

**Welcome**  
P1-3

**ESF Update**  
P4-8

**ERDF Update**  
P9-15

**Enlargement**  
P16-23

**Third Cohesion Report**  
P24-26

**NWVF**  
**Mapping Exercise**  
P27-28

**NWN Self Assessment**  
**Manual**  
P28-29

**CSV Media Young**  
**Volunteer Challenge**  
P30

**Other European**  
**Funding**  
P31-42

**Partner Search**  
P43-46

**Consultations**  
P47-50

**The Big 'E'**  
P51-52

**Non European**  
**Funding**  
P53-61

**Training & Events**  
P62-64

**Noticeboard**  
P65

***ISSUE NO. 49***

***May/June 2004***

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the 49<sup>th</sup> Issue of the North West Network Newsletter.

### **Newsletter Review**

Firstly, thank you to all those organisations which participated in the recent Newsletter review. The response that we have had from you has been simply overwhelming not only in terms of the number of returned questionnaires but the many positive and constructive comments submitted. Parallel to asking you for your feedback, an internal review with staff members and trustees has also taken place. A report highlighting areas for improvement has been produced and an action plan for the future development of the Newsletter has now been agreed. We hope to implement all recommendations by the end of this year. Thank you again for your assistance and please watch this space!

### **Trustee Recruitment**

In the last issue of the Newsletter we reported on the recruitment campaign for new members of the North West Network Board. To update, we are pleased to welcome John Heritage of The Prince's Trust and Alison Hill of Bolton Council for Voluntary Service. Both new members bring with them a wealth of experience which will assist in the continuing growth and development of North West Network.

### **New Addition to the European Team**

We also welcome Angeliki Stogia. Angeliki initially joined North West Network in February 2004 as a volunteer before formally joining the European Team as Assistant European Officer on 24 May 2004. Angeliki provides support, advice and guidance to voluntary sector organisations across the region. Angeliki graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University with a BSc Hons in European Studies and Languages in 1999 and the University of Aberdeen with a MLitt in Applied European Studies in 2000. Angeliki speaks English, Greek, Italian and French.

### **And Finally.....**

As is usual, in this issue you will find the latest update on the ESF and ERDF Programmes as well as the latest calls for transnational funding. The Volunteer Management Team has successfully gained Early Spend funding from Government Office North West for two development projects which will build the capacity of Voluntary & Community Sector infrastructure in the North West, read on to find out more.

## **Board Member Profile**

Mr Bob Allen, Chair of North West Network agreed to submit his profile for this regular feature within the Newsletter, his profile follows;

### **Some words from the Chair,**

Hello to all readers,

I joined the board of North West Network in May 1998 and was appointed as Chair in September 2000.

My role is to lead the Board of Trustees who have the key responsibility for providing strategic direction for the company and its staff. I am pleased to report that we have recently co-opted three new Board members and it is certainly good to get new people involved with a wider skills set.

I work closely with Emile, the Chief Executive, and by the time you have read this, I will have completed Emile's appraisal. One of the targets might be to make the office non smoking, the rebellion that might ensue you will hear about on the six o'clock news.

On a serious note we are progressing well with our plans for the year but we have to plan how we maintain North West Network's role in supporting its membership across the North West as mainstream EU funding changes in the next 2/3 years.

In addition to our continuing and important role in support for EU funding applications and advice you will see evidence in Newsletters of a broadening of our programme of support with 1NW, the Volunteer Management Team and our involvement in the North West Volunteering Forum.

In my day job I am the Executive Director of two Groundwork Trusts - Wigan and Chorley, which is 21 years old this year and Lancashire West, which has just been launched in April - the old and the new. Each comes with its own management challenges.

I have been employed within Groundwork for 13 years and prior to that, I was an agricultural economist for 14 years and salesman for three.

Within the voluntary sector we are tasked to manage businesses that have to remain financially viable as well as meeting the needs and aspirations of funders, partners, clients and beneficiaries and in many instances the Charity Commission.

All these are part of the territory in this sector. Many projects we carry out have multiple funders and partners and keeping them all satisfied with high quality and safe delivery is a challenge. Many voluntary sector groups are also working within the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and this brings its own challenges. I have always viewed the voluntary sector as more challenging than either the private and public sector and the rewards are in the changes we can make to peoples lives.

Outside of work my wife and I are refurbishing a house and garden that had been neglected for 20 years; plumbing, electrics, and general DIY. This leaves little time for other hobbies but I have recently been involved in securing funding for a cyber café in Pendle and seeing it launched earlier this year.

I hope all readers gain value from the work of NWN and this Newsletter. Do not hesitate to contact the staff with comments and ideas for the future.

Best wishes,

**Bob Allen**  
**Chair**

# EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND UPDATE

## OVERVIEW

### Programme Performance

Overall the Objective 3 Programme continues to perform well in the North West. In structural fund jargon the n+2 target for 2004 has already been met. Put simply, this means that we, as a region, have financial targets to meet in relation to spend and if these targets are not met then the funds are put back into the national pot and reallocated to regions that are spending. This will not be the case for the North West.

### Objective 3 Performance Reserve

A percentage of ESF funding is held back in the first half of the 2000-2006 Programme, this is the performance reserve. At the end of 2003 the Mid Term Evaluation and Mid Term Review assessed how effective the ESF Programmes have been in the nine English regions. On the findings of this, the performance reserve is then allocated to regions that have performed well. As one of the best performing English regions it is anticipated that the NW share of the Objective 3 performance reserve will be almost £16M. Government Office for the North West has established a steering group to consider the options for best use of the additional performance reserve allocation. It is anticipated that the performance reserve will be split across the policy fields as follows;

PF1 - £3.5 m

PF2 - £6 m

PF3 - £2 m

PF4 - £1.5 m

PF5 - £3 m

As a result of the Mid Term Evaluation the European Commission has agreed to merge the research policy fields and measures; Policy Field 2 Measure 3 into Policy Field 2 Measure 2 and Policy Field 5 Measure 2 into Policy Field 5 Measure 1. This will take place in the near future. In the meantime the open direct bidding round under Policy Field 5 Measure 2 continues. As none of the co-financing organisations support the research activity these measures will still be accessible wholly through direct bidding. Should you wish to receive help in submitting an application, then please contact the European Team.

It has not been indicated when the next direct bidding round will be, when there is one it will be subject to the same conditions as the last one; for activity that is predominantly higher level skills and for activity that falls outside the remit of the co-financing organisations.

### **Publicity**

If you have a successful project that you would like to showcase on the Project Gallery section of our website please contact a member of the European Team. We need to know a bit about your project, your project aim, where it took place, what you did and what you achieved and if you have any pictures to include even better. Remember to keep a copy of it for your publicity files.

## **CO-FINANCING REGIONAL ROUNDUP**

### **Cumbria LSC**

Cumbria Learning and Skills Council have launched their fourth invitation to tender for the 2004/06 period on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2004. The deadline for applications under this round was the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2004. For this round one tender specification was developed to provide funding for a project to deliver skills training, job search support, advice and guidance to adult workers in Barrow who have recently been made redundant or are threatened with redundancy. A total of £250,000 was available. It is expected that projects will run for at least a year but no longer than two and a half years.

**Cheshire and Warrington LSC Deadline dates vary slightly according to the tender specification applied to, for applications under Group E the deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2004, for those under Group C it is the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2004.**

Cheshire and Warrington Learning and Skills Council has just published the latest round of invitations to tender (ITTs) for Development Funding. The ITTs are available on [www.lscdf.org](http://www.lscdf.org) and are located in the invitation to tender section of the site. Two briefing sessions for potential applicants were held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

### **Lancashire LSC**

Lancashire Learning and Skills Council launched their second round of invitations to tender on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004. The deadline for applications is **12 noon on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2004**. The Round 2 Co-finance Prospectus can be downloaded from Lancashire LSC website [www.lsc.gov.uk/lancashire](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/lancashire) from the Information Bank section under ESF Information and Documents. The Prospectus contains the tender specifications, guidance notes and application form. Alternatively these can

be downloaded from the North West Network website or if you're experiencing difficulties downloading them please contact a member of the European Team.

North West Network will be running a training event on the application process for voluntary and community groups who are interested in applying. This event will take place on the morning of June 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 10am and finishing around 12.30 with lunch. If you are interested in attending this seminar please complete the booking form which will be on our website

### **Greater Manchester LSC**

#### **Tender for ESF Co-financing Second Prospectus March 2004**

The deadline for Stage 1 applications to Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council was the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004. Across all sectors 218 applications were submitted with 68 coming from the voluntary sector. The applications have been assessed and applicants were informed whether or not they had been successful. Those that were successful have been invited to submit their second stage application. For those voluntary and community groups who were successful at Stage 1, North West Network held a second stage application process seminar on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2004 in Manchester. Rosie Gregson from the LSC was also in attendance to answer technical questions. The European Team will be running a bid/tender improvement service and one-to-one advice surgeries up to the deadline of 12 noon 18<sup>th</sup> June 2004. All applications must go to Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council by this deadline. If you require further information regarding this round of invitations to tender please contact a member of the European Team.

### **Greater Merseyside LSC**

There are currently no Objective 3 invitations to tender open at Greater Merseyside LSC. General information on Greater Merseyside LSC is available on their website; [www.lsc.gov.uk/merseyside/Corporate/default.htm](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/merseyside/Corporate/default.htm)

## **GLOBAL GRANTS**

Global Grants are small grants of up to £6000 maximum which are designed to help develop Local Social Capital in deprived neighbourhoods. The activities funded would not normally be the subject of an ESF application but will facilitate progression towards the labour market as a key theme for those most disadvantaged in accessing the labour market.

Global Grants continue to be delivered through the 4 county-based Intermediary Bodies. Each one of these receives a share of the available budget of £660k per annum. Funding is allocated on a per capita basis.

In the next four issues of this Newsletter we will look at what Global Grants have achieved in each of the sub-regions. This issue we will look at Cumbria.

Global Grants in Cumbria are administered by Cumbria Community Foundation and are called the Cumbria Key Fund. In the first three years of the Cumbria Key Fund a total of 69 out of 97 applications were approved. This represents an average grant of £4635 for each application. The breakdown was as follows:

In year 1 (April 2001- March 2002) 25 projects were funded

In year 2 (April 2002-December 2002) 20 projects were funded

In year 3 (January - December 2003) 24 projects were funded

Examples of the type of activities that were funded include:

- supporting young people in a healthy living project which increased their motivation and confidence;
- a bursary scheme for small grants for local people wishing to access childcare training;
- a bursary fund for disabled people in Cumbria to learn to drive;
- developing a support network for volunteers to work with victims of domestic violence;
- establishing a bursary scheme for young people to support access to the job market;
- the training of volunteers to work with victims of rape and domestic violence and;
- the provision of computers and related equipment to support IT training and educational development for adults with disabilities.

The funding of these 69 projects in Cumbria delivered the following outputs:

- 4922 beneficiaries/participants
- 359 people trained
- 432 volunteers supported
- 20 people employed
- 16 jobs safeguarded
- 74 community groups supported
- 3 community enterprises started

To contact the Cumbria Community Foundation please ring either Andrew Beeforth or Roger Hart on 01900 325801. For contact details of the other Global Grants Intermediary Bodies please refer to the European Funding/Objective 3/Global Grants section of our website.

# EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATE

## ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2004

This document looks at the lessons learned in the first half of the Objective 2 Programme and sets out how they have influenced the delivery plans for 2004 onwards. The following information is taken from, and in parts précised from, the original document produced by Government Office North West. The full report can be downloaded from North West Network's website [www.nwnetwork.org.uk](http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk).

**Introduction** - The Single Programming Document (SPD) requires an Annual Monitoring Business Plan to be prepared to enable the Programme Monitoring/Regional Committee (PM/RC) to satisfy itself that projects are coming forward as quickly as anticipated and achieving projected outputs. It also provides a framework to ensure that lessons are being learned and that Programme impact is maximised.

In 2003 hitting the de-commitment targets presented a significant challenge to Government Office North West and partners involved in Programme delivery. In response to this the Partnership took numerous management actions to ensure that the target was reached. The target was exceeded, and as a result additional funds were allocated to the region from Performance Reserve Funds.

Performance Reserve Funds are a new feature of the 2000-2006 round of Structural Fund Programmes. The system is designed to 'reward' those Programmes demonstrating efficiency and effectiveness. As a result of achieving the N+2 targets and meeting key performance targets, the Programme received an additional €33.106m (£23.293m) in Performance Reserve Funds.

**Background and Overview** - The North West Objective 2 Single Programming Document (SPD) provides a strategic framework to enable the development of a competitive and sustainable economy which offers employment and income opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

The strategic aim reflects the need to boost the competitiveness of the Objective 2 area in order to narrow the prosperity gap with the UK as a whole, whilst recognising the need to reduce inequalities within the region and secure sustainable economic growth.

At the start of the Programme it was agreed that the Objective 2 and 3 Programmes should be closely integrated to ensure Objective 3 met the human resource demands of Objective 2. A combined PM/RC was formed to improve the strategic cohesion of both Programmes. The structure was reviewed in 2004 to improve the Governance of the Programmes and their inter-relationship.

**Programme Performance** - By December 2002 it had become clear that the 56 Action Plan Partnerships were not delivering in line with contractual requirements. The level of expenditure was significantly less than expected and there was a serious risk of de-commitment of significant European funds. Following a meeting with the wider Partnership, a more proactive and direct management approach was implemented, this included;

- The engagement of consultants to develop risk management capacity within the Government Office and the delivery partnership
- Quarterly meetings with Action Plan Partnerships to analyse the quality of data, explain the seriousness of underperformance and secure quarterly performance data against which the performance of the Action Plan would be rigorously managed to ensure that performance was brought back to contracted levels
- Recovery of funds from Action Plans not performing to contract
- Providing additional funding to those projects performing broadly to profile

The development of the Interactive Claim Facility (ICF), together with the risk management tool, will improve the quality and accuracy of Programme information.

**Management and Governance Structures** - The Programme is now steered by a smaller Programme Monitoring/Regional Committee (PM/RC), supported by the Performance Management Group, an Objective 2 Advisory Group and an Objective 3 Advisory Group.

The PM/RC is the main decision and policy making body for the Objective 2 Programme. It is also a joint body for the Objective 2 and Objective 3 Programmes.

A Performance Management Group of independent and impartial representatives was set up in 2003 to manage performance on behalf of the PM/RC. The Group is supported by two experienced practitioners who act as 'expert advisers' to ensure that proposed actions can be delivered. The Group monitors the performance of the Action Plan Partnerships and has delegated authority to remove/reallocate funds from and between Action Plans.

## **PRIORITY 2 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**

Priority 2 objectives are aimed at empowering and enabling socially and economically excluded individuals to access income and employment opportunities. The Mid Term Evaluation confirmed that overall the Priority 2 strategy continued to fit the socioeconomic and policy context including the Regional Economic Strategy, fairly well.

**Management and Overall Performance** - Management of the 27 Priority 2 Partnerships was strengthened by additional staff and by improved management information systems as for the other Priorities. Priority 2 performance in terms of claims received had been disappointing in 2002 and although the 2003 performance was variable, it was generally improved over the previous year due to Partnership experience, revenue projects coming on stream, and an improvement in project manager expertise. Roughly half of the £80m allocation for 2000-03 had been claimed by the end of the year but the overall performance contributed sufficient funds to the Objective 2 Programme as a whole to help avoid de- commitment.

**In-Year Adjustment** - Additional allocations were approved by the PM/RC for 8 of the 27 Priority 2 Partnerships in May and for 3 more in August. More minor adjustments were made to other Partnership contracts towards the end of the year as their ability to spend became clearer. These adjustments were entirely separate from future arrangements for the allocation of the remaining Programme resource, to support post 2003 activity and spend.

**Lessons Learned and Mid Term Evaluation** - The Priority 2 contracts for entering into legal and financial commitment concluded in December 2003. Therefore there was a pressing need during 2003 to agree by the third quarter, the levels of finance to be provided to each Action Plan Partnership for future years to ensure that Programme activity did not slow.

In response to the Evaluation, Partners felt that there was a moral imperative to preserve money for Community Economic Development activity in the second half of the Programme. However, it was also recognised that Priority 2 performance needed to improve, and Partners agreed to the creation of a reserve pot, which would be retained to finance regional and sub-regionally significant projects, thereby spreading delivery 'pressure' beyond existing Action Plan Partnerships. It was decided that new contracting and review mechanisms would be introduced to provide speedier recycling of underused funds.

In response to the recommendation about the possibility of merging Priority 2 Partnerships, it was recognised that there were capacity issues within existing

Action Plan Partnerships, and the revised Technical Assistance strategy proposed that additional funding be made available to address Action Plan Partnership capacity issues.

The PM/RC agreed that only 70% of available funds will be made available to Action Plan Partnerships, and that this would be an indicative allocation subject to satisfactory performance. It was also decided that the commitment period should be extended to December 2004 in Transitional Areas. The remaining 30% would be used to finance activities identified as regionally or sub-regionally significant in the work on developing a response to the Mid Term Evaluation, and to manage movements in exchange rates, specifically:

- Physical (transport related) links between disadvantaged P2 communities and areas of opportunity;
- Particular difficulties in P2 wards where investment would enhance that ward's performance;
- Complementary activity to Housing Market Renewal or other activity to address market decline;
- A strategic approach to the creation of economic activity such as the development of infrastructure for the creation of micro-businesses or community enterprises;
- A concentrated regional or sub-regional response to the difficulties of P2 wards;
- Activity which is innovative within at least the sub-region and which can be used as exemplars and can be replicated by other Action Plan Partnerships

Bids to deliver regional and sub-regional activity had been requested by the end of February 2004.

**Transitional Areas** - Transitional Areas faced difficulties in allocating the funding available to them within the time available, and consequently it was agreed that existing contract commitment periods would be extended to December 2004, to allow individual Action Plan Partnerships to maximise the funds available to them. This extension is on the proviso that the money is spent and claimed by December 2005.

**Performance Management** - Partnerships have received indicative lifetime allocations but except for those below £200k additional allocation will receive annual confirmation of contract amounts for future years to ensure strong performance monitoring. Those Partnerships which perform competently will move away from annual contract confirmation.

**Regionally/Sub-Regionally Significant Projects** - Partnerships were asked for initial bids by the end of February 2004. Some Partnerships were asked to adjust their requested Measure level profiles in line with the available funding. Measures 2.2 and 2.4 are slightly over-subscribed, with funding still available within 2.1, 2.3 and 2.5. The PM/RC may be asked to approve revised Measure allocations.

**Outputs and Results Achieved on Priority 2** - The achievement of outputs is generally good at the halfway point of the Programme. Given the growing importance of fully engaging local people in employment opportunities, the outputs in Measure 2.1 are reassuring. The take up of assistance by community enterprises has already exceeded the forecast.

Progress on the ground is mirroring the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal strategies aimed at narrowing the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country. Combining the initiatives and funding is helping to build cohesive, inclusive and sustainable communities.

Partnerships will be encouraged to allocate funding to those Measures where there is available funding and outputs shortfalls.

## **CROSS CUTTING THEMES**

The cross cutting commitments of the SPD are embedded within each of the Priorities and Measures and as such are being provided through the Action Plan contracted obligations.

In support of those Action Plans, technical assistance has been used to finance through the Regional Assembly, three skilled individuals who have produced a range of guidance and assist with capacity building within the Action Plan Partnerships. The Regional Assembly also provides the cross cutting support to the Objective 1 Programme on Merseyside and this arrangement ensures co-operation and collaboration to the benefit of both Programmes.

During the course of 2003 two of the three cross cutting managers left the organisation. It was a minor impediment given the support available to the Objective 1 Programme and the substitute arrangements entered into by the Assembly with Equality North West for guidance on equal opportunities and North West Node for the delivery of Information Communication Technology guidance. Nevertheless recruitment of replacement managers has proved difficult and the method of delivery is being reviewed.

Cross Cutting Themes require the development of a common understanding at Programme level, with implementation across all stages including all policies, documentation and monitoring and evaluation. The Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) specifically considered the Cross Cutting Themes and was broadly supportive of the degree of progress being made but recommended that a much broader definition of equal opportunities be adopted.

During the first half of the Programme, the equal opportunities focus was solely concerned with gender issues but following the MTE, a refocusing of the definition acknowledges Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty which provides for measures to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The much improved performance management systems contained within the Government Office will provide an improved platform for the Cross Cutting Themes to target their activities, being able to more effectively identify those Action Plans and projects which are under performing in terms of CCT outputs.

**Information Publicity and Performance** - The European Programmes require dedicated publicity in order to comply with EU policy, and target audiences which require either information or assistance. The Programme has adopted an Information and Publicity Strategy for the Objective 2 and 3 Programmes. The Strategy aims to raise awareness of funds amongst beneficiaries and raise public awareness of the role played by the EU in regional development. These aims were achieved through targeting specific audiences with a variety of different and overlapping measures.

2003 saw a step change in the quality of information, communication and publicity. A new Communications Officer was appointed to the European Programme Executive (EPE) with links to the Corporate Publicity Team. This Officer brought communication and marketing skills to implement the Information and Publicity Strategy. A number of tasks have been undertaken including;

- Development of the eurofundingnw website, including expansion and continued development. The website has been a successful tool in promoting the Programme, although it is clear as ICT develops, further development of the site is required, including easier navigation, better structure and a more modern image;
- The SPD and Programme Compliment were distributed as a hard copy or made available to print from the website at considerable financial and environmental cost. Production of a CD Rom is being considered;

- Continued production of the popular @ Home in Europe magazine, meeting the needs for the particular Partnership community which retains the preference for paper based publicity material. It is also distributed electronically and will be made available through the website;
- Mechanisms to further identify and then spread best practice to include production of leaflets promoting Objective 2 and 3, a new map of the area, photo library of images, more effective event feedback etc;
- The communications role will be further enhanced in 2004 and the Programme Executive will be taking steps to ensure that this activity is effectively resourced.

**Equal Opportunities** - A key recommendation of the Mid Term Evaluation was the re-definition of the Equal Opportunities Cross Cutting Theme to embrace a broader definition of Equal Opportunities. During the first half of the Programme the focus of equal opportunities was solely focused on gender issues. The definition has now been extended to comply with Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty and combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The Partnership is required to review the performance of the Action Plan regularly and address any shortfalls in performance against target outputs. A process was implemented to assess the impact of equal opportunities policies. Evaluations measured the extent to which the principle of promoting equal opportunities has been taken into account in implementing the Programme. They took particular regard of the involvement of women in general measures and the relevance and outcome of those measures.

During 2002 and 2003 there has been positive progress towards achieving gender balance in some of the committees running the Programme. On 19 June 2003 Programme Advisory Group members agreed a report on the Equal Opportunities Mainstreaming Plan, a substantial revision of the one in the original Regional Development Plan. The key action was the need for a commitment to promoting Equal Opportunities throughout the Programme.

## ENLARGEMENT

The European Union has embarked on the biggest enlargement of its history both in terms of scope and diversity. Ten new countries became members of the European Union on the first of May this year bringing up the number of the EU countries to twenty five, and an increase of the population by 20% making the EU the biggest common market in the world. Ireland, the current holder of the Presidency of the European Union, hosted official celebrations in Dublin to mark this historic event. The heads of government of the 25 member states gathered for a special flag raising ceremony as an official welcome of the new countries to the European family. Concerts, street parties, and various kinds of festivities took place all over the continent to welcome the new member states, and to familiarise people with the new countries joining the EU and the new opportunities which will be brought by the eastward expansion of the EU.

### **But what will Enlargement mean for the UK and for the North West?**

The expansion of the single market will enhance GDP growth both in candidate countries and in the EU 15. Enlargement according to independent research estimates will boost UK GDP by £1.75bn and the European Round Table of Industrialists estimated that investment opportunities in the new countries and increase in trade will create 300,000 more jobs in the EU 15. EU enlargement means that North West businesses and consumers will be offered many fresh opportunities for trade, investment and choice as Europe's market opens up to become the largest single market of the world. In addition UK companies will benefit from some cheaper inputs, technology transfers and economies of scale. Enlargement of the single market means that the new countries have to adopt harmonized standards of certification and testing making trading goods easier within the EU. This also means that it will be easier to do business across Europe with common regulations and certification standards applying to all EU members and businesses will have a greater choice of suppliers as well as export and investment opportunities. UK consumers have a wider range of goods and services with the addition of 10 new member states to the European family. As the economies of the new countries will grow, their consumers will become more prosperous and this will have a positive impact on the economic development of the rest of the Southern and Eastern European states, opening up more future opportunities to the UK. The North West is well placed to compete in this market. The North West region has a long history of links with enlargement countries and enlargement brings the opportunity to enhance and build upon these existing links. According to a report by the European Commission, 63% of the region's exports go to the EU, earning £8.7 billion a year and providing support for 405,000 jobs. In addition more than 1,300

companies in the North West export to the EU. Enlargement brings new opportunities to make contacts, new clients and partnerships in the North West for every sector.

However, there are a few challenges to consider. Enlargement will have a direct effect on the apportionment of structural funds of which the North West will be a minor beneficiary. Funds are secured until the end of 2006, but after that it remains to be seen what the leaders of the EU are going to decide on the future of structural policy. Enlargement will effect the long term economy of the North West through trading opportunities and competition for goods and services. But as trade and capital flows are expected to increase further in the candidate countries after accession the potential for growth of these countries should be seen as an opportunity for the current EU member states and indeed for the UK and the North West.

With regards to the EU governance framework, enlargement brings about quite a few changes on the composition of the institutions of the European Union as the new member states will be represented at the European level alongside the existing member states. First of all, the European Commission's size will grow. The number of the interim Commission -up until the end of October- will be thirty and then sized down to 25 as the largest member state countries (UK, France, Germany Spain and Italy) will each give up their right to a second Commissioner. During the interim period, the ten new member states will each obtain a number of votes coherent with the current system, which will bring the total number of votes to 124. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2004 when the Treaty of Nice will come into force, the number of votes in the European Council will be 321. From May until June, the national Parliaments of the accession countries will appoint their representatives in the European Parliament, which will seat an additional 106 members, bringing the grand total up to 732 seats. European Elections have taken place, all member states will elect new members for the European Parliament who will be in office until 2009. An update on all the new North West Members of European Parliament will feature in the next Newsletter.

With regards to structural funds in the accession countries, the Commission had issued in December last year strategies for implementation of the funds for all accession countries to be formally approved upon accession of the countries. For the period between 2004 and 2006 a total of €22 billion has been put aside for assistance to the new member states.

Available funds allocated to the new member states (in €uro):

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Structural Funds</b>	<b>Cohesion Fund</b>	<b>Technical Assistance</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	53.3 m	54 m	1.12 m
<b>Czech Republic</b>	1,525 m	936 m	48 m
<b>Estonia</b>	371 m	309 m	14.6 m
<b>Hungary</b>	1,995 m	1.1 bn	88 m
<b>Latvia</b>	626 m	515 m	17 m
<b>Lithuania</b>	895 m	608 m	26.9 m
<b>Malta</b>	63.2 m	22 m	1.4 m
<b>Poland</b>	8,276 m	4,179 m	181 m
<b>Slovakia</b>	1,041 m	570 m	50.1 m
<b>Slovenia</b>	237.5 m	189 m	10.2 m

The Commission, has devised individual strategies and identified priorities, based on the needs of the new member states, to promote development and structural adjustments in the new member states. What follows is a brief breakdown of the strategies, aims and priorities of the allocation of funds for the new member states.

### **Cyprus**

Funds available for Cyprus under Objective 2 are based on two priorities:

- **Sustainable Rural Development**, with the aim of creating a more diversified economic base and improving the socio-economic conditions with a Community contribution of €18.49 million;
- **Development of urban areas in decline**, with the aim to promote the socio-economic regeneration of selected urban areas in the Nicosia region adjacent to the cease-fire line with a Community contribution of € 8.41 million.

An amount of € 1.12 million will be made available for technical assistance.

With regards to Objective 3, the strategy and priorities of the Single Programming Document are to promote the modernisation of policies and systems in the field of employment, education and training and life long training in Cyprus. Two priorities are included:

- **The development and promotion of active labour market policies** such as promoting employment, equal opportunities and access to labour market for those threatened by social exclusion with a Community contribution of € 11.4 million; and
- **The promotion and improvement of education and training systems and lifelong learning**, such as the improvement of the education and training systems through the introduction of information and communication technology applications and modern methods of teaching in the context of life-long learning with a Community contribution of € 10 million.

In addition to that, the amount of € 0.54 million will be made available for technical assistance.

The strategies and the priorities provide for funding for the fisheries sector in an attempt to make it more competitive and sustainable. The programme is based on three priorities:

- **Adjustment of fishing effort:** the purpose is to eliminate fleet overcapacity by permanently removing a number of fishing vessels from the fishing fleet with a Community contribution of € 1.64 million;
- **Fleet renewal and modernisation:** such as the modernisation of existing vessels particularly in terms of safety and living conditions with a Community contribution of € 0.18 million;
- **Development of aquaculture, fishing ports and processing and marketing:** improving the quality and increasing the quantity of fish available for human consumption with a Community contribution of € 1.50 million. In addition, an amount of € 0.085 million will be made available for technical assistance.

### **Czech Republic**

The Cohesion Fund will be implemented through a Community Support Framework (CSF) for the Objective 1 area (the whole country but the Prague region). The Community support framework is financed by the four Structural Funds of the EU that are managed under the responsibility of Commissioners Barnier (ERDF), Fischler (EAGGF and FIFG) and Diamantopoulou (ESF). It will amount to €1.454 billion. The strategy adopted will be implemented through a series of five Operational Programmes :

- **Operational programme industry and enterprise** with a Community contribution of € 261 million;
- **Operational programme infrastructure** with a Community contribution of €246 million;
- **Operational programme human resources** development with a Community contribution of € 319 million;
- **Operational programme rural development and multi-functional agriculture** with a Community contribution of € 174 million;
- **Joint regional operational programme** with a Community contribution of €454 million.

Within these allocations, an amount of €46 million will be made available for technical assistance.

There is also a Single Programming Document for the Prague region (Objective 2) where funds are assigned are as follows:

- **Development and transformation of city environment** with a Community contribution of € 54 million;
- **Building up the future prosperity of the selected area** with a Community contribution of € 16 million.

An amount of € 2 million will be made available for technical assistance.

### **Estonia**

The strategy is based on the following four priorities, which seek to promote development and structural adjustment in Estonia:

- **Human resources development:** such as supporting the educational system, lifelong learning for all and enhancing administrative capacity with a Community contribution of € 76.1 million;
- **Enterprise competitiveness:** such as financing possibilities and infrastructure of businesses, research, technology development and innovation, tourism at national level with a Community contribution of € 73.2 million;
- **Agriculture, fisheries and rural development:** such as improvement of the processing and marketing of agricultural products, diversified economic activities in rural areas, land improvement, forestry, regulation of fishing capacity, modernisation and renewal of fishing fleet, social measures accompanying restructuring in fisheries with a Community contribution of € 69.3 million;
- **Infrastructure and local development:** such as transport infrastructure, projects of environmental infrastructure, reorganisation of the hospital network, information society (e-government, e-citizen), local development projects with socioeconomic impact with a Community contribution of € 138.1 million.

In addition, a Community contribution of € 14.6 million will be available for technical assistance.

### **Hungary**

The strategy adopted to promote development and structural adjustment in Hungary is built on a Community Support Framework based on the following priorities:

- **Increasing the competitiveness of the productive sector** with a Community contribution of € 721 million, including € 304 million for agriculture and rural development;
- **Promoting employment and human resource development** with a Community contribution of € 535 million;
- **Improving transport infrastructure and protecting the environment** with a Community contribution of € 314 million;
- **Strengthening regional and local potential** with a Community contribution of € 338 million;

Additionally, an amount of € 88 million will be made available for technical assistance.

### **Latvia**

The programme that seeks to promote development and structural adjustment in Latvia is based on four priorities:

- **Promotion of territorial cohesion:** almost 33% of the whole budget is allocated to improve Latvia's infrastructure, not only in transport, but also in environment, tourism, information and communication technologies, health care, education, and social sectors when related to the labour market with a Community contribution of € 203.8 million;

- **Enterprises and innovation:** such as supporting development of innovation and business infrastructure, business support to small and medium-sized enterprises as well as facilitating their access to finance, development of public research with a Community contribution of € 156.4 million;

- **Human resources and promotion of employment:** such as improvement of education and training, return to the labour market of socially excluded groups with a Community contribution of € 132.7 million;

- **Development of rural areas and fisheries:** diversification and restructuring of agriculture and fisheries as well as development in rural areas with a Community contribution of € 115.7 million.

An amount of € 17 million will be made available for technical assistance.

## **Lithuania**

In order to promote development and structural adjustment in Lithuania four priorities have been identified:

- **Social and economic infrastructure:** almost 39% of the whole budget is allocated to improve Lithuania's infrastructure, not only in transport, but also in energy, health, education, research institutions, labour market institutions and related social affairs sectors with a Community contribution of € 347.1 million;

- **Human resources development:** such as upgrading of education and training, return to the labour market of socially excluded groups, training and retraining of researchers to increase the knowledge base of the country with a Community contribution of € 163.8 million;

- **Strengthening competitiveness of enterprises:** such as the business environment, the competitiveness of enterprises, measures to support information technologies and the tourism sector with a Community contribution of € 222.4 million;

- **Rural development, agriculture and fisheries:** such as the promotion of sustainable development in rural areas, and the diversification and restructuring of agriculture and fisheries with a Community contribution of € 135 million.

In addition the amount of € 26.9 million will be made available for technical assistance.

## **Malta**

The strategy and the priorities which seek to promote development and structural adjustment in Malta are based on four priorities:

- **Strategic investments and the strengthening of competitiveness in Malta:** such as improvements in the environment sector with a strong focus on water quality and

waste disposal and support to small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing and tourism sectors with a Community contribution of € 39.5 million;

- **Human resources development:** such as supporting the inclusion in the labour market of people with disability and developing life long learning with a Community contribution of € 8.8 million;

- **Rural development and fisheries:** improvement of the processing and marketing of products, renewal and modernisation of the fleet, supporting aquaculture and fishing port facilities with a Community contribution of € 7million;

- **Special support to the island of Gozo:** such as the upgrading of transport infrastructure, supporting the tourism sector and the upgrading of education centres with a Community contribution of € 6.5 million.

In addition an amount of € 1.4 million will be made available for technical assistance.

### **Poland**

Poland will benefit from co-financing of €8.276 billion, and an additional €4.179 billion will be available from the Cohesion Fund to co-finance infrastructures in the environment and transport sectors. The strategy adopted by the Commission is built on a Community Support Framework based on the following priorities:

- **The enterprise sector** with a Community contribution of € 1,251 million;

- **Human capital** with a Community contribution of € 1,470 million;

- **Infrastructure** with a Community contribution of €1,163 million;

- **Regional and rural development** with a Community contribution of € 4,363 million.

An amount of € 181 million of Community contribution is made available for technical assistance.

### **Slovakia**

The strategy focuses on four development priorities: increasing competitiveness, promoting employment creation, fostering balanced regional development and agricultural and rural development. It is implemented through four operational programmes:

- **Industry and services:** € 151.2 million to support the development of industrial production, better integrating research and development into industrial production, improving energy efficiency and promoting tourism;

- **Human resources:** € 284.5 million to increase labour market flexibility, reduce unemployment and reduce the risk of social exclusion of the most vulnerable groups in particular the Roma community;

- **Basic infrastructure:** € 422.4 million to foster balanced regional development by improving transport accessibility, improving the environment and renovating local infrastructure;

- **Agriculture and rural development:** € 183 million to increase the efficiency of agricultural and aquacultural production, modernising the processing of agricultural and fisheries products and to improving the quality of life of the rural population.

An amount of € 50.1 million in Community contribution will be available for technical assistance.

### **Slovenia**

The programme of structural aid for Slovenia is based on three priorities:

- **Promotion of the productive sector and competitiveness:** such as the support to start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises, the promotion of clusters and technology networks and increased support to regional tourist development with a Community contribution of € 129.2 million;
- **Human resources development and employment:** such as the inclusion in the labour market of people with special needs, develop life long learning and improve the quality of and access to education and training with a Community contribution of € 72.7 million;
- **Restructuring of agriculture, forestry and fisheries:** such as the improvement of the processing and marketing of products, the renewal and modernisation of the fleet with a Community contribution of € 25.3 million.

An amount of € 10.2 million will be made available for technical assistance.

For more information on Structural and Cohesion Fund allocations for the new European member states visit:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm)

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/index_en.htm)

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/policy\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/policy_en.htm)

For information at the time of publication (14 June 2004), the exchange rate was as follows: £1: 1.43 Euro.

## THIRD COHESION REPORT

On the 18 of February 2004 the European Commission published the Third Cohesion Report which contains the Commission's proposals for the next round of European Structural Funds. The Report sets out in detail its proposals on how cohesion policy should evolve for the next programme period which spans from 2007-2013 and is an important starting point for shaping policy discussions on cohesion and regional policy development issues.

Cohesion policy is the only policy of the European Union that explicitly addresses economic and social inequalities and it involves a transfer of resources between Member States via the European Union's budget for the purpose of supporting economic growth and sustainable development through investment in people and physical capital.

The Third Cohesion Report makes it clear that the challenge for cohesion policy in an enlarged Europe, where the socio-economic disparities will double and the average GDP of the Union will decrease by 12.5% is to provide an effective policy response and reduce the social and economic disparities between the regions. The Report comments on the effectiveness of the last programme of the structural funds and it goes on to outline the challenges facing European economies including the widening of regional disparities with enlargement, the ageing of the population, widening socio-economic disparities, the impact of globalization.

The Commission, in light of the growing regional disparities in an enlarged Europe proposes a new architecture for EU cohesion policy after 2006. The Commission's vision for cohesion policy concentrates on three main objectives, and the proposed budget to be spread among these priorities for the period 2007-2013 will amount to 0.41% of the EU's Gross National Income, an estimated €336.3 bn.

**Convergence: supporting growth and job creation in the least developed Member States and regions.** This objective is about improving the conditions governing growth and factors for creating convergence between the Member States. The objective would concern those regions with GDP per capita less than 75% of the Community average. [According to this only Cornwall would benefit in the UK].

However, there is provision for regions where per capita GDP would have been below 75% of the Community average prior to enlargement, (The so-called statistical effect of enlargement) and according to this West Wales, Merseyside and South Yorkshire will continue to benefit from temporary support.

ERDF would cater for modernizing and diversifying the economic structure of Member States and regions, extending and upgrading basic infrastructures, protecting the environment and reinforcing administrative capacity. ESF would provide support for improving the quality of labour market institutions, education and training systems, increasing investment in human capital and promoting the adaptation of public administration. Member States with GNP lying below 90% of Community average will be also eligible for the Cohesion Fund which will continue to finance transport networks and environmental infrastructures. This objective will be allocated about 78% of the proposed budget, about €263bn for the period. In a few words, this Objective is similar to the old Objective 1, covering countries and regions where GDP is less than 75% of EU average which also incorporates former Objective 2 areas including ESF and it also addresses similar areas as Interreg, Equal, Urban and Leader.

**Regional competitiveness and employment: anticipating and promoting change.**

For Cohesion policy outside the least developed Member States and regions the Commission has proposed a two-fold approach. First through regional programmes, cohesion policy would help regions and the regional authorities to anticipate and promote economic change in industrial, urban and rural areas by strengthening their competitiveness, taking into account existing economic, social and territorial disparities. Second, through national programmes, cohesion policy would help people to anticipate and to adapt to economic change, in line with the policy priorities of the European Employment Strategy, by supporting policies aiming at full employment, quality and productivity at work and social inclusion. This objective will be allocated about 18% of the proposed budget, about €60.5bn for the period.

**European territorial co-operation: promoting the harmonious and balanced development of the Union territory.**

Building on the experience of Interreg, the Commission intends to propose a new legal instrument dedicated to further the harmonious and balanced integration of the Union's territory by supporting co-operation at cross-border, transnational and interregional level. In principle all regions along the external and internal borders, terrestrial as well as maritime would be concerned by cross-border co-operation in order to promote joint solutions to common problems between neighbouring authorities, such as urban, rural and coastal development and development of economic relations and networking of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). This objective will be allocated about 4% of the proposed budget, about €13bn.

The key principles for the delivery of cohesion policy – programming, partnership, co-financing and evaluation – will be maintained, and the Commission proposes that an overall strategic document for cohesion policy should be adopted by the Council,

with an opinion of the European Parliament to help ensure that cohesion policy is more politically accountable and it conforms to the priorities set out at the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas. Each year the European Institutions would examine progress on the strategic priorities and results achieved on the basis of a report by the Commission summarizing Member State's progress reports. The Commission is also proposing to further simplify administration of the funds including simpler financial payments such as the introduction of the principle of proportionality to financial control systems.

The Commission's proposals are based on the prediction of an increased budget, an issue which has been debated a lot especially among the larger Member States. In the UK, based on the report, structural fund support is to decrease, while the ESF component will be over £300 million per year. The UK Government published its approach to EU regional policy in March 2003, arguing for keeping the part of the UK contributions which would return back to the UK and spend it according to the current Government's priorities. Recycled funds from the UK to the EU and all the way back is seen as wasteful and unnecessary. The UK Government produced a consultation paper titled 'A Modern Regional Policy for the United Kingdom' that sets out the basis for a suggested UK position for future EU negotiation on the reform of the European Structural Funds after 2006 in March 2003. This document can be accessed from the DTI's Internet Site at: [www.dti.gov.uk/europe/consultation.pdf](http://www.dti.gov.uk/europe/consultation.pdf) or why not download from our own site please go to European Funding/Post 2006 section.

However, it is clear that there is a long way to go before agreement is reached between the UK, the Commission and the rest of Europe's Member States on the future of Cohesion Policy.

The Commission's Third Report on Economic and Social Cohesion can be found at the European Commission's Regional policy website:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion3/cohesion3\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion3/cohesion3_en.htm)

For information at the time of publication (14 June 2004), the exchange rate was as follows: £1: 1.43 Euro.

## **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE EARLY SPEND FUND**

In January 2004 the Home Office made available £6.25million of 'Early Spend' revenue funding to support the development of an infrastructure strategy for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in England. The programme is part of a £93 million investment by the Government which aims to ensure that the VCS has the capacity to participate in shaping and delivering high quality public services. Funds have been made available at both a National and regional level.

North West Network has successfully gained 'Early Spend' funding from Government Office North West (GO-NW) for two development projects which will build the capacity of VCS infrastructure in the North West.

## **NWVF - MAPPING THE SPECIALIST VOLUNTEERING INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND**

The North West Volunteering Forum (NWVF) has received a grant from the Regional Infrastructure Early Spend to map the specialist volunteering infrastructure in the North West in order to identify capacity building needs in the volunteering sector and to determine how this can be met most effectively by improving and expanding this aspect of the voluntary and community sector within the North West region.

### **Overall Aim**

- To inform the development of an investment strategy to raise the capacity of specialist volunteering infrastructure in the North West

### **Key Objectives**

- To map the current level of specialist volunteering infrastructure in each local authority district within the North West
- To identify gaps in volunteering infrastructure within the North West
- To analyse the current levels of funding and sources
- To analyse the future funding expectations and sources
- To provide details of current and future opportunities to collaborate locally, sub regionally and regionally

- To provide details of current and future opportunities to influence policy and contribute to the strategic direction of volunteering provision locally, sub regionally and regionally

### **Outputs**

- The interim findings of the mapping process will be communicated to GO-NW at the mid point of the project
- A final report will be presented to GO-NW in a form which will enable the findings to also act as a directory and source of reference

### **Outcomes**

The project will provide:

- A clear picture of the current level of volunteering infrastructure in the North West
- A clear picture of the gaps in volunteering infrastructure in the North West
- An overview of the current and future opportunities to collaborate locally, sub regionally and regionally

### **Are you a Volunteering Infrastructure Organisation?**

If so, please contact Cathy Jackson at North West Network to ensure that your organisation is included in the Mapping Project.

Email: [cathy@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:cathy@nwnetwork.org.uk) Tel: 0161 236 6493 Mobile: 07734 38416

## **NWN SELF ASSESSMENT MANUAL (SAM)**

North West Network has secured funding from GO-NW Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Early Spend Fund to develop a self assessment manual (SAM) to aid its capacity building programme for volunteer involving organisations.

Following the development of SAM, subject to future funding, NWN will be delivering a capacity building service to volunteer involving organisations within the North West during 2005.

### **Overview of NWN Self Assessment Manual Project**

The SAM project will develop a Self Assessment Manual, that when combined with a package of practical support from NWN, will enable and empower organisations to:

- Improve their ability to recruit, manage and retain volunteers
- Comply with current legislation
- Improve their management of funding contracts and ability to obtain future funding
- Attain a greater level of sustainability by replacing cultures of 'fire fighting' with a culture of future planning
- The end result being an improvement in the quality of service they offer to the community in which they work.

In addition, the manual will give organisations assistance to understand the Compact – Volunteering Code of Good Practice and work towards meeting and implementing the suggested standards for volunteer involving organisations.

### **Consultation Group**

NWN has set up a Consultation Group representative of voluntary sector organisations working at a local, sub regional and regional level. The group will review and evaluate the self assessment manual at every stage of development ensuring it is comprehensive, up to date and relevant to the needs of a wide range of voluntary organisations. The Consultation Group is made up of organisations that responded to NWN's appeal sent to all members of NWN in April.

### **Implementation Strategy**

NWN will consult with other regional, sub regional and local infrastructure organisations to inform on how the Self Assessment Manual can be implemented through practical support from NWN. This process is designed to identify areas of highest need for the service (both in a geographic and thematic context) and avoid duplication in areas with strong infrastructure, plug gaps in weaker areas, and collaborate with local infrastructure. Questionnaires will be sent out to infrastructure organisations in June.

### **Your Views**

If your organisation would like more information on:

- How you could be part of the consultation group
- How your organisation's views could inform our Implementation Strategy for SAM
- Or how your organisation can benefit from capacity building support in the future

Please contact: Carol Savage or Dan Farley

Tel: 0161 236 6493, Email: [carol@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:carol@nwnetwork.org.uk) Or [dan@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:dan@nwnetwork.org.uk)

## **CSV MEDIA YOUNG VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE**

North West Network is currently working in partnership with CSV Media North to develop a pilot project called Young Volunteer Challenge that aims to give 18 and 19 year olds living in Manchester the opportunity to take a Gap year to participate in full-time volunteering.

CSV Media is looking for organisations to take part in the pilot by providing full time placements for young people and/or publicising Young Volunteer Challenge to young people already volunteering within their organisation.

As well as providing an incentive to young people volunteering within your organisation by taking part in CSV Young Volunteer Challenge your organisation will benefit from:

- Payment of volunteer expenses
- Access to specialist media/publicity support to promote your organisations work/ recruit more volunteers
- Recruitment of volunteers to your organisation
- NWN Volunteer Management Team's support in developing your volunteering programme

To check that the 18 to 19 years olds volunteering within your organisation are eligible for Young Volunteer Challenge or if you would like more information on how you could receive volunteers from the Young Volunteer Challenge, please contact CSV Media directly (contact details below):

Nicola Dean or Clare Daly  
Young Volunteer Challenge Team  
CSV Media North  
Tel: 0161 237 3123  
Email: nkdean@hotmail.com

Address:  
Young Volunteer Challenge Team  
CSV Media North  
Canada House, Chepstow Street  
Manchester, M1 5FW

## **OTHER EUROPEAN FUNDING**

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

#### **Equal Programme Round 2**

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. The second round of the Equal Programme has been announced. There will be around £100m ESF funding for Development Partnerships (DPs) in the second round and DPs will operate from 2005-2007.

For further information, please visit the following website,  
[www.equal.ecotec.co.uk](http://www.equal.ecotec.co.uk)

**The deadline for completed applications is 30 June 2004.**

The Department for Work and Pensions has published its mid-term evaluation of the Equal Community Initiative. While it welcomed the partnership building opportunities offered by the scheme, the report states that better initial research and greater efforts to get disadvantaged groups involved would have improved the projects.

To view the report please go to the following website,  
[www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2004/may/iad130504equal.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2004/may/iad130504equal.asp)

#### **Interact Programme - Second Call**

Interact is part of the Community Initiative Interreg. The Programme seeks to build on the experience and lessons of Interreg I and Interreg II. The Interact Programme was approved by the European Commission on 16 December 2002 and is financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Interact has a wide geographic scope covering the 25 current and new EU Member States and neighbouring countries. The core of the Interact Programme is to set up information and communication networks, to define information frameworks and flows, to proactively disseminate information and to stimulate exchange of experiences. The second call for proposals was launched by its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union on 7 May 2004.

For further information, please visit the following website,  
[www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net)

**The deadline for submission of applications is 15 July 2004.**

### **Call for Leader+ Projects in Lancashire**

East Lancashire Partnership, on behalf of the Lancashire Leader+ Local Action Group, is pleased to announce that funding is available in 2004 and the following three years for projects taking place in the rural areas of Lancaster, Pendle, Wyre and Ribble Valley. The Leader+ Programme is a European Community Initiative, supplemented with funding from DEFRA and managed by Local Action Groups. The Programme aims to create self-reliant rural communities by developing sustainable rural economies that improve the quality of life for local residents. The Leader+ themes addressed by the Lancashire Programme are,

- Improving quality of life
- Adding value to local products, in particular by facilitating access to markets for small production units via collective actions

Please contact Heather Halstead at East Lancashire Partnership to find out which wards qualify for funding and for an application pack. Tel: 01254 300466 or e-mail: [heather@elp.org.uk](mailto:heather@elp.org.uk)

**The deadline for completed applications is 16 July 2004.**

### **Useful Links**

In addition to mainstream Structural Fund Programmes, the European Commission presents many more funding opportunities for the voluntary sector. Calls for tenders, proposals and expressions of interest are announced thematically through each department or Directorates-General and are updated frequently. It is therefore recommended that you consult the following links.

<http://europa.eu.int/grants>

The link above will direct you to the European Union's Grants and Loans site, detailing a list of Directorates-General which operate funding programmes, a useful thematic index, individual programme overviews and further links.

The following link will allow you to view the latest news and updates from each Directorates-General of the European Commission.

[http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/whatsnew\\_comm.htm](http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/whatsnew_comm.htm)

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: 1.43 Euro (14 June 2004).

## **CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE**

### **Tacis Institution Building Partnership Programme**

The European Commission is seeking proposals for projects in local economic development, social development and administrative reform in Belarus under the Tacis Institution Building Partnership Programme (IBPP). The total grant available for this Programme is Euro 1.7 million.

For further information please visit the following website,  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

(EuropeAid/119707/C/G/BY, please select TACIS, Open, Grants, All, All when using the website above).

**The deadline for completed applications is 20 July 2004.**

### **Hungary Labour Market Projects**

The European Commission has once again invited proposals for local projects that combat the exclusion of certain groups of people from the labour market in Hungary. Projects will focus on the employment and labour market integration and reintegration of long term unemployed people.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.esf.hu](http://www.esf.hu)

**The deadline for completed applications is 23 July 2004.**

## **CULTURE**

### **Culture 2000 - Advance Notice**

Culture 2000 is the European Union's funding programme aimed specifically at arts and culture. Originally adopted in February 2000 and established for a period of five years, it has now been announced that the programme will be extended for another two years and run until 2006. Calls for proposals are published once a year. The next call is scheduled to be announced in the summer of 2004 with deadlines in late summer or autumn 2004.

To subscribe to the free Culture 2000 newsletter (published 10 times per year), please send an e-mail to [Edith.Guetta@cec.eu.int](mailto:Edith.Guetta@cec.eu.int)

For further information on Culture 2000, please visit the following websites,  
[www.euclid.info/uk/Culture2000/](http://www.euclid.info/uk/Culture2000/)  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index_en.html)

## **ENTERPRISE**

### **Enterprise Mission**

The European Commission's Enterprise Directorate-General (DG) has a mission to help companies strengthen their competitiveness, grow and develop in a way that is compatible with sustainable development. Publishing its work programme for the coming year, the DG has announced that it plans to issue calls for proposals for the following projects,

- E-business awareness campaign in acceding and candidate countries - Euro 750,000 budget, with a call expected in the first half of 2004
- Two exercises comparing the assessment of personal protective equipment - Euro 60,000 budget, with a call expected in the first half of 2004
- Promoting scientific work on standardisation in academia - Euro 200,000, with a call expected in the second half of 2004
- Dutch EU Presidency conference on corporate social responsibility - Euro 150,000
- Developing European technical approval guidelines for construction products - Euro 400,000, call expected in the second half of 2004
- Analysing the interaction of manufacturing and services - Euro 100,000

The Enterprise DG will also grant Euro 10.34 million in 2004 to help Euro Info Centres provide information and advice to small and medium sized enterprises, Euro 25 million for the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Projects and

Euro 2.34 million to the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Co-operation to develop a strategy for market access for industrial products and services to protect the competitiveness of the EU.

Calls for proposals will be published on the Enterprise DG website at,  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/funding/grants/themes\\_2004/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/funding/grants/themes_2004/index.htm)

### **Consulting the Workforce**

Trade unions, employers' organisations and works councils are invited to apply for EU funding to improve transnational co-operation in the area of informing, consulting and improving the participation of worker and employer representatives. Further information and application forms are available from, E-mail: [EMPL-B3-4003@cec.eu.int](mailto:EMPL-B3-4003@cec.eu.int) (Budget heading 04030303).

**The deadline for applications is 10 September 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 area 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.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.europanostra.org](http://www.europanostra.org)

**The deadlines for these awards are 15 September and 1 November 2004.**

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

### **E-learning Programme**

The European Commission has issued its first call for information and communications technology projects in the area of education and training, with funds available from the new EU E-learning Programme. The Programme is open to organisations from the public and private sectors involved in e-learning. Projects should have a balanced partnership of organisations from across the European Union and European Economic Area and from the education and training sector. At least three different countries should be involved, of which at least one must be an EU country.

Application forms and further information are available from,  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/elearning/index.html>

E-mail: [elearning@cec.eu.int](mailto:elearning@cec.eu.int)

Fax: 00 32 2 296 69 92

**The closing date for applications is 28 June 2004.**

## **JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

### **Civil Co-operation Projects**

The Framework Programme for Judicial Co-operation in civil matters was established in 2002 with the aim of encouraging better co-operation between non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and judicial organisations in the Member States in the area of civil law. The European Commission has now issued its 2004 work programme and call for proposals.

For further information please visit the following website,

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/funding/civil\\_cooperation/funding\\_civil\\_cooperation\\_en.htm#](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/civil_cooperation/funding_civil_cooperation_en.htm#)

**The deadline for applications is 31 July 2004.**

## **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **International Co-operation with Mediterranean Countries**

The European Commission has launched a call for proposals for specific targeted research projects and co-ordination actions under the Sixth Framework Programme

(FP6).

The following areas are covered by this call,

- Environment (B.1 in the work programme)
- Comprehensive policy for integrated water planning (B.1.1)
- Improving the water consumption by users and uses; plant breeding for efficient crop water and nutrient use (B.1.2)
- Advanced water treatment, re use and energy implication (B.1.3)
- Environmental risks (B.1.4)
- Renewable energy (B.1.5)
- Material artefacts, monuments and sites (B.2.1)
- Risk assessment and preventive conservation (B.2.3)
- Health (B.3)

The indicative budget for this call is Euro 27.1 million.

**The deadline for applications is 14 September 2004.**

To see the full details of the call, please consult the following web address.

[http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call\\_details.cfm?CALL\\_ID=121](http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=121)

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Well Done to Preston!**

Preston is one of 17 towns and cities recently awarded EU funding from the CIVITAS Programme. The Programme promotes the development of alternatives to the use of private cars in urban areas.

[www.civitas-initiative.org/civitas/news.cfm?newID=135](http://www.civitas-initiative.org/civitas/news.cfm?newID=135)

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

### **Leonardo da Vinci Vocational Training Programme**

The third and final call for proposals for projects funded by the EU Leonardo da Vinci Vocational Training Programme has been published by the European Commission. Valid for 2005-06, the call covers project proposals in the following areas,

- Mobility, enabling trainees to carry out their vocational education and training in another country within the enlarged EU
- Pilot projects and thematic actions
- Language competence
- Transnational networks
- Reference material

Applications are invited from vocational training establishments, research centres, public or private sector bodies, trade organisations, social partners, non-governmental organisations and local and regional bodies and organisations.

The European Commission will provide grants of between Euro 3,600 and Euro 5,000 per participant in a mobility scheme and up to 75% of costs for pilot projects, thematic actions and language competences, to a maximum of Euro 200,000 per project. Grants of up to 50% will be awarded to transnational networks, with a maximum grant of Euro 150,000 and up to 100% for reference material (maximum grant Euro 300,000 per year).

The closing date for all projects except mobility actions is **1 October 2004** for projects starting 1 October 2005 and **30 September 2005** for projects starting 1 October 2006. The deadline for mobility proposals is **11 February 2005** and **10 February 2006** for projects starting from 1 June 2005 and 1 June 2006 respectively.

Further information can be obtained from the UK Leonardo national agencies,

Phil Randall/ Helen Fisher  
 Department for Education and Skills  
 European Union Division  
 E-mail: phil.randall@dfes.gov.uk  
 E-mail: Helen.fisher@dfes.gsi.gov.uk  
 Tel: 020 7340 4488  
 Fax: 020 7340 4492

British Council Education and Training Group  
 E-mail: leonardo@britishcouncil.org  
 Tel: 020 7389 4389  
 Fax: 020 7389 4426

Mr Kursat Levent Egriboz  
 ECOTEC Research & Consulting Ltd  
 Tel: 0121 616 3770

Fax: 0121 616 3779

E-mail: leonardo@ecotec.co.uk

Guidelines and information are also available from the Socrates, Leonardo and Youth Technical Assistance Office at,

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/leonardo2\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/leonardo2_en.html)

E-mail: leonardo@socleoyouth.be

Fax: 00 32 2 233 01 50

## **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.

For further information please visit the following website,

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-link/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-link/index_en.htm)

**The deadline for completed applications is 23 September 2004.**

### **European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights**

The European Commission is seeking proposals for activities that support democracy, good governance and the rule of law in more than 50 countries and regions around the world. The priority countries cover a wide area of the globe but include Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro in South East Europe, Georgia, Russia and the Ukraine in the Newly Independent States, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe in Africa, and China, Iraq and Pakistan in Asia.

Funding totalling Euro 39.3 million is provided from the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, set up to promote democracy and human rights and conflict prevention in countries outside the EU. Support for this call will be given to activities such as those which strengthen civil society, provide education and

awareness raising on human rights, develop freedom of expression and independent media and develop institutions, governance and conflict prevention and resolution. Each country has a specific theme or sector, for example improving human rights education for women, developing good practice in public authorities or more accountable public bodies.

(Reference - EuropeAid/119508/C/G, please select Other, Open, Grants, All and All when using the website below).

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

**The deadline for applications is 29 June 2004.**

### **Funding for Managers to Learn About Asian Markets**

Managers who want to learn more about doing business in South East Asia can receive grants from the EU to learn more about Japanese and Korean markets. The EU Executive Training Programme (ETP) aims to help EU companies build strong, long lasting relationships with their Japanese and Korean counterparts.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.etp.org](http://www.etp.org)

**The deadline for completed applications is 31 July 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.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.proinvest-eu.org/](http://www.proinvest-eu.org/)

**The deadline for completed applications is 30 September 2004.**

## YOUTH

### Youth Programme

This is the European Union's mobility and non-formal education programme targeting young people aged between 15 and 25 years. The Programme is open to youth in 30 European countries. The Youth Programme offers possibilities to young people in the form of both group exchanges and individual voluntary work, as well as support activities. The following actions are carried out under the Programme,

- Youth for Europe (Action 1) - Youth Exchanges
- European Voluntary Service (Action 2) - Voluntary activities in another country
- Youth Initiatives (Action 3) - Group Initiatives or Future Capital actions
- Joint Actions (Action 4) - With Leonardo or Socrates
- Support Measures (Action 5) - To develop projects related to Youth objectives and actions

### Youth Exchanges

Applications to be made to Connect Youth.

For projects starting between 1 December 2004 and 30 April 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 September 2004**.

For projects starting between 1 February and 30 June 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 November 2004**.

### European Voluntary Service

Bilateral Projects (applications to be made to Connect Youth).

For projects starting between 1 December 2004 and 30 April 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 September 2004**.

For projects starting between 1 February and 30 June 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 November 2004**.

European Projects (applications to be made to European Commission)

For projects starting between 1 April and 30 September 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 November 2004**.

### **Youth Initiatives**

Applications to be made to Connect Youth.

For projects starting between 1 December 2004 and 30 April 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 September 2004**.

For projects starting between 1 February and 30 June 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 November 2004**.

### **Support Measures**

Applications to be made to Connect Youth.

For projects starting between 1 December 2004 to 30 April 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 September 2004**.

For projects starting between 1 February to 30 June 2005, applications must be submitted by **1 November 2004**.

For further information please visit the following websites,

UK: [www.britcoun.org/education/connectyouth](http://www.britcoun.org/education/connectyouth)

EU: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/index_en.html)

European Youth Portal: [www.youthportal.org/](http://www.youthportal.org/)

## **PARTNER SEARCH**

### **Energy Efficiency in Cities**

The City of Stuttgart is seeking partners for a project on municipal energy management in European cities. The project aims to compare and contrast energy management and find out where there have been energy savings. It will undertake a regular survey on the energy consumption of buildings and the reduction of energy bills. It also plans to work on energy management policies to create a municipal database and improve the sharing of best practice. The City would also like to organise training and workshops for energy managers on strategies for energy efficiency.

#### **Contact**

Dr Volker Kienzlen  
City of Stuttgart  
Department for Energy Management  
Gaisburgstrasse 4  
70182 Stuttgart  
Germany  
Tel: 00 49 711 216 2241  
E-mail: u360500@stuttgart.de

### **Science and Technology in Spain**

A non-profit making technological park foundation in Spain is seeking partners for a project to promote technology and science under the EU's Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Development. The project aims to stimulate links between national and regional organisations and at national and European levels. Partners are sought from other technology parks promoting science and technology and other foundations and non-profit organisations interested in this area.

#### **Contact**

Miguel Angel Ayllón  
Fundación Insula Barataria  
Palacio de Bencazón  
c/Recoletos 1  
45001 Toledo

Spain

Tel: 00 34 925 232850

Fax: 00 34 925 23 3770

E-mail: miguelangel.ayllon@ibarataria.org

## **Sexual Health**

Sesamhuset provides information on sexual health issues to immigrants living in Gothenburg in Sweden. The organisation would like to get in touch with similar projects elsewhere in Europe, to exchange experience of providing sexual health information and HIV prevention.

### **Contact**

Jonna Abelsson

Sesamhuset

SDF Gunnared

Besöksadress: Fjäderharvsgatan 50

Box 34SE-424 21

Angered

Sweden

Tel: 00 46 31 365 1290

Fax: 00 46 31 365 1291

[www.sesamhuset.goteborg.se](http://www.sesamhuset.goteborg.se)

## **Sustainable Resource Management**

ASSURRE, a European association promoting sustainable resource management, has launched a new project to help improve European environmental regulation and standards of good governance. The project will allow companies, local authorities and academics to share knowledge, showcase success and promote partnership and information sharing. It will identify and assess the key elements of successful sustainable resource management schemes at the local and regional level, by analysing the achievements of leading European local authorities in this field. ASSURRE is seeking interested local authorities which have good practice examples to share or which are interested in learning from other leading local authorities examples to participate in the project.

### **Contact**

Edward Cameron

CameronSDS

Rue de la Pacification 46  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: 00 32 2 230 5310  
E-mail: [edward@cameronsds.com](mailto:edward@cameronsds.com)  
[www.cameronsds.com/portfolio/bestpractice/assurre](http://www.cameronsds.com/portfolio/bestpractice/assurre)

### **Tourism and Twinning**

The municipality of Kallikrateia in Greece is seeking partners for a project to organise a conference on tourism and the local economy under the EU's Town Twinning Programme. The municipality plans to work in partnership with other regions in order to share experience and discuss the challenges and benefits of developing tourism in regions. The conference aims to be a networking platform for participants, and to develop co-operation and exchange experience between local communities.

### **Contact**

Souroudi Eleni  
ParAgogos  
48 Mavromichali  
54349 Thessaloniki  
Greece  
E-mail: [tzeve@spark.net.gr](mailto:tzeve@spark.net.gr)  
Tel: 00 30 2310330154  
Fax: 00 30 2310330174  
[www.paragogos.com](http://www.paragogos.com)

### **Macedonia Partnerships**

The Local Government International Bureau is seeking three UK local authorities who would be interested in forming partnerships with municipalities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is hoped that of these three authorities, one will come from Northern Ireland and another from Wales. The UK and Macedonian partners will work together for one year on fully funded projects covering a range of key local government themes. These partnerships will be funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as part of its strategy of global conflict prevention.

Activities will cover,

- Committee / cabinet decision making structures
- Equal opportunity employment policies
- Media strategies
- Bilingualism and the use of flags and other community symbols
- Budgeting, financial planning, and the collection of local taxes
- Urban planning and neighbourhood regeneration strategies
- Small business development initiatives
- Environmental issues

To participate in this programme contact Aisling Lyon at LGIB as soon as possible at,

E-mail: [aisling.lyon@lgib.gov.uk](mailto:aisling.lyon@lgib.gov.uk)

Fax: 020 7664 3128

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **UK Consultation on EU 7th R&D Framework Programme**

**Deadline: 26 July 2004**

The European Framework Programme supports leading-edge science and technology and strengthens international partnerships, providing approximately Euro 0.5 billion of funding to UK participants each year. The Seventh Framework Programme will cover the period 2006-2010/11. The UK Government is consulting widely to inform policy on the new Programme, inviting comments by 26 July.

View online at,  
[www.ost.gov.uk/ostinternational/fp7/index.html](http://www.ost.gov.uk/ostinternational/fp7/index.html)

### **Sustainability Plan**

**Deadline: 31 July 2004**

Ministers have pledged to tackle the disadvantages, threats and dangers of living in Britain's poorest areas in the name of sustainable development. In a recent consultation, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs says its forthcoming sustainable development strategy will seek to 'ensure all people have a healthy environment no matter what their income and where they live'. Responses are invited by 31 July and can be submitted online.

[www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/taking-it-on/index.htm](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/taking-it-on/index.htm)

### **White Paper on the Commission for Equality and Human Rights**

**Deadline: 6 August 2004**

On 30 October 2003, the Government announced its intention to establish a single Commission for Equality and Human Rights. This announcement followed the consultation - Equality and Diversity: Making It Happen - which launched the most significant review of equality institutions in Great Britain in a quarter of a century. The purpose of this White Paper is to set out the Government's proposals for the Commission in detail, including its role, duties and powers, and outline the way in

which it will deliver to its key stakeholders. It also sets out the anticipated next steps towards establishment.

View the White Paper and consultation online at,  
[www.dti.gov.uk/access/equalitywhitepaper.pdf](http://www.dti.gov.uk/access/equalitywhitepaper.pdf)

Further copies of the White Paper, including alternative formats, can be obtained from,

DTI Publications Orderline  
ADMAIL Publications  
London  
SW1W 8YT  
Tel: 0870 1502 500  
Fax: 0870 1502 333  
Textphone: 0870 1502 100

### **Supporting Young People to Achieve - Towards a New Deal for Skills**

**Deadline: 30 September 2004**

The Government is committed to ensuring that all young people reach the age of 19 ready for higher education or skilled employment. This report describes and launches a consultation on short and long-term measures to improve choice and provide decent minimum levels of income to deliver a more individualised, professional service to young people.

View online at,  
[www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conExternal.cfm?consultationId=17](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conExternal.cfm?consultationId=17)

### **Gender Equality Research**

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, E-mail: s.fox@dundas-ltd.co.uk

## **Consultation on Draft Guidance on Campaigning and Political Activities by Charities**

**Deadline: 30 July 2004**

The Charity Commission has revised its guidance on Campaigning and Political Activities, to focus on ways in which this type of activity can be done. This follows recommendation in the Government's Private Action, Public Benefit report and views that previous guidance was too negative and cautious. It wants charity views on the draft, to see if they've got the balance right. Their Head of Regulatory Policy says 'The new approach of this draft guidance places trustees firmly in the driving seat when it comes to deciding whether, and how, to carry out campaigning activity'.

[www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/cc9consintro.asp](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/cc9consintro.asp).

## **Do you use DSC's 'The Guide to UK Company Giving'?**

The Directory of Social Change is currently re-appraising the possible content of, and format(s) for, the next (5th) edition of 'The Guide to UK Company Giving'. As part of this process they are keen to receive feedback from current users of the guide. If you are willing to complete a short questionnaire regarding this, please send an e-mail marked 'User Survey' to John Smyth at: [jsmyth@dsc.org.uk](mailto:jsmyth@dsc.org.uk)

## **Progress Implementing the Recommendations of the 2002 Cross-Cutting Review**

**Deadline: 11 August 2004**

'Progress implementing the recommendations of the 2002 cross-cutting review' is the start of NCVO's work with the National Audit Office on assessing how well Government departments have done in removing barriers to including the voluntary and community sector in service delivery. The initial consultation is based on a series of questions. Completing the consultation should only take about 15 minutes.

To view the consultation please visit the following website,

www.ncvo-  
vol.org.uk/asp/search/ncvo/main.aspx?siteID=1&slID=18&subSID=138&documentID  
=2062

### **New Start and Urban Forum to Draw up Residents' Charter**

New Start has joined forces with voluntary sector umbrella group Urban Forum to draw up a 'residents' charter' setting out minimum standards of treatment for volunteers leading regeneration schemes. The work stems from New Start's Just Rewards campaign and Urban Forum's new deal for communities' conferences, and aims to establish a baseline that all regeneration partnerships will adopt. The charter will cover out-of-pocket expenses such as travel, childcare and telephone costs. It will also seek to outline minimum facilities that should be made available to resident board members or directors, such as computer equipment, internet access, training and support. Urban Forum now asks partnerships to submit their own examples of good practice, which can be collated and incorporated into a national charter.

To submit examples of successful practice please e-mail Caroline Gaunt at Urban Forum ([caroline@urbanforum.org.uk](mailto:caroline@urbanforum.org.uk)) or Julian Dobson at New Start ([news@newstartmag.co.uk](mailto:news@newstartmag.co.uk)).

### **Draft Charities Bill**

#### **Deadline: 15 July 2004**

On 26 November 2003, it was announced in the Queen's Speech that the Government will publish a draft Charities Bill. This will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament. A Joint Committee chaired by Alan Milburn has now been set up to scrutinise the Charities Bill. The Joint Committee invites interested organisations and individuals to submit written evidence as part of its inquiry.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/jcdchb.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/jcdchb.cfm)



Encourage engage e-learning equality employers entry encourage  
engage e-learning equality employers entry

## The Big 'E'

Encourage engage e-learning equality employers entry encourage  
engage e-learning equality employers entry

The **Big 'E'** is a collaboration project between the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and University for Industry (Ufi). It is a Reach Out project to encourage learners, engage 'hard to reach' groups, involve employers, and broaden e-learning opportunities for all across the North West, widening participation whilst ensuring equality and diversity. The project sits in the Ufi NW team, complementary to Ufi NW's Widening participation agenda, and is funded by the NWDA and Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The teams' primary focus is to work with and in hard to reach communities, to develop and test out needs-led engagement models to motivate and bring more learners and employers into skills for life and e-learning. The project aims to do this by using regional and local intelligence to identify specific target groups in specific postcode areas under represented in e-learning, blended learning and employment, and highlight these to local learning organisations. The team will work in partnerships with centres to develop new funding and organisational models that will enable effective and sustainable delivery of Skills for Life. The **Big 'E'** also aims to promote life long learning by working in partnership with the learning organisations to develop effective, and continuing guidance so that each new learner coming forward is encouraged to continue learning beyond an initial taster course.

Another objective of the project is to identify new and existing models of engagement and best practice. The project aims to achieve this by using a range of pilot projects to identify examples of best practice that can be disseminated locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. This will be done by using a range of marketing and promotional techniques: newsletters; events; media; and website, to market Skills for Life to hard to reach learners, learning centres and employers. To enable the project to reach its objectives we need to create and develop effective partnerships with reach out organisations and suppliers of learning. The **Big 'E'** project team are looking for link up organisations to input into the success of the project. So we would like to hear from anyone who has any interesting and exciting engagement methods, examples of best practice or would like to know more about the project.

Throughout June the project has organised a number of Move On training events. Move On is a national project aiming to share the success of a pilot project in Somerset and developing its approach further. It offers Level 1 and 2 learners the

new national Certificate in Adult Literacy and numeracy with a free brush-up course, aiming to reach new learners who don't see themselves as needing help with their basic skills. Move on was developed because traditional Basic Skills provision focuses predominantly on entry level learners and their problems with reading, writing and/or maths. But the Skills for Life Strategy is broad and inclusive, from people with learning difficulties and disabilities to Level 2. This brush-up group is not well served by the current offer from most providers. Research shows that the majority of those we need to reach to cover the whole range of learners are in this brush up group.

The Move On approach has a positive sell. It trains recruiters, anyone in touch with this brush-up group - IAG, Jobcentre Plus Advisers, teachers of any subject, Union Learning Reps, other learners, playgroup leaders, prison officers. If you would like to hear more information on the Move On and other up and coming events please contact [mkinsella@ufi.com](mailto:mkinsella@ufi.com), or call 01925 661869.

Supported by



***This article was kindly contributed by Mary Kinsella from the University for Industry.***

## **NON EUROPEAN FUNDING**

### **General Fund of the Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme (OFV)**

The Grants Directorate of Volunteering England administers the General Fund of the Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme (OFV) on behalf of the Department of Health. It funds locally-focused projects in England that increase the quality and involvement of volunteers in health and social care in voluntary sector services. Projects submitted need to have a positive impact on the health and well-being of their users. This may include improving physical or mental health, reducing health inequalities in their local communities or focusing on supporting and improving access for people who are excluded from mainstream health and social care services. Projects must be working towards good practice in volunteer management and aim to involve users and volunteers in decision-making.

**The closing date for completed applications is 5pm, Monday 2 August 2004.**

For further information please telephone, 0845 305 6979.

E-mail: [noelle@volunteeringengland.org](mailto:noelle@volunteeringengland.org)

Application guidelines and preliminary application forms can be downloaded from the following website,  
[www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=379](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=379)

If you need to discuss your application before applying, please ring the Help Line, 020 7520 8984/5, open Tuesdays to Thursdays, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.

### **The Barrow Cadbury Trust (UK)**

Founded in 1920 as the Barrow and Geraldine S. Cadbury Trust, the Trust merged with the Paul S. Cadbury Trust in 1994 and became the Barrow Cadbury Trust. The Trust seeks to encourage a just, equal, peaceful and democratic society. They use the income generated from an endowment to make grants to support groups, usually registered charities, working to achieve such objectives. Grants are given to groups operating from a position of disadvantage, to support projects that get to the heart of the matter at community level.

The Trust has three Programme areas,

- Inclusive Communities
- Offending and Early Intervention
- Global Exchange

The Trust has recently published new guidelines. There are no set deadlines but the Trustees usually meet three times a year to consider applications. The first step is a registration of interest.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.bctrust.org.uk/main.htm](http://www.bctrust.org.uk/main.htm)

### **Tudor Trust**

Tudor is an independent grant-making charitable trust which exists to enhance people's quality of life. They focus their grants on projects in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; particularly where there is significant deprivation in urban, rural and coastal areas. The Trustees of the Trust, recognising that society has significant, unmet needs, want to provide resources which help groups and communities to meet these needs and address their root causes. Promoting people's well being and enabling them to make positive choices about their future is central to Tudor's current work. In April 2004 they updated their funding priorities, please ensure you re-read the new guidelines before making an application.

For further information please contact,

7 Ladbrooke Grove  
London  
W11 3BD  
Tel: 020 7727 8522  
Fax: 020 7221 8522  
[www.tudortrust.org.uk](http://www.tudortrust.org.uk)

Tudor does not use an application form. Please send your application by post. Applications cannot be accepted as faxes or e-mails. Please address applications to 'The Trustees'.

There are no deadlines for sending project proposals. All applications are assessed on a rolling programme.

## **People's Places Award Scheme**

The People's Places Award Scheme is open to community groups in rural and urban areas across England. The scheme is targeted at communities living in areas of deprivation and at disadvantaged groups. It offers groups a chance to make a difference to their community by creating or improving a 'people's place'. This could be an area of land or building which the group wants to turn into an environmental community resource, involving local people in its sustainable development. Awards of £3,000 to £10,000 are available to projects which meet the scheme requirements. Groups must be able to demonstrate both environmental benefits and community benefits. Environmental benefits could include encouraging wildlife, improving the appearance of the site or reducing pollution. Community benefits could be the empowerment of under-represented groups, increased community activity or the provision of new community resources. The scheme is funded by the New Opportunities Fund's Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities Programme, with additional funding and support from Rio Tinto and English Nature. The scheme is managed by BTCV.

The application process is divided into the following stages,

- Completion of an Eligibility Form
- Appointment of a Local Mentor
- Completion of a full Application Form

The People's Places Award Scheme will end in May 2006.

Initially, applications are assessed by the People's Places Award Unit to ensure that all the necessary information has been included and that they meet the scheme criteria. They are then assessed by an independent grant panel, which meets every month, except August and December.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.btcv.org/ppawards](http://www.btcv.org/ppawards)

BTCV People's Places Unit  
Howbery Park  
Wallingford  
Oxfordshire  
OX10 8BA  
Tel: 01491 821621

## **Community Champions Fund North West**

This Fund is designed to increase the skill levels of individuals to enable them to act as inspirational figures, community entrepreneurs and community mentors and leaders in order to increase community involvement in regeneration and learning activity. An emphasis is placed on supporting individuals who have already shown leadership in stimulating community activity, or who have ideas for encouraging greater community activity. The Fund will also support small-scale community inspired projects as part of supporting potential champions who have not previously sought funding. The Fund also encourages older (50+) volunteers to get involved in helping their communities. The main type of funded activity is very small-scale but it is activity that makes a real difference. Often, a small amount of support at a crucial time can help individuals become strong role models in their communities. The Fund has, for example, provided training in giving presentations, or enabled individuals to attend conferences that are relevant to what they are trying to do in their community.

For all enquiries please contact,

Pauline Morgan-Williams  
Government Office for the North West  
Sunley Tower  
Piccadilly Plaza  
Manchester  
M1 4BE  
Tel : 0161 952 4445  
Fax : 0161 952 4170  
E-mail: pmorgan-williams.gonw@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

**The Fund is open for applications.**

### **Manchester Grants to Voluntary and Community Groups**

Manchester City Council manages a number of grant schemes which voluntary and community groups can apply to, including CAS:H Grants and Change Grants.

#### **Clean and Safe (CAS:H) Grants**

Manchester City Council is keen to support local projects that can make a difference to people's local neighbourhoods. An area left in a mess attracts trouble makers and vandals, but action by local people can transform problem areas into

attractive community features. CAS:H grants are the Council's response to the problems highlighted by residents. In 2004/05 grants of up to £40,000 per ward are available to help people improve their local neighbourhoods.

### **Capacity Building Grants for Community Groups in Manchester**

Change grants are available for community groups who want to encourage local activity and involvement and who need a small amount of money to get off the ground. To get a grant you must be a small or new community group of Manchester residents run on a wholly voluntary basis, (that is, without paid workers) wanting to provide services or activities that will benefit local communities in Manchester. Funding could be for newsletters, publicity, stationery, small items of equipment, meeting rooms, training, social events, fun days and outings, or any other reasonable costs of developing your group. Based on what you need, grants can be from a few pounds up to £1,000.

For further information please contact the Voluntary Sector Policy and Grants Section.

E-mail: [voluntary.sector.grants@notes.manchester.gov.uk](mailto:voluntary.sector.grants@notes.manchester.gov.uk)

Fax: 0161 234 3055

Textphone: 0161 244 5851

### **Cheshire Active Community Grants Scheme**

Cheshire County Council operates a grants scheme for groups working within local communities. The purpose of this fund is to,

'Provide financial support to community organisations in Cheshire to enable them to develop more active communities that can participate effectively in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the services that affect their quality of life'.

The Active Community Grants are revenue only and divided into three main areas.

#### **Strategic Funding**

This funding supports the core operational activities of an organisation where,

- The organisation's activities match the County Council's objectives but it is better placed to deliver them at a level and to an audience that the County Council is not

- Where the County Council wants to assist a particular target group
- Where the County recognises the implicit value of the organisation (its track record/strategic position) and its role in the wider community sector context and wants to support that role

### **Project Funding**

Project funding would be provided to meet the costs of a specific piece of work or activity for an agreed period of time. This could include an element of the organisation's core costs provided such costs were necessary to achieve the outputs of the project. Examples of the types of activities that could be supported through project funding include,

- Local research
- Training for local groups
- Promotion and publicity for local community activity
- Resources to support community involvement - e.g. developing or equipping a local resource centre (excluding major capital expenditure)
- Community events or activities that increase community involvement

### **Development Funding**

Development funding would provide time-limited support to enable a community organisation to develop in a particular direction. It differs from 'project funding' in that it would be directed at developing the capacity of the organisation itself, rather than delivering a specific project for the community. It would,

- Be for an agreed period of time
- Be explicit about the outcomes expected and the way in which progress will be monitored and evaluated
- Provide a realistic exit for the County and the funded organisation at the end of the period of development funding

For further information contact,

Joanne Jones  
 Community Work Team Leader  
 Tel: 01244 603129  
 Fax: 01244 603063

## **Cumbria Voluntary and Community Grants**

Cumbria County Council can provide grants for voluntary, non-profit making and community groups in Cumbria for community based projects on an area basis. Grants awarded have included applications from play groups, resident's action groups, sports groups, youth clubs, environmental groups, community centres and local charities. Neighbourhood Forums deal with grant applications in different ways and can also have slightly differing budgets. It's always worth having a chat with the Neighbourhood Development Officer for the area your project will be in.

Application forms can be obtained from the area office that supports your Neighbourhood Forum. Alternatively you can access the application form online and post it to the area office.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.cumbria.gov.uk/communityinformation/neighbourhoodforums/grants/](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/communityinformation/neighbourhoodforums/grants/)

## **Lancashire Grants for the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors**

Lancashire County Council provide funding to help with core costs, development costs and projects for the voluntary, community and faith sectors. There are three different types of grant funding,

### **Projects**

- Funding from this category would meet the costs of a specific piece of work or activity over an agreed amount of time
- Grants would be awarded for the length of the project, or up to a three-year period, as long as the annual review shows satisfactory progress
- Project funding can include an element for core costs, such as staffing, accommodation and equipment, if you can show how this represents value for money and contributes to the outcomes of the project

### **Development**

- Development funding may be given to groups at particular periods when they need it to enable them to grow and develop in a particular direction. For

example, this may be because a group needs to increase its capacity before it can take advantage of an opportunity to grow or expand

- It is allocated for an agreed period of time, up to a three-year period. Whether funding is given and how much is given will depend on you showing clearly stated outcomes for your project and ways in which you will monitor and evaluate its progress

### **Strategic**

- You can apply for money from the strategic funding category to support the things that enable your project to work efficiently and effectively. This can be things like costs for staffing, premises, stationery, equipment, travel and subsistence
- Strategic funding is normally for up to three years. During this time you can apply to renew the funding or to get rollover funding

You can download the application form from,  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/grants\\_groups/index.asp](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/grants_groups/index.asp)

For further information please contact,

Mark Waddington  
Administrative Officer - Grants  
PO Box 78  
County Hall  
Preston  
PR1 8XJ  
Tel:01772 537697  
E-mail: [mark.waddington@css.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.waddington@css.lancscc.gov.uk)

### **Enterprising Solutions**

Enterprising Solutions, the National Social Enterprise Award, is run this year by the Social Enterprise Coalition with Natwest/RBS and the DTI Small Business Service. Charities, co-ops, community groups etc are all eligible, as long as they have financed over 50% of their work through enterprise for the last 3 years. They also need to show innovation in meeting social needs. The five winners get cash

(£10,000/£5,000) and a two day tailored enterprise programme by the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship.

For further information please visit the following website,  
[www.enterprisingsolutions.org.uk](http://www.enterprisingsolutions.org.uk)

**The deadline for applications is 23 July 2004.**

## **TRAINING AND EVENTS**

### **Lancashire LSC Briefing Sessions: 22 June 2004**

Lancashire Learning and Skills Council announced their latest round of Invitations to Tender (ITTs) on the 1 June 2004. They are holding a briefing sessions for potential applicants on the 22 of June 2004. Spaces may be limited on these sessions, so please only attend if you are actually going to submit an application for funding under this round. This briefing sessions will take place at Clayton Park Conference and Learning Centre, Accrington. Further details and a booking form can be downloaded from the News/Events section of the North West Network website

---

### **North West Network in conjunction with Lancashire LSC: 28 June 2004**

On the 28 June North West Network will be running a training seminar on the Lancashire LSC application process. This seminar is aimed solely at voluntary/community organisations intending to apply under their current Invitation(s) to Tender round. Further details and a booking form are available on the News/Events section of the North West Network website.

---

**Data Protection Act - Monday 28 June 2004, Manchester. 10am to 4pm.**

**Cost - includes refreshments, lunch and an information pack:**

**£60 GMCVO Members / £70 Other VCS / £120 Other Statutory Orgs**

The programme for the day will include :

- An overview of the Data Protection Act - amendments and guidance;
- Regulations on Privacy and Electronic Communications;
- Interpretation of guidance and practical advice.

**Venue** - St. Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ

**For further information and a booking form contact;**

Susan Barrett

GMCVO

Tel: 0161 277 1004

Email:susan.barrett@gmcvo.org.uk

---

**Press Release from EUCLID**

**SPECIAL EXTRA Cultur€uro SEMINAR AND  
CULTURE 2000 Workshop: July 2004**

**GETTING FUNDING FROM EUROPE!!**

EUCLID is the official UK Cultural Contact Point (CCP), advising the UK cultural sector on Culture 2000 and other EU funding opportunities. EUCLID, along with the CCPs from all eligible countries, will be attending a special EU Briefing meeting on 3 June 2004 to hear the latest news about the next call for proposals for Culture 2000 (due out shortly), and to be briefed on the latest rules and guidelines for applicants.

EUCLID is therefore pleased to announce an additional Cultur€uro seminar on opportunities for the cultural sector to access funding from the European Union and also a workshop advising potential applicants on completing the Culture 2000 application form.

**SEMINAR - 5 July 2004 at DCMS, Cockspur Street, London**

The seminar will cover:

- Brief history and background to the European Union
- Implications and opportunities from the enlargement of the EU
- Understanding the institutions of the EU: where does the power lie?
- Contacting and lobbying your MEP and other key EU contacts
- Understanding the Structural Funds and their relevance to arts and culture
- The range of the trans-national funds available for the cultural sector
- The Culture 2000 programme - 2004-2006
- New case studies of successful EU funded culture projects
- Finding partners for trans-national projects
- Tips on completing EU application forms

All CULTUR<sup>a</sup>URO seminar delegates will receive a full Information Pack with notes on the presentations, extensive contact details in the UK and Europe, etc.

This CULTUR<sup>a</sup>URO Seminar will run from 10.30-4.30.

PLEASE NOTE: As EUCLID incurs delegate costs prior to the seminars, failure to notify us of non-attendance/cancellation 7 days in advance of the event will result in a charge of one-third of the full registration fee being levied.

## **COSTS**

The full cost of the registration fee per person for the CULTUR<sup>a</sup>URO Seminars is £88 + VAT (£103.40).

## **WORKSHOP - 6 July 2004 at Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London**

Following EUCLID's forthcoming attendance at the official EU Briefing for all Cultural Contact Points on 3 June 2004, EUCLID is now offering a workshop aimed at people who are considering making an application for projects in 2004 to the Culture 2000 funding programme (see [www.culture2000.info](http://www.culture2000.info) for more information).

This workshop will run from 2-5pm and will cover:

- Understanding the implications of the criteria
- Completing the application form
- Constructing the budget - and how to present all income and expenditure

Workshop participants can also receive ongoing feedback on the development of their proposal.

## **COSTS**

A fee of £18 per person + VAT (£21.15) will be charged for attendance at this workshop.

Fees **MUST** be received no later than a week before the workshop. In the event of cancellation less than a week prior to the seminar, no refund will be made.

**To access the Registration Form for both events, please go to [www.euclid.info/uk/seminars/index.htm](http://www.euclid.info/uk/seminars/index.htm)**

**For more information, contact Christine Wiggins on 07000 EUCLID (382543) or by email at [christine@euclid.info](mailto:christine@euclid.info)**

---

## **NOTICEBOARD**

### **North West Network E-Mail Bulletin Service**

For some time now, North West Network has been providing an E-mail Bulletin Service for those organisations that have registered an e-mail address with us. An e-mail is forwarded on a monthly basis and provides an overview of the latest news and additions to the North West Network website. In addition, depending on distribution dates, a further e-mail is forwarded to inform organisations that the North West Network Newsletter has been posted on the website. The recent Newsletter Evaluation has highlighted that many organisations are not aware of this service and are not receiving bulletins. If this applies to your organisation and you would like to receive e-mail bulletins, please get in touch and let us know. Either telephone us - 0161 236 6493 or send a quick e-mail to [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk). Please note, only one e-mail address can be registered for any organisation, so it may be worthwhile checking to ensure that the most appropriate address has been registered with us.

### **Business Development Tool Kit**

Employees from Manchester-based Social Enterprise, Nornir, took part in the Great Manchester Run on 23 May, raising £500 for Water Aid and launching a unique community resource.

Common Resources is a business development tool kit for community and voluntary organisations and has been developed to make life easier, reduce costs and encourage company growth.

Nornir have designed Common Resources to take the hassle out of sourcing services. The initiative provides easy-to-use, quality services at discounted rates, with no hidden costs. Members join for free and can subscribe to products such as: Virtual Office software, Web design and build services, discounted telecommunications and print.

Visit [www.commonresources.org.uk](http://www.commonresources.org.uk) or call 0161 228 2783.