

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

## ESF 2014-2020 Operational Programme consultation

The consultation for the draft European Social Fund 2014-2020 Operational Programme in England is underway - the closing date for responses is 5.00 pm on 9 May 2014. The draft programme document, summarising the Government's proposals, is located on the GOV.UK website. Once the consultation has concluded, responses will be reviewed and a revised Operational Programme will be submitted to the European Commission.

[>>European Social Fund Operational Programme for England 2014-2020: Public Consultation](#)



## £170 million to help young people find jobs

A funding boost is to be targeted at 5 areas of the UK to help young people into work, thanks to the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), a new £170 million programme. This funding, which aims to help young people aged 15 to 24 years find work, will be matched by an equal amount from the European Social Fund and also by project partners, bringing the total funding to nearly £490 million. The 5 eligible UK

areas are Inner London, Merseyside, Southwest Scotland, West Midlands and Tees Valley and Durham. Hull, Leicester, Nottingham and Thurrock will also receive smaller allocations from the programme.

[>>£170 million to help young people find jobs](#)

## NOMS CFO provision for the ESF 2014-2020 Operational Programme

The National Offenders Management Service Co-Financing Organisation (NOMS CFO) has published a Tentative Contract Notice to appoint prime providers for NOMS provision for the ESF 2014-2020 programme. There is also a consultation, which runs until 31 May 2014, which invites NOMS CFO stakeholders and prospective prime and sub-providers to respond to a series of questions which will inform the final specification and procurement process.

The proposals for provision contained here are all subject to the European Commission's formal approval of the ESF Operational Programme for England 2014-2020 later this year, which until 5pm on 9 May 2014 is itself at its draft consultation stage (see first newsletter item).

[>>NOMS Tentative Contract Notice](#)

[>>NOMS consultation](#)



## Skills Show Experience events in full swing

Skills Show Experience local events continue to take place up and down the country. The events, supported by the European Social Fund, the Skills Funding Agency and the National Careers Service, offer careers advice, skills demonstrations and hands on skills taster activities for young people mainly of school age. On Friday 4 April Aspire, the West London Skills Show Experience, took place at West Thames College's Isleworth Campus. Young people attending

this free event were able to meet over 40 top employers who have job and apprenticeship vacancies, participate in a wide range of over 30 Have A Go work skills activities, and get specialist careers advice. Other Skills Show Experience events are coming up soon in Romford, Preston and Truro, and all events are listed on the Skills Show events near you webpage.

[>>The Skills Show Experience: events near you](#)

[>>More than 2000 CVs handed over at 'west London's biggest' jobs fair - Aspire](#)



## **TAEN project extension to January 2015**

The Age and Employment Network (TAEN), the ESF Technical Assistance project which aims to help remove age barriers to employment, has obtained agreement to extend its duration to January 2015. The project, which publishes the online magazine 50+ Matters, will continue to place particular focus on the difficulties older workers face in finding or continuing in sustainable employment.

[>>50+ Matters](#)

## **Gender equality and equal opportunities mainstreaming plan and progress report 2011-2013**

The national ESF gender equality and equal opportunities sub committee has updated the gender equality and equal opportunities mainstreaming plan, and also published its 2013 progress report. The main focus of both the plan and the progress report continues to be on measures to increase the ESF programme's female participation rate to 51% for the second half of the programme period.

[>>Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities Mainstreaming Plan](#)

[>>ESF Gender Equalities and Equal Opportunities Mainstreaming Progress Report – 2013](#)

## **Local Authority Led Pilots – results of bidding process**

Five pilot projects have begun that will provide learning that will contribute to the development of the Local Support Services (LSS) for Universal Credit. The projects will act as exemplars for other Local Authorities wishing to access ESF to expand their LSS support in the future.

[>> Local Authority Led Pilots testing elements of Local Support Services for Universal Credit – results of bidding process](#)

## **Issue 51**

The next ESF Newsletter is expected to be published during week commencing 26 May, after the European Elections, which take place on Thursday 22 May,

---

## **Helpful Links**

[England ESF programme national website](#)

[@DWPESFEngland on Twitter](#)

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

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

[Department for Work and Pensions CFO](#)

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

[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](#)

[Gibraltar ESF secretariat website pages](#)

---

## **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](#)