

ESF Newsletter

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



Big Lottery Fund announces ESF programme development funding

The Big Lottery Fund is making £630,000 available in programme development funding for voluntary organisations across England to raise awareness of ESF funding opportunities through the 2014-2020 ESF programme. Bids are now invited for grants of between £10,000 and £50,000, which will go to one lead voluntary organisation in each Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area. The role of the lead organisation is to ensure there is widespread awareness of the opportunities available through the ESF, to act as a main contact for queries and to bring the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector together to discuss local need already identified by LEPs and how best to tackle these priorities. The application window for the development funding opened on 21 July 2014 and the deadline for applications is 2pm, Thursday 4 September 2014. Subject to sign off by the European Commission later this year, up to £260m of National Lottery Funding will be matched by a similar figure of ESF for voluntary sector projects to tackle poverty and social exclusion over the next few years.

[>> Big Lottery Fund opens doors to European funding for voluntary sector](#)



A Skills Show Experience for 5000 young people in Liverpool

A Skills Show Experience event at the International Festival for Business 2014 at Aintree in June was attended by 5,000 local young people. The highly successful event showcased the range of career opportunities available to young people across the Liverpool City Region. A wide range of local and national businesses were represented at the event, many offering 'have a go' activities, along

with information and careers advice to attendees. 26 European Social Fund contract holders also exhibited to raise awareness of local ESF funded training pathways. The event received excellent feedback from visitors, as can be seen from the case study now published on Gov.uk.

[>> The Skills Show Experience showcasing career opportunities to young people](#)



New EU Cohesion Policy video

The European Union Cohesion Policy invests millions of Euros every year in job creation and economic growth, to help reduce social and economic differences between its 274 regions. A new short animation explains more about how these EU investments can improve citizens' everyday lives by stimulating economic growth in their region. The policy, which includes the European Regional Development Fund, the

Cohesion Fund and the European Social Fund, invests in jobs, training, infrastructure and help for businesses, and makes up more than one third of the EU budget.

[>> The European Union's Cohesion Policy: investing in your Regions and Cities](#)



Europe in my Region photo competition

There is an opportunity to win €1,000 of photographic equipment and a trip to Brussels by entering the Europe in my Region photo competition. To enter the competition, participants need to take a photo of a project receiving EU funding, with the plaque and the EU flag somewhere in the picture. Entries will be accepted until Monday 25 August 2014 (at noon).

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

Community Grants – funding opportunities



GardenGATE 2 is a Community Grant funded project in Ipswich which offers a range of practical gardening training and experience, as well as enterprise skills, for people over 19 who are unemployed. Under the guidance of horticultural staff and volunteers, participants are given a fresh start and an opportunity to learn new skills. The ESF Community Grants programme, co-financed by the Skills Funding Agency, offers small (up to £15,000) grants to voluntary and community organisations for

a wide range of projects like GardenGATE 2 which aim to help out of work people find a way into employment.

[>>GardenGATE 2](#)

Funding for Community Grants is available in many parts of the country; a list of Community Grants bodies in England with contact details for each area is published on Gov.uk.

[>>ESF programme summary – Community Grants](#)

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](#)