

[www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding](http://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding)

[www.gov.uk/dwp/esf-2007-2013](http://www.gov.uk/dwp/esf-2007-2013)

Welcome to this edition of the national European Social Fund Newsletter.



## Adult Learners' Week National Awards 2015

The prestigious Adult Learners' Week (ALW) national awards ceremony was held on Monday 15 June in London. ALW awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of people whose learning experiences have transformed their own lives and the lives of those around them. Presenter Greg Foot hosted the awards and Angus Gray, Head of ESF Division in DWP, presented the ESF awards. Adult Learners' Week is now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year. Part of ALW is supported

through ESF Technical Assistance, which provides many opportunities for ESF support for skills and inclusion related skills/learning activity (including through the ESF award winners stories) to be promoted throughout the initiative.. Short films about all the national Adult Learners' Week award winners are on the Adult Learners' website. In addition to the national award winners local level ESF awards have also been presented at events around the country.

**Andrea Sanders** won the national ESF Outstanding Individual award. Learning enabled Andrea to transform her life, manage her mental health condition and embark on a new career as a social care worker. Through Jobcentre Plus, she joined the Future Carers Programme, a pre-employment project supported by ESF. This kick-started her journey into social care, through which she completed a range of accredited courses and secured a work placement at a care home in Barnsley, at the end of which, she was offered a permanent job.

**Katie Crisp** won the national ESF Young Adult Learner of the Year. When Katie became a teenage mother, she thought she had come to the end of her education, with no chance of a rewarding career. Thanks to a range of provision including taking an HE taster programme in Community Development which is part of the ESF Raising Aspirations project, she is able to pursue her dream of going to university and becoming a youth worker.

The ESF national Project Award went to the **Wiltshire Scrapstore**. The Wiltshire Scrapstore is a small community-based environmental charity that not only makes the planet greener, but also helps people to use learning to improve their lives. Funding is through an ESF Community Grant which benefits fifteen learners who are furthest removed from the workplace, whether because of an emotional or physical disability, through lack of educational opportunity or special educational needs.

[>>Adult Learners' Week: 2015 national Award Winners](#)

[>>Adult Learners' Week: 2015 regional Award Winners](#)



## Big Lottery Fund announces Building Better Opportunities

Issue 72 of this newsletter advised of the launch of Building Better Opportunities which is jointly funded by The Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund. The first 71 funding opportunities in 25 LEP areas will close at 12 noon on Monday 3 August 2015. The Big Lottery Fund website contains information about the funding opportunities

available and guidance and supporting documents for applicants. Further opportunities will be available in the autumn.

[>>Big Lottery Fund announces Building Better Opportunities](#)



## Europe in my Region photo competition

The European Commission have launched the Europe in my Region competition 2015. As in previous years participants have to take a photo of an EU funded project and show evidence of EU funding on the photo. The competition runs until 28 August and more information is

available on Facebook.

[>>Europe in my Region photo competition](#)



## England ESIF 2014-2020 programme communication update

In April 2014 the ESIF Partner Update was launched - acting as a high level summary update of programme developments across ESF, the European Regional Development Fund and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. As we move closer to the adoption of the Operational Programmes there are plans to develop the Partner Update so that it has a broader focus and a new name. The first edition of this new publication will be available on GOV.UK in the next couple of

months and will also be emailed to people who previously subscribed to the ESIF Partner Update. If you would like to subscribe to this publication please send your name, email address and organisation details to [esif@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:esif@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

To coincide with the launch of the new 2014-2020 communication we expect the next issue of this ESF Newsletter (Issue 74) to be the last. [The new communication will have potential to cover details of outputs/achievements from 07-13 programmes].

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## Helpful links

[England 2007-2013 ESF programme national website pages](#)

[England ESIF 2014-2020 programme national website](#)

[@DWPESFEngland on Twitter](#)

[@esif1420england on Twitter](#)

[Skills Funding Agency Co-financing Organisation \(CFO\)](#)

[Ministry of Justice \(National Offender Management Service CFO\)](#)

[Department for Work and Pensions CFO](#)

[Big Lottery Fund](#)

[Greater London Authority - European Programmes Management Unit - ESF pages](#)

[London Enterprise Panel](#)

[Inspiring Work: Cornwall and the South West](#)

[TAEN \(The Age and Employment Network\)](#)

[Europa \(European Commission website\) ESF pages](#)

[The National Council for Voluntary Organisations - NCVO](#)

## **Get in touch**

We want to hear about your ESF news and success stories, and welcome your ideas for features on our website – [just contact us](#)