

North West Network



December 2004



NEWS UPDATE



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WELCOME

Welcome to North West Network's News Update for December.

The past few months have yet again been an extremely busy period for all at North West Network. At the beginning of October the European Team attended and delivered a presentation at the Volunteurope conference in Dubrovnik, it was a great opportunity to network and share best practise. Find out more by reading their article within this News Update.

The Volunteer Management Team have also been working really hard and are proud to announce the publication of the Self Assessment Manual (SAM). Their article within provides a great overview.

Just a quick reminder, enclosed within this mailing, you will find a North West Network membership renewal form for the period 1 January to 31 December 2005. The cost of membership remains the same as last year and we ask that these forms be completed and returned to us as soon as possible.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 15 December, a great opportunity for you to meet the Team and for us to respond to any of your questions. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

As another year draws to an end, both the North West Network Team and Board of Trustees wish to thank Members for their continued support throughout 2004 and we look forward to working with you during the year ahead.

The North West Network Team



Project Part-Financed
by the European Union

European Regional
Development Fund

active
communities

Objective 3 Update

Co-Financing Regional Round Up

Cumbria LSC

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Cumbria has secured further funding through the European Social Fund (ESF) in addition to funding through the Local Intervention and Development Fund (LID). Their fifth bidding round for their Funding Gateway Prospectus for discretionary funds 2004 to 2006 opened on the 19 November 2004. Details of the activities that they wish to fund can be found on their website at www.lsc.gov.uk/cumbria/Corporate/default.htm, (follow the link to 'Current Round of Tendering - Round 5) the website also contains full details of application and guidance procedures. For a summary of the Cumbria LSC bidding round please read the separate article within this News Update.

Cheshire and Warrington LSC

Cheshire and Warrington LSC recently held a fourth bidding round for Development Funding. The deadline for the receipt of applications under this round was 12 pm, 1 October 2004. The results of the bidding round will shortly become available on their website at www.lscdf.co.uk/ITTs.html

Lancashire LSC

The results for the Lancashire LSC second tendering round have been announced. To summarize the tendering round, 90 applications were submitted across all sectors requesting just over £17.5m funding. 21 of the submitted applications were from the voluntary and community sector applying for about £6.5m. Across all sectors 21 projects were approved for funding, securing £3,067,354. 3 of the successful projects are from the voluntary and community sector and secured £365,266. For a detailed outline of the successful projects please visit,

[www.lsc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/
e2i4nca5yjhjoppvvlq2m2rq2fuxbfbypqibj4c226l544uaicsxrmnyndjvn6mnkyhd447fqbanks/
ESFLSCLancashireProjectoverviews.pdf](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/e2i4nca5yjhjoppvvlq2m2rq2fuxbfbypqibj4c226l544uaicsxrmnyndjvn6mnkyhd447fqbanks/ESFLSCLancashireProjectoverviews.pdf)

Greater Manchester LSC

Greater Manchester LSC recently held their third bidding round for their 2004-06 Co-financing Prospectus. 35 applications were received across all sectors, requesting a total of £5,065,861.60. 15 applications were from the voluntary and community sector requesting £1,887,025.60. Greater Manchester LSC operates a Two Stage application process. Due to the highly competitive process, from the received applications 11 were invited to the Second Appraisal Stage, two of these were voluntary sector organisations. The results for the Stage One application process can be found at,

[www.lsc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/
e3tzlx34mlz2kffjjzopwtsilj57lkl2r6lp7xvqv5cnjvo3atbjg4tl7udoj52z3qrvkux5skysj6l/
StageOneInfoforWeb.xls](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/e3tzlx34mlz2kffjjzopwtsilj57lkl2r6lp7xvqv5cnjvo3atbjg4tl7udoj52z3qrvkux5skysj6l/StageOneInfoforWeb.xls)

Objective 3 Update

Greater Merseyside LSC

Greater Merseyside LSC held a bidding round for their Objective 3 Co-financing Plan in October 2004. The deadline for tenders was 22 November 2004. Tenders were invited for projects to encourage progression to Higher Education in Halton. All applicants will be informed of the final outcome of the tenders by 31 January 2005. Further information on Greater Merseyside LSC is available on their website,

www.lsc.gov.uk/merseyside/Documents/default.htm

Job Centre Plus (JC+)

No invitations to tender are currently open at Job Centre Plus. However, it is anticipated that a tendering round will be called for in early 2005.

North West Network will inform all interested parties as soon as calls for tenders are announced. Please note that subject to demand, North West Network will be holding training events well in advance for submission for tenders for interested organisations in the sub regions. Calls for tenders will be announced on North West Network's website as well as dates and information for future training events. So, for further information the link to follow is,

www.nwnetwork.org.uk/index.php?page=browse&cat_id=113

Alternative Bidding Audit Certificates and Project Closure Reports - Reminder

Audit Certificates: According to ESF rules and regulations, if either the ESF costs approved for your project are more than £20,000 in total or your project runs for more than 12 months you will need to provide an Article 4 Verification Certificate (A4VC) to Government Office. This reminder is for projects that have started on the 01/01/2004 and are due to finish on the 01/06/2005. If your project runs for, lets say 18 months, you are required to provide an audit certificate for the first 12 months (from the start date) of the project and one for the final 6 months of the project. You must send a copy of the A4VC to Government Office within 60 days of the end of the period it covers, and if you do not do this, Government Office will stop your payments.

Project Closure Report (PCR): This reminder is for Direct (alternative) bidding projects that are due to finish on the 30/11/2004 and 31/12/2004. According to ESF rules and regulations all direct bidding projects must submit their PCRs within 60 days after the official end date of the project. The PCR (formally known as the Final Claim) is the document that reports the actual activity of your project both in terms of financial performance and how the project performed against the targets set out in the application. The PCR is an important document that is used as the first reference point for funding claim audits and can be downloaded from, www.esf.gov.uk

Should you require any assistance with the above please get in touch with John or Angeliki in the European Team at North West Network.

Objective 3 Update

Cumbria LSC 5th Funding Gateway Round 5

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Cumbria has secured further funding through the European Social Fund (ESF) in addition to funding through the Local Intervention and Development Fund (LID). Their fifth bidding round for their Funding Gateway Prospectus for discretionary funds 2004 to 2006 opened on the 19 November 2004 and will close on 21 January 2005. Details of the activities Cumbria LSC wishes to fund can be found on their website at www.lsc.gov.uk/cumbria/Corporate/default.htm –(follow the link to 'Current Round of Tendering - Round 5')

There are eight Tender Specifications in Round 5, covering a range of activities. A brief description of each tender specification follows:

- 022** Programmes of training targeted at unemployed people, focussing on the acquisition of accredited basic skills, job search activities and employment related skills
- 023A** Programmes of Skills for Life (Literacy and Numeracy) for people living in the North of Cumbria covering Carlisle and Eden
- 023B** Programmes of Skills for Life (Literacy and Numeracy) for people living in the South of Cumbria covering South Lakeland and Barrow
- 023C** Programmes of Skills for Life (Literacy and Numeracy) for people living in West Cumbria covering Allerdale and Copeland
- 024A** A programme that will use innovative or creative methods for engaging young people aged 16-18 who are not in education, employment or training and also deliver a programme of learning for those young people not yet ready for current mainstream programmes
- 024B** A programme that will use innovative and creative methods for engaging socially excluded groups in learning activities such as those who have a learning difficulty, a disability or have a mental health complaint
- 024C** A capacity building project to support quality improvement of learning programmes offered by voluntary sector organisations, including self-assessment procedures and reporting
- 025** A Summer Learning and Skills Programme for young people aged 16-18
- 026A** A programme providing accredited qualifications in order to target identified skills shortages within the construction and associated industries to improve efficiency and productivity
- 026B** A programme providing qualifications in order to meet skills shortages within the retail sector
- 027** A project to deliver accredited qualifications to beneficiaries working within the manufacturing sector, with a particular focus on business improvement techniques
- 028** A project designed to provide business development skills and encourage entrepreneurship
- 029** A project designed to develop the leadership and management skills of women throughout Cumbria

Objective 3 Update

Organisations who wish to apply for this tendering round are advised to look at the invitations to tender closely as some tenders target specific areas of the county and project timescales vary from tender to tender. The Cumbria LSC website contains full details of the application and guidance procedures.

The deadline for this current round is 16.30 on 21 January 2005.

Applications can be submitted via e-mail by the above date on the condition that a signed original is received by 24 January 2005.

For information in the first instance, please go to the LSC Cumbria website or
e-mail: infocumbria@lsc.gov.uk

Where project specific guidance and support is required, LSC Cumbria will direct queries to the Regeneration Support Team (formerly the European Liaison Unit), who will be able to give advice and support on project suitability, development and the preparation of applications. Please contact Kevin Little at the Regeneration Support Team on 01900 325922, or e-mail kevin@rstcumbria.org.uk.

You can always contact a member of the European Team at North West Network if you have any queries.

The European Team in Dubrovnik

North West Network recently visited Croatia to attend the 13th European Workshop on Volunteer Action in Dubrovnik which took place between the 1 and 5 of October 2004. Volunteurope, was opened by H.E. Ms Jadranka Kosor, Vice President of Government of the Republic of Croatia, Ms Fiona MacTaggart MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Dame Elisabeth Hoodless, President of Volunteurope and the Deputy Mayor of the City of Dubrovnik, at a ceremony in Sponza Palace in Dubrovnik.

Volunteurope is an international network, comprising 2,000 members, representative of the voluntary, private and education sectors, governments and individuals who all share a passionate belief in volunteering. The theme for the conference was 'Rebuilding Communities' and the four-day programme included over thirty intensive training sessions led by experienced workshop leaders from around the world.

Presentations provided practical on the job skills for volunteer managements and an insight on how best to work in and with the voluntary sector. It highlighted examples of best practice with a view to promote exchange of know-how between the different organisations and member state delegates that were attending the conference.

The European Team in Dubrovnik

North West Network delivered a presentation entitled 'Volunteering in the UK, what has ESF ever done for us?' The presentation's aim was to give participants and especially those from the states that have just joined the EU an idea of how ESF benefited volunteers and volunteer involving organisations in the North West. To this end, after a brief introduction into what ESF is and the types of activities it funds, the workshop featured case studies of volunteer involving projects in the North West region.

The main venue for the conference was a hotel in the Dubrovnik Riviera, built on a peninsula overlooking the Adriatic on one side and the ancient Mediterranean town of Cavtat on the other, only a few miles from Dubrovnik's old town. The conference was very well organised and there were many activities to get involved with on the project visit day. Delegates were given the opportunity to visit local voluntary projects, including the ecological project on the historic island of Lokrum where young volunteers helping out with the conservation of the island gave us a little tour.

We also had the opportunity to attend the folklore ensemble 'Lindó', which we found out has over three hundred members. Young women and men gave a spectacular performance in an attempt to introduce us to their country's rich culture and tradition of Croatian national songs and dances. DEŠA also organised lunch cooked by local volunteers to be provided on the project visit day at the 16th century monastic Lazareti hospital which now houses a number of voluntary and community organisations, the friends of Dubrovnik. The friends of Dubrovnik rely on volunteering to restore and maintain the city's cultural heritage, and voluntary arts and crafts projects.

Later on in the day the Mayor of Dubrovnik offered us a guided tour of the city, 'the Jewel in the Crown of the Adriatic' as Dubrovnik has been described. We wandered around the imposing town walls, the historic churches and monasteries, the picturesque squares, the harbour, as well as the Rector's Palace, former seat of the government of Dubrovnik.

The whole experience was fantastic, a terrific opportunity to share thinking and best practice, informal networking and exchange of ideas and expertise. It provided an opportunity to see volunteering in action, an opportunity to form partnerships and network and an opportunity to make new friends and increase co-operation and partnerships in Europe.

For further information on Volunteurope please visit,

www.csv.org.uk/volonteurope/

SAM Update

SAM is Complete

North West Network (NWN) has completed SAM Volunteer Management! The first copies of SAM Volunteer Management were presented to members of the Consultation Group at an event to celebrate the SAM Project's achievements.

North West Network would like to give a big thank you to the following members of the Consultation Group:

- Siddika Ahmed: 1North West
- Karen Ashley: Routes to Employment
- Barbara Bleeker: Trafford Council for Voluntary Service
- Cathy Jackson: North West Volunteering Forum
- Shona Murphy: Chorlton Workshop
- Dorothy Shears: Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS and Volunteer Bureau
- Sue Vickers: Volunteer Centre Tameside
- Elaine Wood: Calico Housing Ltd

The Group's guidance and contribution to the development of SAM Volunteer Management has been outstanding.

What is SAM?

SAM Volunteer Management is a Self Assessment Manual for organisations that involve volunteers in their work. With coaching and facilitation support from North West Network, volunteer managers will be able to use SAM Volunteer Management as a development tool to look at what they do, why they do it and how they can improve their volunteer programmes.

SAM Volunteer Management can be used as a tool for:

- **Starting Up:** Organisation/Individuals setting up a volunteering programme for the first time
- **Trouble Shooting:** Organisation/Individuals that are experiencing difficulties within aspects of their volunteering programmes
- **Continual Development:** Existing volunteer managers of all levels of experience who want to continually review and develop the quality of their volunteering programmes

SAM Volunteer Management has been designed to reduce the barriers that organisations experience when trying to develop, or pursue quality within, their volunteering programmes. SAM Volunteer Management goes back to basics, using clear language to ask questions directed at the individual.

SAM Update

SAM Volunteer Management is divided into four colour coded manuals:

- Planning for Volunteers
- Recruiting and Selecting Volunteers
- Supporting Volunteers
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Important factors that influence a volunteer manager's work such as organisations background and values, individual feelings and working scenarios are addressed within each manual, in a thought provoking way.

Organisations will not receive a quality mark after completing SAM Volunteer Management. SAM Volunteer Management will act as a stepping stone, giving organisations the confidence to work towards quality marks, such as Investing in Volunteers and PQASSO.

Next Steps

North West Network has developed a strategy to implement SAM in the North West region. NWN are actively seeking funding to implement SAM Volunteer Management in 2005 and work with Volunteering Infrastructure Organisations and Volunteer Involving Organisations in the following ways:

Volunteer Involving Organisations

- By supporting organisations to use SAM Volunteer Management, act on their findings and evaluate the effectiveness of their actions.

Volunteering Infrastructure Organisations

- By Supporting/Complementing infrastructure organisations with limited resources for developing organisations, through developing organisations within their thematic or geographic area and linking them back to local infrastructure.
- By offering training on how to support organisations using SAM Volunteer Management.

The first organisations to be trained in how to use SAM Volunteer Management will be members of the Consultation Group at the beginning of 2005.

NWN welcomes any enquiries about SAM Volunteer Management and has developed a database to record requests for development support or training in how to deliver SAM to be followed up when funding has been obtained. If you would like to feature on this database or would like any other information on SAM Volunteer Management, please contact Carol or Dan,

E-mail: carol@nwnetwork.org.uk

Or dan@nwnetwork.org.uk

Tel: 0161 236 6493

Other European Funding: Development

Please Note: Financial allocations for the following funding programmes are displayed in Euro. For information, at the time of publication the exchange rate was as follows: £1: 1.446 Euro.

The Simple Life

The European Commission has simplified the wide range of programmes that provide European Union international development funding. The Commission has stated that current programmes had been developed in an ad-hoc manner over the years, leading to a potentially confusing array of geographic and thematic criteria. In future, all international development programmes will fall under one of the following six categories,

- Humanitarian aid
- Macro-financial assistance
- Pre-accession assistance
- European neighbourhood and partnership aid
- Development and economic co-operation
- Stability aid

The first two categories already exist, while the last four are new. Pre-accession schemes will cover the candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey) and potential candidate countries in the Western Balkans. European neighbourhood and partnership aid will cover the countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and the countries of the Southern Caucasus. It will also support the EU's strategic partnership with Russia. Development and economic co-operation will cover all other countries that are not eligible for the above programmes. Finally, stability aid will be used to tackle crises and instability in non-EU countries and address cross border issues such as nuclear proliferation, organised crime and terrorism.

For details of the new programmes please visit the following website,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/enp/index_en.htm

Download a Better World Now

'The Rough Guide to a Better World', funded by the Department for International Development is to be distributed nationally via Post Offices from November. It can also be found as a pdf download via, www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/devawareness/rg-launch.asp and in other e-book formats at www.roughguide-betterworld.com/download/default.aspx

The book puts into plain words the many different ways people in the UK can contribute to poverty alleviation in developing countries.

Employment

Winds of Change

The European Commission has published this year's call for innovative approaches to the management of change, which will be funded under Article 6 of the European Social Fund (ESF). Article 6 of ESF supports innovative measures which help develop future employment, training and industrial adaptation policy. These measures include pilot projects, studies, exchanges of experience and the dissemination of information. This year's call focuses on two specific issues,

- The management of demographic change - supporting innovative initiatives to promote active ageing and increase the number of older people in work
- The management of restructuring - supporting innovative solutions to restructuring by enhancing workers', enterprises' and public authorities' capacity for change

Projects should be transnational, involving organisations from at least two EU Member States. Participation from the new Member States and accession countries is strongly encouraged, although this is limited to seminar participants or those in staff exchanges organised by project promoters in the 15 older EU Member States. Activities can include pilot projects, the exchange of information and the transfer of knowledge and good practice. However, all projects should have a clear focus and include peer review as part of a structured comparative or benchmarking process, as well as the transfer and adaptation of existing approaches, good practice and/or the development and piloting of new model approaches.

Applications are invited from social partner organisations operating at European, national, regional or local level, public and private sector companies, non-profit organisations, education and training and public authorities operating at NUTS Level 3 (roughly equivalent to county level in the UK). All applicants must be based in one of the EU's 15 old Member States. The proposals should be developed and implemented by a partnership involving a range of relevant organisations, but the involvement of appropriate social partner organisations is strongly recommended. An annual budget of Euro 40 million is available for projects in 2005 and 2006. The European Commission will fund up to 75% of eligible costs, with the minimum grant being Euro 300,000 and the maximum Euro 3 million over a two year period. Projects should last no more than two years.

There are two deadlines for submitting applications under this call,

26 January 2005 for projects starting between 1 October and 30 November 2005

25 January 2006 for projects starting between 1 October and 30 November 2006

Further information and guidelines are available from,

http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/empl/vp_2003_021/library

E-mail: empl-article6MC@cec.eu.int

Fax: 00 32 2 296 59 89

Environment

A New LIFE

A new, simplified and streamlined programme for the environment has been proposed by the European Commission to replace the present LIFE Programme when it comes to an end in 2007. Called LIFE+, the Programme will have a Euro 300 million a year budget, Euro 60 million more than at present, divided between two strands,

- Implementation and governance - aimed at helping Member States get better and quicker results when applying EU environment policy
- Information and communication - aimed at raising awareness of the environment and sharing best practice

Closely aligned to the present LIFE Programme established in 1992, LIFE+ will continue to support the priorities of the EU's environmental action programme, including fighting climate change, halting the decline in biodiversity and reducing the health impact of pollution. However, the new Programme effectively signals the end of the LIFE Nature Fund, set up to support endangered species and habitats. The European Commission believes that this type of activity can be funded through the new rural and regional development programmes. LIFE+ will be open to local, national and regional government, non-governmental organisations and other environmental bodies. It will come into effect in 2007 and run until the current financial perspectives come to an end in 2013.

Information Society

Information Age

The European Commission has published the 2005-06 work schedule for Information Society Technologies (IST), a component of the Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP6). FP6 is an ongoing financial programme aimed at creating an EU market for science and technology. The focus of the IST element is on future technologies in which computers and networks will be integrated into the everyday environment, making a multitude of services and applications available through user friendly interfaces. It aims to place the individual at the centre of research and development, leading to an inclusive, knowledge-based society. The new work schedule includes the following calls,

Call 4 - Budget of Euro 1.12 billion

Deadline 22 March 2005

Call 5 - this opens on 17 May 2005, Budget of Euro 638 million

Deadline 21 September 2005

For further information please contact,

ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/ist/docs/ist_wp2005-06_final_en.pdf

E-Mail: is@fp6uk.co.uk

Media

Media Marketing

The European Commission has allocated Euro 2.2 million under the Media Plus Programme to support the promotion and marketing of audiovisual festivals. Grants of up to 50% of costs will be awarded to schemes which encourage the promotion and circulation of European works at trade shows, fairs and festivals in Europe and around the world and the networking of film professionals. The deadline for applications is **4 April 2005** for projects taking place between 1 November 2005 and 30 April 2006. Further information and application forms can be found online at,

www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/festiv_en.html

Film Production

The European Commission is making funds available to help develop new film productions for the European and international markets. These should be either fiction, creative documentaries, animation or multimedia. Only independent film or multimedia companies, based in an EU Member State, Bulgaria, Ireland, Liechtenstein or Norway, may apply for the funding. The Commission will provide grants of up to 50% of costs from a budget of Euro 17 million from the Media Plus Programme. Applications should be sent to the European Commission by **15 February 2005** if they are for a 'new talent' grant, or by **31 May 2005** for grants for a single project or 'slate funding' for several projects. Further details can be found on the Media Plus website at,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/devel_en.html#2

Research & Development

SMEs and R&D

The European Commission has made Euro 22 million available for research schemes aimed at stepping up economic and technological intelligence. The schemes should concentrate on the involvement of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research and Development, identifying their role and contribution, success factors and ways to improve SME participation. The projects will be carried out mainly by intermediaries such as SME national contact points, industrial federations, networks, chambers of commerce or research associations. Schemes should involve at least three organisations from three different EU Member States or accession countries.

The closing date for applications is 10 February 2005.

Further information is available from,

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=171#

E-mail: research-sme@cec.eu.int

Research & Development

Research Fellowships

Further calls have been made for researchers to participate in the Marie Curie activity of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Development. Marie Curie fellowships and grants provide funding for researchers to work and study in another country. These calls cover,

Incoming and outgoing international fellowships - Euro 40 million

Deadline 19 January 2005

Intra-European fellowships - Euro 65 million

Deadline 16 February 2005

Excellence grants - Euro 40 million

Deadline 16 February 2005

Excellence awards - Euro 250,000

Deadline 16 February 2005

Marie Curie chairs - Euro 8 million

Deadline 16 February 2005

European and international reintegration grants - Euro 20 million

Open call

For further information please visit, www.cordis.lu/fp6

Policy Support for Sustainable Development

Research projects which support sustainable development, public health and security are invited to apply for funding from the EU Programme for Integrating and Strengthening the Foundations of the European Research Area, part of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Development. Funding is available for work in the following areas,

Sustainable Resources

Public Health and Security

Economic Development and Cohesion

Most schemes should be presented by a consortium of organisations from at least two EU Member States and one associated or candidate country. The European Commission has allocated a total budget of Euro 77.8 million for this call.

The closing date for applications is 1 February 2005.

Further information is available from,

<http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/calls.cfm>

Social

Fighting Social Exclusion

Funding is available for transnational exchanges and co-operation projects which fight social exclusion. The European Commission has invited applications from public or private sector organisations involved in tackling social exclusion, including local and regional authorities. All schemes must involve partners based in at least three EU Member States. Projects should concentrate on issues emerging from the second round of national action plans (NAPs) on social inclusion. The Commission is also keen to receive applications from schemes which aim to foster co-operation and exchange on particular policy areas or on developing institutional approaches which can underpin social inclusion policies. The following policy areas are of particular interest,

- Strengthening labour market policies for the most excluded
- Making social protection systems more accessible, whilst ensuring incentives to work
- Improving access to basic services, such as health, housing and lifelong learning
- Preventing early school leaving and fighting illiteracy
- Preventing and tackling homelessness
- Preventing and tackling debt
- Eliminating child poverty
- Promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities
- Promoting inclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities
- Supporting families and social networks

Around Euro 4.5 million a year is available under this call, with grants expected to be between Euro 200,000 and Euro 300,000 per project, representing no more than 80% of costs.

The closing date for applications is 28 January 2005.

Further information and application forms are available from the Commission Employment and Social Affairs Directorate General website at,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/calls/2004/vp_2004_004/tender_en.htm

Town Twinning

Grants are available for town twinning events which help bring together the people of the European Union and reinforce their European awareness. The European Commission is inviting funding applications for meetings and conferences taking place in 2005, which involve people from new or existing twin towns or involve training seminars for twinning officers. The deadlines for applications are,

3 January 2005 for activities beginning between 1 May and 15 June 2005

15 February 2005 for activities beginning between 16 June and 31 July 2005

1 April 2005 for activities beginning between 1 August and 30 September 2005

1 June 2005 for activities beginning between 1 October and 31 December 2005

Further information can be obtained from the European Commission Education and Culture DG at, http://europa.eu.int/comm/towntwinning/index_en.html

Transnational Partner Search

Young Parent Project

An Estonian organisation, Step by Step, is seeking partners for a networking project on the theme of teaching young parents, aged 15-25, and particularly those from groups at risk of social exclusion, how to support and direct the development of their children. The organisation aims to produce a website to use with the group, a video tape and study materials. The project is expected to last for two to three years. Partners should be working with similar target groups and willing to share their experiences and information. For further information please contact, E-mail: kristil@ut.ee

Japan Exchange

As part of the 2005 EU-Japan Exchanges, the European Commission is encouraging local authorities and other organisations to hold events that advance mutual understanding of European and Japanese society and culture. Please visit, http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/japan/eu2005/info.htm

Theatre and Social Integration

The New Life organisation in Belarus and the Richter Foundation in the Netherlands are organising a seminar in Minsk, Belarus, on using theatre to encourage social integration and are seeking participants who are working in this area, who have good contacts and information to share. The aim of the seminar is to create a European network and encourage youth groups from different countries to work together. Places are limited to 15 and all expenses in the country will be covered by the host organisation, as well as a refund for 70% of travel expenses. The seminar will take place from 30 April to 4 May 2005. For further information please contact, Richter Foundation, Prins Hendriklaan 19, 1781 KA Den Helder, Netherlands. E-mail: peter.richter@planet.nl, www.richter-ya.com

FIFA World Cup 2006

The FIFA World Cup taking place in Germany in 2006 is seeking help at the event. Volunteers must have a good command of German and English and previous experience of volunteering or working in sport would be an advantage. Applications will be accepted from October to December 2004, June to September 2005 and January to February 2006. Volunteers will be used in a wide range of areas including accreditation, traffic and transport, logistics, IT and media. For further information please contact, Volunteers 2006 Info Team, 2006 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee Germany, Herriotstr. 1, 60528 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. E-mail: volunteers@fifaworldcup.com

Czech Environmental Network Project

The Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic is seeking partners for an INTERREG IIIC project, focusing on an environmental network called East-West Environmental Net. Partners should be looking to gain experience in this area and be willing to contribute their own issues to the discussion. For further information please contact, Eva Maurova, International Relations, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, Pacovska 31, 14400 Prague 4, Czech Republic. Tel: 00 42 241 733 589, Fax: 00 42 241 733 586, E-mail: maurova@smocr.cz, www.smocr.cz

Management of Change Project

The Regional Council of Kalmar County in Sweden is seeking partners to support innovative solutions to restructuring in the workplace, focusing on improving the adaptation and anticipation of workers to change. The project needs two partners who are interested in this type of project. The deadline for presentation of the project is 25 January 2005. For further information please contact, Stefan Svensson, Tel: 00 46 7 0585 3730, E-mail: stefan.svensson@kalmar.regionforbund.se

Consultations

New Legal Structure for Social Enterprises: Deadline 4 January 2005

Legislation for community interest companies (CICs) received royal assent in October and it is expected that a new legal model for CICs will be available from July 2005. The CIC will be a new type of company, designed for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good. CICs will be easy to set up, with the flexibility and certainty of the company form, but with some special features to ensure they are working for the benefit of the community. The legislation is contained in the Companies Act. Accompanying draft regulations have also been published - and a consultation document on these regulations seeks your views. A pdf file is available via,

www.dti.gov.uk/cics/

To see the ministerial statement on the new law please go to,

www.volresource.org.uk/kcnews/news2,546.htm

Public Questionnaires: Various Deadlines

The Social Exclusion Unit is inviting you to have your say on a wide range of issues. The Unit wishes to actively engage the general public to help shape future policy delivery. Their website now features a number of open consultations which can be accessed after a short registration is completed. You can then respond using an online questionnaire or by posting a printed version of the document. Once responses have been analysed a formal response document will be made available for each consultation area. For further information please visit,

<http://consultations.socialexclusion.gov.uk/consult/system>

GuideStar Calls for Views on its Website Search Facility: Open Deadline

GuideStar UK has launched a public consultation into its search facility, calling for people to test and then comment on its performance. The GuideStar UK website aims to help promote and support the work of the voluntary and community sector by providing an extensive source of information about charitable organisation's activities and accounts, free of charge to the public. To ensure that its potential users can access the details they require, the charity has invited them to give their views on the search engine. Opinions can be given via an online questionnaire. The website will be officially launched to the public in April 2005. The questionnaire can be found at, www.guidestar.org.uk

Consultation into Youth Action and Engagement: Open Deadline

The Russell Commission has announced a twelve week consultation which will ask thousands of young people across the country how they think the Government can get more young people interested in volunteering. For further information please visit, www.russellmission.com

Gender Equality Research: Open Deadline

Tribal Regeneration, a not for profit company is currently in the process of undertaking research for a European Social Fund project on gender inequality in terms of employment and education in the North West region. For this project they are trying to collate the views of various individuals and organisations across the North West to try and gain an accurate picture of the barriers women face, initiatives and strategies to reduce inequality, together with areas of good practice. If you would like to contribute to the research by: telling your story, hosting a focus group, participating in a focus group, promoting the project or completing a short questionnaire, please contact Sarah Fox or Olivia Gallini at, Tribal Regeneration, The Bond, 180-182 Fazeley Street, Birmingham, B5 5SE. Tel: 0121 766 0410, Fax: 0121 771 1752.

Non European Funding

Argos in the Community

Argos supports hundreds of small community projects and charities with either goods or financial donations. Argos supports registered charities and non-profit making organisations - not trusts and foundations. The charities supported must be people related. Applications by charities will be restricted to two a year. Applications must be received in writing to, Argos Ltd, Charities Department, 489-499 Avebury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 2NW.

Adult Learners' Week Awards 2005: Deadline 21 January 2005

Organisers of the biggest celebration of adult learning in the UK are looking for nominations for the Adult Learners' Week Awards 2005 - which highlight the stories of people whose lives have been transformed through learning. Every year the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) receives over one thousand nominations for Adult Learners' Week Awards, which celebrate the achievements of learners - young and old and in all their diversity - across the country. This is your chance to nominate someone whom you think deserves to be recognised nationally. ESF part funds Adult Learners Week and there will be a number of ESF awards. There are 5 national 'Opening Doors to Adult Learning Awards' - for creative schemes of learning that have a track record of success for their adult learners - one of which is specifically for ESF projects. ESF projects can also apply for the other awards. There are also individual, group and family awards including one ESF individual award per Government Office region and one national group award, to celebrate the achievements of learners. Prizes range from £200 to £1,500 and winners will be invited to a national award ceremony in London in May 2005. If you know someone that you'd like to nominate, or you'd like to enter your organisation for the awards, please call the Campaigns Team at NIACE for more information on 0116 2044 200 or e-mail: alw@niace.org.uk Entry forms are also available online at, www.alw.org.uk/competitions

Transforming Lives

The Camelot Foundation is looking for small to medium sized organisations across the UK that work with its priority groups: young parents or those at risk of becoming young parents; young asylum seekers; young people with mental health problems and young disabled people. For information please contact, www.camelotfoundation.org.uk/Home/Index.cfm?CFID=569631&CFTOKEN=79693234

BBC Children in Need: Deadline 30 March 2005

BBC Children in Need welcomes applications for good quality, carefully planned, projects which show a clear focus on children in order to change their lives for the better. Applications are welcome from self-help groups, voluntary organisations or registered charities. Applicants should be properly constituted, non-profit organisations. The children they help should be aged 18 years and under and live in the United Kingdom. You should only apply for a grant if it will benefit children who are disadvantaged by: any kind of disability; behavioural or psychological problems; living in poverty or situations of deprivation; illness, distress, abuse or neglect. The grant guidelines and application forms are available for download from the BBC website at,

www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/apply

Phoenix Bursaries

Phoenix Bursaries will support development activities in organisations which provide enterprise support in disadvantaged areas and/or to under-represented groups. For further information please contact,

www.sbs.gov.uk/default.php?page=/phoenix/default.php

Non European Funding

Young People's Fund

A major grants programme to promote the well being and personal development of young people across the UK was launched by the Big Lottery Fund in September. Young people will be able to access the funding scheme either individually or through their organisations and groups. The Big Lottery Fund, will roll out the funding over the next three years. For information on applications please contact the Big Advice line on 0845 410 2030.

Community Re-Paint

Community Re-Paint takes leftover domestic paint from householders, retailers and decorators and gives it away free of charge to charities, community groups and others in need. You can access paint if you are part of a community group, school, charity, voluntary project and if you are homeless, low income or a refugee. For further information please visit—

www.communityrepaint.org.uk
Tel: 0113 243 8777

The Big Difference Awards: Deadline 21 January 2005

The Big Difference Awards celebrate and reward the activities of people working in a range of sectors, including voluntary and community groups, who have contributed to their community. Last year's winners included United Estates of Wythenshawe, a project which worked with local people to regenerate the area and Bullying Online, a website set up to provide advice and support to people who are the victims of bullying. This year the Manchester and Liverpool Awards are supported by the North West Regional Development Agency. Among the categories in this year's awards are,

- Small/medium sized businesses - businesses with fewer than 250 employees and a turnover less than £5.6 million
- Third sector enterprises - voluntary organisations and community groups, charities
- Public sector organisations - local service providers including schools, colleges, universities, local authorities, local health authorities, regional development agencies
- Media and communication companies - organisations that are using their influence to raise awareness of local issues and proactively addressing these, including new media, PR and advertising agencies
- Individuals - people who are making a difference through fundraising activities, voluntary work or campaigning
- The Big Life Company Individual - individuals who have made great strides to change their lives through working with The Big Life Company
- Lifetime Difference - individuals who have had a lasting impact on their community by supporting ongoing projects or initiatives

For a nomination form, please contact Jane Ford on 0161 279 7839 or via e-mail: jane.ford@thebiglifecompany.com

Chase Charity

The Chase Charity supports registered charities undertaking community initiatives to meet local needs. Over the next three years, they have identified three broad areas of interest: arts, heritage and social welfare as funding priorities. Applications may be made at any time although they will only be considered in February, May, September and November. For further information, log on at, www.chase-charity.org.uk/ or telephone them on, 01235 820044.

Training & Events

**Summit 2005:
Delivering Sustainable
Communities
31 January -
2 February 2005**

The Summit is being held in Manchester at the GMEX/MICC and Bridgewater Hall. The Summit follows on from the Urban Summit of 2002 and provides an opportunity to take stock and bring together the key people who are delivering the Sustainable Communities Plan to discuss achievements and what's still to be done. The Summit will be the largest of its kind in the UK. For further information contact the Summit Team: sustainablecommunities.summit@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

**Close to EU: Europe in the North West
13 January 2005
Location: Cheshire**

Part of a series of the Local Government International Bureau (LGIB) regional Roadshows. This event aims to explain how the European Union works and what it means for the North West region and its local authorities. The event is being held by the LGIB in association with Cheshire County Council. Key figures from the region will discuss issues of relevance to the area, with case studies of schemes that have introduced a European dimension. The North West Roadshow will take place at County Hall from 9.45am to 2pm. To request a booking form for this free event please contact: E-mail: pat.speller@lgib.gov.uk

**Shared World: NCVO Annual Conference 2005
16 February 2005, Location: London**

The NCVO Annual Conference is the premier event in the voluntary and community sector calendar. With high profile keynote speeches, a full seminar programme, plenty of opportunities for networking and a post conference drinks reception this is a conference not to be missed. Keynote speeches: Salil Shetty, Director of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Programme and Iqbal Sacranie, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain. There will also be a short video address from Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations. The conference exhibition is always well attended and has a number of new exhibitors this year. Finally, taking place in the evening following the conference, NCVO's Annual Drinks Reception will offer an ideal networking opportunity for 200 senior opinion formers from the voluntary sector and government. To book a place please contact NCVO on 020 7520 2446.

**Evaluating Projects
19 May 2005, Location: Manchester**

Learning outcomes will include:

- Detailed knowledge about evaluating projects
- An understanding of the need to carry out evaluation activity and its benefits
- An appreciation of the range of techniques used in evaluations
- Guidance on identifying the best assessment processes for different types of projects
- Knowledge on the wide range of research tools available and their uses

To book a place please contact:
Stuart MacDonald

Centre for Local Economic Strategies and CLES Consulting
Tel: 0161 236 7036, Fax: 0161 236 1891, E-Mail: stuart.macdonald@cles.org.uk
Website: www.cles.org.uk

Training & Events

Roles and Responsibilities for Management Committees

18 January 2005

Location: Salford CVS

This is a must for anyone who has a position on a management committee or who is thinking of becoming a committee member. Includes: What is a management committee? How to be an effective committee member, the roles and responsibilities of committee members. For a place on the above course please contact Lorna Hobson on 0161 787 7795. If you would like further information, please contact Chris Wood at Salford CVS or e-mail ,

chris.wood@salfordcvs.co.uk

Project Management

19 & 20 January 2005, Location: London

This two-day course is for anyone who manages projects - large or small. This course will enable you to draw up the terms of reference, define critical success factors, draw up a realistic budget and timetable, develop an effective project team and evaluate success. Over the two days you will cover:

- Defining different kinds of projects
- Drawing up budgets
- Defining terms of reference, aims and objectives
- Planning, time scales and deadlines
- Working with the project team
- Monitoring and evaluating
- Project champions and how to use them

Please contact: The Centre for Strategy and Communication, Tel: 020 7490 3030, Fax: 020 7490 3032, E-Mail: info@the-centre.co.uk

Community Engagement

20 January 2005, Location: Manchester

The day will cover the following themes:

- Definitions of 'community' and 'diverse communities'
- Importance and role of community in regeneration and neighbourhood renewal
- The need to work with communities
- Identifying community needs and aspirations
- Engaging local communities and what is meant by 'engagement'
- Engagement, involvement and consultation: what's the difference?
- Understanding barriers to engagement, involvement and consultation
- Capacity building: what, how and why?
- Understanding community perspectives on key issues: e.g. health, crime, drugs, education
- Empowering communities
- Developing ownership
- Valuing community representation and advocacy
- Challenges and opportunities of working with diverse communities

This training event should be attended by policy researchers, project managers, project officers, project funders, community and regeneration partnerships. To book a place please contact:

Stuart MacDonald

Centre for Local Economic Strategies and CLES Consulting

Tel: 0161 236 7036, Fax: 0161 236 1891

E-Mail: stuart.macdonald@cles.org.uk

Website: www.cles.org.uk

Publications

Succeeding with Social Enterprise

Quick Tips for Building Sustainable Non-Profit Organisations Through Earned Income

This booklet is a concise reference guide intended for any non-profit organisation that is currently running or is considering starting a business to support its mission. Each page is a self contained list of tips on a specific topic that should be considered by a social entrepreneur to maximise the value created by their enterprise. These tips were created out of the experiences of John Pepin and Associates in working with its clients. To order this publication please visit www.dsc.org.uk/acatalog/General.html

ISBN 0 9748783 1 6
Price: £7.99
(Excluding VAT)

Who's Who in Charities 2005

New 2005 Edition - Now includes fully up-to-date biographies and contact details on almost 50,000 charity appointments. Essential for anyone needing immediate and authoritative information on the leading charity personalities of the day. Who's Who in Charities 2005 enables you to, accurately research the UK's leading 50,000 charity trustees and senior executives, quickly identify who runs a particular charity so that you can develop relationships with them, trace the complex network of relationships that underpin the voluntary sector and learn more about a particular individual's background and interests, before you meet them. To order this publication please contact CaritasData on,

Tel: 020 7566 8210

Fax: 020 7566 8238

E-mail : enquiries@caritasdata.co.uk

ISBN 1 904964 03 6

Price: £205 - standard rate, £102 - charity discount

Polished Performance

Leaders in the voluntary sector have never been under more pressure. In organisations large and small, chairs and chief executives are working hard to keep up with the pace of regulatory change whilst managing the complex relationships that underlay day-to-day operations. NCVO's Leadership Programme, set up in 2002, aims to help meet these challenges. Now, halfway through the Leadership Programme's three-year remit, a clearer picture is beginning to emerge of the hopes and fears of leaders today. 'A Polished Performance' documents some of the concerns raised and analyses them in the light of support provision by NCVO and other agencies. It addresses the questions: What issues worry leaders most? What help can they currently call on? What can NCVO and other agencies do to better meet their current and future needs? For a copy please contact NCVO on,

Tel: 020 7713 6161, Fax: 020 7713 6300

E-Mail: ncvo@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Opening Doors - An Accreditation Guide for Voluntary Organisations

Produced by Project 2001 in partnership with NACVS, this guide helps voluntary and community organisations interested in training, and more specifically, accreditation. It contains: action areas to help you identify and meet the training needs of staff and volunteers, information on a selection of accreditation routes relevant to the voluntary and community sector, support mechanisms to help you implement a programme, an overview of the changing contexts in training and accreditation and a glossary of terms, helpful contacts and further reading. To order please contact Laurie Sonko-Marie, RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ, Tel: 020 7930 5115.

Noticeboard

Grant Scheme Publicity

A study by the National Audit Office finds that an 'in-crowd' of voluntary and community groups in England has snapped up around three-quarters of a £182m neighbourhood renewal fund, according to New Start magazine. 69% of recipients heard about the Single Community Programme through word of mouth and existing contacts, with others perhaps losing out due to poor publicity. For further information please visit, www.nao.org.uk/pn/03-04/03041070.htm

New Urban Website

The European Commission has launched a website which will allow cities to compare directly their performance against those of other European cities. The Urban Audit collects information on the living conditions in 258 large and medium sized cities within the European Union and the candidate countries. It builds on the success of a 1997-2000 pilot project which demonstrated that the collection of comparable urban statistics across the EU was both feasible and useful. Such comparisons can encourage the exchange of experience and improve the quality of local urban policies, the Commission has found. The system currently contains data for 189 cities including 24 UK cities. For further details please visit, www.urbanaudit.org

NCVO to Investigate Local Compact Breaches

Local authorities in breach of the Compact face increased pressure from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which has announced it is seeking extra funding for its Compact Advocacy Programme (CAP). Currently, CAP's remit only covers monitoring Compact compliance in central Government departments and agencies. If the new funding is secured it will be extended to voluntary organisations that have experienced unfair treatment by their local authority or other local government funders. Since the programme was launched almost two years ago, CAP has launched a website to help organisations identify breaches and has produced the first of a series of reports on Compact compliance in specific government. For more information please visit, www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/CompactToolkit

CONTACT US

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Manchester
M1 4BD

Tel: 0161 236 6493
Fax: 0161 228 6137

info@nwnetwork.org.uk
www.nwnetwork.org.uk

Local Groups Database

A new database containing information about local groups in the Manchester area is now available. The Local Groups database is intended for public information use only and is not to be used for any other purpose. To access the database, log in at,

www.a1.manchester.gov.uk/locgrps.nsf/main

NWN Office Closure The North West Network offices will be closed from 20 December and will reopen on 5 January 2005.

1North West Website

The website is currently being developed and should be ready early next year. For 1 North West contact details please visit, www.onenorthwest.org.uk

New Toolkit Against Poverty

The 'Get Heard' toolkit and website from the UK Coalition Against Poverty aims to bring 'people experiencing poverty and social exclusion into the government's debate'. A guide for professionals can be downloaded at,

www.ukcap.org/toolkit/