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Welcome

Welcome to Issue 54 of the North West Network Newsletter.

Within this issue you will find the latest information relating to the Objective 2 Programme. Also included is a round up of the Objective 3 Programme detailing all the LSCs' recent and current bidding rounds.

Other articles include Community Strategic Guidelines Consultation, Stop Press, New Member States in the EU with an overview of Hungary, Estonia and Latvia. Also included Top Tips for Bid Writers.

The Volunteer Management Team has produced an update article on the SAM Volunteer Management. Other articles within their section include The European Voluntary Centre, an overview of Edge Hill Knowledge Transfer and information relating to the ChangeUp consortia in the North West.

1 North West has presented an article titled Not All Black or White.

As usual you will also find within this Newsletter issues relating to other European Funding, non European Funding, the latest Training and Events, and the Noticeboard sections.

Please do contact us at North West Network with your views, and if you have any information that you would like to submit to the Newsletter please e-mail info@nwnetwork.org.uk

North West Network Office Move

Please note that North West Network has moved from City Tower. Our new offices are situated on Bloom Street which is adjacent to Chorlton Street Bus Station. We have enjoyed many happy years in City/Sunley Tower and we very much look forward to welcoming you to our new offices.

Please see the enclosed flyer for our new contact information.

Objective 2 (ERDF) Programme Performance

ERDF Programme Performance

The Objective 2 Advisory Group, at its meeting in Chester on September 5 heard encouraging news about the performance of the Objective 2 part of the Structural Fund Programmes 2000 – 2006.

The voluntary and community sector was represented at the meeting by John Hacking, Senior European Officer from North West Network and Mark Dawson from Voluntary Sector North West (VSNW).

Total spend for the Programme so far is at £318m which is £4m over the n+2 2005 target of £314m. For those of you who like this sort of thing n+2 is the principle by which the spend required of a programme under the Berlin Profile is calculated. n is the commitment year and +2 is the year by the end of which funds committed in n have to be spent or returned. It sounds very complicated but what this means is that the Programme is spending on time and to budget.

The Objective 2 Advisory Group meets quarterly and is responsible for the management of the Objective 2 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) section of the Structural Funds Programme in the North West.

If any members or readers wish to know more about the Objective 2 Advisory Group and what it does please contact John Hacking, Senior European Officer at North West Network on 0161 236 6493 or e-mail him at john@nwnetwork.org.uk

Post 2006 Programme

The Community Strategic Guidelines which form the basic framework for the EU Structural Funds are currently out for consultation. Details about consultation events and how to get involved are contained in a separate article in this issue of the Newsletter.

In addition the UK is beginning to draw up the National Strategic Reference Framework or NSRF, (usual snappy title!). The NSRF will set out the strategy for delivering Structural funding in the post 2006 period. NSRF will be prepared after consultation with relevant partners and in dialogue with the European Commission.

The NSRF will contain the following:

- An analysis of the development disparities, weaknesses and potential of the UK and its regions.
- A section setting out the Convergence and Competitiveness Objectives, outlining the thematic and territorial priorities for each Programme and fund.
- A short section on the relationship between the UK's Structural Fund Programmes and other EU and domestically funded programmes.
- An annex setting out a list of operational programmes and indicative allocations from each fund.

The Convergence Objective will be similar to the previous Objective 1 and the Competitiveness Objective will be a combination of Objectives 2 and 3.

North West Network will keep you informed of developments with regard to the NSRF and make sure that the voluntary and community sector (VCS) voice is heard loud and clear at any consultations.

Objective 3 Regional Round Up

LSC Greater Manchester

LSC Greater Manchester has published their fourth Co-financing Prospectus for their 2004-2006 ESF Co-financing Programme. LSC Greater Manchester operates a two stage application to tender process and the deadline for the second stage applications was 12.00 noon, 26 August 2005.

The total amount on offer across all available measures for this prospectus was £6,667,0771 ESF. At the first stage process 228 applications were received from all sectors with 132 applications being invited to proceed to Stage 2. Of these, 33 were from the voluntary and community sector (VCS).

The appraisal and review of the Stage 2 tender process should be completed by 23 September 2005. Successful tender forms will then proceed to the strategic panel on 26 September 2005. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their tender shortly after this date with contracting discussions beginning on 3 October.

For more information on LSC Greater Manchester and their Co-financing process, please visit: www.lscgm.info/

LSC Cumbria

LSC Cumbria has launched their seventh limited tendering round. The closing date for tenders to be submitted is 5.00 pm, 27 September 2005. Under this round LSC Cumbria is looking to support the following projects starting as soon as possible after the completion of the tendering process and ending no later than 31 December 2006:

- 031A** A programme providing training bursaries for people who require help in raising their skills levels in order to be ready to enter the labour market.
- 031B** A programme providing help to improve the chances of employment and removing barriers to the labour market for offenders in the community.

Two tender specifications have been developed to deliver these projects. Applications should be clearly focused to address the relevant specification and should demonstrate how target group(s) will be identified. This will allow competing tenders to be compared

directly against each other, at appraisal stage, for the relevant specification.

The target beneficiary groups for these two tenders are:

The unemployed – only non-registered unemployed, unemployed but not eligible for Jobcentre Plus support and those in part time work up to 16 hours are eligible, including:

- Returners to the labour market, especially those who lack appropriate skills or who have no or outdated qualifications
- Lone Parents
- People who have problems with drug and/or alcohol misuse
- People living in areas of multiple deprivation
- Offenders
- Women

LSC Cumbria recently completed their sixth limited bidding round for their Funding Gateway Prospectus for Discretionary Funds 2004-2006. For this limited round there was only one call for projects. This was to up-skill those working within the field of nuclear decommissioning technology as a priority, and also to provide training for a small number of unemployed people to improve their chances of employment in this sector. The deadline for the round was 10 June 2005. The results for this round have not yet been announced.

For more information visit:

www.lsc.gov.uk/cumbria/Documents/SubjectListing/FundingLearning/funding-gateway-round-6.htm

LSC Cheshire and Warrington

On 25 May 2005, LSC for Cheshire and Warrington issued an invitation to tender under Policy Field 3 Measure 1. This invitation to tender formally requested organisations to become engaged in employer-led activity that would meet the Skills for Life needs of employees. This invitation to tender called for projects running from 1 September 2005 to 30 September 2006. The deadline for tenders to be submitted under this call was 12.00 noon, 8 July 2005.

For more information visit: www.lscdf.co.uk/ITTs.html

LSC Lancashire

LSC Lancashire recently held their third tendering round for their 2004-2006 Co-financing Prospectus. Twenty three applications were submitted from all sectors with seven coming from the VCS. Across all sectors £11,596,448 ESF was requested with £3,998,489 being requested by the VCS.

Across all the sectors only eight applications were successful in attracting funding and one application was successful from the VCS. £1,964,676 ESF was secured across all the sectors with £62,541 being secured by the successful VCS applicant.

Interestingly a tender was submitted by Lancashire County Council which acted as the accountable body for the Lancashire Learning Consortium. This consortium is a Lancashire-wide partnership of VCS organisations delivering learning to marginalised groups across the county. The tender was successful and secured a grant of £1,198,135 for capacity building activities for the VCS across Lancashire. North West Network was happy to help support this consortium bid and provided technical support throughout the tendering process including undertaking a bid improvement. We are interested in repeating this approach in other areas where VCS groups might find it a useful way of applying for Co-financed ESF monies.

Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus is currently in the process of appraising tenders submitted under their second Co-financing tendering round. The deadlines for the second round was 9 June 2005 for the Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria and Lancashire sub-regions and 16 June 2005 for the Greater Manchester sub-region and for regional projects. The Strategic Appraisal Panels for these tenders will be held between 15 August 2005 and 15 September 2005. A ratification panel is scheduled to meet on 16 September 2005 to approve projects. Post tender negotiations are scheduled between 19 September 2005 and 28 October 2005. Contracts for this round will be awarded on 21 November 2005 and successful organisations are expected to commence delivery on 1 January 2006.

For more information visit:

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

Regional ESF Sector Co-Financing Plan

Further invitations to tender (ITT's) for the North West LSC Regional Sector Co-financing Plan 2005-2008 have been published on the LSC Cheshire and Warrington website. These ITT's will be looking for activity which must take place in at least three of the sub-regions across the North West. The two invitations to tender, together with indicative amounts available and the closing dates are listed.

Tender Specification Reference	Indicative Value	Issue Date	Closing Time/Date
NWLSC (0508 3.1a)	£150,000	15 July 2005	12.00 noon 16 September 2005
NWLSC (0508 3.1b)	£800,000	15 July 2005	12.00 noon 16 September 2005

For further information visit the Cheshire and Warrington LSC website: www.lsc.gov.uk/NR/exeres/81239C95-5B12-4900-8218-54868EF6E5CD.htm

If you require further information on any of the invitations to tender, or have any Objective 3 enquiries please contact a member of the European Team at North West Network.

Alternative (Direct) Bidding Round 11

The results of the Alternative (Direct) Bidding Round 11 have recently become available. 67 applications were received from across all sectors with 8 being submitted by the VCS. A total of £8,401,907 ESF was requested across all sectors with £799,777 being requested by the sector. Across all the sectors 39 applications were successful, 6 of these coming from the VCS. £5,003,677 ESF was successfully secured in Round 11 with £625,699, coming to the voluntary and community sector.

And Finally:

News for calls are expected from Co-financing organisations towards the end of the year. North West Network will let all interested parties know as soon as these calls for tenders are announced. Please note that, subject to demand, North West Network will be holding training events well in advance of these deadlines for organisations wishing to submit a tender.

Calls for tenders will be available at North West Network's website as well as dates and information for future training events. For further information the link to follow is:

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

In addition, North West Network sends out monthly e-mail bulletins to our database members with all the news and calls on European funding. If you are not registered on our database and would like to receive our e-mail bulletin then please contact our new Communications Officer, Denise Marriott on 0161 236 6493 or denise@nwnetwork.org.uk

Community Strategic Guidelines Consultation

As you will no doubt be aware, the current period of Structural Funds Programmes will come to an end in December 2006. The European Commission, its Member States and their regions are now preparing for the new programming period between 2007 and 2013.

As a first step in launching the discussion on the priorities for the new generation of cohesion policy programmes of which the Structural Funds are the financial instruments, the Commission published, in July, the draft Community Strategic Guidelines entitled, Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs: Community Strategic Guidelines, 2007-2013.

When the new Structural Funds were proposed in the spring of 2004, the European Commission made important procedural changes. Member States would have greater responsibility for how the Structural Funds operated in their country and the level of Commission supervision would be reduced. In exchange for greater independence in Structural Funds operations, the Commission expects Member States to devise their Structural Funds according to common themes, called Community Strategic Guidelines.

These Guidelines set out a framework for new programmes which will be supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund.

These programmes aim to promote balanced, harmonious and sustainable development throughout the EU and to improve the quality of life of Europe's citizens.

The key test for programmes in the future will be that of their contribution to growth and jobs in line with the renewed Lisbon Agenda, which was agreed by the Member States meeting at the Spring Council in March 2005.

Bearing in mind the limited resources available for cohesion policy programmes in the Member States and regions, the consultation is intended to help find a response to the following questions:

- To what extent should new elements, if any, be incorporated into cohesion policy to support the growth and jobs agenda and the Lisbon process?
- Which elements should be considered to be top priority in pursuit of the growth and jobs agenda and which elements

are considered to be less important or marginal to this agenda?

- How can cohesion policy help to achieve more balanced development, including building sustainable communities in urban and rural areas?
- To what extent can the territorial dimension play an important role in cohesion policy and its support for the growth and jobs agenda?

The results of the consultation exercise will help to shape the final version of the Community Strategic Guidelines and comments are now being welcomed before 30 September 2005.

Summary

On 14 July 2004, the European Commission adopted its legislative proposals on cohesion policy reform. Totaling EUR 336.1 billion, total resources allocated to cohesion policy for the 2007–13 period will represent approximately one third of the Community budget and 0.41 % of the EU's Gross National Income.

With a total allocation of EUR 336.1 billion, or approximately one third of the Community budget, this reform aims to make structural actions:

- More targeted on the EU's strategic priorities
- More concentrated on the least favoured regions while anticipating change in the rest of the Union
- More decentralised with a simpler, more transparent and more efficient implementation

The proposals include the following:

- A general regulation laying down a common set of rules for the three (as opposed to six in the current programme) sources of financing for structural actions during the 2007–13 period
- A regulation for each of these components, namely: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund

- A proposal for a completely new regulation allowing the creation of a cross-border co-operation structure

The proposed reform is on a major scale as it is designed to redraw the European landscape in an enlarged Union.

The three current Objectives of the Structural Funds namely Objectives 1, 2 and 3 will be replaced in 2007 by the following three Objectives:

Convergence (to comprise ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund)

This will be close to the present Objective 1. The purpose of the convergence objective is to speed up the economic convergence of the less-developed regions, by means of: improving conditions for growth and employment by investing in human and physical capital; innovation and the development of the knowledge society; encouraging adaptability to economic and social change; protection of the environment and; improving administrative efficiency.

The convergence objective will play a particularly vital role in the new Member States whose accession confronts the Union with unprecedented development gaps.

The convergence objective will concern first and foremost those regions whose per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is less than 75% of the average for the enlarged EU, calculated on the figures available for the three years prior to adopting the regulation. This will mainly be the case for the majority of the new Member States.

To consolidate what has been achieved under previous programmes, temporary and specific 'phasing out' support will be granted, on a decreasing basis through to 2013, for regions whose per capita GDP exceeds the 75% figure due solely to the statistical effect of enlargement.

The convergence objective will have a budget of EUR 264 billion.

Regional Competitiveness and Employment (to comprise both ERDF, ESF)

For the rest of the European Union, a two-fold approach is being proposed. On one hand, the regional development programmes (ERDF) will strengthen regional competitiveness and attractiveness by anticipating economic and social change and supporting innovation, the knowledge society, entrepreneurship, protection of the environment and risk prevention. On the other hand, programmes at the national or appropriate territorial level financed by the ESF will help workers and companies, on the basis of the European Employment Strategy, to adapt to change and encourage the development of job markets that award priority to social inclusion.

The competitiveness objective will play a key role in avoiding the emergence of new imbalances to the detriment of those regions that would otherwise experience the negative effects of unfavourable socio-economic factors without sufficient public aid.

All the regions not covered by the convergence objective will be liable to benefit under the competitiveness objective. It will be for the Member States to present the list of regions for which they will be submitting a programme to be co-financed by the ERDF.

Those regions under the present Objective 1 Programme will no longer be eligible under the convergence objective due to the economic progress achieved, will receive specific 'phasing in' support on a decreasing basis through to 2013 to consolidate the process of catching up.

The competitiveness objective will have a budget of EUR 57.9 billion.

European Territorial Co-operation (solely ERDF)

The purpose of this objective, inspired by the experience of the Interreg Community Initiative, is to strengthen cooperation at three levels:

- Cross-border co-operation through joint programmes
- Co-operation between transnational zones
- Networks for co-operation and the exchange of experiences throughout the Union

Cross-border co-operation will cover regions lying along internal borders and certain external land borders, as well as some regions lying on sea borders. It will also contribute to the cross border components of the future 'European neighbourhood and partnership instrument' and 'Instrument for pre-accession'. This will replace the present Phare, Tacis, MEDA, CARDS, ISPA and Sapard Programmes.

When the regulation comes into force, the Commission will adopt the list of eligible cross-border regions and of transnational co-operation zones. The whole of the European Union territory is eligible for financing of European co-operation and exchange networks.

The total allocation for territorial co-operation is EUR 13.2 billion.

Strategy

The programming approach will be more strategic, centred on the 'Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion', the Commission's priorities and the new national strategic reference frameworks. These reference documents will replace the present Community Support Frameworks (CSF's), Single Programming Documents (SPD's) and Programming Complements.

Providing a succinct description of the Member State's strategy and the principal operations that stem from it, they will each represent a political charter for the drawing up of operational programmes. Member States will have exclusive responsibility in managing interventions.

North West Network are keen to know your views on these new guidelines and how you see them affecting your organisation and indeed your client group. Whilst we have attempted to condense and simplify the guidelines we would encourage you to read the document for yourselves and feed back to us any comments that you may have. Please refer to the following website link:

europa.eu.int/comm./regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2007/osc/050706osc_en.pdf

Remember your comments will help shape the final version of the new Community Strategic Guidelines. The deadline for feedback to the Commission is 30 September 2005, so we would need your thoughts and comments by Tuesday 27 September at the latest.

Please send your comments to james@nwnetwork.org.uk

Stop Press

New Direct Bidding Round

Get ready to sharpen your pencils!

An additional direct bidding round is to be launched very shortly for those Measures that were underbid in the previous Round 11. This will be for projects delivering higher level skills and research proposals. Clearer guidelines and deadlines will be announced shortly, but at this stage, applications will be accepted under:

- Policy Field 1, Measure 2
- Policy Field 2, Measure 2
- Policy Field 3, Measure 1
- Policy Field 4, Measure 1

North West Network will notify you all, once the official bidding round has been launched by Government Office for the North West.

ESF Project Closure Report 2004 (PCR)

A revised Project Closure Report is now available for downloading from the UK European Social Fund website: www.esf.gov.uk

If you are unable to download the report from the website, the PCR is also available in CD-Rom version 14. If you wish to receive a copy of the CD-Rom version, please forward your request in writing to Government Office for the North West, European Programmes Executive, City Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester, M1 4BD or by email to:

Jane.Belfield@gonw.gsi.gov.uk
Yasmeen.Majid@gonw.gsi.gov.uk
michael.Waugh@gonw.gsi.gov.uk

Alternative Bidding & Co-financing Project Progress Interim Claim Forms

The new interactive Alternative Bidding & Co-financing Project Progress Interim forms are now available. They can now be downloaded from the UK European Social Fund website:

www.esf.gov.uk/guidance/documents/interapplicationform.asp#PPI
C

Public/Private Sector Match Funding: Voluntary Sector and European Investment Bank (EIB)

New guidance has been issued on the treatment of match funding from the Voluntary sector and the EIB, in particular whether it should be defined as public or private. The Structural Funds Regulations do not state whether voluntary sector contributions for ERDF projects should be designated as public or private sector match funding. It has traditionally been the case that match funding from the voluntary sector for ERDF projects had been designated as private. This is on the basis that the funds for voluntary organisations do not come from central or local government. The ESF rules, responsibilities and claim procedures state that: "Non-profit making organisations, whether incorporated or unincorporated, registered with the Charity Commission can supply public sector match funding. The registration must be maintained throughout the period of the claim for ESF support". It is normally Government Accounting practice that voluntary sector contributions are counted as private sector, as they do not flow through a Government body. However, for the purposes of match funding for European projects, the European Commission give Member States discretion to designate it as public or private. It is proposed that in future, voluntary sector contributions to ERDF projects from non-profit making organisations registered with the Charity Commission should be designated as public sector match funding. In the interests of financial consistency, it would not be appropriate to make it optional for voluntary sector contributions to be designated as public or private. The effective date for implementation of this policy change is 1 December 2004. Any voluntary sector contributions to projects approved before this date will have to remain as private sector match funding.

For further information see the ERDF Policy Guidance note at: www.eurofundingnw.org.uk/new_documents.asp?section=affairs

Scoring Panel Volunteers

Government Office will be looking for scoring panel volunteers to become involved in the forthcoming direct bidding round. If you are interested in participating please get in touch with North West Network's European Team.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Deadline for Entries – 30 September 2005

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (formerly known as The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award) is given for outstanding achievement by groups of volunteers who:

- Regularly devote their time to helping others in the community
- Improve the quality of life and opportunity for others
- Provide an outstanding service

Eligibility criteria, prize details and in depth information about the awards can be found on the following website:
www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk

Victim Support & Witness Service Greater Manchester

Victim Support & Witness Service Greater Manchester is the registered charity providing emotional and practical support through volunteers, to approximately 180,000 victims and witnesses of crime across Greater Manchester each year. Crime figures show that the majority of victims are male and yet only 25% of volunteers are male, they are planning to launch a recruitment campaign in the next few months in order to address this imbalance. They will have further news of the recruitment campaign in the future, in the meantime if you would like more information or are interested in volunteering please contact Ann on 0161 727 1376 or e-mail: admin@victimsupport-gm.co.uk

Regional Consultation Conference on the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Spatial Strategy and the Northern Way

As you may aware the draft version of the RES is currently being consulted on. It is available on the Regional Development Agency's website: www.nwda.co.uk/strategy. The Regional Spatial Strategy will be available for consultation in the Autumn, but initial soundings will have been taken by September 22 and will be shared at the consultation conference. The Northern Way is already informing decisions in the region, and will be reported on. All of these strategies have to be aligned.

VSNW will be producing a response to the RES, which will be made available to the sector. They hope that individual VCS organisations will also respond. Responses can be added to that of VSNW as well

as being sent separately. VSNW are hoping for a strong overall response from the sector.

If you wish to input into the consultation process, then an event is being held 22 September 2005 at: Gujarati Training & Resource Centre, South Meadow Lane, Preston.

For more information please contact:

Mark Dawson
Voluntary Sector North West
St. Thomas Centre,
Ardwick Green North,
Manchester, M12 6FZ.
Tel: 0161 276 9300

The European Union's New Members

In May 2004 a historic change was made in the membership of the European Union. The number of members increased from 15 to 25. These 10 new accession states as they are known were Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Cyprus, Malta, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia.

In the next few issues of the North West Network Newsletter we will be taking a brief look at these new Member states.

The articles present a brief history of the country and some background to its economy and people. We have also included links for further information. We hope that you will find the articles interesting and maybe they will offer the starting point for partnerships with projects in the new member countries. It is likely that transnational partnerships will become increasingly important in the future.

This issue we start with Hungary, Estonia and Latvia.

Hungary

Location, People and History

Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is surrounded by Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and by Austria. Hungary is a predominantly flat country with the River Danube being its most important river and transport route, offering easy access to central and south-east Europe. Budapest, the largest city, is the capital and also the cultural, economic and industrial centre of Hungary. Approximately 1.8 million people - 18 percent of the country's total population - live in Budapest. The capital is located along the two embankments of the Danube. The Buda side of the city reaches up to the hills, while the Pest side was built on the flood plain of the Danube.

1459-1490 saw the Golden Age of Hungary with Buda becoming an important centre of Renaissance culture. Hungary's Black Army deterred Turkish approaches of conquest and so ensured Hungary's military supremacy over Central Europe. However 1541 saw the fall of Buda Castle and the beginning of 150 years of Turkish occupation which ended in 1699 when Hungary was liberated from Turkish rule.

In 1944 Germany occupied Hungary followed in 1945 by the Liberation of Hungary by the Red Army. The very next year saw

Hungary becoming a Soviet-style People's Republic. However, 1989 witnessed the declaration of the new Hungarian Republic which was followed in 1990 by the first free elections since 1947 and in 1991 Soviet troops finally left the country.

The Economic Situation

Since 1997, economic growth in Hungary has been impressive, with the Hungarian economy recording growth rates around 4% a year. Unemployment is one of the lowest in Europe, standing at 5.8% during the November to January period of 2003-2004. High real wage increases, in 2001 to 2003, have started to lead to layoffs in some low-skills segments of the labour market. The economies of Hungary and the EU are increasingly integrated: In the first half of 2002, Hungary's share in the EU's trade with the rest of the world reached 2.57% of EU exports and 2.51% of EU imports. Since the start of the change of regime, the main trend in Hungary's trade policy has been continuous trade liberalisation. Hungary's overall trade has grown with extraordinary dynamism. Hungary's main economic aims are to enhance its presence in East Central Europe and South East Europe and in key markets like Russia and the United States. Among the objectives of Hungary's external economic policy is the further increase of commodities and services exports, the diversification of such exports, the promotion of Hungarian direct investment abroad, including capital investment, and the protection of domestic markets, if need be.

Structural Funds in Hungary

Structural and Cohesion Funds have been allocated to Hungary from its EU accession in May 2004. The funds are used for the economic regeneration and restructuring of Hungary, an increase of industrial competitiveness, and training in different sectors of the industry.

The strategy for the implementation of the Structural Funds in Hungary is built on a Community Support Framework (CSF) 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.

For more information on Hungary please visit:

www.europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/regional_policy/index_en.htm
www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/hungary/#Interesting%20links
www.magyarorszag.hu/angol/orszaginfor/alapadatok

Estonia

Location, People and History

The Republic of Estonia is a small once-independent country in North East Europe. Its total area covers some 43,432.31 square kilometers and its population totals just over 1.36 million people.

Geographically and by character of its society Estonia belongs to the Nordic Countries and to North Europe. Estonia lies along the Baltic Sea, just south of Finland and has a climate of icy, snowy winters and long light summers. Tallinn, Estonia's capital city is about 80 km or 50 miles south of Helsinki, across the Gulf of Finland. Sweden is Estonia's western neighbour across the Baltic. Russia lies to the east, Latvia to the south. Tallinn is an important port and one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe. It is a city of grey towers topped with red tiles, of stone stairs beneath arching gateways, of narrow winding streets, cobbled pavement and towering ramparts. Outside the capital, other notable towns include Tartu, an ancient university town in the south-east, Narva with its imposing fortress on the border with Russia in the north and Pärnu with its attractive beach in the south-west.

The Economic Situation

Estonia restored its independence on 21 August 1991 which saw the start of the transition from a planned economy to a market economy. Moreover reforms carried out after monetary reform in 1992 were comprehensive and systematic.

In June 1992, the Estonian national currency was taken into use and became the legal currency of Estonia. Monetary stability was one of the most important preconditions for carrying out reforms in other areas. Most prices were liberalised by 1992, the government only maintains control over the price of energy, certain services and rents.

In order to restructure the business sector, an appropriate legal framework was established and privatisation process launched. Estonia's success in attracting foreign investment has been a continuous feature of its transition process.

As a result of the transition to a new economic system, Estonia's gross domestic product (GDP) decreased sharply in the years 1991-1994 and by 1995, the recession phase was over. However, due to a crisis in the financial sector, derived from the Russian crisis, foreign demand began to decline in 1998. As a result, Estonia's GDP slightly decreased in 1999.

In 2000, the growth rate of Estonia's economy again increased rapidly, to 7.1%. This was largely driven by economic integration with EU Member States. Estonia's economic performance continued to show resilience in the face of slowdown in its major EU trading partners in 2001 and as a result, GDP growth slowed moderately to 5.0% in 2001.

Important exports from Estonia are machinery and electrical equipment, wood and textile products. Tourism and transit trade also make important contributions to its economy.

Estonia continues to be what the International Monetary Fund describes as "an outstanding performer among the transition economies", with continued commitment to market based reforms, pursuit of sound macroeconomic policies, emphasis on institution-building, and a commitment to transparency.

However, Estonia will continue to face a number of challenges in the economic field over the coming years, such as continuing to lower unemployment (especially long-term unemployment), and ensuring the balanced regional development of the country. In particular, the oil-shale sector located in the north-east of the country still needs significant restructuring.

Structural Funds in Estonia

For the 2004-2006 period, the whole of the Estonian territory is set to benefit under Objective 1 of the Structural Funds through a single development programme. The overall aim is to achieve sustainable and rapid development that is both socially and regionally balanced. This will involve drawing on the learning abilities of the Estonian workforce, seizing the opportunities offered by new technologies and the opening up of the market, encouraging innovation in companies and countering in advance the consequences of the loss, in the long term, of the competitive advantages the country derives from its low costs.

The European Union is investing €371 million in Estonia via the Cohesion Fund. The strategy is based on the following four priorities, which seek to promote development and structural adjustment in Estonia. These priorities are as follows:

Policy Field 1 - 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

Policy Field 2 - 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

Policy Field 3 - 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

Policy Field 4 - Infrastructure and local development: such as transport infrastructure, projects of environmental infrastructure, re-organisation of the hospital network, information society (e-government, e-citizen), local development projects with socio-economic impact with a Community contribution of €138.1 million

Technical assistance accounts for €14.3 million

For more information on Estonia please visit:

www.eas.ee/?id=202

www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/atlas/estonia/factsheets/pdf/fact_ee_en.pdf
www.utlib.ee/en/euro/est-el_en.html
www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/estonia/

Latvia

Location, People and History

The Republic of Latvia lies on the Eastern coast of the Baltic Sea, in between Estonia to the north, Lithuania to the south and Russia and Belarus to the east. Latvia is the second largest of the Baltic States. It is as large in area as Belgium and the Netherlands together. The total number of inhabitants is just over 2.3 million, 70% of which are urban and 30% rural residents.

Latvia's capital city is Riga where about one third of the country's inhabitants reside. Riga is equidistant from Moscow and Berlin. With 531 kilometres of coastline, stretching along the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Riga. Latvia is famous for its beautiful beaches and is home to the Baltic Riviera.

After enjoying a brief period of independence between the two world wars, Latvia was annexed by the USSR in 1944. Independence was re-established in 1991 and on 1 May 2004 Latvia became one of the ten countries to join the European Union.

The Economic Situation

Latvia consists of five regions: Riga area, Kurzeme, Latgale, Vidzeme, and Zemgale. Apart from the capital area of Riga, they share largely similar characteristics: high rates of unemployment (between 11% and 18%), insufficient infrastructure and low levels of entrepreneurial activity.

The main advantage of Latvia is the geographic position of its three large ports (Ventspils, Riga, Liepāja), which form one of the shortest and economically advantageous transit corridors between eastern and western European markets. A further strength is the high formal education of elder workers. By contrast the education of younger workers is clearly behind the EU average.

An economic disadvantage in Latvia is the poor state of its ICT infrastructure, with access in some regions being less than 10%. Only 3% of the households in 2002 had access to internet. This is ten times lower than the average EU indicator.

Labour productivity in Latvia is still the lowest in the EU and regional disparities in employment are considerable. In 2002 the highest employment rate was in Riga (64% while Latgale only had 52%). The Riga area currently generates 65% of Latvian GDP, it has the highest rate of entrepreneurial activity (twenty six firms per one thousand inhabitants), and over 60% of Latvian industrial capacity.

What are Latvia's long term economic objectives?

The long-term objective of Latvia is to build a knowledge based economy – e.g. fast ICT development, changes in the education and training system, and the national innovation development. Currently Latvia is lagging behind EU average in all relevant sectors (ICT use, infrastructure, qualifications and entrepreneurship).

Structural Funds in Latvia

The European Union is currently investing €515 million into Latvia via the Cohesion Fund. The annual financial allocations from 2004-2006 are indicated below.

In total ten major Cohesion Fund projects were approved for Latvia's 2004 allocation. These included three transport projects and seven environmental projects. The major issue in Latvia with regards to the Cohesion Fund is in finding sufficient numbers of projects which fulfill the quality requirements of the fund.

For the purpose of Structural Funds programming, Latvia represents one Objective 1 region with a budget of € 626 million between 2004 and 2006.

The principal objectives of the programme are:

- Creation of 10,000 new jobs
- Increase by 10% the number of companies by 1000 inhabitants
- Increase the disposable income per household in rural areas by 7%

In Latvia there is great interest amongst companies and communities to participate in EU funded projects. The great majority of funds are, however, already committed to concrete projects and some measures are heavily oversubscribed.

For more information on Latvia please visit:

www.europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/regional_policy/index_en.htm

www.europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/hubner/index_en.htm

europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/latvia/#Interesting%20links

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia - www.am.gov.lv/en/

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia -

www.mk.gov.lv/index.php/en



Volunteer Management Team Update

The Volunteer Management Team has successfully piloted SAM Volunteer Management using coaching.

The Team worked with five volunteer managers within two organisations. Each volunteer manager worked through the manuals during one to one coaching sessions.

Piloting SAM Volunteer Management has allowed us to trial and learn how to combine coaching techniques and SAM Volunteer Management.

What is SAM?

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

What is Coaching?

Coaching can be defined as the art of facilitating the performance, learning and development of another. Coaching is based on a collaborative relationship that helps individuals focus on problem-solving in a structured and systematic way. Coaching does not seek to give people the answer to their problems or difficulties, but through a collaborative process called guided discovery helps them to reach their own conclusions and solutions. (Neenan & Palmer, 2001: Stress News Vol13. No.3)

Coaching establishes an environment in which the individual is able to discover their potential and knowledge they already have, and to use it to become more effective. Unlike training whereby the individual is given new information/techniques or to re establish previous learning.

North West Network has two coaches (both trained in cognitive behavioural coaching by the Centre for Coaching one of the countries leading coaching organisations).

Results of the Pilot

NWN held 17 coaching sessions, using SAM Volunteer Management. The trial has been a success with the following outcomes identified by one or more of the 5 volunteer managers supported:

- Increased confidence in and knowledge of managing volunteers
- Increased motivation
- Improvement in planning
- Greater awareness of how to recruit volunteers successfully
- Recruitment of more suitable volunteers, increased the motivation of existing volunteers
- A greater level of support given to volunteers

Next Steps

The Volunteer Management Team are now able to deliver coaching on a consultative basis. However, we are actively seeking funding to deliver a free coaching service for volunteer managers using SAM Volunteer Management.

North West Network wants to work with local infrastructure to provide coaching to volunteer managers at a grass roots level:

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

We have a number of organisations on our database who have shown an interest and we will keep them informed of further developments. If you would like to be included on our list or just want to get more information please contact Dan or Carol.

Tel: 0161 236 6493 E-mail: dan@nwnetwork.org.uk and carol@nwnetwork.org.uk

To preview SAM Volunteer Management information please click on our website www.nwnetwork.org.uk then volunteer development, volunteer development project and our project.



The European Volunteer Centre (CEV)

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) is a European umbrella association of currently 38 National and Regional Volunteer Centres across Europe, that together work to support and promote voluntary activity.

CEV channels the collective priorities and concerns of its member organisations to the institutions of the European Union (EU). It also acts as a central forum for the exchange of policy, practice and information on volunteerism. It supports networking among its members and organises conferences, seminars, European projects and other activities such as research.

The members of CEV, of which North West Network is one, represent thousands of volunteer organisations, association and other voluntary and community groups at local, regional and national level. Together we work to:

- Influence policy
- Strengthen the infrastructure for volunteering in the countries of Europe
- Promote volunteering and make it more effective

Our Activities

CEV is actively engaged in:

- Promoting volunteering to the general public, the media, businesses and policy-makers
- Policy development and research
- Advocacy in the EU
- Supporting existing national and regional volunteer centres throughout Europe
- Supporting the development of new volunteer centres
- Strengthening networking between volunteer centres and other voluntary bodies throughout Europe
- Supporting organisations promoting innovation and wishing to implement good practice in their involvement of volunteers

If you would like to find out more about the work of CEV please visit the CEV website: www.cev.be

This article was provided by CEV

Edge Hill Knowledge Transfer

Within a modern, knowledge driven economy, Knowledge Transfer is about transferring good ideas, research results and skills between Higher Education, other research organisations, business and the wider community to enable innovative new products and services to be developed. Edge Hill Learning Services are promoting the role of Knowledge Transfer with the appointment of Alan Seatwo as Knowledge Management Specialist, base at Ormskirk Learning Resource Centre. Here within, we are passionate about developing innovative teaching and learning programmes and engaging with the wider community.

The Knowledge Management Specialist role aims to help community organisations to develop and grow by matching our wealth of knowledge and expertise to each organisation's specific needs. This role was set up to build capacity within and across public, private and voluntary sectors and increase economic and social development opportunities. We carry out community and outreach work and facilitate agencies working together, sharing information for the benefit of voluntary and community organisations. We provide flexible solutions and approaches to problem solving and learning, such as: information skills training; advice and support on training programmes; and alternative office and training software.

For further information e-mail Alan at: Seatwoa@edgehill.ac.uk or tel: 01695 58 4157

About the Organisation

Edge Hill is a successful, innovative and expanding higher education provider with over 13,000 students studying on over 360 mainly professional and vocationally relevant degree, postgraduate and other programmes. These are delivered at its main campus in Ormskirk (West Lancashire), its other campuses in Chorley (Central Lancashire), Liverpool, Stockport, and Winsford (Cheshire), and also through E-learning.

Edge Hill has made a capital investment of £50 million in these campuses over the last decade. The institution has a Business Learning centre offering E-learning facilities in the heart of the Liverpool business district. Edge Hill has been awarded the status of Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. We have a nationally recognised commitment to and achievement in, wider participation.

This article was provided by Edge Hill Knowledge Transfer

ChangeUp and Volunteering A Focus on Greater Manchester

ChangeUp is the programme funded by the Home Office Active Communities Unit with the aim of developing a 'capacity building and infrastructure framework for the voluntary and community sector'. Delivery in each sub-region is via a voluntary sector led consortium, and there are also six national 'hubs' based on the key ChangeUp themes.

North West Network's Volunteer Management Team is looking to shine the spotlight on how ChangeUp is supporting Volunteering in the North West, starting with Greater Manchester.

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) is the lead body for the Greater Manchester Consortium. In Greater Manchester, the Action Plan has been approved and £1.4m has been allocated for implementation. The first round of applications to the Plugging the Gaps/Research strand has just been completed. A total of 36 applications were submitted by infrastructure organisations requesting in excess of £700,000. A list of approved projects is available to view at: www.gmchangeup.net

Manchester Volunteering Community Network (VCN)

Manchester is the only major city in the country without a service to support and/or co-ordinate volunteering overall within its boundaries. A Volunteer Bureau used to be active in the city but has not existed for several years.

In 2002 Manchester Volunteering Community Network (VCN) was developed as a community of interest in the Community Network 4 Manchester (CN4M) and developing a volunteering service in Manchester has been one of its main objectives. Since its formation the VCN has commissioned research into the viability of a service and had published a report outlining what the costs might be and what such a service might look like.

The VCN have been successful in attaining a grant from ChangeUp to begin to turn their research into reality and drive forward the VCN proposals into a fully funded, well structured and practical service that will benefit voluntary and community sector groups in Manchester by helping to provide a regular stream of enthusiastic, well trained and committed volunteers.

It has long been felt that there is a need for a co-ordinated volunteer development service in Manchester and hopefully that need is finally going to be met.

Greater Manchester Volunteer Development Agencies

ChangeUp has funded a project to enhance the capacity of Volunteer Development Agencies (VDA's) in Greater Manchester, and improve their ability to collaborate with each other and with the wider voluntary sector.

The project will identify ways of joint working and research possibilities for shared functions/services such as:

- Publicity and marketing; production of a Greater Manchester Volunteering website
- Shared policy and procedures for example; staff and volunteer induction, monitoring and evaluation systems

One of the key outputs of the project will be the development of a Greater Manchester Volunteering Infrastructure Strategy. This will lead to a stronger sub-regional volunteering infrastructure which will increase potential for greater funding stability in the longer term.

For more information on:

ChangeUp in Greater Manchester

Please see www.gmchangeup.net or contact your local CVS or any of the infrastructure organisations listed at www.bluegoose.org.uk

Manchester Volunteering Community Network (VCN)

Contact Helen Connor at Community Exchange 0161 247 6543

Greater Manchester Volunteer Development Agencies

Contact Sue Vickers at Volunteer Centre Tameside 0161 339 2345

Please note that ChangeUp funding is specifically for infrastructure development, and that the Consortium will commission work according to the agreed Action Plan – i.e. this is not a grant fund to which voluntary and community organisations can apply. However it is of course expected that the end result - a better infrastructure – will benefit the whole sector.

For more information on ChangeUp in your county go to:

Lancashire: www.vcfs.org.uk

Merseyside: www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk

Cheshire: www.cheshirecc.org.uk

Cumbria: www.cacvs.org.uk

Not All Black or White

In recent times there has been great emphasis in the engagement of the voluntary and community sector as a key strategic partner. There has also been a steady focus on the developments of partnerships which recognises that a single agency cannot have all the skills and resources to respond to often complex community needs. Whilst partnership working has been accepted as best practice, the reality that not all organisations work in partnerships has been recognised specifically with the black and minority ethnic (BME) voluntary, community and faith sector.

Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG) and the British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres (bassac) have published Multi-Ethnic Partnerships for Community Change (MEP). This publication recognises and addresses the "lack of communication and cooperation between BME and white-led groups". Equal partnerships between multi-ethnic groups have to be the catalyst for ensuring cohesive and sustainable community development through the voluntary and community sector (VCS) as a whole rather than the fragmented racial divides we work to. However, there are some very real anxieties about existence, survival and services which need to be addressed. It is a fact that the BME sector does not operate on a level playing field with its white-led counterparts. Some of the challenges faced by the BME sector are intrinsically different such as institutional racism, barriers to employment, unequal treatment by funders, language and cultural issues to name but a few. It will, however, take both the BME and mainstream VCS to address these issues. (NACVS Circulation April/ May 2005)

The issues identified in the study were mainly that funders and policy makers need to ensure organisations are achieving their commitment to equality through measurable actions, rather than simply stated notions of vague intent of equity, equality, promoting diversity, representation and partnership working. Key messages from the study are:

- Recognise the different stages of organisational development and capacity of BME organisations when compared to their white counterparts
- The VCS as a whole needs to ensure the principles and associated actions of challenge and learning are integral to the development of the sector

- Public sector race equality schemes are not utilised for bringing diverse communities and networks together to reduce racial inequalities
- For many BME organisations partnership working is an opportunity to address the root causes of race inequality. But for white-led organisations there is a perception that partnership working is about raising awareness or expanding their services. These sometimes opposing mindsets prevent MEPs' developing in the first place or persistently undermine those that are already established
- MEPs' need more than funding as the only reason for partnerships
- In some instances there have been BME and white-led organisations in the same borough, totally unaware of each other and literally minutes apart. Both organisations claim to meet the needs of disadvantaged communities. This example of separate development is nothing short of a misuse of much needed resources

Whilst there is recognition of these inherent difficulties there are also some positive and constructive actions which can be taken by both BME and white-led organisations to change this landscape of separatism and fragmentation. The study has proposed;

- Policy makers need to recognise and address through provision of capacity building the organisational imbalance between different partners, impacting on the equality and equity of the partnership
- Stronger multi-ethnic community networks at the local level
- Local BME infrastructure has an important role in promoting MEPs, they may then themselves have to engage with other MEPs
- Highlight examples of best practice and MEPs to promote this model of working
- Identify resources (LSP) to initiate the coming together of existing groups to form MEPs
- Race Equality Schemes should provide the rationale for MEPs

It is important to note that although this study was undertaken in London, the difficulties faced by the organisations are applicable to those in the North West. 1 North West strives to ensure the principles of Multi-Ethnic Partnerships underpin the practice of partnership working across the spectrum of organisations and development of service delivery strategies that affect the disadvantaged communities here in the North West.

Other European Funding

ICT Project Call: Deadline 21 September 2005

Applications are invited from information and communications technology (ICT) projects for funding from the EU Research and Development Programme. The European Commission has issued its fifth call for proposals under the Information Society Programme, which funds applied ICT research.

www.fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=208#

Life Call: Deadlines 30 September, 31 October and 31 December 2005

The European Commission has issued the final call for proposals under the present Life Programme, which is the financial instrument for the environment and funds nature conservation and environmental demonstration projects and environmental schemes outside the EU.

www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/funding/index.htm

www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/funding/life-nat_call2006/index.htm

www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/funding/life-tc_call2005/index.htm

Culture: Deadlines are 17 October 2005 (1 year projects and translation projects) and 28 October 2005 (2-3 year projects and third countries projects)

The 2006 call for Culture 2000 is now out! Full information on the call is available from the EC's official web-site at:

europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/how_particip2000/pract_info/appeal_2006_en.html.

You can also download EUCLID's own updated information sheets via the Culture 2000 web-site:

www.culture2000.info

Training & Events

14th European Workshop on Voluntary Action: 29 September - 2 October 2005

International network Volonteuropes annual conference combines seminars, key-skills workshops, networking, visits to local projects and sightseeing. This year the title is Active Citizenship in Europe and will focus on: Volunteer Management and Episodic Volunteering; Active Ageing; Social Inclusion; Corporate Social Responsibility and Employee Volunteering; Active Citizenship; Environment, Sports and Culture; Volunteering and the Public Sector. The conference organisers are also looking for presenters - please see the website for further details. Cost: from Euro 364. Location - Berlin. Tel: 020 7643 1327, E-Mail: sturner@csv.org.uk

www.volonteuropes.org.uk

Capacity Building Training

Bishop Doye Agama has been awarded a Community Champion's grant for portable training equipment to provide more capacity development in the North West region. Doye has a number of courses available to community groups that include newsletter sub editing and production, as well as leadership training and project management among others. To contact Doye or to book training for your group please e-mail: doye@hotmail.com

European Day of Languages: 26 September 2005

The Council of Europe has announced that this year's European Day of Languages will take place on 26 September. Originally created in 2001, the day aims to highlight the importance of lifelong language learning and raise awareness of the multiplicity of languages around Europe, encouraging Europeans to become multilingual. Events are planned to take place all over Europe to celebrate the day, including language festivals in Greece and Italy and a foreign language song competition in Poland. The UK input into the day is being co-ordinated by the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (CILT). Tel: 020 7379 5101, E-Mail: info@cilt.org.uk For more information on events taking place in Europe, visit the Council of Europe's portal website at:

www.ecml.at/edl/default.asp

Free Internet Courses

Are you often interested in doing a course but find it difficult to make the time or find a suitable location? Doing courses on the internet with the Learners website solves that problem as you can learn whenever you want and wherever you have access to the internet. All the courses are completely free and can be done individually or run by community groups. There's plenty of enticing subjects including digital photography, gardening, parenting, basic skills, an introduction to the internet, quizzes and lots more. All the courses are colourful, interactive and easy to follow. From ten minutes fun to a number of weeks of structured training, everyone will find something to suit them. The courses are hosted by the Greater Manchester Community Grid for Learning, part of the Workers' Educational Association in the North West. Contact the team for more information:

Tel: 0161 277 5460, E-mail: learners@wea.ac.uk
www.learners.org.uk

Influencing Skills for Fundraisers: 25 October 2005

An intensive one-day training programme providing information on the latest thinking and best practice. Delegates will: learn how to build a rapport with someone; gain access to a toolbox of techniques; develop skills and confidence in your own ability to handle donors effectively and build up an effective case and adapt it to suit a range of different donors. Cost: £300 + VAT. For further information please contact The Management Centre. Tel: 020 7978 1516. Location - Manchester.

www.managementcentre.co.uk

EU Grants and Funding Opportunities: 28 October 2005

How to access EU money, without spending any. Learn about the general funding programmes – including the European Social Fund and the EU's R&D Framework Programme – as well as the specialist cash available for environmental groups, companies trading with Japan and the transport and logistics industry, to name a few at random. If you are unsure what Objective 2 means, what the AGIS Programme covers and what the Learning and Skills Council has to do with EU funding, then this course will provide you with the answers and make sure you leave with a good grounding and the ability to prepare properly for your first bid. Cost: EIA Members £125 + VAT, Non-Members £175 + VAT. Location - London.

**EU Information: Finding Your Way Through the Maze:
24 November 2005**

A beginner's guide to the work, publications and websites of the main EU institutions. If you're new to EU information or have only a grasp of the basics, this is the course for you. At the end of the day, you'll have a good understanding of what the EU institutions do, how law and policy are made, the key information sources and what other information networks exist to help you. Cost: EIA Members £185 + VAT, Non-Members £255 + VAT. Location - London.

For both events, please view www.eia.org.uk/events.htm

**Monitoring & Audit for Action Plan Bodies:
29-30 September 2005**

A two-day, workshop aimed at organisations that have Accountable Body status for the delivery of Measure packages. For further information on both events please contact, Tel: 01274 23 5821/3822, Fax: 01274 23 5820, E-Mail: ebu@bradford.ac.uk Location - Manchester.

www.brad.ac.uk/acad/ebu/training/schedule/

Kidz up North 2005: 24 November 2005

An exhibition dedicated to products, aids and services aimed at disabled children, organised by Disabled Living, Manchester. Building on previous year's success Kidz Up North 2005 will again include many major companies and extensive seminar programmes for professionals and parents. Features include fashion, family fun and Father Christmas. For your FREE tickets and conference bookings call Disabled Living, Manchester. Tel: 0161 214 5959 or e-mail: kidzupnorth@disabledliving.co.uk

www.nwnetwork.org.uk/webadmin/files/Kids%20up%20North%20Flyer%20-%202005.pdf

www.nwnetwork.org.uk/webadmin/files/Kids%20up%20North%20-%20Press%20Release%202005.doc

**Making Knowledge Work International Conference: Tuesday
25 to Friday 28 October 2005**

Building Sustainable Communities through Partnerships in:
Place Management, Social Capital and Lifelong Learning (PASCAL)
Tuesday 25 to Friday 28 October 2005, Stirling, Scotland.

This third international conference to be hosted by the PASCAL Observatory provides an opportunity for all with an interest in policy and programme development to share their knowledge and experiences in policy-making, community-building, regeneration and sustainability projects with others from a wide range of fields at local, regional, national and international level. The conference aims to examine the implications for policy and practice of contemporary research in different models of place management, the role of social capital and the development of learning regions, and to raise fresh questions from practice for further research. For further information visit the NIACE website:

www.niace.org.uk/Conferences/PASCAL.htm

Or contact Gurjit Kaur on Tel: 0116 204 2833 Email: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk

Outcome Grants from the Big Lottery Fund 2005

Manchester 19 October 2005
Manchester 21 February 2006

For those who need to master the outcomes approach required of applicants to the Big Lottery Fund's open access programmes. The day will cover:

- The new terminology as used by the BLF
- What is new and what is being continued from the Community Fund
- Details of new open access programmes
- The new outline proposal approach
- Sample application forms for practice drafting
- Practical exercise using real research evidence
- Review of the uses of 'outcomes' in other applications

Participants are invited to come prepared to draft 'outcomes' paragraphs for their own likely applications.

www.dsc.org.uk/charityevents.html#outcome_grants05

Non European Funding

Small Grants for Volunteers: Open Call 1 February - 5 October 2005

2005 is the Year of the Volunteer. Volunteering England in partnership with BitC, The Media Trust, TimeBank, Youth Action Network and Youthnet are distributing small grants in order to enable and encourage more people to participate in the Year by taking action to address the needs of their own communities. 2005 small grants aim to support local people to put their own ideas into action.

www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=935

Futurebuilders: Deadline 30 September 2005

The second stage of the Futurebuilders initiative is now open for applications. Aiming to increase the participation of voluntary and community sector organisations in public service delivery, the fund focuses on five themes: community cohesion, crime, education and learning, health and social care, and support for children and young people. The application window is open until Friday 30 September. For more information and details on how to apply please visit the following website.

www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

Noticeboard

National Lottery Day: 5 November 2005

National Lottery Day is a celebration of all the amazing things that have been achieved with the help of Lottery funding. For more information in how to get involved visit:

www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/national_lottery_day/index.cfm

Equalities Review

The Government has set up an Equalities Review Panel, to be chaired by Trevor Phillips, to gather evidence on successful approaches to reducing inequalities (within any sector or field), views on why many of the barriers to equality persist, and how to counter them.

This Review will inform the new Equality and Human Rights Commission's work – and getting the views from the voluntary sector into the system is important and can make a difference.

You can either e-mail the Review directly to: equalitiesreview@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk or to GMCVO at gmcvo@gmcvo.org.uk

Their website is: www.theequalitiesreview.org.uk

GMCVO is writing to the Equalities Review Team stating interest in the review in relaying voices from Greater Manchester's voluntary and community sector groups. GMCVO would also like to hear of your views on how to best promote diversity within communities in the North West.

Disadvantage continues through a general lack of confidence and fear of diversity – when in reality diversity is a creative force in society and to the economy. However, moving from fear to confidence is a difficult process in all communities and one which the sector aims to support through its work. Ideas on how we might build on the appreciation of difference are welcomed.

www.gmcvo.org.uk/uploaded/Equalities%20review.doc

Su Maddock, Chair, GMCVO

The Northern Way: what role for the voluntary sector?

A draft paper prepared jointly by the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in the North East, the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber is an attempt to consider the implications for the VCS of the Government's Northern Way strategy. It looks at ways in which the sector can shape ongoing initiatives for the benefit of the three Northern regions.

What is The Northern Way?

In February 2004, the deputy Prime Minister John Prescott asked the three Northern Regional Development Agencies to start work on a strategy that would seek to promote economic growth across the North of England in an attempt to bridge the North-South Divide.

The Northern Way is the result of this process: an initiative that aims to promote growth and to "achieve national UK average GVA (Gross Value Added) per head within 25 years".

The Government agreed to match the contribution of the three Regional Development Agencies (North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber). A £100 million Northern Way Growth Fund has been set up and 10 key investment priorities have been defined.

To find out more, visit: www.gmcvo.org.uk/viewpage.php?recid=1

Greater Manchester LSC Co-financing Fourth Prospectus Stage 1 Results Announced (22/07/05)

Greater Manchester LSC have published the results of the first stage application process of their fourth Co-Financing Prospectus. To view the results please use the following link, www.lsc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/efee7kfbpl52uoftnfvuksgshhaxoec3okqcpac5zdlnc2zdduubc4rupebefeertsyz5vwpvmxabcn/StageOneresultsforweb.xls

Civil Society Does Exist, says NCVO Report

Voluntary organisations must work with Government to strengthen society. That is the message from the NCVO following its report, Civil Renewal and Active Citizenship: A Guide to the Debate, which was recently published. The report, which explored the concepts of civil society and participation, found that while the Government and the sector should work together, the Government should refrain from trying to direct voluntary sector activity for its own purposes.

This could weaken people's willingness to participate, warned the NCVO. For a copy of Civil Renewal and Active Citizenship: A Guide to the Debate, e-mail press@ncvo-vol.org.uk or telephone 020 7520 2468.

North West Network



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