



## **CSF Funds: Opportunities for Civil Society Organisations**

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## **Basic Facts about NCVO**



- Established in 1919
- England wide remit
- Cross-sectoral approach
- 8000+ member organisations
- c. 90 staff
- £12 million approx. income



## What NCVO does



Training & Capacity Building on key areas:

- Governance & Leadership
- Sustainable Funding
- Campaigning, Collaboration & ICT
- Workforce Development
- Helpdesk
- Pilots, knowledge sharing and new ways of working
- Co-ordinates the European Funding Network



## European Funding Network



The screenshot shows the website for the European Funding Network (EFN). The browser address bar displays 'http://www.europeanfundi...'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'About Us', 'Structural Funds', 'Funding', and 'Contact'. The main heading is 'National Council for Voluntary Organisations European Funding Network'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Future of EU funding regional events' with a sub-heading 'As you may be aware, there are currently negotiations and consultations taking place on the future of Structural Funds from 2014 onwards. Why does this matter? EU Funds support employment, social inclusion and new investment opportunities. The current European Social Fund (ESF) programme invested £2.5 billion, matched with national funding for a total spend of £5 billion in England - unfortunately only 9% of it reached voluntary organisations in the first three years of the programme...'. A sub-section titled 'EU Funding Network' includes a sub-heading 'EUfundingNCVO' and a sub-heading 'fundingcentral: New: England's Voluntary Sector Can Have Say on Future of EU Funding 16 July 2013'. Below this, there is a sub-section titled 'BIS response to the Consultation on the Future Delivery of EU Structural'.



## Overview of Structural Funds



- European Social Fund (ESF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).
- In the 2007-2013, programme worth over £2.5 billion ESF + £2.5 billion national funding
- Programme themes – innovation & transnational approaches, community grants, and technical assistance
- Who can access funding? private, public and non governmental organisations



## ESF – A past and current perspective in the UK



- Direct Bidding to Sector Based Co-ordinating Body with Match Funding
- Open Regional Competition with Match Funding
- Co-financing
- Open Competitive Tendering and Commissioning – PQQ and ITT
- Prime contracting model along with some local funding e.g. ESF Community Grants, Technical Assistance



## EU Common Strategic Framework Funds



- Economic landscape : recession
- EU budget & Structural Funds in particular : MORE focussed on driving the EU forward vs global competitors / EU 2020
- Concentration of EU investment on top drivers of EU growth & delivering UK National Reform Plan
- More flexibility to align EU funds to increase impact (regional, social, rural and fisheries)
- Streamlining red tape



## EU Common Strategic Framework Investment Themes



- 1. Innovation** and R&D
- 2. ICT:** Improving access; quality and usage
- 3. SMEs:** Improving competitiveness, incl. in the agricultural and aquaculture sectors
- 4. Shift to low carbon economy**
- 5. Climate change** adaptation and risk management
- 6. Environmental protection** & resource efficiency
- 7. Sustainable transport** and unblocking key networks
- 8. Employment** and labour mobility
- 9. Social inclusion** and fighting poverty
- 10. Education, skills** and lifelong learning
- 11. Improving institutional capacity** for efficient public administration



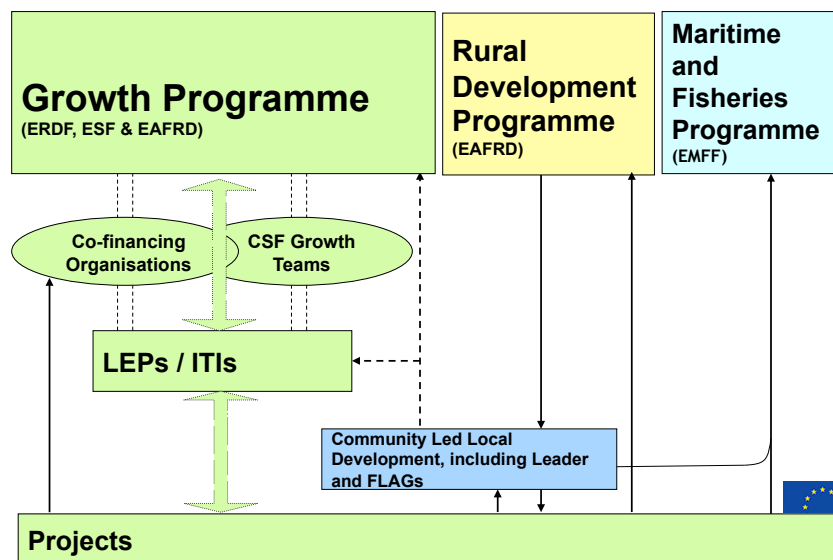
## European Commission Position Paper (6 December 2012)



1. Promoting Employment & supporting labour mobility
  - Focus on young people and NEETS (incl. apprenticeships/start-ups) unemployed and economically inactive
2. Reducing the risk of social exclusion
  - Focus on those with multiple disadvantage, low skills, workless households, childcare, active inclusion
3. R&D
  - Focus on science and technology; commercialization; knowledge into new products
4. SMEs support
  - Focus on access to funding for SMEs, export related sectors, FEIs
5. Shift to Low Carbon economy + protecting the environment
  - Focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, biodiversity



## Road Show Proposed Delivery Arrangements



## Top priorities of the Growth Programme according to the Government are:



- Research, technological development and innovation – esp. commercialisation
- Raising SME competitiveness – esp. re exports
- Shift to low-carbon economy – esp. energy efficiency & renewable technologies
- Employment & skills (incl. social inclusion)

Other objectives

- ❖ Climate change adaptation, risk prevention & management
- ❖ Environmental protection & resource efficiency
- ❖ Sustainable transport and removing network bottlenecks
- ❖ Access to & use of ICT



## Timetable



**If MFF agreed in February 2013** → Regulations adopted by the end of 2013 → PA submitted in summer 2013 → Ops submitted in Dec 2013 → Mid 2014 Programme Starts.

If MFF not agreed as above timetable delayed by 6 months

Domestic timetable

**Spring 2013** –

Guidance to LEPs on EU Investment Strategies

UK Partnership Agreement out to formal consultation

Partners encouraged to link up with LEPs **NOW** to develop 'transformational' projects.



## Local focus new opportunities?



- More **integrated programmes** / geographic flexibility
- **Community-led local development** (all 4 funds)  
'Local Action Groups' able to draw on all 4 Strategic Framework funds according to an integrated plan.

- **Joint Action Plans** (ERDF & ESF only)

Lump sum payments to a single beneficiary more than €5m or 10% (current proposals) of an Operational Programme - whichever is lower - to manage a group of projects aimed at a specific purpose (but not for major infrastructure)

- **Integrated Territorial Investments** (ERDF & ESF only)

Urban development or Territorial strategy drawing on a multiplicity of programme strands and programmes. Aspects of management can be delegated to a city or NGO.



## Priorities for CSOs



In summary, the European Funding Network is advocating for:

- A greater role for civil society organisations in the delivery of the Funds
- A specific stream of funding for projects which deliver social inclusion, skills, jobs and sustainable growth particularly in areas of need (both urban and rural) and high unemployment
- Removing barriers to civil society involvement by introducing a dedicated co-financing organisation for the sector
- Greater involvement of civil society in Local Enterprise Partnerships through collaboration, board membership and consultation



## Priorities for CSOs



- A blend of funding/delivery mechanisms and payment systems (grants, contracts, community-led local development) to increase flexibility to deliver the key priorities
- Small scale social investment and capacity building of CSOs including the support for investment readiness of co-operatives and social enterprises to meet local community needs and provide employment
- Recognition of the role that civil society can play in the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change
- Technical Assistance and the development of core skills and capacity of civil society organisations to fully engage in these programmes.



## Opportunities for CSOs



- Co-financing Organisation for the sector (e.g. Big Lottery Fund) to complement Growth Programme
- Community Led Local Development
- Community Grants



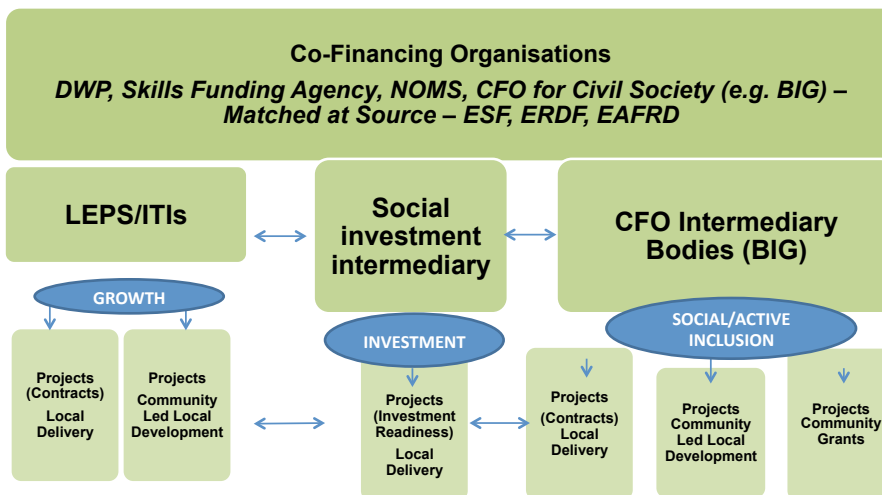


# Community Led Local Development Examples



Women Like Us	
King's Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association	
Team East for Skills	
Limelight	 

# A Possible Delivery Model for CSOs



**Questions?**



Thank you and remember that this is an opportunity for you...

<http://www.europeanfundingnetwork.eu>

Thank you!

