not come as a surprise. The political commitment to economic growth, under the Lisbon Agenda, recognises the fundamental importance of sustainability, of which social inclusion is a vital part and where "active inclusion" is a key strategy.

The challenge of promoting cohesion across the EU is expressed in the 4th Cohesion Report, which specifically targets inequality at several points in the detailed text. This Report underpins the 2007-2013 European Structural Funds Programme comprising the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. Both are now being rolled out in London, which has the largest regional ESF Programme in the UK.

The very size of the London ESF share is testimony to the inequality characterising a "tale of two cities" where wealth and poverty exist side by side. As wealth accumulates, there is no guarantee that poverty will decrease. We need only look to the richest nation, the USA, where 47 million people are outside healthcare.

The Structural Funds are products of the European social model where public, private and third sectors work together to promote growth and social justice through employment and regeneration projects. As we move on from the 2000-2006 Programmes to the 2007-2013 Programmes we need to learn from our achievements and mistakes and not lose sight of the ultimate goal of an European Union where no-one is left to live in poverty and exclusion.

Such ambition is timely as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as we approach the European Year Against Poverty in 2010.

# ESF London Programme Update

Stewart Goldring

## London Councils

London Councils published its first prospectus under the 2007-13 ESF programme on 15th November 2007. The total value of the prospectus was £7.2m (ESF & match), focusing solely on activity under Priority 1.1 of the ESF programme (Improving the employability & skills of unemployed and economically inactive).

A total of 136 applications were received against 11 project specifications. All applications were from third sector organisations or third sector lead partnerships. Following scoring and moderation 33 projects have been selected for funding and applicants were notified of the results in March.

London Councils is planning to launch its next tendering round for ESF in autumn 2009.

## London Development Agency

The LDA published its first prospectus on 23rd November 2007, worth a total of £20.26m (ESF & match), with £17.2m supporting activities under Priority 1.1 and £3.06m for activity under Priority 2.1 of the programme (Increasing the number of employees with Basic Skills needs).

329 applications were received against 10 project specifications. Applications were received from organisations across all sectors. Results were announced at the beginning of May and projects are expected to commence delivery from June 2008.

The LDA will publish a second prospectus later this year and will confirm timescales shortly.

## Learning and Skills Council

Following the initial PQQ stage, the LSC published its first invitation to tender (ITT) for the ESF 2007-13 programme on 24th November. The total value of the ITT was £58.08m, comprising £10.08m for activity under Priority 1.1, £27.75m for Priority 1.2 (Young people not in education, employment or training) and £20.25m across Priority 2 (Employees with: Basic Skills; Level 2; Level 3/4 needs).

328 tenders were submitted across the five sub-priorities from 274 organisations across all sectors. Applicants were informed of results in April and contracts are expected to commence from June.

Following the launch of PQQ at the end of January, the LSC is planning to publish a second ITT for ESF in June 2008.

## Department of Work & Pensions

DWP published its ITT on 3rd December 2007, with the intention of allocating its entire share of ESF for 2007-10 (£44.7m). The 16 organisations successful at PQQ stage were invited to submit a formal tender against 15 different project specifications, covering activity under Priority 1.1 of the programme.

A total of 53 bids were received against the 15 specifications included in the ITT. DWP selected its list of preferred bidders and announcements were made to

all bidders in w/c 31st March. No preferred bidders were selected for two specifications and DWP will confirm arrangements for re-tendering these specifications shortly.

Contracts are expected to commence on 23rd June 2008.

Many third sector providers who previously delivered ESF in the current programme for Jobcentreplus will not be able to seek prime contractor status – given the large value of these projects. Prime contractors have been instructed to seek sub contractors in all sectors to ensure the effectiveness of the programme in reaching hard to help or economically excluded groups. LVSTC is working with its national body, the Third Sector European Network [TSEN] and the DWP to ensure that the working relationships and project outcomes are mutually beneficial for both private and third sector providers.

## Community Grants

Community Grants is being Co-Financed by the LDA under the new ESF programme. The programme will provide grants of up to £12,000 to small community and grass routes organisations. Contract negotiations are currently underway between the LDA and the proposed Grant Co-ordinating Body.

The first call for applications for the Community Grants programme is expected to be launched in summer 2008. ■

## ESF Unit workshops

These events are targeted at providers who are completing projects in the current programme. All workshops are funded by Government Office for London and will take place at LVSTC, Bromley Hall.

### 'Exit strategies'

Friday 6 June 2008 – 9.30 – 13.00pm - FULLY BOOKED  
This workshop is for projects completing before July 2008, needing to assess continuity or readiness to develop new projects or exit from the programme.

### 'Tracking Beneficiaries'

Thursday 19 June, 9.30am – 13.00pm  
Thursday 26 June, 9.30am – 13.00pm - FULLY BOOKED  
This workshop will give providers a foundation for implementing robust tracking systems, and you will be able to explore and assess alternative systems through problem solving and comparison.

### 'Evaluating your project'

Friday, 27 June, 9.30am – 13.00pm - FULLY BOOKED  
In this workshop, you will explore a range of evaluation activities and strategies, and assess the potential for evaluation to support your projects.

For more information or to book a place for any of these events you can download a booking form at <http://www.lvstc.org.uk/events.php>; or contact Misbah at LVSTC on 0845 262 2006. ■

## london euroscene bytesize

Our monthly e-bulletin with all the latest updates on the Structural Funds, both ESF and ERDF, EU Policy, important sector news and much much more. To make sure you are kept up-to-date and receive our regular bulletins, then join our mailing list at [www.lvstc.org.uk/maillinglist](http://www.lvstc.org.uk/maillinglist)

# Get involved with Flexible New Deal

Stewart Goldring

*"The private and voluntary sector already plays a role in delivering our work programmes. I want to take this to the next level, free them from central control and allow them to innovate. Their involvement is here to stay and set to grow."*

James Purnell - Work and Pensions Secretary

Many project providers in the voluntary sector benefiting from ESF in London have also been involved in the DWP mainstream employment programme - New Deal - which match funds Structural Fund programmes. In the past year the sector has been informed about significant changes that will provide both opportunity and challenges for the future. These include the Leitch report on skills, the new DWP Commissioning Strategy, raising the school leaving age to 18 and pension & retirement age to 68, and perhaps most significantly for the employment and training supply sector, Freud's report, "Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity."

Freud's strategy is resulting in a reduced number of prime contractors seeking a range of specialised and localised delivery providers. As yet untested, this system and the risk inherent to all parties will be increased. A new and more flexible New Deal solution was clearly needed and Director of Delivery, Alan Cave, pointed to the government target to meet the 80% employment target. He recognised the need to prioritise supporting people out of incapacity benefit, dealing with the challenges of youth unemployment, and the disadvantage faced by BAMER groups who are still 14% less likely to get jobs.

In heralding the flexible advantages of New Deal, DWP described these key drivers;

- The need for personalised interventions and personalised pathways to ensure positive employment outcomes
- A focus on successful outcomes for the harder to help and reach – outcome related payments rather than process
- Increased 'conditionality' for people on benefits – relating benefits directly to enhanced job outcomes – enhancing both rights and responsibilities
- Projects funded for 5-7years valuing between £5m - £10m with a reduced number of prime contractors working with a range of specialist and other providers including voluntary sector organisations.

There will be 14 delivery areas in England accessing on average, £230m per year targeting the unemployed and you can find out more from the DWP website. ■

Make sure that you regularly check the website at [www.lvstc.org.uk](http://www.lvstc.org.uk)

All the latest news on the 2007-2013 ESF Programme

Access the details of over 200 voluntary and community sector training providers in London on LVSTC's comprehensive Training Directory

## Looking back, looking forward

Jim Burns, GOL

The Government Office for London's (GOL) European Unit is responsible for managing London's 2000-6 Structural Fund Programmes - Objective 2 (ERDF and ESF) and Objective 3 (ESF) - with a total budget of £660m. So far more than half a million people have benefited from ESF.

The Unit has effectively managed all of the Funds such that the region has always met the Commission's annual n+2 spend targets. London was the first region to fully implement co-financing for Objective 3. GOL has managed the budgets so that London would gain the maximum amount of funding to support the unemployed back into employment or self-employment, and those in employment to improve their skills. In managing the Programmes, GOL has benefited from the support and co-operation of the Objective 2 Area Partnerships and the Objective 3 Co-financing Organisations and Support & Advisory Group.

We have also had a long and productive relationship with the Third Sector and have valued the support of LVSTC.

The Mayor is responsible for managing the 2007-13 ESF Programme in London on behalf of the Managing Authority and GOL has no role in this. GOL's priority is to pay all remaining funds due to projects and manage the closure of the Programmes to the satisfaction of Department for Work and Pensions and Communities & Local Government respectively.

This work will continue at least until September 2009. While this may sound simple enough, given that the European Commission can choose to audit claims for up to three years after they make the final payment for each Programme, we need to leave all files in good order and have a clear audit trail for all key actions, if we are to avoid a financial correction in the future. ■

## ESF and ERDF Partnership Portals

Both portals can be found at [www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership\\_portal.php](http://www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php) and contain the details of over 200 organisations from all sectors, interested in partnership working.

## ERDF Second Round breakdown

Iva Figueiredo, LDA EPMU

The second stage of the first bidding round of the London's 07-13 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme closed on the 16th of April 2008. From the 174 applications received at the Expression of Interest stage, 81 were invited to submit a full application.

The European Programme Management Unit received 67 applications, which have been doubled scored and gone through a moderation panel on the 20th of May 2008. The panel included representatives of the GLA Mayor's office, EPMU and members of the Programme Monitoring committee (PMC). The panel analysed the

## ERDF First Round Application Bids Breakdown

Steve White

The European Programmes Management Unit (EPMU) at the LDA has now informed all the successful applicants who will go through to the full application stage of the first ERDF round of the new programme. 81 bids went through to the second stage out of a first round of Expressions of Interest of 174.

We have compiled the following graphs based on statistics of available information. Note that these figures relate to the location of the applicant, not necessarily the project delivery area which, in some cases, is likely to be pan-London.

% Bids by sub-region

East	45%
West	4%
Central	35%
North	6%
South	10%

The Voluntary & Community Sector breakdown by sub-region against all bids is:

	All bids	VCS
East	32	7
West	3	0
Central	25	7
North	4	0
South	7	1

The highest concentration of bids through to the next round was Southwark followed by Tower Hamlets. Overall 48% of bids got through to the next stage, with 35% for the voluntary & community sector.

There were a total of 7 VCS bids through in Priority 1, 5 in Priority 2 and 1 in Priority 3. Also several projects have VCS partners in their bids.

package of applications and proposed a list of projects that has since been submitted for Mayoral consideration.

The EPMU expects to inform applicants of the results of the bidding process in early June. Once applicants have been informed of the results, contract negotiations will start. Contracts will only be signed once the EPMU is satisfied that applicants have provided all the necessary documentation, and/or have made necessary changes agreed during the negotiations.

The 67 applications, covered all priorities and had a good geographical spread amongst London Boroughs. The breakdown between the priorities is: 28 applications under Priority 1 "Business innovation and research & promoting eco-efficiency", 20 applications under Priority 2 "Access to new markets and access to finance", 15 applications under Priority 3 "sustainable places for businesses", and 4 applications under experimental projects, all in priority 1.

Voluntary and Community Sector Bids through to Full Application Stage

	EOI Stage	Full App
East	19	7
West	1	0
Central	16	7
North	5	0
South	2	1

LVSTC will be organising more ERDF focus groups and will be inviting all those VCS providers who were not successful this time with a view to providing support on bidding for the next round later this year.

If you would like to attend our next ERDF focus group please contact Angela Heap on [angelah@lvstc.org.uk](mailto:angelah@lvstc.org.uk) or Steve White on [stevegw@lvstc.org.uk](mailto:stevegw@lvstc.org.uk) or ring the team on 0845 262 2006. ■

## The Future and Legacy of ERDF in London

Tuesday June 24th 2008,

12.30pm-3.30pm

Venue to be confirmed

This Event is an opportunity to celebrate both the achievement of past ERDF programmes and the untapped potential of the London ERDF programme 2007-2013.

We are expecting presentations by key speakers from the largest ERDF programme in England, the North West Region in the UK, with their take on ERDF both regionally and nationally. We are also hoping to hear from 'practitioners' in the field and views from those delivering on the ground.

Finally the event will be an opportunity to discuss pertinent issues in regards to ERDF in London from regular ERDF Focus Group members and those who are looking to bid into ERDF in the Autumn application rounds. ■

A second bidding round is being planned for the autumn, and it may take a different structure from the first one, as specific areas of the Operational Programme may be prioritised. This is currently under review. It is unlikely that further projects under Priority 3 will be sought, as it has been agreed with the European Commission (EC) to commit a significant proportion of the Priority 3 funding allocation through the Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas Initiative (JESSICA).

JESSICA is a financial instrument developed in partnership between the EC and the European Investment Bank, which is currently undertaking an evaluation of how JESSICA would be implemented in London. JESSICA offers capital loans, equity or guarantees for promoting urban development and is relevant to Priority 3 activities. ■

## Coming soon..... 'The London ESF Story ~ through third sector eyes'

Barbara Deason

As the final projects funded through 2000-2006 ESF Programmes in London draw to a close in July this year, this new Report from LVSTC seeks to demonstrate and celebrate - through 17 project profiles - the contribution of third sector organisations to ESF Programme achievements.

Accompanying the profiles is a narrative which traces the development of ESF Programmes in London over the past seven plus years, considering some of the new

policies – European, national and regional – which have influenced the use of ESF, and highlighting the impact of new institutions and funding regimes on ESF delivery from a third sector project perspective.

Those readers who have accessed ESF over the past seven years will be only too well aware of the importance of the Fund to their work in addressing the needs of many of London's most disadvantaged residents. The sector is a key contributor in the challenge to halve child poverty by 2010 (the European Year Against Poverty) and sees ESF, and the work that it funds, as an essential component in that task.

The Report also explores the role that LVSTC Technical Assistance to the sector has played in trying to anticipate, address and resolve the plethora of issues that have emerged from policy, institutional and funding changes and how these have affected the sector. Technical Assistance activities which have helped the sector to access and manage ESF are also summarised, as are the outcomes of a number of surveys of sector experi-

ences and evaluations of bidding round outcomes which LVSTC has undertaken.

Issues affecting the voluntary and community sector are not unique to London and the London experience is frequently shared by VCS organisations across the UK or in other EU Member States. The London ESF Story considers how the sector has been supported through links developed with other English Regions and mainland Europe through the work of the Third Sector European Network and the European Anti-Poverty Network.

Finally, the Report looks forward to the new 2007-2013 ESF Programme in London and provides a brief look at sector experiences in its very early stages, highlighting some of the concerns expressed by users of LVSTC services.

The Report will be available from LVSTC towards the end of June. ■

## Reaching Out!

Ian Foster

Monday 31st March saw TSEN and LVSTC jointly host "Reaching Out!", a national conference on how the new 2007-2013 European Social Fund is being prepared to tackle poverty through small grants and trans-national grants.

The opening session was started by Chris Burston, leader of the Social Inclusion Team at the Department for Work & Pensions who spoke about the National Action Plan on social inclusion and how the new plan for 2008-2010 is currently being developed. LVSTC is part of the stakeholder group helping to ensure that the Plan remains as relevant as possible, and it is hoped that the new Plan will be published in September of this year.

Paul Bivand of the Centre for Economic & Social Inclusion then gave an illuminating talk on how statistics actually confound some of the commonly held preconceptions about the link between poverty and employment. A large percentage of children in child poverty actually have parent/s in some form of employment, indicating that part-time work in particular is clearly not paying enough to keep families out of the poverty trap.

The second part of the conference focused on actual project delivery in European programmes, using examples from opposite ends of the spectrum, ranging from Global Grants for the smallest grassroots groups to transnational grants promoting work across several European countries.

Laurie Moran from Co-ordinating Funding for the East Midlands Third Sector spoke about Catalyst, the programme used to promote social capital development through the distribution of community grants in the East Midlands. The programme was focussed on allowing the local community to develop self-activity; community members formed the selection panel to agree the grants and enabled participation rates to sky-rocket since many people who would never have participated in mainstream projects were reached.

Our final speaker for the day was Carole Coulon from Off the Streets and into Work who took time from completing her final ESF report to explore some of the key issues that had arisen during the transnational project, Tackling Multiple Disadvantage in London by Improving Employability. The project was funded by EQUAL and enabled links to be set up with Budapest, Madrid and Paris. She spoke of the benefits of sharing good practice across national boundaries and the different ways in which it could be applied, but also of the potential pitfalls such as diverging national priorities and the simple incompatibility of some monitoring practices.

The SGEIP team at LVSTC continues to offer support to small groups on a range of issues, and with the imminent announcement of the new Community Grants programme, they will be discussing their activities around the specificities of the new bidding round. If you have any queries then please contact Ian Foster on [ianf@lvstc.org.uk](mailto:ianf@lvstc.org.uk). Likewise, keep an eye on the LVSTC website for future developments with the new Transnational programme. ■



Delegates at the joint LVSTC & TSEN event "Reaching Out"

## A guide for developing social action in Europe

UNCCAS has published a guide for developing local social action in Europe which can be downloaded from <http://www.unccas.org/publications/docs/Guide-Europe-EN.pdf>.

It explains how the different European institutions operate and provides an overview of the different possibilities offered by the European Union for developing projects at local level.

There are also a number of appendices to be found at <http://www.unccas.org/europe/default.asp> under the European funding heading. The appendices contain direct links to the information sources mentioned in the guide, to funding programmes, and to examples of existing projects. ■

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