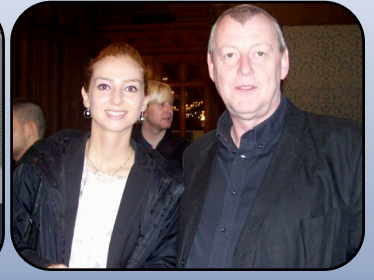


# North West Network



## Newsletter

Issue 74

Welcome to the latest edition of North West Network's newsletter, featuring the latest information on European issues relating to the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North West.

### ERDF in the North West

The North West Development Agency (NWDA) who manage the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme in the North West, has recently released information about ERDF funds. This states what money is uncommitted.

**Priority 1** (Stimulating Enterprise Growth in High Value/High Growth Enterprises) around £20.6m is uncommitted for 1.1, but bids are now being considered which might take up the funds. For 1.2, £15.6m is uncommitted but there will be a call for proposals in 2011, while for 1.3 the £11.5m is expected to be taken up by the housing projects (Manchester and Merseyside not yet approved).

**Priority 2** (Knowledge and Innovation) has £78m remaining, but there is a current call, with a variety of concept forms already received.

**Priority 3** (Strategic Sites and Tourism) there is no money left under 3.1 and 3.3), and in 3.2 there is £18.6m left, but projects totaling £29m are being processed.

**Priority 4** (Growing and Accessing Employment - increasing jobs and targeting the worst off areas) there are three actions areas.

**4.1** (Stimulating Enterprise in Disadvantaged Communities) has £4m remaining. Social Enterprise North West along with North West Network (NWN) and Merseyside Network for Europe convened a meeting on 8 November to discuss a proposed bid. If

you would like further information about this please contact the NWN European Team.

**4.2** (To assist those who are workless to access employment opportunities and link areas of regeneration need to economic opportunities). £21m remains, about half in Merseyside. There is going to be an announcement on a bidding round in the near future. For further information about this please visit the NWN website at [www.nwnetwork.org.uk](http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk) or contact the NWN European Team

**4.3** (Targeted, holistic programmes of employment creation in prioritised regeneration areas which face low employment rates), there is £11.7m remaining (£11m in Merseyside), although there are several bids being processed, including the Science Park expansion. Bids are still being encouraged.

In addition to this the ERDF programme is undergoing a mid-term evaluation. NWN is having an input into this process. The mid-term evaluation is considering whether the ERDF focus is still relevant for the changing environment and looking at progress with outputs and results, the influence of the cross cutting themes and the quality and effectiveness of implementation and management. The final report is due to be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee on 8th December.

For more information about the various ERDF priorities referred to above go to:

[www.nwnetwork.org.uk/priorities-and-action-areas](http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk/priorities-and-action-areas).

Supported by:



## ERDF European Showcase 2010

On Friday 5 November NWN was represented at the European Showcase 2010 which took place at the Arena & Convention Centre, Liverpool. The event included a combination of presentations, site visits, films and interviews which showcased the varied and valuable projects funded by ERDF across the North West. The event also presented a good practice example of working in partnership with other European regions to deliver economic growth.



The picture shows NWN's John Hacking and Angeliki Stogia at the stand NWN had at the Showcase event.

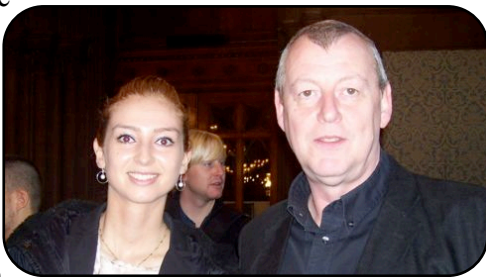
## Danish Ethnic Youth Council Visit

At the end of October NWN was one of the hosts to a study visit to the region by representatives of the Danish Ethnic Youth Council.

The 15 young people from all over Denmark visited a range of projects dealing with issues affecting young people including employment, inclusion, racism and social cohesion. NWN hosted the visitors on their visit to Manchester and during our time together had discussions about projects in Denmark which might provide future opportunities for joint working between projects in the North West and projects in Denmark.

This was part of our continuing work to explore opportunities for the voluntary sector in the North West arising from the wider European agenda.

Pictured are John Hacking of NWN with Samira Ahmad, the Chair of the Danish Ethnic Youth Council.



## EU Open Days 2010

Members of the European Team at NWN attended the EU Open Days event in Brussels in October. The Open Days are an annual event organised by DG Regio and the Committee of The Regions. The Open Days are an opportunity for partners from across Europe to come together to discuss regional policy and promote what is happening in their region. The North West was well represented, as always, with representatives from all the regional stakeholders. NWN and colleagues from Merseyside Network for Europe were there to make sure that the Voluntary and Community Sector's voice was heard, loud and clear.

As part of the event NWN staff took their turn staffing the North West of England stand at the Meeting Place exhibition which runs through the four days of the event.

In addition to this and attending seminars and workshops NWN and Merseyside Network for Europe representatives also took part in a rally and march to the European Commission headquarters to present a declaration to the leaders of the European Union demanding a continuation to funds from Europe into the North West.

The European Commission in Brussels has started planning Europe's latest round of European funding, which will run from 2013. The declaration which was presented to European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso was signed by officials from 220 of Europe's 271 regions including the North West.



The picture shows Angeliki Stogia from NWN and Paul Evans from the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) at the start of the March.

To find out more about the EU Open Days, please visit: [www.opendays.europa.eu](http://www.opendays.europa.eu)

## **European Social Fund 2007-2013**

### **Skills Funding Agency**

The Skills Funding Agency is seeking to procure on behalf of the Young People's Learning Agency the provision of Education & Vocational Training to individuals identified as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or at risk of becoming NEET. The Skills Funding Agency published the NEET Invitations to Tender (ITTs) on 21 October 2010, The ITT closes on 25 November 2010. The NEET Tenders are split sub-regionally as follows:

NW/YP/01 - Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, and Warrington Provision for 14-18 NEET (Funding available: £2,325,776)

NW/YP/02 - Cumbria 14-18 Provision for NEET (Funding available: £1,051,866)

NW/YP/03 - Greater Manchester Provision for NEET (Funding available: £10,073,145)

NW/YP/04 - Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET (Funding available: £3,622,687 – Halton £572,192)

NW/YP/05 - Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Provision (Funding available: £4,872,174)

Projects funded under the above tenders are to start delivery in January 2011 or April 2011, and finish by December 2013.

For all ITTs, the Skills Funding Agency wishes to contract down to LA level, however they are looking to award the minimum number of contracts required in order to ensure both the required full geographical coverage and value for money.

### **Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)**

The Government has announced its plans for radical reforms of the welfare to work system and the implementation of the Work Programme. The Work Programme will be a single integrated package of support providing personalised help for everyone who finds themselves out of work regardless of the benefit they claim.

The Government invited expressions of interest from the private, public and voluntary sectors to establish a framework agreement for the provision of employment related support services, helping people to select, train for, obtain and retain employment suitable for their ages and capacities and help deliver the Work Programme.

DWP has published a list of organisations/Consortia who have submitted bids in respect of the Framework for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services. Details of these organisations can be found by visiting [www.dwp.gov.uk/](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/), click on Supplier, What we buy, Welfare to Work Services and then Framework for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services. DWP aims to publish the list of successful Framework for Employment Related Support Services bidders at the

end of November 2010. They will then provide the ITT for the delivery of the Work Programme, shortly followed by the Programme Specification detailing final customer eligibility. It is anticipated that the Work Programme will start being delivered in the Summer. If you have any comments or queries on the Work Programme please get in touch with a member of the European Team.

DWP does not currently have a final timetable for the ESF 2011-2013 procurement. Jobcentre Plus are currently engaging with partners to gather information to develop ESF specifications for the North West. NWN will post information on future ESF rounds on our website as soon as it becomes available.

### **ESF Regional Committee**

The ESF Division (ESFD) of DWP which manages the ESF programme in England has issued the following statement about the future of the ESF Regional Committees in England.

“There was an announcement in the Comprehensive Spending Review in October that Regional Government Offices will close by the end of March 2011. The ESF Programme has been managed on a regional basis, but with this new government policy it would be difficult to justify the continuation of the present arrangements. ESFD is making plans for how to continue to manage ESF effectively in a "post region" environment. Consideration is being given to discontinuing regional ESF committees, remembering that these committees are sub committees of the Programme Monitoring Committee; an announcement about this will be made before the end of the year; this change has been discussed with the European Commission and their view is sympathetic.”

NWN has expressed concern about this decision. Through our national body, Third Sector European Network (TSEN) we have written to ESFD expressing our view. The following is an extract from the TSEN submission to ESFD:

“Given the magnitude of the what's being proposed TSEN would like to request, in the name of partnership and good governance, that no decision is taken before there has been consultation on the detailed proposals. We are concerned that any move to abandon ESF Regional Committees would have an adverse impact on:

- 1) Quality of monitoring and evaluation
- 2) Complementarity between ESF and ERDF
- 3) Effectiveness of regional ESF provision and how this contributes to the implementation of the Operational Programme and regional ESF frameworks.”

If you want more information or have a comment about these changes then please contact the European Team at NWN.

## Fifth Cohesion Report



### What is the Cohesion Report?

Every three years, the European Union (EU) publishes a report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, detailing progress in these areas and how the EU, national and regional governments have contributed. The Fifth Cohesion Report has just been published.

The main issues covered are:

- analysis of regional disparities
- the contribution of the EU, national and regional governments to cohesion
- the impact of Cohesion Policy
- Cohesion Policy after 2013.

### What does the 5th Cohesion report say?

Disparities between EU regions are narrowing - differences in GDP per head have shrunk substantially.

More developed regions are more competitive, e.g. because they:

- are more innovative
- are better trained
- have higher rates of employment
- have better infrastructure
- have a higher quality of government

Well-being and life satisfaction are strongly linked to higher household income in the less developed parts of the EU, but not in the more developed regions

Environmental sustainability:

- some regions are at high risk from climate change
- others have a strong potential to produce more renewable energy
- many city centres have poor air quality
- some of the Eastern EU countries lack sufficient waste-water treatment capacity.

Better coordination is needed between regional development and other EU and national policies  
Europe 2020 strategy:

- regions and regional development policy can significantly contribute

there should be a balanced approach to investment, e.g. right balance between different types of investment

- the strong diversity among EU regions (e.g. differences in characteristics, opportunities and needs) need to be taken into account
- there must be a strong role for regions, cities and local authorities.

### What are the next steps?

November 2010 – report published and a public consultation is being launched to help shape the future policy.

NWN will be responding to the consultation and we will be helping the VCS to have their say. NWN will send out an email bulletin giving details of the consultation and how to get involved.

For further information, please visit the NWN website where information on the consultation will be posted. In addition you can also visit:

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

---

## Contact us...

If you would like further information about any of the subjects covered in this newsletter, if you have any feedback, comments or suggestions please contact North West Network on 0161 236 6493 or email [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk)



Post: Albert House  
17 Bloom Street  
Manchester  
M1 3HZ  
Telephone: 0161 236 6493  
Fax: 0161 228 6137  
e-mail: [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk)  
Web: [www.nwnetwork.org.uk](http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk)