



European Social Fund  
Operational Programme 2007-  
2013: synthesis of evidence  
from the first half of the  
programme

by Paul Ainsworth, Elenor Brooks, Elizabeth Cole, Simon  
Marlow and Andrew Thomas



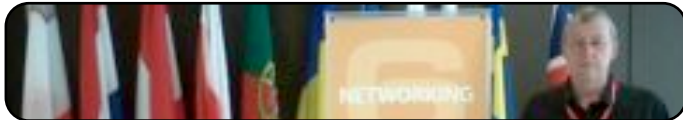
## Newsletter

September 2011

### Welcome!

Welcome to the September edition of Network for Europe's newsletter, reporting on European issues relating to the Voluntary Sector.

### EU Open Days



As part of Network for Europe's aim to maintain high quality information on European issues for the voluntary sector in the North West, members of the team recently went to Brussels to attend the European Union's Open Days 2011. This is an annual gathering of individuals and organisations from all of Europe's regions and is a major opportunity for networking and information gathering as well as a great opportunity to attend informative workshops and seminars. Look out for more information from the Open Days in the coming weeks.

For more information about the Open Days please visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/od2011/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2011/index.cfm)

### ERDF Monitoring Committee (Formerly PMC, now LMC)

The Local Monitoring Committee (previously Programme Monitoring Committee) met on 28th September. There was a paper on the Terms of Reference, although the final make up of the Committee is not yet confirmed. It was agreed that the Strategy sub-group would be set up, although

details are not yet clear. There was a report on programme transition and one on performance, it was confirmed that any action areas still open would now be closed for bids, and that more targeted calls would be announced (possibly some before the end of the year), while the call for Superfast Broadband under P2 would go ahead. The Investment Framework revisions were once again reported to committee, and it was suggested these be delayed for a further three months. After some discussion, our understanding is that the final revisions will be agreed quickly, so combining the various parts of P4 into one Priority. Requantification is now urgent (reviewing realistically what outputs and results can be achieved, prior to discussions with the Commission on any required changes). It was confirmed that the Consultants were working on the information, with tables to be sent out in October. There was an update from sub-committees, and it was agreed that the VCLF (venture capital) sub-committee would be widened to a Financial Engineering sub committee with the inclusion of Jessica. For VCLF, the six teams are now in place, with most of them having large numbers of enquiries, and starting to make investments. Jessica for Merseyside still has outstanding issues, but Jessica for the rest of the North West (Evergreen) has a signed agreement and is hoping to make some early investments. The next meeting is on 7th December.

Supported by

## ERDF PMSC

The Performance Monitoring sub-committee met twice in September, on 1st and 28th. On 1st, only the remaining six projects remaining under Priority Two were considered, with all of them making presentations and answering questions from the sub-committee. Concern was expressed that overheads were high and there did not appear to be a clear understanding of which SMEs the projects would be working with, or strategic links with other activities. Two of the proposals were rejected, and the other two were deferred to December. On the 28th, there was an update on the programme transition and a report on performance (spend). Three projects were approved, 0.9m for Pennine Leap (coaching and mentoring for high value enterprises), £3.9m for the Innovation Centre at Liverpool Science Park, and £1.5m for speculative workspace on a brownfield site in Speke, Merseyside under Priority 4 (4.3). A

change to an existing project in Burnley was agreed, slightly reducing the ERDF, and changing development to first phase, rather than full, to reflect loss of funding and the changed economic climate. Two underperforming projects were considered. There was a report on outputs and results, and a detailed report on the state of the programme by sub-priority. It was agreed that there would be tightly controlled calls under Priorities 1 and 2, and for Priority 4 there would be a call in the future (perhaps before the end of the year?). A paper on Superfast Broadband was considered (noting the recently announced funding from Central Government), and it was agreed that subject to LMC agreement later that day, there would be a call for £40m ERDF launched the following day, with a deadline of 25th October for Outline forms.

The next meeting is due on 9th November. For further information, contact Andy Churchill at [andy.churchill@networkforeurope.eu](mailto:andy.churchill@networkforeurope.eu)

## European Territorial Cooperation



European Territorial Cooperation is central to the construction of a common European space, and a cornerstone of European integration. It has clear European added value: helping to ensure that borders are not barriers, bringing Europeans closer together, helping to solve common problems, facilitating the sharing of ideas and assets, and encouraging strategic work towards common goals.

A new publication entitled 'European Territorial Cooperation: building bridges between people' was published by the Regional Policy Directorate General. This publication will give you an insight into how cooperation, including the European groupings for territorial cooperation and EU

macro-regional strategies, currently works, and what the future may hold. It brings you stories about people from all over Europe who either have benefited from, or are somehow connected to, cooperation.

To view the publication please visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/information/pdf/brochures/etc\\_book\\_lr.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/pdf/brochures/etc_book_lr.pdf)

## ACEVO/NCVO Localism Conference



This event is being held at Hilton Metropole in Birmingham on 9 December 2011. The Coalition Government's Big Society agenda has signaled the end of centralised, top-down decision making. In its place, a new era of localism has been signaled, with an emphasis on empowered and engaged citizens, local decision-making and accountability. That's the policy: but what's the reality?

Knowing how to benefit from the wealth of opportunities created by this new agenda is crucial for organisations wishing to survive in this new and challenging environment. This conference will look ahead and discuss how localism is evolving both outside and within the sector. You will hear from government ministers, policy makers and innovators in localism who will give you the knowledge and experience to tackle localism head on.

For further information please visit:

[www.localismconference.org.uk](http://www.localismconference.org.uk)

## New Name



At the Annual General Meeting on 30th September, it was formally agreed to change the Name of **Merseyside Network for Europe Ltd** to **Network for Europe Ltd**. The new name reflects our new role covering the whole of the North West, including Merseyside.

## DWP ESF Provision for Families with Multiple Problems



The DWP has announced the successful preferred bidders for the ESF provision for work with Families with Multiple Problems. In the North West the following contracts have been awarded:

Greater Manchester/Cheshire and Warrington (excluding Halton) (CPA 6) - G4S Care and Justice Service

Cumbria and Lancashire/Merseyside (including Halton) (CPA 7) - Reed In Partnership

To view the full list for all the Contract Package Areas (CPAs) please visit: [www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/european-social-fund/#preferred](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/european-social-fund/#preferred)

## LSIS Funding to Improve Training



LSIS is looking to support learning and skills providers in England who can demonstrate significant existing expertise in generating income from employers, and who wish to hone or extend their own skills and practice in offering commercial training and related business services to employers.

Building on the Skills and Employer Responsiveness (SER) programme and the former World Class Skills – developing responsive provision (WCS) programme, LSIS is looking to fund up to nine providers. The level of grant funding is a maximum of £14,000 per provider. This is to

cover all project costs, including staff involvement, travel and subsistence, venue use etc, and VAT where applicable.

This is a national project where LSIS are looking to recruit a mix of colleges and training providers. While this grant funding is intended to benefit the provider in receipt of the funding, the strategic intent of LSIS is that the providers involved in the project will subsequently collaborate with LSIS on using their experience to support other providers, for example by developing training and support packages that will support dissemination and transfer of their project learning.

Applications can be made by completing the application attached to an email headed “LSIS commercial training and business services for employers” and sending it to [ser@lsis.org.uk](mailto:ser@lsis.org.uk) by 10.00 am on Thursday 3 November 2011.

For further information please visit: [www.lsis.org.uk/WorkingWithLSIS/Opportunities/funding-Opportunities/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.lsis.org.uk/WorkingWithLSIS/Opportunities/funding-Opportunities/Pages/default.aspx)

## North West ESF Community Grants

The Skills Funding Agency have awarded the contract for managing the ESFi Community Grants programme in the North West to the Workers’ Educational Association (WEA).

Network for Europe intends to work closely with the WEA to deliver a successful and high quality Community Grants programme for the voluntary and community sector.

For further information please visit: <http://nw.wea.org.uk>

For further information on Community Grants please visit: <http://www.networkforeurope.eu/community-grants>

## ESF Operational Programme 07-13: Report

This report provides evidence from the 2007-2013 evaluation studies of the European Social Fund and internal analysis/management information in England. The report assess the impact of the European Social Fund programme and its effectiveness in meeting its objectives for the first half of the programme.

To view the report please visit: [www.networkforeurope.eu/files/files/ESF%20Synth%20Report%20Oct2011.pdf](http://www.networkforeurope.eu/files/files/ESF%20Synth%20Report%20Oct2011.pdf)

## Social Investment

Social Banks met in Kraków on 7th September to talk about funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector. This is part of the discussions leading up to the next programme, where there will be more opportunities for financial engineering.

## Panorama - 2020



The latest issue of Panorama magazine, "2020: The role of Regional Policy in the future of Europe", has now been published. This “autumn” issue of Panorama falls within the scope of the EU 2020 growth strategy for the coming decade.

This edition examines the role of regional policy in helping Member States reach the EU's 2020 strategy targets and takes a closer look at what regional policy is doing now to foster smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU.


For further information please visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/panorama/pdf/mag39/mag39\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/panorama/pdf/mag39/mag39_en.pdf)

# What can Europe do for you?

## Unlocking effective resources

21st November 2011, 13:00 to 17:00

Europe House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU



**What can Europe do for you?**  
Unlocking effective resources  
21st November 2011, 13:00 to 17:00  
Europe House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU

This is a free event, organised by NCVO and Euclid, to learn about current European funds and future opportunities for the voluntary and community sector.

Civil society strategic partners come together in dialogue with the Office for Civil Society and the European Commission as well as wider government departments to identify better ways to access European funds.

European funds still account for many millions of pounds that reach civil society organisations every year, in tighter economic times it is more important than ever to maximise these. This event will consider practical lessons learned from the use of European funds in the UK and highlight how civil society can make better use of these in the future, including ESF, ERDF and other major European programmes.

Speakers include high-level representatives from across the civil society sector and the UK government, including Office for Civil Society Minister, Nick Hurd MP.

The event will consist of two sessions:

Session 1: Structural Funds  
•How to maximise the use of European Social Funds  
•ERDF and Structural Funds at the cross-roads

Session 2: Wider European Funds  
•Linking with Brussels: Progress, Europe for Citizens and Europe Aid  
•Linking with Brussels and across borders: Opportunities with cultural funds  
•UK case studies on European funding

This event is an opportunity to understand the key European funds available and

Organised by NCVO and Euclid, this event is to learn about current European funds and future opportunities for the voluntary and community sector. Civil society strategic partners come together in dialogue with the Office for Civil Society and

the European Commission as well as wider government departments to identify better ways to access European funds.

European funds still account for many millions of pounds that reach civil society organisations every year, in tighter economic times it is more important than ever to maximise these. This event will consider practical lessons learned from the use of European funds in the UK and highlight how civil society can make better use of these in the future, including ESF, ERDF and other major European programmes.

Speakers include high-level representatives from across the civil society sector and the UK government, including Office for Civil Society Minister, Nick Hurd MP.

The event will consist of two sessions:

### Session 1: Structural Funds

- How to maximise the use of European Social Funds

- ERDF and Structural Funds at the cross-roads

### Session 2: Wider European Funds

- Linking with Brussels: Progress, Europe for Citizens and Europe Aid
- Linking with Brussels and across borders: Opportunities with cultural funds
- UK case studies on European funding

This event is an opportunity to understand the key European funds available and is accessible to all civil society organisations interested in applying for European funding and European funding policy.

You can book online for this free event at:

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/surveys/book-event?eventid=48028>

Please contact Network for Europe on 0151 237 3972 or email [info@networkforeurope.eu](mailto:info@networkforeurope.eu) for further information.

---

## Coming up...

**Events to look at the next EU Programme (which will run from 2014 to 2020).** Further to the proposed regulations recently published by the European Commission, Network for Europe will soon be holding events to look at best practice from the current EU Programme and lessons we can learn as we head towards the new Programme. Dates and details will be circulated in due course...

---

## Contact Us

If you would like further information about any of the subjects covered in this newsletter or if you have any feedback or suggestions please contact Paul Avis on 237 3972 or email [paul.avis@networkforeurope.eu](mailto:paul.avis@networkforeurope.eu)



Post: 151 Dale Street  
Liverpool  
L2 2AH  
Telephone: 0151 237 3972  
Fax: 0151 237 3973  
e-mail: [info@networkforeurope.eu](mailto:info@networkforeurope.eu)  
web: [www.networkforeurope.eu](http://www.networkforeurope.eu)