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Welcome

Welcome to the 48th Issue of the North West Network Newsletter.

At the end of last month, we said a fond farewell to Marianna Laugee, NWN's Administrator. Marianna leaves us albeit temporarily to start a period of Maternity Leave - her bundle of joy is due at the end of March. We all wish her the very best. In the meantime we welcome Denise Marriott who will be providing administration support over the coming few months.

On a different note, NWN is currently in the process of recruiting new members to the Board of Trustees. Further information is available on our website for those who may be interested. So far we have had an excellent response and we very much look forward to updating you in the next edition of the Newsletter.

A note of thanks to those organisations who have returned their membership renewal forms for 2004, as always your support is greatly appreciated.

Over the last month we have been working to improve the internal IT systems within North West Network. For anyone who has experienced any problems in contacting us by email during this period, we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience.

Within this Issue of the Newsletter, you will find a wealth of information that we hope will be of interest to you.

The results of the Objective 3 Direct Bidding Round 9 can be found on pages 4-5, and the open call for projects coming forward under Policy Field 5, Measure 2 is detailed on page 6.

The second round of the Equal Programme, providing details of deadlines and further contact points can be found on page 9.

If you would like to find out more about the 'North West of England - Making the Right Connections' conference which took place in October 2003 in Prague turn to page 10.

We are pleased to present in this Issue an introduction to 1NW - the Regional BME Network for the North West. Find out more on pages 16-19.

As with previous editions of this Newsletter we are pleased to be able to publish the personal profile for Siddika Ahmed who is the Project Manager for 1NW.

Siddika Ahmed
Network Development Manager
1NW Regional BME Network

Hi I'm Siddika Ahmed affectionately known as Sid by close friends' i.e. one or two people!!

I joined the team here at North West Network in October 2003 and have been given the grand title of Network Development Manager for 1 North

West, the Regional Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Network for the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North West of England. 1 North West is funded by the Active Communities Unit of the Home Office and the European Social Fund or ESF (without which I would not have a job!!).

1 North West covers five sub-regions. These are: Cheshire and Warrington; Greater Manchester; Liverpool and Merseyside; Cumbria and Lancashire. Our role is to make BME issues, interests and concerns visible in developments of policies across the region; to ensure that the BME community are involved in the regeneration issues and new funding initiatives and to influence decision making processes affecting the lives of the BME community. My role as Network Development Manager is to ensure that the infrastructure of the Network is put into place and that it becomes recognised as a conduit for consultation for mainstream service providers and policy makers as well the communities we serve.

"Enough of all that!" I hear you say.
"Who is Siddika Ahmed?"

Well, I have taken a varied pathway to get to this post. After an extensive academic career which was science based and ended in learning how best to poison people without detection (Research in Toxicology); I got off to a flying start with Shell in Den Hague as a Health and Safety Executive. Anyway, finding myself feeling homesick and missing the local English diet of Chicken Tikka Massalla, returned to England and entered the fascinating world of selling drugs... now before you all start to

worry....I mean in the pharmaceutical industry.

After spending many years helping improve the mental health of millions of people and increasing the profits of the companies that I worked for I decided leave the business sector and fulfil the more philanthropic side of my nature and entered the voluntary sector. What a different world this is!!! I must be a glutton for punishment though because I enjoy what I am doing and feel good at the end of the day except when I am completely knackered that is.

If I have any energy left at the end of the day I get to go home and enjoy the pleasures of home cooking which appears in front of me by magic. I do attempt to keep myself healthy by partaking in intermittent acts of fitness therapy. This tends to take the form of squash or badminton and I do have gym membership....you will notice I did not say I go to the gym!!! I have a passion for cinema and travel. My favourite location so far is Egypt....you can't beat it for mystery and romance!

That's all folks.

Siddika Ahmed

Objective 2 Update

Objective 2 Update

The de-commitment target for 2003 has been achieved. The claim that was submitted to the European Commission in December was for £158.184 million, which exceeds our target by £11.427 million. However it is still necessary to keep an eye on spend throughout the second half of the Programme in view of the need to avoid de-commitment in subsequent years.

Issues around the annual issuing of offer letters to Priority 2 Action Plan Partnerships have been raised with Government Office North West, Objective 2 Programme Secretariat. It has therefore been agreed that this position would be reviewed once a strong level of performance had been established.

Government Office are also looking at whether some Action Plan Partnerships could be given larger allocations, if others were under-performing. In all likelihood this situation will be reviewed at the June 2004 Programme Monitoring / Regional Committee, if not before.

Now that the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund has come on board and provides a good source for match-funding for potential Priority 2 projects, Government Office and the Regional Development Agency are now working together to identify appropriate sources of match-funding in an attempt to align Programmes where possible.

The Commission had broadly accepted all the proposed changes to the Single Programming Document (SPD), subject to further justification / clarification in certain areas. One exception here being inclusion of Trunk Roads in the SPD. The Programme Complement is now also being revised so that it too can be launched as soon as possible after the revised SPD had been agreed by the Commission.

With regard to the Performance Reserve, this will now be calculated for both Fully Eligible and Transitional Areas. Discussions are still on-going regarding the actual amount of Performance Reserve available, but it will be somewhere between 3.5% and 4.5% of the total Programme.

And finally, the Mid Term Evaluation of the North West England Objective 2 Programme has now been published. For those of you who wish to view this document, it can be found at:

www.eurofundingnw.org.uk/DocDetails.asp?DocumentId=724§ion=document

Objective 3

Direct Bidding Round 9

Round 9 Round-Up

Round 9 was launched in October 2003. It was a restricted bidding round, predominantly for higher level skills projects (NVQ Level 4 and above) or for projects that fall outside the remit of the co-financing organisations. Round 9 represented a significant departure from previous practice as this was the first direct bidding round to take place under full co-financing arrangements. Only very limited funds are available through direct bidding now.

All policy fields and measures were available under this round with the exception of Policy Field 1 Measure 1 (to improve the employability of the unemployed, returners and young people of working age through targeted intervention to enhance vocational and other key skills and remove external barriers to labour market entry) and Policy Field 2, Measure 1 (widen access to basic skills provision through the development of innovative and effective ways of promoting and providing basic skills, directed at those groups disadvantaged, excluded or under-represented in the work place). These policy fields and measures are exclusively co-financed. The research policy fields and measures 2.3 (combating discrimination in the labour market, in particular race, disability and age discrimination) and 5.2 (research into gender discrimination in employment) do not come under the

remit of the co-financing organisations and are therefore only available through direct bidding – the restrictions of this round did not apply to the research policy fields and measures.

Applications were invited for projects starting on the 1st January 2004 running until the 30th June 2005. The deadline for applications to sector representatives was the 21st November 2003. The Scoring Panel convened on December 1st to score applications. The Programme Advisory Group approved successful applications on December 17th, applicants were notified shortly afterwards.

North West Network received 29 applications for first stage checks. 2 were deemed ineligible and were withdrawn before submission to Government Office for the North West. 4 of the 29 were from a Higher Education Institution and 1 Policy Field 5, Measure 2 application was submitted under Round 8.

Due to the restricted nature of this round only the very best projects that clearly met the restricted criteria were successful. Applicants were advised that if their project was not for higher level skills but they felt that it fell outside the co-financing organisations remit, to get written confirmation of this from the co-financing organisations.

£6,574,070 was available across all priorities and measures under this

round. A total of 109 applications were received across all sectors, 23 of which were from voluntary or community organisations. Across all sectors 46 projects were recommended for approval securing £4,899,773 of ESF funds. 5 voluntary sector applications were successful in securing £594,805 in ESF grant.

The restricted nature of the round resulted in 22 applications being deemed ineligible. 41 failed to meet the minimum quality threshold. The small number of voluntary applications approved is indicative of the focus of this bidding round on higher level skills activity.

Monitoring and Evaluation

For projects successful in securing ESF monies North West Network is pleased to offer bespoke training on monitoring and evaluation procedures for your project. Please contact Ruth Osborn ruth@nwnetwork.org.uk or telephone 0161 236 6493 to arrange an appointment.

Future Direct Bidding Rounds

With the exception of the open bidding round under Policy Field 5 Measure 2 (please see Newsletter article) Government Office have not indicated when the next direct bidding round will be. However, it is likely that it will operate under the same guidelines as Round 9, ie higher level skills and activity that falls outside the remit of the co-financing organisations. As and when a future bidding round is announced North West Network will send out the relevant information.

Objective 3

Policy Field 5, Measure 2

Policy Field 5 Measure 2

Round 10

After the success of Round 8, the open bidding round for projects under Priority 5 Measure 2, Government Office have announced a further bidding round, (Round 10), under this policy field and measure. Applications can be submitted to sector representatives at any time. **There is no set deadline.** Project activity can be retrospective from the 1st January 2004 and run until the 30th June 2005. £1.1 million ESF is available. Applications should be submitted, as per usual, for first stage checks to sector regional partners (North West Network for the voluntary sector).

Policy Field 5 is focused on reducing disadvantages faced by women in the labour market, and Measure 2 supports project activity related to gender discrimination in employment such as recruitment, pay, isolation and progression. This measure supports research activity and actions arising from research undertaken in gender discrimination in the labour market.

Please note that there is no self-appraisal under this priority and measure. In this instance, appraisal, as referred to in the regional guidance (this can be found in the documents section on www.eurofundingnw.org.uk), means that applications will be appraised to ensure they fit with the

regional criteria and not policy field specific appraisal criteria. The minimum quality threshold (minimum marks you need to be funded) for research projects is 57, not 65 as under most other priorities and measures.

As usual North West Network is happy to provide one-to-one advice surgeries and bid improvement services to any voluntary or community organisations that are interested in applying under this priority and measure. Please contact a member of the European Team for further information or to arrange an appointment.

Round 8 Results

Applications were invited under Round 8 under Policy Field 5, Measure 2 for projects running from 1st June 2003 to the 31st December 2004. A total of 20 applications were submitted across all sectors under this open bidding round, 11 scored over the minimum quality threshold and were successful in securing funding. Of those submitted 2 were from voluntary sector organisations, both of which were successful in securing a total of £185,031 ESF funding.

Global Grants Update

Global Grants Update

Global Grants are small scale grants designed to stimulate Local Social Capital in deprived areas with progression towards the labour market being the key theme. In particular, they are aimed at disadvantaged individuals or groups who would not normally be in a position to access ESF. In the North West each grant has been set at a maximum of £6000 in total.

The amount available for Global Grants in the region is £660k per annum, being a 2% top slice of the total Objective 3 allocation (from Measure 2.2), which is in line with national policy. This has been distributed to the 4 county-based Intermediary Bodies on an annual per capita basis as shown below.

At the last Objective 3 Advisory Group it was agreed that the existing arrangements for Global Grants in the region via the 4 county-based Intermediary Bodies should be continued and that the existing allocations should be retained as shown.

Cheshire & Warrington (Warrington MBC) 18% - £118,800
Cumbria (Cumbria Community Foundation) 9% - £59,400
Greater Manchester (AGMA Policy Unit) 46.9% - £309,540
Lancashire (Lancashire Community Development Association) 26.1% - £172,260

It was also agreed that there be a future option to vire funds between

Intermediary Bodies if performance / demand so dictates.

For further information or if you wish to access funding under the Global Grants initiative then please contact the relevant Intermediary Body, contact details are as follows.

Cumbria

Andrew Beeforth/Roger Hart
Cumbria Community Foundation
Derwent Mill
Wakefield Road
Cockermouth
CA13 OHT
Tel. 01900 325801

Cheshire

Richard Berry
Warrington MBC
Environment and Regeneration Dept
Town Hall
West Annexe
Warrington
WA1 1UH
Tel. 01925 442376

Lancashire

Steve Nicholson/Vivienne Shields
Lancashire Community Development
Agency
Charter House
Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3JJ
Tel. 01772 203692

Greater Manchester

Paul Evans
Association of Greater Manchester
Authorities

Wigan Investment Centre
Waterside Drive
Wigan
WN3 5BA
Tel. 01924 705723

Alternatively you can contact a member
of the European Team at North West
Network.

ESF Community Initiative Equal: Update

ESF Community Initiative Equal Second Round: Call for Applications

The second round of the GB Equal Programme has been announced. This call will make available over £120 million.

Equal is a transnational programme which tests new ways to reduce inequality in the labour market.

Organisations taking part in Equal should develop innovative approaches to fight discrimination faced by those in work and by those seeking work. Development Partnerships work with and learn from other Member States taking part in the programme. Equal mirrors the four key elements of the European Employment Strategy:

- Employability
- Entrepreneurship
- Adaptability
- Equal Opportunities

You can download all the application forms and guidance materials from the Equal website at www.equal.ecotec.co.uk

The second round of Equal, which will run from 2004 - 2008, will seek to build on the good work already being undertaken in the first round. Equal will retain its thematic focus and leading principles that distinguish it from mainstream ESF activity.

The call for applications, with a deadline of 30 June 2004, is open to new as well as existing Development Partnerships. In the coming months, the Equal Support Unit will be organising a series of support events and services, including:

- A dedicated Helpline for applicants, which you can reach on 0121 616 3661 during normal office hours;
- A Development Partnership Outline service, allowing you to get feedback on your developing ideas. You can download the forms from the Equal website;
- The second round launch conference 'Working for Equality & Diversity' will be held on March 30th 2004 in London, where you will be able to see the work of current Equal Development Partnerships and network with potential partners. If you are interested in attending then please register on-line at the Equal website;
- Advice and Guidance Seminars, where you can learn about the application process and meet fellow applicants and potential partners. More information and registration forms will be available on the Equal website.

The contact for Equal within GONW is Julie Ryan, 0161 952 4336.

NW Regional Assembly: 2003 Annual Conference Prague

North West Regional Assembly 2003 Annual Conference 'North West of England - Making the Right Connections' - 14th - 16th October 2003 Prague

The 2003 North West Regional Assembly Annual European Conference was held in the spectacular city of Prague the capital of the Czech Republic. One of the ten acceding countries, The Czech Republic will become a member of the European Union on May 1st 2004. Prague provided a beautiful and appropriate setting for the Regional Assembly's sixth Annual European Conference. Over 150 delegates from across all sectors, from both the North West and the Czech Republic attended this conference.

The conference was set in the context of Enlargement, the theme being making connections - encouraging the North West to welcome the multitude of social, cultural, political and economic opportunities and challenges that enlargement will bring. On the 1st May the European Union will increase from 15 member states to 25. The European Single Market will grow to approximately 450 million consumers making it bigger than that of Japan and the USA combined. The Czech Republic will occupy a unique geographical place lying at the heart of the new

enlarged Europe. The Czech Republic is the westernmost and most affluent of the former Warsaw Pact countries of Central Europe. Between the First and Second World Wars the Czech Republic was the 8th largest economy. That changed under the Communist regime. The Czech Republic is now a growing, fully functioning market economy. The UK is the 5th largest investor in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic is governed through devolved regional assemblies in each of the 14 regions. The regional elected assemblies in the Czech Republic have been studied by UK representatives to evaluate the benefits of this form of governance. Parallels can be drawn with the Czech Republic and some of the English regions that may have a similar governance structure. The referendum on regional governance will be held in the North West later this year. The benefits of sharing best practice are clear. Enlargement will create new opportunities for partnership working, sharing of best practice, business links, civic and cultural practices between the regions.

The Deputy Mayor of Prague, Jiri Paroubek formally opened the conference and welcomed delegates to Prague. There was an impressive line up of prominent public figures from the North West and Europe. Speakers over the three days

included Anne Pringle; UK Ambassador to the Czech Republic, the Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP, Minister without portfolio and Chair of the Labour Party; Councillor Tony McDermott, Chair of the North West Regional Assembly; Sir Bob Scott, Liverpool Culture Company; Councillor Derek Boden, Leader of the North West Regional Assembly; Alan Manning, Board Member of the NWDA; Mike Damms, Chief Executive of East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Enlargement Task Group, and Ivo Hartman, Deputy Minister for Regional Development (Czech Republic).

The overall tone of the conference was one of optimism of the benefits and opportunities that enlargement will bring to the North West, and conversely encouraging the active participation of the North West in the enlarged Europe to the benefit of the new member states. In his presentation to the conference delegation Ian McCartney encouraged the North West to embrace enlargement as an opportunity and not a threat. Anne Pringle spoke of the impact that enlargement has had on the development of the acceding countries, for example, the business and legal climate, employment policy and overall modernisation and the benefits this has brought. The Czech Republic Deputy Minister for Regional Development, Ivo Hartman focused on the importance of Structural Funds in enhancing competitiveness, developing the human resource base and in developing the transport infrastructure. In the Czech

Republic all regions with the exception of Prague will have Objective 1 status. Prague will have Objective 2 and Objective 3 status. Presentations delivered by some of the key players in the North West strongly encouraged and promoted the active role of the North West in an enlarged Europe.

Alan Manning spoke of the launch of the REFA - Regional European Framework for Action, launched earlier in 2003. This document details the importance of the North West in Europe and details the aims of the Regional European Framework; the role that the North West plays in Europe in influencing and shaping EU policy, maximising opportunities for sustainable economic, social, environmental and cultural activities and the promotion of the North West as a leading European region. The REFA can be downloaded from http://www.nwda-cms.net/DocumentUploads/EURFRA_MEWORK.pdf. Alan Manning also chaired one of the workshops - Structural Funds/Exchanging Best Practice. Discussion was around how best the Structural Fund Programmes could be delivered, the problems that North West has faced and how the experiences of the North West can assist the Czech Republic to build on best practice and avoid repeating mistakes. Mike Damms closed the conference on a positive note highlighting the advantages of enlargement and the opportunities to build both internal and external linkages through trading links, educational and civic exchanges.

Czech Republic National Volunteer Centre

Whilst in Prague NWN made a project visit to The National Volunteer Centre, founded by HESTIA. The mission of HESTIA is to positively enhance interpersonal relationships. HESTIA was founded in 1993 as a non-governmental, non-profit organisation. HESTIA actively engages in research, training and educational programmes. It advises professionals and supervises volunteers; it engages in publishing and makes contacts with partners within the Czech Republic and abroad. The National Volunteer Centre organises programs and projects in the fields of social work, social and medical care, culture and a wide range of youth programs. As with other post-communist states volunteering is not perceived as having the same value as in the UK. The concept of doing something unpaid is reminiscent of the communist era. In Prague the National Volunteer Centre works to promote the value of volunteering. Further information on HESTIA and the National Volunteering Centre can be found on the following website.

http://www.hest.cz/index_e.shtml

Co-Financing Update

Co-Financing Update

The national Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has published a consultation document on how the voluntary and community Sector and LSC should work together. This is interesting reading and can be found at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/NR/exeres/63383067-D949-48F2-B903-8448A229497C.htm

For those wishing to input, the consultation ends on March 23rd 2004.

Co-Financing across the Region:

Jobcentre Plus (JC+)

The results for the JC+ first tendering round for co-financed provision have now been announced.

To summarize the first tendering round, 98 applications (across all sectors) were chosen as highlighted below.

- Gtr. Manchester 44
- Cheshire 22
- Lancashire 19
- Cumbria 13

From the above, 24 have been awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations. Financial allocations are not yet known.

Their list of preferred projects (subject to successful post tender negotiations) can be found on

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/cms.asp?Page=/Home/Partners/EuropeanSocialFund/672

Further bidding rounds may occur during 2004 and 2005, therefore all interested parties are reminded to regularly check their website for updated information. Details of the tendering timetable will be posted on the website in due course. North West Network will also notify you of any developments.

Cheshire and Warrington LSC

Cheshire and Warrington LSC have just closed their latest round of Invitations To Tender (ITT's) for Development Funding on March 5th 2004. 3 ITT's had been issued under the following ESF Measures: 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1.

It is anticipated that further tendering rounds will be called for in 2004. Should you wish to receive information on these then please contact Stephen Jones, European Social Funding Contract Manager at Cheshire and Warrington Learning and Skills Council on 01606 320047 or e-mail: stephen.jones@lsc.gov.uk Alternatively contact a member of the European Team at North West Network.

Cumbria LSC

Learning and Skills Council Cumbria has secured further funding through the European Social Fund (ESF) in addition to funding through the

Local Intervention and Development Fund (LID).

Their third round opened on 27th February 2004. Details of the activities that they wish to fund can be found on their website at www.lsc.gov.uk/cumbria. (At the Cumbria Homepage, select the 'Documents' section and follow the link to 'Funding Gateway' documents). The website also contains full details of application and guidance procedures.

The deadline for this current round is 16.30 on Friday 16th April 2004.

Specific guidance when making an application to the Funding Gateway:

- the Funding Gateway Application form (Annex A of the Funding Gateway Prospectus) must be used (Available on the LSC Cumbria Website);
- no annexes/additional business plans etc to be included with the application;
- answers to each question must not exceed 1 page;
- twelve point font to be used;
- applications should be clearly marked 'Tender for Discretionary Funds'; and
- applications must be received by 16.30 hrs on 16th April 2004. Applications can be submitted via e-mail by the above date on the condition that a signed original is received on 19th April 2004.

There are 15 Tender Specifications in Round 3, covering a wide range of

activities. A brief description of each tender specification follows:

013A A programme of training targeted at unemployed people, focussing on the acquisition of accredited literacy and numeracy.

014A A programme of literacy and numeracy training for people, who are disadvantaged, excluded from or under-represented in the workplace.

014B A programme providing training bursaries for people who require help in raising their skills levels in order to access, or return to the labour market.

015A A programme delivering work placement opportunities to 13 – 17 year olds who are either at risk of or have been excluded from the education system, to re-engage them, maximise their potential and ensure they achieve a vocational qualification at level 1/2.

015B A programme providing help to improve the chances of employment and removing barriers to the labour market for those groups' disadvantaged in the labour market e.g. lone parents, older workers, ex-offenders, the homeless and people recovering from addiction.

016A A programme to develop capacity within the voluntary and community sector in Cumbria.

016B A programme to help those currently in employment without training to participate in a programme of learning and gain

qualifications relevant to their area of work.

016C A programme to deliver training and qualifications relevant to people employed in the construction industry in Cumbria.

016D A programme to upskill those working within the field of nuclear technology decommissioning and provide training for unemployed people to improve their chances of employment in this sector.

017A A programme to develop capacity within the Early Years Childcare sector throughout the county.

017B A programme to deliver accredited learning programmes to meet identified skills gaps within the food and drink sector.

017C A programme to deliver accredited learning programmes to meet identified skills gaps within the tourism sector.

018A A programme to support the upskilling of employed people, particularly those in SMEs with qualifications in Information and Communications Technology, in order to improve the productivity of the businesses in which they are employed.

019A A programme to up-skill those people employed as skills for life tutors, to provide them with the skills, knowledge and understanding to deliver accredited and progressive qualifications in literacy and numeracy.

020A A programme that will help women who have had a forced period of absence from the labour market gain the necessary guidance and skills to re-enter employment and/or non-traditional roles.

Greater Manchester LSC

Greater Manchester LSC has now published its second ESF Prospectus in draft form for a two week period of consultation. The document is published on their website www.lscgm.info with an accompanying feedback form where you can record any comments, request clarification or suggest any amendments.

Due to strict European regulations on Open and Competitive tendering for ESF activity, potential applicants are advised to read very carefully the details outlined in the Prospectus with regard to the bidding process.

Should you wish to provide feedback on the Prospectus, completed forms should be returned by Monday 22nd March to:

Claire Humphrey
Head of Strategy and Planning
Learning and Skills Council Greater Manchester
Arndale House
Arndale Centre
Manchester
M4 3AQ
or via e-mail to claire.humphrey@lsc.gov.uk

An overview of LSCGM's last tendering round.

A total of 300 separate tenders were received in response to the first prospectus for the ESF Co-financing Programme 2004-06. This was a highly competitive round with received tenders requesting over £69m ESF funding, compared to the £14m available. This round was 390% over-bid and was the most competitive in the region.

Due to the highly competitive process and the scale and number of proposals received, difficult decisions had to be made at every stage of the approval process.

136 proposals (45%) were rejected at the first appraisal stage – this indicates that a high proportion of proposals received were graded at “C” or below because they were either incomplete proposal forms, submitted under the wrong Measure for the type of project, or did not meet the appraisal criteria to a satisfactory degree.

164 proposals (55%) went through to the second appraisal stage, requesting nearly £40m funding. The scale and number of proposals at this stage meant that even satisfactory proposals could not be funded in every case and some further prioritisation was necessary. Approximately 50% of those proposals that went through to the second stage appraisal were subsequently approved in principle for funding.

84 proposals have been approved in principle for funding, providing over

£14m ESF funding to support community and provider based learning opportunities to Greater Manchester's communities. The good news is that this includes approximately £3m for projects provided by voluntary or community or charitable organisations and £0.8m for projects provided by organisations that have not contracted with the LSC before.

The ESF Co-Financing Plan has been revised and updated to comply with the requirements of GONW and the Regional Development Plan. Amendments and updates have been noted throughout the text. The document, published in November 2003 now replaces and supersedes all previous versions. This, together with the successful first and second tendering round results can now be found on the website www.lscgm.gov.uk

Lancashire LSC

News is expected shortly from LSC Lancashire on a new call for tenders. North West Network will let all interested parties know as soon as this call is announced. Please note that North West Network will be facilitating, in partnership with Lancashire LSC, a launch meeting with voluntary/community sector organisations in Lancashire who are interested in submitting a tender(s) for funding. It is envisaged that this session would probably take place straight after the launch of the prospectus. The session will give a background to the LSC, to ESF Co-financing in general, an overview of the tender specifications and

guidance on completing the application form. Watch this space for more developments.

For those who are interested the results for the 1st invitation to tender for Lancashire LSC can be found at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/lancashire/Corporate/InformationBank/European+Social+Fund+%28ESF%29+Information+and+Documents.htm

Enlargement

Enlargement

In May of this year, 10 additional countries are scheduled to become members of the European Union; Cyprus, Malta, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia. The addition of these countries will increase the population of the EU by 105 million and increase its land area by 34%.

These 10 countries bring with them unique histories, cultures and political priorities. Upon entry to the European Union, these countries will have full voting rights alongside the current 15 members. It is anticipated that the new countries will be able to take part in the European elections in June 2004.

The EU is committed to helping these accession countries make the reforms necessary to join. Around £40 million has been made available between 2002 - 2006 for economic development and administrative reform. This assistance is essential as most of the applicant countries are much less developed than current EU countries. The wealth of the 10 new countries amounts to only 6% of the current EU's wealth.

Eastward enlargement is likely to bring increased security, stability and prosperity to Europe as a whole. Joining the EU commits new countries to multi-party democracy; the development of open market

economies and a respect for human rights. Quality of life will improve as new members adopt EU policies on the environment and join the fight against crime etc. Expanding markets will create more jobs and increased trade will benefit consumers by giving them more choice and lower prices.

Enlargement will also give the EU a bigger role in world affairs and in relation with neighbouring countries such as Russia and the Ukraine. New members will also enrich the EU with new cultural influences and ideas. Enlargement of the European Union is a historic opportunity to unite Europe peacefully after generations of division and conflict. Enlargement will also extend the EU's stability and prosperity to a wider group of countries, consolidating the political and economic transition that has taken place in Central and Eastern Europe since 1989. By enhancing the stability and security of these countries, the EU as a whole can enjoy better chances for peace and prosperity.

This round of enlargement, like previous ones, will add to the Union's strength, cohesion and influence in the world. The extension to include new members will put the Union in a better position to take up the challenge of globalisation, and to strengthen and defend the European social model.

Enlargement is thus a continuation of the EU's original purpose of healing Europe's divisions and creating an ever-closer union of its peoples. By welcoming new members who respect our political criteria, the Union is re-stating the fundamental values that underpin it.

The British public is only just starting to realise the implications of EU enlargement and how it will affect our own lives, politics and policies, a particular issue at the moment being the influx of migrants from Eastern Europe.

However enlargement will present significant economic opportunities in the form of a larger market. Adding the applicant countries to the EU's Single Market of over 370 million inhabitants will create the biggest economic area in the world. A market of this size can be expected to give a boost to investment and job creation, raising levels of prosperity throughout Europe, in both new and existing member countries.

In joining the EU, the new members will reinforce their economic integration with the existing members. Consumers will reap the benefits of wider choice and lower prices, and European businesses across the continent will share a common set of rules and benefit from increased trade, greater efficiency and more competition.

Development policies and aid programmes are low priority in accession countries given the past decade of economic transition with the impoverishment of large

sections of the population. This is of concern as governments in most accession countries are not involving or even recognising national development NGO's (Non Government Organisations) in discussions on development issues or even recognising their experience in this field. Few NGO's have had the opportunity to inform or influence recent aid policy documents produced by the accession countries as part of their preparations for membership.

European Union NGO's on the other hand have been offering accession country NGO's organisational and programme capacity building since the early 1990's. Through working in partnership with EU NGO's on EU funded programmes in their countries, accession country NGO's have become more skilled in project management and implementation. However, few have had the experience of being the lead partner on an EU funded project and in taking on the full obligations of management, implementation and reporting.

Enlargement undoubtedly provides an opportunity for NGO's in existing member states to work in collaboration with their accession counterparts. This will be a learning experience for both sides with accession country NGO's bringing their own expertise and approaches to aid provision in the social sector.

Enlargement also poses the question of capacity building for accession country NGO's. There is potential for NGO's in the current EU member states to make a significant

contribution to the development of 'pan European' thinking amongst NGO's in accession countries.

How will Enlargement affect the UK in relation to Structural Funds?

Spending in the UK from the EU's Structural Funds Programme is guaranteed until the end of 2006. After this, the amount of Structural Funds that the UK receives will depend on the agreement reached between member states for the next financial period (2007 - 2013). The enlargement process will bring about major changes, which will affect us in many ways not least the re-structuring of Structural Fund distribution.

When will the benefits of enlargement be seen?

Some of the benefits of enlargement can be seen already. The accession countries have been opening their markets and reforming their economies in preparation for EU membership. They have established stable democracies and their economies are growing rapidly attracting high levels of foreign investment most notably with existing EU countries. Other benefits include; helping to fight terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking, access to a wider range of goods and services at lower prices, new opportunities to live, work and travel across Europe, expanding the single market to nearly 500 million consumers (larger than the USA and Japan combined), and to contribute an estimated

£1.75 billion to the UK's GDP each year.

Will the competitiveness of UK business be affected by enlargement?

EU enlargement offers UK business enormous opportunities, as the EU becomes the largest single market in the world, with 450 million consumers. Every country joining the EU must accept all the EU laws and practices as a condition of entry, providing a level playing field for business. Joining the single market requires the candidates to remove non-tariff barriers to trade. Mutual recognition of national standards will make it easier for UK companies to export to the candidate countries as they meet the requirements of EU legislation. The UK should be well placed to compete in this market on the basis of our supportive business environment and highly skilled and flexible work force. UK companies will also benefit from some cheaper inputs, technology transfers and economies of scale. Independent research estimates that the accession of the Central and Eastern applicants will boost UK GDP by £1.75bn.

For more information on enlargement, look at the following websites:

DG Enlargement
www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/index_en.html

DG Development of Enlargement
www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/elarg_en.html

Introducing your Regional BME Network

1 North West- Regional Network for BME Voluntary Sector

Introduction

In the 1997 Election Manifesto the Labour Party made a commitment to developing a regional agenda. An integrated programme of regional initiatives has since been developed which is fundamentally reshaping the geography of government, economic development and public administration in the United Kingdom, particularly towards devolving power to the regions and ultimately to local communities.

Between April 1999 and May 2000 nine Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) were set up in regions across England. The RDA's Regional Economic Strategy (RES) includes addressing underlying problems of unemployment, skill shortage, inequalities, social exclusion, and physical decay. The RDAs are also expected to use the strategies to identify key partners to help in the delivery of their action plan. This includes working in partnership with the private, community, and voluntary sectors.

At the same time as the establishment of the RDAs, generic and black minority ethnic (BME) regional voluntary networks were also set up in the nine regions across England whose aims are;

- To advocate effectively for the sector at regional level to ensure that it is consulted and recognised as valuable in different policy areas and across the sector; and,
- To increase the effectiveness of the sector through the provision of any of the following: information, advice, representation, training, publication and development services.

The Active Communities Unit (ACU) set two stages by which to review the new grants programme. Stage one provided funding of up to £10,000 for consultation and to assist networks prepare applications for further funding from the ACU. Stage two unlocked further funding of £38,000 in 1999-2000, £58,000 in 2000-2001 and £58,000 for 2001-2002.

In November 2001 the ACU announced funding for a further 3 years from April 2002 to March 2005, to enable the effective delivery of the government's Civic Renewal Agenda.

In the North West the regional BME Network is called 1 North West.

- To unlock further funds for the sector at regional level;

What do we do?

The work of 1 North West is diverse but can be distilled down into a number of key areas,

- Promoting the scope, size and contribution of the sector,
- Helping to engage the sector and the wider community in regional developments,
- Addressing key development issues facing the sector and working with other partners at a regional level.

Promoting the sector

The voluntary and community sector make a vital but often under-valued contribution to the development of the regions. The regional networks have been working hard to ensure regional stakeholders are aware of this and that it influences policy design, development and implementation. In many regions such as the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside, the West Midlands, the South West and the East Midlands, studies have been undertaken to scope the size and contribution of the sector to the regional economy. It has been documented that in the South West the contribution of the voluntary and community sector is estimated to be at least 4% of the region's GDP. In Yorkshire and Humberside the estimated number of paid staff employed in the sector is between 45,000 and 92,000. In the North

West we are currently in negotiation with the Regional Development Agency to identify the sector's economic contribution to the region. This evidence will allow the sector to effectively locate its contribution within the regional economic strategy. The regional economic strategy is the document which enables the RDA to commit funds in communities to enhance economic development and prosperity.

Regional networks highlight and promote the diversity of activity within the sector such as self-help, social enterprise, advocacy, service delivery and the contribution it makes across the social spectrum including environmental and economic. The networks have made considerable progress in getting regional development agencies to acknowledge the economic contribution of the sector as an employer, a developer of skills, a creator of wealth and a stimulator of enterprise.

Engaging the sector and the wider community in regional development

Regional networks have a pivotal role in assisting the sector to engage in increasing numbers of national initiatives that are implemented regionally and locally. Examples include the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and Compact. They ensure the sector is represented in the planning and delivery of these initiatives.

Examples of the types of work undertaken by the regional networks are,

- Working with Government Offices to support voluntary/community sector involvement in Local Strategic Partnerships, and particularly in the implementation of the Community Empowerment Fund and Community Chest. The networks are able to facilitate and support the development of local solutions, helping to share best practice across areas.
- Working with regional development agencies to develop their economic strategies and approaches to economic inclusion.
- Linking into regional assemblies ensuring community representation within regional governance structures.
- Working with funders to facilitate debate on future funding strategies and priorities.
- Developing the concept of compacts with other regional players to ensure best practice in considering the sectors contribution.
- Working with regional health bodies to examine the implications of changes to health structures and the

implications for the voluntary/community sector.

Addressing key development issues for the sector

The sector faces its own particular challenges over the next few years but what has become apparent is the extent to which regional networks can help address these by working with other agencies at a strategic level.

The networks are working with funders, and funding fora where they exist, adopting a strategic approach to funding.

Regional networks have been able to contribute to national policy discussions by highlighting the observations and experiences of grass roots organisations.

The regional context has developed new partnership opportunities which the sector sometimes finds difficult to engage. The networks facilitate access and involvement.

Large, small, local and national voluntary sector organisations are responding to the regionalisation agenda. The main reason for this is that community issues in localities are increasingly coordinated by regional agencies i.e. the Regional Development Agencies, Govt.Office Regions and Regional Assemblies. The regional networks have an invaluable input at this level to promote the sector's contribution to regional, community and neighbourhood regeneration. Many organisations are increasingly aware

of the regionalisation agenda and are keen to use membership of the regional networks as a process of being involved, updated and represented at regional level.

If you want to know more about 1 North West or the generic regional network (Voluntary Sector North West) please contact;

Maneer Afsar
1 North West- Project Director

Siddika Ahmed
1 North West- Network
Development Manager

On 0161 236 6493 or you can write to us at;

Room 2715, Sunley Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester
M1 4BD

Other European Funding

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Strengthening Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe

The European Commission is seeking proposals for funding from its Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS) regional Programme. The CARDS Programme aims to help the stabilisation and association process in Central and Eastern Europe, offering economic and financial assistance to support democracy and civil society development in the region. Proposals are sought for the following areas of co-operation,

- Strengthening local civil society organisations
- Support for the local democratic process
- Strengthening democratic structures

Applicants must be from non-governmental organisations, civil society associations, professional organisations, entrepreneurs, chambers of commerce and trade unions and form a partnership at the time of submitting the project proposal with one of the countries covered by the CARDS Programme as listed.

Projects should be in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo).

For more information please contact,

Jacques van de Moortele
European Commission
E-mail: jacques.van-de-moortele@cec.eu.int
Fax: 00 32 2 299 47 01

The full guidelines for applicants are available from,

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

(Reference: EuropeAid/118568/C/G/Multi. Please use the selection - CARDS, Open, Grants, All, All, when using the website above).

Deadline 28 April 2004.

EU TACIS Institution Building Partnership Programme

Funding is also available for local initiatives supporting institution building, reinforcing democracy and establishing the rule of law in the Newly Independent States and Mongolia. Applications should reflect partnerships between local and regional authorities and non-governmental organisations from the EU and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Questions may be sent to the following,

E-mail: europaaid-ibpp@cec.eu.int
Fax: 00 32 2 295 74 82

Further information can be located at,

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europaaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

(Please use the selection - TACIS, Open, Grants, All, All when using the website above).

Deadline 14 April 2004.

EU TACIS Cross Border Co-operation Programme

Local and regional authorities and their associations are invited to apply for funding for small projects involving co-operation with the EU's new neighbours of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine. Projects should concentrate on the areas of local economic development, environment and energy efficiency, social development or administrative reform. Questions may be sent by e-mail or by fax to the following,

E-mail: jacques.van-de-moortele@cec.eu.int
Fax: 00 32 2 299 47 01

Further information can be located at,

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europaaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

(Please use the selection - TACIS, Open, Grants, All, All when using the website above).

Deadline 2 April 2004.

Return to Kosovo

Applications are invited for projects which help to return displaced people to Kosovo and reintegrate them into society. The European Agency for Reconstruction, the EU agency responsible for EU assistance to the region, has issued a call for schemes aimed at improving dialogue within the Kosovan community, reviving the social and physical infrastructure, housing reconstruction, community development and supporting local and regional authorities to improve access to services.

Organisations, including local authorities and non-governmental organisations are invited to apply for grants from the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS) Programme. Particular emphasis will be given to schemes with a strong cross boundary programme.

Guidelines and further information are available from,

Mary Walsh
European Agency for Reconstruction
1 Kosovo Street
Pristina
Kosovo
www.ear.eu.int

Deadline 1 April 2004.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Equal Programme Round 2

The second round of the Equal Programme has now been announced. There will be around £100m ESF funding for Development Partnerships (DPs) in the second round and DPs will operate from 2005-2007. Equal is an initiative which tests and promotes new means of combating all forms of discrimination and inequalities in the labour market, both for those in work and for those seeking work, through transnational co-operation. Equal also includes action to help the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers.

www.equal.ecotec.co.uk/

Deadline 30 June 2004.

ENERGY

Radiation Research

Applications are invited for research and training in the areas of radiation protection, the management of radioactive waste and nuclear safety. The European Commission has issued a call for proposals under the 2002-06 Euratom Programme for Research and Training on Nuclear Energy.

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

Deadline 14 April 2004.

EU Action Programme for Energy

The European Commission has finally invited applications for projects to be funded by the new EU Action Programme for Energy, which was adopted in July. The four year Intelligent Energy Europe (EIE) Programme supports the sustainable development of energy and puts particular emphasis on the development of local and regional energy management.

Further information and application forms are available from,

EIE Programme
European Commission
Energy and Transport DG
Directorate D, Unit D3
200 rue de la loi
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

www.europa.eu.int/comm/energy/intelligent/index_en.html

Deadline 30 April 2004.

HERITAGE

Prize for Heritage

Nominations are invited for two awards in the field of cultural heritage. The Europa Nostra Awards are given to outstanding achievements in the areas of architecture, landscapes, art collections and archaeological sites.

Applications are also invited for the 2004 restoration fund grant. This is given each year to an endangered building or site with architectural

and historic value and which is either in private ownership or owned by local non profit, non-governmental organisations or communities. The money should be used to encourage matching funds from private or other sponsors for the restoration work. The closing date for these applications is 1 November.

www.europanostra.org

Deadlines 15 September and 1 November 2004.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Access to Public Sector Information

The European Commission is inviting funding applications for schemes to improve access to public sector information, as part of the latest call for proposals under the eContent Programme. Designed to stimulate the development and use of European digital content and promote linguistic diversity, eContent has two main priorities for 2004: improving access to and use of public sector information particularly cross border information services and enhancing content production in a multicultural and multilingual environment.

Further information on the eContent calls is available from,

eContent Help Desk

E-mail: eContent@cec.eu.int
Fax: 00 352 4301 34959

www.cordis.lu/econtent/calls.htm

Deadline 14 May 2004.

MEDIA

Funds for Film Festivals

The European Commission is making grants available to support European film and audiovisual festivals. To be eligible, the events must promote a significant number of European works, encourage their distribution and involve a number of different organisations and operators from the European Union, European Economic Area or accession countries.

The funding is available through the Media Plus Programme which supports the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works during the years 2001-2005.

Further information is available from,

Jacques Delmoly
European Commission
B100 4/20
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Fax: 00 32 2 299 92 14

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

Deadline 29 April 2004.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Rene Descartes Prize for Technology

The European Commission is calling for submissions for the Rene Descartes Prize under the Sixth Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration projects. Various prizes will be awarded to a total of Euro 1.25 million. The aim of the prize is to encourage projects that help to develop an environment where both policy makers and people are better equipped to make informed choices about developments in science and technology. The prize hopes to stimulate discussion between these groups, within the European Research Area.

Further information is available from,

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium
E-mail: "fp6@cec.eu.int

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

Deadline 11 May 2004.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Bremen Partnership Award

The Bremen Partnership Award is given to innovative partnerships

between businesses and local authorities with the aim of developing a sustainable future for cities. Applications are now invited for the 2004 award. Prize money of Euro 35,000 will be given to schemes involving co-operation between at least one business partner and one from the scientific, political, local government or non-governmental sector. Activities should preferably be characterised by a voluntary agreement between the partners and go beyond statutory requirements.

www.bremen-initiative.de

Deadline 30 April 2004.

Awards for Urban Sustainable Development Initiatives

The Municipality of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) are inviting submissions of best practice examples for the 2004 Dubai International Award. Nominations for awards should include initiatives which have made outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life in cities and communities around the world. Those successful will be included in the UN Habitat best practice database.

www.blpnet.org/blp/awards

Deadline 31 March 2004.

WIDER EUROPE

Asia-Link Programme

The European Commission is calling for proposals for networking projects in the EU and in eligible countries in Asia with financial assistance from the Asia-Link Programme. The Asia-Link Programme promotes regional and multilateral networking between higher education institutions in the EU and South Asia, South East Asia and China. The Programme aims to promote the creation of new partnerships and sustainable links between European and Asian higher education institutions and to reinforce existing partnerships.

Full guidelines are available from,

Asia-Link Programme
European Commission
Directorate D Asia
Office L-41, 02/44
B-1049
Brussels
Belgium

E-mail: europaaid-asia-ink@cec.eu.int

Fax: 00 32 2 984 863

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europaaid/projects/asia-link/index_en.htm

Deadlines 15 April and 23 September 2004.

Business Development in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries

The EU Pro Euro Invest Programme was set up to promote investment and technology for enterprises operating within key sectors in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The European Commission has invited proposals for projects aimed at improving the investment environment and developing business.

Further information is available from,

www.proinvest-eu.org/

Deadlines 15 April, 15 June & 30 September 2004.

Asia Project Funding

The European Commission has published three calls inviting proposals for projects involving partners from the EU and Asia.

The EU Asia Urbs Programme - supports partnerships between local authorities in the EU and Asia. (Deadlines: 29 March and 2 June 2004).

The EU Asia Pro Eco Programme - supports environmental co-operation between national or regional authorities or public sector organisations in the EU and Asia. (Deadlines: 3 May and 4 October 2004).

The Asia IT&C Programme - supports joint projects involving the EU and Asia in the area of information technology and

communications (ITC). (Deadlines: 25 March and 24 June 2004).

Further information is available from,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-urbs/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-pro-eco/index_en.htm

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-itc/html/main.htm>

applicable from the 1 January 2004. Only some small improvements have been made since last year. View at,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/index_en.html

Various Deadlines.

YOUTH

Award for Young People

The Council of Europe Young Active Citizens Award is given to schemes which encourage the active participation of young people in society. This year's theme is young people's role in preventing violence in everyday life. The competition is open to local and/or regional authorities, as well as to non-governmental youth organisations and networks and others involved in youth work.

www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Cooperation/Youth/

Deadline 15 May 2004.

Youth Programme Update

The updated version of the User's Guide for the Youth Programme 2004 is now available online. It is

Partner Search

Irish Community Campus Project

Fingal County Council, one of the four local authorities in the Dublin region of Ireland, is currently exploring the potential of EU partnerships and funding opportunities relating to the operation of a new community facility and services campus. The campus will be located in a disadvantaged suburb of Dublin city and will incorporate facilities for sports, recreation, health care, child care, further education, family resource assistance, counselling, recovering addiction programmes, after schools programmes and community workshops. The Council is particularly interested in establishing contact with local authorities involved in similar projects with a view to exchanging ideas and experience, developing programmes and jointly accessing EU funds.

Contact

Eamon O'Hara
Irish Regions Office 9th Floor
6 Rond-Point Schuman
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: 00 32 2 282 8477
Fax: 00 32 2 282 8475
E-mail: eamon.ohara@pop.kpn.be

Social Inclusion Project in Spain

The town of Alcalá la Real in Spain is seeking partners for a project focusing on working with young

people in the field of social exclusion and the integration of immigrants. The project will be submitted under the EU's Youth Action Programme. The main objectives of the proposed two year project will be the training of volunteers aged between 15-20, working with those at risk of exclusion and providing an exchange of practice between volunteers from different countries. The project aims to promote intercultural learning and tolerance between youths, immigrants and those at risk of exclusion.

Contact

Julio Medina
Área de Desarrollo Económico
Excmo
Ayuntamiento de Alcalá la Real
Casa Pineda
Calle Real 48, 23680
Alcalá la Real
Spain
Tel: 00 34 9 5358 2217
Fax: 00 34 9 5358 39 0
E-mail:
desarrollocooperacion@alcalalareal.com

Exchanging with Turkey

The Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at Dokuz University in Turkey is searching for new partners within the framework of the EU's Erasmus/Socrates Programme. The University hopes to increase the number of incoming and outgoing students and is seeking

partner faculties from other countries to achieve this, under any area of the Erasmus Programme.

Contact

Dr Ogul Zengingonul
Socrates Co-ordinator of the
Faculty of Economics and
Administrative Sciences
Dokuz Eylul University
Iktisadi ve Idari Bilimler Fakultesi
Calisma Ekonomisi ve Endustri
Iliskileri Bolumu
Dokuzcesmeler
Buca
Izmir
Turkey
Tel: 00 90 232 420 41 80 ext 2317
Fax: 00 90 232 420 17 89
E-mail: ogul.zgonul@deu.edu.tr
Internet: www.deu.edu.tr

ICLEI European Eco-Procurement
Programme
Leopoldring 3
79098
Freiburg
Germany
Tel: 00 49 7 6136 8920
Fax: 00 49 7 6136 89249
E-mail: ecoprocura@iclei-europe.org
Internet: www.iclei.org/europe

Sustainable Procurement Campaign

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) invites organisations to join its sustainable procurement campaign. The Procura+ campaign promotes using public procurement to make a significant difference towards environmental protection. Up to September 2003, 25 public authorities from 12 European countries had already joined the scheme, including the Cities of Barcelona in Spain and Kolding in Denmark. A promotional 'Earth Day' event will take place on 22 April 2004, so ICLEI would like confirmations from those wishing to join the campaign to be made before 1 April 2004.

Contact

Christoph Erdmenger

Consultations

North West Network Newsletter

Deadline: 30 April 2004

We need your help! North West Network will shortly be undertaking a review of their Newsletter to ensure that it is still informative, relevant and useful to the North West voluntary sector. We warmly invite you to have your say, feedback your comments and thoughts. Does the Newsletter address your organisation's requirements, are there other issues or topics that you would like included, are there sections that are not useful to you at all?

Whatever your thoughts, please do get in touch.

E-mail: jane@nwnetwork.org.uk
Fax: 0161 228 6137

Strategy for the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Learning and Skills Council

Deadline: 23 March 2004

The purpose of this draft strategy is to create the conditions for voluntary and community organisations and the Learning and Skills Council to work more effectively together to improve the services provided. This draft strategy is intended to initiate a step change in relationships between the LSC, at national and local level,

and the voluntary and community sector. In consulting widely on the draft strategy its aims are: to secure the support and commitment of all concerned to a forward-looking common agenda to ensure the final strategy harvests and reflects all the most useful and creative ideas for action.

To view the consultation document, please go to the following website.

www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/SubjectListing/ConsultationsandResponses/Currentconsultations/StratVolCommSector.htm

Building Civil Renewal

Deadline: 26 March 2004

The consultation document sets proposals as to how community groups and community capacity building can be better supported at community or neighbourhood level. It asks for comments on those proposals and for examples of good practice. Early feedback will be able to contribute directly to the drafting of the Government's Capacity Building and Infrastructure Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector, due to be published in early 2004. All the consultation responses will be able to influence the Government's broader policies on community capacity building, so that they provide a sound foundation for civil

renewal. The outcomes will form the basis for an Action Plan to be developed by early 2004.

To view the consultation document, please go to the following website.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs2/ccbrconsultintro.html

Research Opportunity for Sector Conference

Deadline: 26 March 2004

The NCVO has issued an invitation to submit proposed topics for its major annual research event, to be held later this year. The 10th Researching the Voluntary Sector Conference will be held at Sheffield Hallam University on September 1-2, and proposals for both research papers and sessions are now welcome. All areas of relevance to the voluntary sector are available, but the NCVO is particularly looking for topics of current policy interest to the sector. These might include accountability, transparency, civil renewal, independence, the role of the sector in the delivery of public services, and the relationship between the sector and government. The conference is a unique meeting place for both researchers and users of research. This year, for the first time, NCVO is teaming up with the Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN) to organise it.

- How to submit your proposal:
 - Abstracts of 400-600 words, for single papers or whole sessions should be sent no later than March 26

- Authors will be notified of acceptance of their submissions by April 16

- Successful authors will need to submit papers of between 2,000 and 2,500 words (where relevant) by June 25

If you have any questions, or would like to know more about the conference, please email: jayne.blackborow@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Oldham Area Consultation Events (ACE) Database

If you live or work within the Borough of Oldham and are planning to undertake a consultation event, why not use the Oldham Area Consultation Events (ACE) Database located at,

www.oldham.gov.uk/ace/index.shtml

The website also features a 'Consultation Toolkit' containing a range of useful guidance documents and forms to help anyone planning a consultation event. Check it out!

A Development Framework for Charlestown and Lower Kersal

A blueprint for the transformation of the New Deal regeneration areas of Charlestown and Lower Kersal has been launched. The blueprint - published in a development framework report now available - will help create a vibrant future for the area. But before that happens local people can have their say on the document and its detailed

recommendations. Plans include the creation of new homes and schools, shopping facilities, improvements to gateways and community venues, and a boost for the local economy. The document, launched at a community event on 25 January, provides a seven-year timetable for change. The framework has been produced by Charlestown and Lower Kersal New Deal for Communities Partnership Board.

Copies of the framework document have recently been circulated to local residents seeking their views and feedback, and the Partnership Board has organised a series of roadshow events to encourage community participation in the process.

Feed back your thoughts at,
www.salford.gov.uk/ndc-charlestown-lowerkersal-blueprint

Pendle Borough Council Draft Rural Strategy 2004-2009

Deadline: 26 March 2004

The Draft Rural Strategy is a working document prepared by Pendle Borough Council to provide a detailed 'rural' interpretation of the broader strategic objectives identified in national, regional and local strategies that affect Pendle. A copy of the Draft Rural Strategy 2004-2009 is now available for comment. This document seeks to help inform future regeneration activity in rural areas.

For further information please contact,

Rural Development Officer
Tel: 01282 661673

E-mail:
rural.development@pendle.gov.uk

View the draft strategy at,
www.pendle.gov.uk/support_busi/rural_development.htm

Consultation on the National Equality and Diversity Strategy 2004 to 2007

Deadline: 30 March 2004

The National Equality and Diversity Strategy 2004 to 2007 focuses on issues relating to ensuring good equality and diversity practice in the learning environment, and among the partners and providers with which the LSC works. This consultation document has been distributed widely to organisations and individuals in England. Participation is welcomed from,

- Those working in the areas of race and ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, age and religion and belief
- Those involved in broader issues relating to adult and community learning, work based learning and other post-16 provision
- Those committed to social justice and community cohesion

View online at,
www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/SubjectListing/LearningCultures/EqualityandDiversity/Consult-EqualDiv0407.htm

Non European Funding

Community Training and Enabling Grants

Community Training and Enabling Grants (CTE) are designed to support housing association residents in England become involved in their housing provision through new training and community development projects. Housing associations and tenants' and residents' groups are eligible to apply for funding directly from the Housing Corporation. In some instances, the Corporation can pay grants to individuals. The Programme is aimed primarily at housing association residents, but the Housing Corporation also considers partnership applications made with other agencies. The total fund value is £4,000,000. There are no maximum or minimum limits on funding.

Community Training and Enabling Grants help housing associations and their residents to: develop better ways of giving residents more control of their housing, for example, in the provision of services, in decision-making, and in trying out new ways of doing things; get residents involved more effectively in regeneration and investment projects; support initiatives for residents to be involved in strategies, community planning, and partnerships; develop links with other sources of finance for communities such as neighbourhood management.

To find the office in your area, please look at the CTE Grants website. Application forms, guidance notes and further information on the Programme are also available from the website.

For further information please contact,

Tel: 020 7393 2000

Email: <mailto:enquiries@housingcorp.gsx.gov.uk>

Internet: www.ctegrants.org.uk/

There is no set timetable for applications.

Young Roots

Young Roots promotes the involvement of young people, 13-20 years old, in their heritage. The Heritage Lottery Fund working in partnership with the National Youth Agency have set up the Young Roots Programme which is aimed at organisations that already work with young people, for example, youth and community groups, youth associations and clubs. Projects must involve young people aged between 13 and 20 in the heritage; relate to the varied heritage of the United Kingdom and be delivered through partnerships (priority partnerships are those that are led by youth organisations). Non-heritage youth organisations should show a partnership with at least one heritage organisation. Projects must also increase opportunities for young

people to learn about heritage and promote involvement in heritage and a greater appreciation of the value of heritage for a wide range of young people. They will accept applications from organisations that work with young people with special needs and the age range for this group will rise to 25 years.

If you are interested in finding out more then they will arrange to meet with you to explain the scheme in more detail and take you through the application process.

For further information please contact,

Danny Gilchrist
Tel: 020 7591 6000
Fax: 020 7591 6001
Email: <mailto:dannyg@hlf.org.uk>

The closing date for applications is 1 April 2004.

Pilkington (Austin & Hope) Trust

The Trust supports charities that promote its area of interest. Grants are made for general charitable purposes at the discretion of the Trustees. The criteria are based on a three-year cycle. In 2004, the priorities are children, youth, elderly and medical work. Grants/donations are not made to individuals, including those embarking on a trip overseas with an umbrella charity. Applications should include an A4 summary of the project, budget and a copy of the accounts and annual report of the organisation. Supporting information

should be kept to a minimum, as the Trust will get in contact if more information is needed.

For further information please contact,

E-mail: <mailto:admin@austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk>

Internet: www.austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk/

Deadlines for applications are 1 June and 1 November 2004.

Manchester Community Chest and Community Learning Chest

Great News - Community Chest and Learning Chest funds will be available for another year!! Grant rounds will run regularly throughout 2004 and 2005. Funding will be available for grants up to £5000 for projects and activities within the City of Manchester. New application packs and new criteria are now available. If you would like to request a copy, please contact Sajida at Community Chest on 0161 236 5225 or alternatively please e-mail communitychest@vamanchester.org.uk

Alternatively all the information will be available to download via the VAM website at www.vamanchester.org.uk.

The next grant round will close on 30 April 2004.

YouthBank

YouthBank UK, run by young people for young people, provides small grants to fund young people's good ideas to benefit their own communities. For further details, please contact Helen Shepherd at YouthBank UK.

Tel: 0116 285 3725

E-mail:

youthbank@nya.org.uk
www.youthbank.org.uk

Global Fund for Women

The Global Fund for Women provides general programme and operating support grants to women's organisations (not individuals) focused on advancing the human rights of women and girls. To be eligible for support, an organisation must demonstrate a clear commitment to women's equality and female human rights, as well as concern about the way women are viewed and view themselves in society. The organisation must be governed and directed by women, and must be located outside the USA. Grants range from \$500 to \$20,000.

www.globalfundforwomen.org

PHF Publishing Grants

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation has a scheme (administered by The Publishing Training Centre) to support the training of voluntary sector workers to improve their publishing skills. It is aimed

particularly at organisations whose work is socially beneficial and serves those with social, or special needs. Small independent charities and not-for-profit organisations employing no more than eight full-time equivalent workers are eligible to apply. For more information please contact,

The Publishing Training Centre

Book House

45 East Hill

Wandsworth

London SW18 2QZ

Tel: 020 8874 2718

www.train4publishing.co.uk

Nationwide Awards 2004

Now in its seventh year, the Nationwide Awards for Voluntary Endeavour is a national awards scheme designed to recognise individuals and groups across the UK who have made an outstanding contribution to their local community. Entry is open to anyone whose voluntary work or community activity has made a significant contribution to their community. This can include work for charities, community groups or other organisations providing a valuable community service. In most cases nominees will be unpaid volunteers, but the scheme is open to those showing outstanding endeavour as paid employees of charities and community groups. Nominations can be handed in at your local library or any branch of Nationwide.

www.nationwide.co.uk/NewsInformation/CommRelations

The closing date for entries is 30 April 2004.

**The Baring Foundation
Strengthening the Voluntary
Sector Programme**

This Programme supports constituted not-for-profit voluntary organisations and provides funding for national organisations. The Foundation is prepared to consider applications for grants for up to £30,000 for work spanning up to two years. However, the great majority of grants will be for much less; the Foundation's average grant is £9,500 and only 23% of grants are for more than £10,000. The Foundation is willing to fund a piece of work in its entirety or with a number of other funders.

The Foundation wishes to fund work which will lead to a significant and lasting change in the effectiveness of an organisation by improvements to its strategy, structure, systems or skills.

Applications can be sent to the Foundation at any time. The Foundation's staff or advisers may need to telephone or visit the applicant organisation during the assessment process. Applications will be dealt with as quickly as possible but please bear in mind it could take up to six months.

All applicants must complete the application form. This form is available to download from the website as listed.

Tel: 020 7767 1348

The Baring Foundation
60 London Wall
London
EC2M 5TQ

www.baringfoundation.org.uk/svsguide.htm

This grants programme has no formal deadlines.

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.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

Social development, environment, education and arts and heritage projects which seek to improve the quality of life of people and their communities are eligible for funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. For further information, please telephone 020 7297 4700.

Publications

The Voluntary Agencies Directory 2004

The Voluntary Agencies Directory is an invaluable reference guide for journalists, job seekers, researchers, policy makers, politicians and individuals involved with the voluntary sector.

Organised into a user-friendly A-Z format, the directory is the established information guide to charities and other organisations connected to the voluntary sector. Updated annually, the 2004 edition lists details of over 2000 organisations, including a concise description of their aims and objectives. The comprehensive subject index groups organisations by their field of interest and the useful addresses section gives additional information on related organisations outside the voluntary sector.

The 2004 edition includes a section on job-hunting in the voluntary sector.

ISBN: 0 7199 1629 1
£30 (£25 for NCVO members)

The Good Membership Guide

New from NCVO's Good Guide Series, this guide is an inspirational look at maximizing the effectiveness of your membership scheme. It takes you step-by-step through the

planning, recruitment and retention process, with the emphasis upon building long-term relationships. It explores how to optimise membership to grow the reach and influence of your organisation and how to develop recruitment strategies based on a clear understanding of what motivates people to join. It goes on to look at how to nurture your members' support and loyalty. Packed with illustrative case studies, member profiles and more than 200 action points, this is an indispensable resource for professionals, trustees and volunteers who want to grow their own support.

Available Summer 2004
ISBN: 07199 1619 4
£25 (£20 NCVO members)

Both publications can be ordered from,
NCVO
Regent's Wharf
8 All Saints Street
London
N1 9RL
T: 020 7713 6161
F: 020 7713 6300
E: ncvo@ncvo-vol.org.uk

The Campaigning Handbook

Essential reading for those who want to influence social change. Written for pressure groups, charities and social activists, this

book covers the skills of modern campaigning:

- communications
- organisation
- direct action
- lobbying
- using the law

In this second edition there are new sections on the Human Rights Act and on campaigning and the Internet. It also contains at-a-glance diagrams to show how the major power structures in society work and where they are most vulnerable to pressure.

ISBN 1 900360 63 2
£15.95 (Excluding: VAT at 0%)

Managing Without Profit

The key elements of successful management for non-profit-making organisations are covered in the second edition of this popular title. Managers from voluntary, arts, housing and campaigning organisations will learn how to:

- establish strong boards
- strengthen strategic management
- develop a mission
- manage and inspire people
- create a learning organisation

- manage change

ISBN 1 903991 28 5
£12.99 (Excluding: VAT at 0%)

To order either or both publications, please visit www.dsc.org.uk/acatalog

Charities Digest 2004

Charities Digest provides details and information for over 5,000 organisations. Not only does it contain contact names and registration numbers for each entry, it also includes useful sources of legal advice. Bank details for charities are also included where applicable.

Contents include:

- charities of national stature
- contact names
- citizens advice bureaux
- hospice services
- voluntary organisations
- volunteer bureaux
- law centres

ISBN= 1-85783-944-1
£26.50 + £2.50 p+p

To order, please visit
www.charitychoice.co.uk/orderbook.htm#cdigest

**Eurojargon: a dictionary of
European Union acronyms,
abbreviations and terminology**

A unique listing, endorsed by Commissioner Kinnock, published February 2004 by the European Information Association. The 7th edition compiled by Eric Davies, European Information Services, contains more than 5,200 terms and includes definitions, explanations, bibliographic references, URLs and contact addresses. Eurojargon can be ordered via the EIA's website: www.eia.org.uk.

**£35 (€50) to EIA members £50
(€75) to non-members**

Training and Events

The National Lottery - How to score high on the Fund's unique assessment system

20th April 2004 Birmingham

15th June 2004 Leeds

This workshop concentrates on devising and preparing projects that will score highly against the specific criteria for the Community Fund's main and medium grants programmes. The Fund has a tightly defined process for assessing applications based for the present on a numerical scoring system. However, the detail is constantly changing and, in autumn/winter 2004, an entirely new and different outcome funding based system is due to be introduced.

Outcome Funding - The new requirements for successful grant applications

21st April 2004 Birmingham

16th June 2004 Manchester

A one-day course for organisations seeking to define and measure the outcomes of their work in ways that will be both appropriate for themselves and convincing to funders. Outcome Funding, and a clutch of related concepts, is taking a rapid grip on many big funding organisations including the Community Fund, a number of trusts and foundations and many government programmes.

Prices for these courses are as follows:

(£90 £110 £150 - depending on status of your organisation)

Special discount for small organisations - £81

Contact

For booking forms please contact:

DSC Training

24 Stephenson Way

London NW1 2DP

T: 08450 77 77 07

F: 020 7391 4808

E: training@dsc.org.uk

Press release workshop

7th April 2004 Manchester

£75 / £90 (Depending on status of your organisation)

Learn how to perfect a press release for your organisation at this workshop. It will cover the definition of your organisation's key messages, the identification and development of newsworthy elements, and writing a release for maximum impact. An editorial representative from a newspaper will also outline practical tips that you can use to increase coverage.

Contact

To book a place on the above workshop, please visit www.mediatrust.org/Events/book_regional.html

Noticeboard

Recruitment to the NWN Board of Trustees

North West Network is in the process of recruiting new members to its Board of Trustees. We are ideally looking for representatives that hold the position of Chief Officer or similar from within one of our member organisations.

For further information please contact,

Jane Stanistreet
Office Manager
North West Network
Room 2715
Sunley Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester
M1 4BD

Tel: 0161 236 6493

Fax: 0161 228 6137

Email: jane@nwnetwork.org.uk

A registration form can be found at http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk/index.php?page=browse&cat_id=97

New Look for ACD Website

In a bid to provide improved Government information for the voluntary sector, the Home Office has launched a new website for its Active Communities Directorate. The new website contains a range of information, including Active

Communities announcements and news from the Home Office, updates on the draft Charities Bill, and information on the work of the units making up the Active Communities Directorate. It will also carry key documents, consultations and links to grant funding opportunities, plus regular 'Viewpoint' articles by contributors from the voluntary sector and beyond. Check it out at,

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/index.html

NWDA Aids Access to European Funding

The North West Development Agency has announced the launch of FrameworksNW, a unique initiative that will support small-to-medium organisations within the region in their bid to access European funding. The initiative is a response to the European Commission's Framework 6 Programme (FP6), which has made Euro 17.5 billion of funds available to support research and development.

Poverty Power

The Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, Social Exclusion Unit and Homelessness Directorate are due to become part of a new 'Tackling Disadvantage' super unit focusing on eradicating poverty,

according to Regeneration & Renewal magazine. This is part of a restructuring within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Further news is expected in April. Watch this space.

Support for Halton Community Groups and Social Enterprises

There are now two websites to support community groups and social enterprises in the Halton borough. If you need national or local funding for your organisation then these are both invaluable online resources.

www.halton-borough.gov.uk/halton4community/index.asp

www.halton-borough.gov.uk/halton4socialenterprise/index.asp