



**European Union**

European  
Social Fund

## **2014-2020 ESF Programme**

### **Action Note**

<b>Reference Number:</b>	<b>033/19</b>
<b>Date Issued:</b>	<b>28 March 2019</b>
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## **New ECLAIMS Online Digital Service for ESF Applications and Appraisals**

### **Who**

ESF direct bid applicants, ESF Technical Assistance projects, local and national ESF Co-Financing Organisations, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Greater London Authority, Devolved Intermediate Bodies.

### **What**

To set out the ESF Managing Authority's proposals to move to an online ESF Applications and Appraisals process using the ECLAIMS platform.

### **Cleared**

Janet Downes

# Background

1. The ESF Managing Authority is moving to an online Applications and Appraisal process, using ECLAIMS from the outset. This will replace current electronic, email-based application and appraisal processes; and supports the work we have been doing to streamline the appraisal process following feedback from Applicants, European Structural and Investment Fund Sub-Committees and other partners.
2. We are designing the necessary business processes and guidance products to support the online service, including ensuring that calls will be active on ECLAIMS at the same time as being published on GOV.UK.
3. The proposed date for launch of the online service is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019, however this is subject to the progress and completion of the necessary implementation activities.
4. We anticipate all 'mainstream' ESF open calls from this date being published as 'online application' only calls, with a slightly later date of May 2019 for Devolved Intermediate Body open calls given the necessary tailoring to meet these specific arrangements. Again, this is subject to the ongoing design and development work.
5. Applicants will still be asked to provide the same range and type of information as part of their Full Application under the new online service. We will also retain the existing ESIF Selection Criteria and ESF Scoring Framework approaches when appraising applications and making funding decisions.
6. ESF open calls will continue to be published on GOV.UK through the existing [Funding Finder](#) mechanism. Calls under the new ECLAIMS Online Digital Service arrangements will set out how applicants can obtain access to ECLAIMS, if they don't have access already.
7. For ESF Projects who respond to open calls published prior to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, or who are in the ESF pipeline of applications & appraisals prior to that date – existing application & appraisal forms and processes will continue to apply.
8. To assist with the transition, we aim to produce a further Action Note closer to the launch date that will set out arrangements in more detail, as well as publishing guidance for applicants to accompany the launch of the new service.

## Action

9. To note:
  - the intention to move to an ESF online application and appraisal service from the end of April 2019 for all new ESF calls launched on or after that date, subject to ongoing development and testing as described above.
  - paragraph 8 above about how more details about the new service, including guidance and support, will be communicated when the new service is launched.