

# European Regional Development Fund - ERDF



The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) provides financial support for areas facing structural difficulties and aims to increase employment and business competitiveness as well as reducing social exclusion and developing sustainable communities. ERDF is funded in the North West region through the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, is not geographically split as in the previous programme although there is a ring fenced allocation for Merseyside. Between 2007 and 2013 the Northwest of England is set to receive a total of £521million of ERDF funding.

There are 4 complimentary priorities and each has a set of measures that detail the type of action that can be supported.

## **PRIORITY 1—Stimulating Enterprise and Supporting Growth in Target and Markets**

ACTION AREA 1-1. Developing high value new enterprise

ACTION AREA 1-2. Developing high added-value activity in target regional sectors

ACTION AREA 1-3. Increasing sustainable consumption and production

## **PRIORITY 2—Exploiting Innovation and Knowledge**

ACTION AREA 2-1. Exploiting the science and R&D base of the region

ACTION AREA 2-2. Encouraging innovation to improve productivity in all companies

## **PRIORITY 3—Creating the Conditions for Sustainable Growth**

ACTION AREA 3-1. Exploiting the economic potential of major gateways in Merseyside

ACTION AREA 3-2. Developing high quality sites and premises of regional importance

ACTION AREA 3-3. Supporting the improvement of the region's visitor offer and image

## **PRIORITY 4—Growing and Accessing Employment**

ACTION AREA 4-1. Stimulate enterprise in disadvantaged communities and under-represented groups

ACTION AREA 4-2. Supporting linkages to key employment areas

ACTION AREA 4-3. Supporting employment creation for areas of regeneration need

### **NWDA:**

ERDF 2007-13 Programme spending is directly aligned with UK domestic funding. The ERDF Programme 2007-13 is administered by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA). NWDA has taken on the day to day strategic management and delivery of ERDF as an Intermediate Body, with Government retaining the formal legal status of Managing Authority. To apply for ERDF funding an organisation needs to go through the NWDA.

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<p><b>Match funding</b></p>	<p>Funding from the NWOP is used to provide help in the form of grants, loans, or venture capital towards project costs. These grants are set at the minimum level required to allow the project to go ahead, and as a general rule the EU contributes no more than 50 per cent of the eligible cost. The remainder of the funding, known as 'match funding', comes from other sources such as the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), local authorities, other Government schemes, other public bodies, and/or the private sector.</p>										
<p><b>How is funding allocated?</b></p>	<p>ERDF will fund a proportion (up to 50%) of a project's costs. The remaining amount is known as match funding. You can use both public and private match funding but at least 5% must come from a public source. Objective 2 will contribute to both capital and revenue costs of a project which can include for example, land and building acquisition costs, construction work including new-build and conversion costs, fixtures and fittings, staff salaries, rent/lease of a building, hire/lease of equipment and consumables.</p>										
<p><b>Essential Documents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North West Operational Programme</li> <li>• North West Regional Economic Strategy</li> <li>• Investment Framework for the relevant Action Area</li> <li>• Sub Regional Action Plan for the sub region you are applying for</li> <li>• ERDF Expression of Interest form</li> <li>• ERDF Application form</li> <li>• ERDF Guidance Notes</li> <li>• Sectoral Data—Own Research</li> </ul>										
<p><b>Further Information</b></p>	<p>If you would like further information on ERDF or require assistance in developing a potential project idea please contact the North West Network European Team at:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>North West Network</td> <td>Tel: 0161 236 6493</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Floor, Albert House</td> <td>Fax: 0161 228 6137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 Bloom Street</td> <td>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk">info@nwnetwork.org.uk</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manchester,</td> <td>Website: <a href="http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk">www.nwnetwork.org.uk</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>M1 3HZ</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	North West Network	Tel: 0161 236 6493	2nd Floor, Albert House	Fax: 0161 228 6137	17 Bloom Street	E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk">info@nwnetwork.org.uk</a>	Manchester,	Website: <a href="http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk">www.nwnetwork.org.uk</a>	M1 3HZ	
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