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2014-2020 ESF Programme

Action Note

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Update - 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 provide an update on the ESF Managing Authority's proposals to move to an online ESF Applications and Appraisals process using the ECLAIMS platform.

Cleared

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Background

On 28 March 2019 the ESF Managing Authority (MA) issued Action Note 032/19 which informed ESF Applicants of the ESF Managing Authority intention to move to an online Applications and Appraisal process, using the ECLAIMS IT system from the outset.

Update

The ESF Managing Authority proposed the date for launch of the online service as Monday 29th April 2019, subject to the progress and completion of the necessary implementation activities.

Our intention remains to launch the online Application and Appraisals service on Monday 29th April as planned however, whilst significant progress has been made, there are some residual IT issues to be resolved. We will provide a further update next week on this.

New products:

In the meantime, we have today published a new set of guidance and associated products to support the Online Applications process. These products consist of:

1. ESF Online Full Application Guidance
2. ESF Financial Annex – Simplified
3. ESF Granular Budget – Sample Template

These new products are for use by ESF Direct Bid applicants who are responding to open calls which require an online Full Application.

The ESF Online Full Application Guidance explains how organisations can apply for ECLAIMS Applicant User Access permissions and also covers, step-by-step, how to complete a Full Application directly using ECLAIMS. The same guidance also explains how applicants will receive and respond to appraisal queries via ECLAIMS and how they will be notified of the outcome of their application and any resulting Funding Agreement.

The new ESF Financial Annex – Simplified version can be used by applicants as a working document to develop their financial information before recording this directly into their ECLAIMS online application. Unless specifically requested in the ESF open call, this Annex will not need to be submitted as a supporting document for an online application.

The new ESF Granular Budget – Sample Template has been published to the new ESF online application section of GOV.UK, but can be used by current applicants and online applicants alike. If used, this must be submitted as a supporting document as part of an online application in ECLAIMS.

For ease, the ESF Indicator Annex has been also added to this new section of GOV.UK. This Annex remains unchanged but again, unless specifically requested in the ESF open call, this Annex will not need to be submitted as a supporting document for an online application.

Co-Financing Organisations:

Where applicable, tailored products for ESF Co-Financing Organisation online applications are in production. These will be published to GOV.UK once ready.

Existing Open Calls

Where a current or new ESF open call requires a 'word document' application form to be submitted via email to the ESF Managing Authority, the existing ESIF Full Application Guidance applies, as does the existing ESF Financial Annex and ESF Indicator Annex.

It will be clear in each published ESF Call Specification whether applications should be submitted to the ESF Managing Authority via the current 'word document' and email route or whether a new ESF Online Full Application is required.

Action

To note the new [ESF Online Application products](#) published to GOV.UK.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding the content of this note please contact: ESF.2014-2020@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK