

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



Nominations still open for ESF Leader Awards

Don't miss out on the opportunity to nominate your ESF project for an ESF Leader Award! ESF providers and sub-contractors have until **Friday 16 August** to nominate themselves for the 2013 ESF Equal Opportunities and Sustainable Development Leader awards. The award ceremony will be held at The Skills Show on 14 November at the NEC Birmingham.

[>> ESF Equal Opportunities and Sustainable Development Mainstreaming Leader Awards 2013](#)



Calling all central England based ESF providers!

Do you run an ESF project within two hours' travelling distance of the NEC Birmingham? Do you want to raise your organisation's profile and promote your ESF programme? Are you looking to join key influencers from across business, the third sector and government? Thanks to funding from the European Social Fund, 30 ESF programme providers will get premium exhibition space at The Skills

Show from 14 to 16 November 2013, giving you a chance to showcase your ESF programme to 75,000 visitors over three days at the UK's largest skills and careers event. ESF providers can apply for this funded exhibition space now but please note the deadline for applications is **5pm Friday 23 August 2013**. You can email esfexhibition@theskillsshow.com for further information.

[>>Apply online](#)

And don't forget - if your project is working with young people The Skills Show is a great opportunity for them to see first hand a wide cross section of national level skills competitions, have a go at different skills and find out more about further training and career opportunities.



NCVO welcomes ESF commitment to social inclusion

The NCVO has given its support to the new government guidance on EU funds which commits 20% of ESF in the forthcoming 2014-2020 programme to social inclusion projects. Chief executive Sir Stuart Etherington has said that the plans offer "major and meaningful wins for the voluntary sector". The opt-in prospectuses, published alongside [the new guidance to outline funding and delivery options](#), explain how The Big Lottery Fund is offering match funding as

a route to engage voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations in the development and delivery of local initiatives.

[>>EU funding guidance 'good news' for sector](#)

[>>Framework of European Growth Programme priorities: opt-in prospectuses](#)



Calderdale College Skills Enhancement Fund

The Skills Enhancement Fund is a major programme run by Calderdale College in West Yorkshire which engages with employers to invest in skills development and help them respond to changes in market needs and the economy. Training providers already engaged with employers can apply for funding to reduce training costs for those employers. The programme is co-financed by the Skills Funding Agency and runs until 2015. A case studies page on the Calderdale

College website demonstrates the wide range of training that the programme supports, including: leadership and management training in hospices, computer software training for staff at a Leeds lighting manufacturer, and business strategy and marketing training at an educational toys and equipment manufacturer.

[>>Enhancement Fund case studies](#)

Young people in the North East - Step Up

Step Up is a programme in South Tyneside which supports young people NEET to re-engage with positive employment and training activities. Previously, many of the young people referred to Step Up may have engaged with other providers but have found it difficult to sustain learning and progress. Participants receive sustained support from Transitional and Mentoring Officers. By April 2013, of 325 young people who had taken part in Step Up, 81% had achieved a qualification and 50.4% had progressed into further learning, education or employment.

[>>Step Up](#)

Eat That Frog wins DWP supplier award

Eat That Frog, a community interest company which has bases in Devon and Cornwall, received a national commendation in this year DWP Supplier Excellence Awards. Esther McVey, Minister for Disabled People, presented the commendation, acknowledging the work and support the organisation provides to DWP customers with multiple disadvantages and barriers to employment.

[>> Eat That Frog wins DWP supplier award](#)

Helpful Links

[ESF-Works](#)

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

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

[Department for Work and Pensions CFO](#)

[Greater London Authority](#)

[Cornwall Works](#)

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

[Europa \(Europe ESF website\)](#)

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

[Gibraltar](#)

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](#)