

**European Union**European Structural
and Investment Funds**European Structural and Investment
Funds
2014 - 2020****Growth Programme for England****ESI Funds Growth Programme Board****Summary Report from the National Sub-Committees****Purpose:**

This paper summarises business at National Sub-Committee meetings held in the last quarter (June – September 2016) and takes a look to the next. It lists their current membership, with past and future meetings in brackets and covers:

1. Evaluation Sub-Committee *(6 June 2016)*
2. SME Competitiveness Sub-Committee *(4 July 2016)*
3. Equalities & Diversity Sub-Committee *(13 July 2016)*
4. Employment, Skills & Social Inclusion Sub-Committee *(26 July 2016)*
5. Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee *(11 August 2016)*

6. Sustainable Urban Development Sub-Committee *(13 September 2016)*
7. Communications Sub-Committee *(11 October 2016)*
8. Smart Specialisation Sub-Committee *(13 October 2016)*
9. Sustainable Growth and Development Sub-Committee *(8 November 2016)*

Recommendations:

That the Growth Programme Board

- notes progress being made to inaugurate all National Sub-Committees

Richard Inman

GPB secretariat

01 September 2016

Evaluation Sub-Committee

Membership

- **David Morrall (Chair)**
DCLG
- **Baljit Gill**
DCLG
- **Anna Taylor**
DWP
- **Hetal Hirani**
Defra
- **James Phipps**
BIS
- **Paul Bailey**
DECC
- **Simon Jones**
DCLG
- **John Ball**
TUC
- **Jo Banks**
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
- **Heather Heward**
LEP Network (transition)
- **Francis Lee**
LEP Network (more developed)
- **Phil Smith**
Private sector and small businesses
- **Fay Treloar**
York St John University
- **Peter Johnston**
DCMS
- **Max Nathan**
What Works Centre
- **Aloke Siddique**
BIS
- **John Hacking**
VCO

Summary of inaugural meeting

1. The sub-committee met on 6 June. Both the ERDF and ESF Evaluation Plans were discussed. It was agreed that further work was needed for both plans especially on aspects of data gathering, also the best ways of engaging with partners needed further study, including the devolved administrations and what type of engagement will be required. A numbers of members said they were in a position to contribute specific expertise. It was recognised that that more bodies could assist in developing and providing data for future evaluation.
2. Some members felt the plans were too fund specific and felt that greater understanding was needed on how the funds interact.
3. Members discussed the ERDF Scoping Study Invitation to Tender and the importance of capturing data from the start of the Programme and identifying and accessing other data sources from organisations such as ONS and HMRC. The MA outlined its thinking on the Summative Assessments which would capture data over and above existing result indicators and other MI. If the Scoping Study concluded that there was a need to collect additional information to ensure effective national evaluation then projects would be asked to collect it as part of their responsibility.
4. At the next meeting the Rural Evaluation Plan will be discussed as this will go towards measuring the impact of ESIF.

SME Competitiveness Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Jacqui Ward (Chair)**
Cities & Local Growth
- **Tim Courtney**
BEIS
- **David Morrall**
DCLG
- **Thomas Parry**
Forum of Private Business
- **Dawn Whiteley**
National Enterprise Network
- **Allie Rennison**
Institute of Directors
- **Joe Manning**
Cities & Local Growth
- **John Horseman**
DCLG
- **Paul Hadley**
BEIS
- **Becky Hood**
Cornwall Council
- **Corin Crane**
LEP Network
- **Richard Kendall**
LEP Network
- **Glen Collins**
Assn. of Chartered Certified Accountants
- **Lee Hopley**
Engineering Employers' Federation
- **Ruth Lowbridge**
SFEDI
- **Dominic Williams**
Fed'n of Small Businesses
- **Jo Symons**
BEIS
- **Sue Creese (Secretariat)**
Cities & Local Growth
- **Phil Extance**
Aston University
- **Louise Bennett**
Chambers of Commerce
- **John Goodman**
Co-operatives UK
- **Sean McKee**
London Chamber of Commerce
- **Mike Spicer**
British Chambers of Commerce
- **Clive Lewis**
Inst. Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
- **Chris Henning**
Core Cities
- **Karen Leigh**
Cities & Local Growth

Summary of meeting

1. The sub-committee held its second meeting on 4 July 2016. The main discussion point was EU funding - in particular (i) the implications of the EU Referendum decision and (ii) dissemination of funding at the local level. Discussion also covered engagement at the local level through the growth hub network and effective use of stakeholder networks. The next meeting will be on 27 October 2016.
2. Members agreed the importance of consistent messaging from Government regarding EU funding and the role of business organisations to get the messaging out to their members. The group will consider opportunities to engage with the growth hub network to connect ERDF funding at the local level. The DCLG funding team will provide the group with data on projects being funded across LEP boundaries and on the range of support for SMEs.

Equalities & Diversity Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Anne Donkin** (Chair)
DWP
- **Christian Aagaard**
European Commission
- **Alan Beazley**
Employers' Network for Equality and Inclusion
- **Rita Chircop**
Greater London Authority
- **Duncan Carnie**
DWP
- **Tamara Flanagan**
New Europeans Association
- **Alice Hood**
TUC
- **Jonathan Slater**
London Voluntary Service Council
- **Shafqat Rahim**
Skills Funding Agency
- **Peter Riley**
Manchester Metropolitan University
- **Steve Spendlove**
DWP
- **Anna Taylor**
DWP
- **George Selvanara**
Business Disability Forum
- **Mark Wright**
EHRC
- **Richard Corfield**
DCLG

Summary of meeting

1. The sub-committee met on 13 July 2016. It discussed the relationship of the Social Value Act to ESIF and noted that although Managing Authorities are not subject to the requirements of the SVA, MAs refer to it regularly as a check that the programmes are accommodating the positive aspects of this legislation.
2. A DWP official described the progress of the ESF 14-20 programme and presented current data. Members noted that they can expect more detailed statistics with a more local picture as the projects get underway.
3. Members considered how changes in government following the referendum result would affect the ESF programme and on behalf of the MA, the Chair confirmed that further information would be given to the Growth Programme Board and its subcommittees in due course.
4. The sub-committee discussed equality targets for the ESF 14-20 programme, with reference to lessons learned from the 07-13 programme. They also discussed the Equality Mainstreaming Plan and were invited to send comments back to the MA.
5. The sub-committee will next meet on 1 November 2016.

Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| • Anne Donkin (Chair)
DWP | • Tim Courtney
BEIS | • Adrian Richards
DWP |
| • Christian Aagaard
European Commission | • Eleanor Dearle
Local Government
Association | • Nicola Radford
Coastal Communities
Alliance |
| • Alison Adams
Cabinet Office | • Mark Self
DWP | • Laura-Jane Rawlings
Youth Employment UK |
| • Mark Bacon
Keele University | • Jane Lavender
Dept. for Education | • Ted Ryan
RnR Organisation |
| • Chris Ball
The Age and
Employment Network | • Becky Brookes
Employers' Network for
Equality and Inclusion | • John Hacking
Third Sector National
Learning Alliance |
| • Tom Mellish
TUC | • Hylda Mounsey
Cornwall Council | • Nick Small
LEP Network |
| • Ellen Broome
Family and Childcare
Trust | • Ian Oakes
University of
Wolverhampton | • Sarah Tulk
Skills Funding Agency |
| • Rita Chircop
GLA | • Sue Ormiston
The Big Lottery Fund | • Judith Wright/Sue
Johnson
DWP |

Summary of meeting

1. The sub-committee met on 26 July 2016. The Chair gave members an update on changes in the machinery of government following the EU referendum and confirmed that more detailed information on the effect of the referendum result was expected shortly. Members raised a number of issues and questions which were noted by the Chair who confirmed that there would be a consistent approach to communication of announcements and that a message would be sent to the GPB and its national and local subcommittees as soon as possible.
2. The Head of the ESF Division gave an update on current issues. The GPB and a number of LEPs have pressed for greater flexibility in using the Youth Employment Initiative YEI and the MA is working with the Commission and GPB to achieve this. IT development is continuing at pace to meet the functionality required for designation which is expected to take place by autumn. The sub-committee discussed and agreed its role in relation to Co-Financing Organisations, the level of funds so far committed to the programme, YEI and the future provision of data to the sub-committee.
3. A member from the Skills Funding Agency updated the sub-committee on the latest position regarding the Adult Skills Budget and what this would mean for ESF.
4. Members discussed the future role of the sub-committee as a critical friend of the programme, feeding advice into the GPB and helping to ensure that the Operational programme meets its objectives.
5. The sub-committee will next meet on 10 November 2016.

Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Nick Dexter (Chair)
DCLG | • Anne Donkin
DWP | • Heather Waddington
Leeds City Region LEP |
| • David Malpass
DCLG | • Andy Cole
College North West London | • Russell Reefer
Local Government Association |
| • Simon Jones
DCLG | • Keith Harrison
Action for Communities in Rural Kent | • Noel Farrell
DG Regio (Observer) |
| • Mary-Louise Harrison
LEP Network (more developed) | • Sandra Rothwell
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP | • Christian Aargaard
DG Emploi (Observer) |
| • David Pratt
Higher Education | • Debra Huntington
BEIS | |
| • James Newman
LEP Network (transition) | • Clare Osborne
Defra | |
| • Richard Powell
Local Nature Partnerships | • Alex Conway
GLA | |
| • Anita Prosser
Third sector | • Tom Mellish
TUC | |

1. The second meeting of this sub-committee took place on 11 August. The Chair proposed that at the next meeting of this group the Terms of Reference will be reviewed in the light of the future of EU funding.
2. The ERDF MA went through a variety of data on spend and pipeline projects adding that in the coming months the data would become more substantive. The MA was also aware that more work needed to be done to give a clearer indication of whether the Programme was on course to meet Performance Framework non-financial targets.
3. The MA went through the priority axes one by one reviewing progress made in meeting the targets and the actions that had been taken to improve performance. These included running workshops and improving the guidance. Members asked the MAs to look at the role that greater support through Technical Assistance could provide and to review its Business Process.
4. The ESF MA said that although there some areas of concern on spend in the Less Developed region and CLLD, if spend continued in the expected way ESF was likely to meet its targets.

Sustainable Urban Development and Urban Agenda Sub-Committee

1. An inaugural meeting of this sub-committee will be held on Tuesday 13 September. The secretariat sits in DCLG and has been scoping the group's potential membership. Nominations to the group have been sought from the devolved administrations, potential SUD Cities in England, academia and BEIS.

Communications Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Rob Martell (Chair)**
DCLG
- **James Ritchie** (Deputy
Chair) DWP
- **Debra Huntington**
BIS
- **John Hacking**
Third Sector National
Learning Alliance
- **Laure Farret**
GLA
- **Margot Tomkinson-Smith**
Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
- **Louise Danks**
Cornwall Council
- **Chris McIntyre**
British Chambers of Commerce
- **Laura Welham-Halstead**
Greater Cambridge & Greater
Peterborough LEP
- **Matt Smart**
Oxford University
- **Bruce Douglas**
Rural Payments Agency
- **Laura Spencer**
Big Lottery
- **Jen Robson**
North East LEP

Summary

6. The sub-committee met on 16 March 2016. It will next meet on 11 October 2016.
7. Since the last meeting, communications specialists from the North East LEP and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP have been added to the sub-committee membership. These additions reflect the significant role LEPs have in ongoing and future support for and delivery of ERDF and ESF Communications as well as the temporary absence of the current LEP representative.

Future work

8. The outputs set out in the 2016 Annual Activity Plan are currently under review following prolonged periods of sensitivity around local elections and the EU referendum (during which time external communications were severely restricted). GPB approval will be sought at the earliest opportunity for any proposed amendments to the 2016 Activity Plan.
9. The 11 October meeting will include a review and discussion of activities carried out so far in 2016, discussions around activities set to be carried out through the remainder of 2016 and consideration of a draft 2017 communications activity plan (to inform its further development and signing off).

Smart Specialisation Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Charlotte Heyes (Chair)**
BEIS
- **Julia Sweeney**
DCLG
- **Tim Courtney**
BEIS
- **Stian Westlake**
NESTA
- **Prof Stephen Roper**
Warwick Business School
- **Prof Roy Sandbach**
Newcastle University
- **Gillian Docherty**
The Data Lab
- **Alexandra Jones**
Centre for Cities
- **Prof Joe Sweeney**
Huddersfield University
- **Jane Elliott**
ESRC
- **Prof John Goddard**
Newcastle University

Summary

1. The sub-committee first met on 15 February 2016. The next sub-committee meeting will be held on 13 October. A key discussion of the meeting will be on the progress made to collate data from innovation projects that could usefully feed into the Hub as part of building the evidence base.
2. Another key element of October's discussion will focus on a review of England's smart specialisation strategy, and its messaging to reflect the current and developing national innovation policy framework in the context of the EU referendum outcome.
3. The Smart Specialisation Hub is a key feature of support for smart specialisation practice at local level. Its activities include:
 - a. Running masterclasses across England for Innovate UK family organisations, LEPs, local councils and DCLG local. The Hub is continuing to engage with key stakeholders. Notably a Hub workshop for the newly appointed Innovate UK Regional Managers was held, in May 2016, and masterclasses continue to have been held in various regions of England to raise awareness of Smart Specialisation and the Hub. 8 masterclasses with approx. 280 attendees have been held to date.
 - b. Observatory support for use of evidence in decision making. The Hub is an active participant in Placed Based Mapping groups and will be the repository for nationwide data. Synergies between the two approaches are being developed, to move the Hub towards being a repository of open local data.
 - c. The Hub's observatory function is developing the analytical framework from which LEPs and consortia can map their comparative advantages. It will analyse Strategic Economic Plans and available Innovation Strategies for their fit with smart specialisation. This framework will be tested across the LEPs to ensure that it is fit for purpose. In addition, the Hub is seeking more data on ESIF interventions, such as ERDF, in support of smart specialisation which will give LEPs a wider view of the national picture. Two trial regions have been agreed (South West England / Cornwall and East of England), to test the analysis of ERDF innovation investments to date and its fit with national priorities.

Sustainable Growth and Development Sub-Committee

1. Since the GPB met in June, the Board secretariat and colleagues from other ESIF departments have scoped potential membership and arrangements for the sub-committee's first meeting. Business is likely to cover policy areas relevant to Priority Axes 4, 5, 6 and 7.
2. Potential membership has been identified from all four ESIF departments. Patrick Allcorn, BEIS Deputy Director for Home and Local Energy (formerly DECC) will chair the group. He will be supported by the ERDF Sustainability Manager based in DCLG. Invitations have been extended to representatives from core cities and low carbon/climate change experts, the Environment Agency, Natural England, local government, academia, the Wildlife Trusts, a LEP, the National Trust and community forests. This sub-committee will hold its inaugural meeting on Tuesday 8 November.