

# European Social Fund

Newsletter- January 2010



## The London ESF programme 2007-13

The total value of London's ESF programme 2007-13 is £700m, including both ESF and match funding. The programme funds activities that aim to 'extend employment opportunities' and 'develop a skilled and adaptable workforce'.

ESF is delivered through a number of co-financing organisations (CFOs) who provide funding to match ESF funds and who share responsibility for delivering the programme and its objectives.

London's CFOs in the 2007-13 period:

- Learning and Skills Council  
[From April 2010, this will change to a joint programme from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and the Young People's Learning Agency. This will be coordinated by the SFA.]
- Department for Work & Pensions
- London Development Agency
- London Councils
- National Offender Management Service

## The London ESF programme 2007-10

The current London ESF programme has now been delivering support to individuals across London since 2007. In line with the co-financing plans, each CFO has had a number of tendering rounds.

### London Development Agency

In the first two rounds of their main ESF programme:

- 14 London boroughs accessed ESF funds
  - 11 accessed it in the first round, and two in the second round
  - Camden accessed the funds from the programme in both rounds

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The **LDA-funded Community Grants programme** has delivered two rounds of funding to date, to small local organisations that are unlikely to be able to access ESF from the main programmes.

- In 2008-09, 102 projects were funded across 24 boroughs
- In the 2009-10 round, this is likely to increase to 127 projects across 30 boroughs.

The projects funded in 2008-9 started delivery from mid 2009. To the end of November 2009, there were 825 participants with 26 of these remaining in employment after six months.

## Learning and Skills Council

In the five rounds of the LSC's ESF programme:

- Five boroughs accessed the fund
- Ealing receiving the highest level of funding: £1.62m

## London Councils

London Councils currently funds three rounds of projects; two are match-funded by their main grants programme, and the third uses money provided directly by local authorities.

The main London Councils programme has held two funding rounds since 2007:

In the first, 32 providers were selected under 11 specifications. These providers have delivered support since April 2008 and are scheduled to finish delivery on 31st March 2010. Up to the end of September 2009, through this programme:

- 2,387 people accessed support

Of this group:

- 244 have moved into employment
- 99 of those are now counted as being in sustained employment (26 weeks or more)
- 583 participants have also moved into further jobseeking and training

The second funding round has now been appraised and there have been 30 projects approved for delivery, with a total budget of just under £7.3m.

- Each project will work across two or more London boroughs and
- There will be provision funded across all 33 local authorities.

Further information on the successful organisations can be found [here](#).

Due to the revaluation of the pound against the Euro, additional ESF money became available to London in 2008-09 and London Councils invited each borough to provide match funding to run additional local projects supporting workless people. 13 London local authorities chose to participate.

- 21 projects were funded under 21 specifications in 2009
- Up to the end of September 2009, there had been 1,606 participants engaged in the projects.
- 118 of these had moved into employment and 50 into further jobseeking or training. (The projects have not yet been delivering for long enough to count participants who have sustained employment)

## The London ESF Programme 2011-13

The ESF programme for 2011-13 is now in the final stages of development. The vision and objectives for the London ESF programme are set out in the ESF Regional Framework, which also highlights the region's key challenges and opportunities and the areas where resources are to be targeted. The vision for the programme is to enable greater access to sustainable employment, particularly for groups experiencing multiple barriers to the labour market, and to create a more skilled and adaptable workforce for the London economy.

A revised Regional Framework for 2011-13 has been agreed and the next step in the process of developing and launching the new programme is for all London CFOs to develop their Co-financing Plans. The plans will set out each of their contributions to the delivery of the London Regional Framework and the activities and target groups that they will support. London's CFOs are defining their plans for the second half of this programme and will outline the focus of their funding, which will be in line with the overall requirements of the London plan. These plans are due to be finalised and published in April 2010. The next funding rounds under each of the CFOs will follow the publication of the plans in Spring/ Summer 2010.

The London programme will have £206.8 million to spend in 2011-2013. 74% of this is allocated to Priority 1: extending employment opportunities, with most of the remainder allocated to Priority 2: creating a skilled and adaptable workforce. Responsibility for delivery of activities is spread across the CFOs according to their capacity and core priorities.

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### What can ESF do to support boroughs?

ESF can support local authorities to extend provision for pre-employment support and training in their area. ESF is designed to complement mainstream provision and support those furthest from the labour market. Within each borough, there will be different requirements for supporting residents to move closer to the labour market.

Through the different CFOs and priorities of the London ESF programme, there are opportunities to access funding to support a variety of groups. ESF funding offers boroughs access to a substantial amount of funding to deliver their skills and employment outputs.

### What support can you get to access ESF?

GLE provides intensive support to help boroughs take full advantage of the ESF funds available in London, having won ESF Technical Assistance funding to help ensure that London is well placed to access ESF funding.

Our support includes:

- A dedicated ESF web page
- Tailored workshops for your local authority
- In-depth support with applications
- Information and advice via telephone or email
- Workshops for new tendering rounds
- Workshops to support delivery of borough ESF projects
- Support with building a consortia for ESF projects, both with other boroughs and third sector partners

### Upcoming events

The next borough officers' forum will be held at GLE's offices on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00-13.00

GLE will hold a further information event on the changes to the LSC in March 2010 (see below). More information will be available on our website in due course.

## Changes to the LSC

From April 2010, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will cease to exist and will be replaced by the Skills Funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA). Whilst this will have significant impacts on local authorities in terms of the funding and delivery of 14-19 provision, it will also affect the way ESF in London is co-financed and implemented.

The Skills Funding Agency will replace the LSC as the co-financing organisation for ESF provision, and will develop a joint co-financing plan for the 14-19 and 19+ elements of the ESF provision, supported by the YPLA and London boroughs. The SFA will coordinate and manage this plan.

In order to support this, a 14-19 Regional Planning Group has been created by London Councils which will comprise of representatives of local authorities (through the Association of London Directors of Children's Services), the London Skills and Employment Board and other key agencies involved in education and training in London. This regional planning group will feed into the development of the Regional Statement of Priorities 14-19 plan.

GLE will be holding an information event on these changes in March 2010. Further details will be available on our website in due course.

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## Further information sources

For more information, please contact [rosemary.m@gle.co.uk](mailto:rosemary.m@gle.co.uk) / 020 7940 1559

To attend the bi-monthly borough officer forums, please contact [arjun.s@gle.co.uk](mailto:arjun.s@gle.co.uk) / 020 7940 1574

To sign up to the quarterly LDA European Programmes Management Unit's ESF and ERDF newsletter, please send your name, organisation name, address, email and telephone number to [esf@lda.gov.uk](mailto:esf@lda.gov.uk), quoting that you are interested in subscribing to the EPMU newsletter.

Information on ESF and the CFOs: [www.londoncouncils.glegroup.co.uk/fundingprogs/ESF.php](http://www.londoncouncils.glegroup.co.uk/fundingprogs/ESF.php)

Information on the London Regional Planning Group:  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/children/education14to19/regionalplanninggroup.htm](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/children/education14to19/regionalplanninggroup.htm)

Information on the latest round of the London Councils programme:  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants/esf/TenderingResults201012.htm](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants/esf/TenderingResults201012.htm)

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## ESF Success in London

Do you run a successful ESF project in your borough? Can you think of an ESF funded project which is successfully supporting people in your local area? If so, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Joanna Allan at 020 7940 1552 / [joanna.a@gle.co.uk](mailto:joanna.a@gle.co.uk)