

Funding from Europe

European funding is cyclical with the current Programmes operating from 2000-2006.

From 2007 - 2013 there will be Three Community Priorities within The Regional Competitiveness and Employment Programme:

- **Convergence** - 78% of budget Supporting growth and job creation in the least developed Member States and regions (previously Objective 1)
- **Regional competitiveness and employment** - 18% of budget Anticipating and promoting change (Previously Objective 2 & 3)
- **European territorial cooperation** - 4% of budget Promoting harmonious and balanced development of the Union territory (INTERREG)

Discussions are currently under way about the structure of these Programmes for the next cycle 2007-2013.

There is a useful document describing the proposed changes downloadable from the Yorkshire & Humberside regional Forum website at:

www.yhregforum.org.uk/publications_resources/knowledgebase/300/330/198.pdf

For further details of current situation see

www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/funds/2007/index_en.htm

The current 2006 situation is described below.

What are the Structural Funds?

These fund a wide range of regeneration & social inclusion activity.

Until 2006-7 the major sources of European funding are from the 4 Structural Funds which are:

- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Agricultural Guidance & Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)
- Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG)

All of these provide some funds for the voluntary sector.

Funding from Europe

What is ESF?

European Social Fund (ESF) - Revenue only

This means you can pay for Project running costs such as: Staff costs, rent, heat, light, consumables, small items of equipment (under £1000) and training. Projects that bid to a "co-financing" organisation can get 100% pre-matched ESF grant. Otherwise, ESF money will only pay for a proportion of costs (usually up to 45%) so you will need match funding.

Mainly a training fund

The definition of training is very broad and can include accredited and non-accredited courses as well as individual help and advice.

- Used to improve job prospects for individuals

Structural funds including ESF are designed to get people into work. This means that your project can address any barriers to employment for example, lack of confidence, basic skills and good health. There are no set ways of doing this so projects can be innovative and creative - use your imagination!

- Can also fund research & capacity building activities for communities

Projects using ESF money have for example, researched women's role in the labour market and improved the skills of community groups through advice & support.

National information is on the UK ESF website at www.esf.gov.uk For regional information go to your regional Government Office website. To find a link to your regional website go to www.gos.gov.uk/national

What is ERDF?

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - Capital and Revenue

This means you can pay for renovating a community building, derelict land or buy a computer suite for a resource centre. Revenue costs such as wages and other running costs are also eligible. ERDF money will only pay for a proportion of these costs (usually up to 50%) so you will need match funding.

Improving the Region's economy

This can be at community level as well as small business level. Don't be put off - Your project is part of the Voluntary and Community sector which as a whole contributes at least £500m annually to regional economic activity!

Targeted at certain areas

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ERDF is designed to reduce the differences in the economy on a regional basis. Money is targeted at areas with very high levels of deprivation - You may need to check that your area and the people you work with are eligible!

Community development

Voluntary and Community groups have used ERDF money for a wide range of different activities: renovating community buildings, running environmental projects as well as setting up community business centres and running language training courses for volunteers.

For more information about national picture on ERDF go to www.erdf.odpm.gov.uk For regional information go to your regional Government Office website. To find a link to your regional website go to www.gos.gov.uk/national

European Agricultural Guidance & Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)

There are some funds available to the voluntary sector in Objective 1 and Objective 5b areas.

Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG)

There are some funds available to the voluntary sector in Objective 1 and other areas if it benefits the Fishing Industry.
Information is available from DEFRA.

What are the Objectives?

The Structural Funds - European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), as described earlier, are pots of money that go into funding streams called the Objective Programmes. These Objective Programmes (as described below) will operate until the introduction of the next cycle of Programmes in 2007. Projects apply for ESF and/or ERDF funding via one of the 3 Objective Programmes:

Objective 1 (ESF & ERDF)

Cornwall, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Wales and the Valleys currently have Objective 1 status. This is given to areas that are seriously lagging behind the EU average. Check with your region's Government Office for information.

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Objective 2 (ESF & ERDF)

This is currently also targeted at certain areas, such as those in Yorkshire & the Humber. You will need to check to see if your area is eligible. Objective 2 status is given to areas in economic decline. Your project applies to your local Objective 2 partnership for money. You will usually need at least 50% match funding. For further information visit your regional Government Office website using link from www.gos.gov.uk/national

Objective 3 (ESF)

Currently available everywhere except Objective 1 areas, Objective 3 is mainly known as a training fund. Because it is only funded through ESF it focuses on people and funds revenue not capital activities. Small amounts of ESF through the Objective 3 Programme are available through a process of 'direct bidding' whereby applicants apply directly to their regional Government Office. The main way of accessing this fund through the current Programme is through ESF Co-financing (see below). For further information visit your regional Government Office website using link from www.gos.gov.uk/national

What is Co-financing?

Co-financing is the main way of accessing ESF through the Objective 3 Programme. The aim of Co-financing is to make ESF more accessible and to add greater coherence to the use of funds. Co-financing operates differently in different regions. To find out how it operates in your area visit your regional Government Office website using link from www.gos.gov.uk/national

For details of Co-financing within West Yorkshire look at the Regional/Local funding pages.

How does it work?

Applicants apply directly to the appropriate Co-financing Organisation (CFO) for 100% grant and not to Government Office. Applicants will need to contact their CFO to find out about the application, timetable and bidding processes.

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Who are the CFO's?

In West Yorkshire

The **Co-financing Organisations** currently operating in West Yorkshire are the Learning and Skills Council West Yorkshire and Jobcentre Plus. Elsewhere

Elsewhere contact your region's Government Office for details of your Co-financing organisation. Information on co-financing is on the UK ESF website at www.esf.gov.uk

Are there any small grants?

Global Grants Programmes provide 100% pre-matched ESF grants of up to £10,000. The opportunities to apply for Global Grants is currently limited and varies from area to area. These schemes are designed to make European Funding more accessible. The small grants that are made available are usually 100% grant - no match funding required. (see Yorkshire & Humber regional and West Yorkshire local pages for details in these areas)

If you are outside the Yorkshire and Humber region you can find out whether these operate in your area and the intermediary body that manages the programme by contacting your region's Government Office.

Are there any other types of European funding?

Transnational project opportunities

Working in partnership with other European Projects can be an exciting and rewarding experience - visit similar organisations in other EU countries or organise a joint event e.g. a community arts festival.

The EC actively encourages projects to work in partnership with other European Projects. They will part fund activities including:

- Education and culture · Festivals and arts events · Exchanges and visits · Exchanging good practice · Research projects · Projects around Health, the Environment and Social Inclusion · Tackling prejudice ·

For cultural programmes visit the EUCLID web-site: www.euclid.info

Funding from Europe

EUCLID produce leaflets on:

- A. Funding Sources from the European Union - Trans-National Funds
- B. Funding Sources from the European Union - Structural Funds
- C. Other European Cultural Contacts (Council of Europe, UNESCO, Foundations, etc.)
- D. Finding Partners and Making it Work
- E. Background Information on the European Union

which can be read or downloaded from the EUCLID website.

These documents are in pdf format and you if you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer you can download the programme for free .

Finding out about specific pots of money is notoriously difficult and often requires very tight deadlines.

Information on these is often covered by Grantfinder. While this service costs more than some software/database information you may be able to access this information via your Local Council or possibly your Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) (i.e. Council for Voluntary Service, Voluntary Action or Community Action) – England www.nicva.org.uk, Wales www.wcva.org.uk, Scotland www.cvsscotland.org.uk, Northern Ireland www.nicva.org.

Community Initiatives

In addition to the Objectives, five percent of the Structural Funds is allocated to the Community Initiatives. For the period 2000-2006 these are:

EQUAL (ESF) Rounds 2001 & 2004 completed 2005

Funded through the European Social Fund (ESF), EQUAL is an initiative which tests and promotes new means of combating all forms of discrimination and inequalities in the labour market, both for those in work and for those seeking work, through transnational co-operation. EQUAL also includes action to help the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers.

EQUAL operates across identified thematic fields which embrace the four pillars of the European Employment Strategy and support for asylum seekers. EQUAL funds activities implemented by strategic partnerships called Development Partnerships (DPs). Each Development Partnership addresses one thematic field of its choice.

Regional Information is available from your region's Government Office.

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LEADER+ 2000-2006

LEADER+ is a 6 year European Community Initiative for assisting rural communities in improving the quality of life and economic prosperity in their local area. Partnerships of local organisations and people (local action groups LAGS) will receive funds to:

- identify development needs within their rural communities which they set out in a development plan; and
- develop and test small-scale, innovative pilot projects to meet these development needs in a sustainable way

Note that there is only one round of applications for LAGs (although individual projects can apply for support to their LAGs throughout the life of the programme). In addition, although the Programme is a six-year programme ending in December 2006, LAGs have a further two years in which projects can be completed.

More information is on website www.culture.info

Following a competitive national selection process in autumn 2001 local partnerships will be working across England. Regional Information is available from your region's Government Office. There are separate LEADER+ Programmes in each country of the UK.

Urban II 2000-2006

Urban II is the Community Initiative of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for sustainable development in the troubled urban districts of the European Union for the period 2000-06.

As a follow-up to Urban I in 1994-99, Urban II aims more precisely to promote the design and implementation of innovative models of development for the economic and social regeneration of troubled urban areas. It will also strengthen information and experience-sharing on sustainable urban development in the European Union.

More information is on website www.culture.info

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Culture 2007

In summary, to be eligible for support from Culture 2007, projects will need to meet the following criteria:

- They can be focused on any cultural area - there are now no separate strands for different cultural areas - proposals can cover any cultural area, or can link together different cultural areas to generate unique and innovative projects
- They must have something uniquely European about them (i.e. not just a tour of a UK performance or exhibition)
- They must be developed and implemented by at least 3 partner organisations from 3 different eligible countries (currently the 25 Member States, plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Bulgaria and Romania – and also new "candidate countries" including Croatia and Turkey)
- They can last either for 1-2 years or, in exceptional cases, for 3-5 years
- They are likely to have a total budget of between €100-400,000 (1 year projects) or up to €1m per year (3-5 year projects)
- They can receive, from Culture 2007, a maximum of 50% of the total budget for the project
- They cannot spend project funds on buildings or buying new equipment - Culture 2007 can only fund projects

The timetable has now been confirmed as follows:

conditional call out in October 2006;

application forms available at end of October 2006;

31 Dec 06 deadline for applications for European networks and agencies;

28 Feb 07 deadline for applications for all Culture 2007 projects (1-2 year and multi-annual projects);

results to be available sometime between May & July 2007 – the idea is that the 1-2 year co-operation projects will be announced first (June ?), and the multi-annual projects a little later (July ?);

1-2 year co-operation projects to begin in summer 2007; multi-annual projects to begin in autumn 2007.

The EC is also committed to producing a "Technical Brochure" for applicants though it is not clear when this will be available.

(information supplied by EUCLID) Further information is available on the EUCLID website www.euclid.info

Funding from Europe

INTERREG III 2000-2006

The overall aim of the INTERREG III programme is that national borders should not be a barrier to the balanced development and integration of the European territory. INTERREG III is funded using ERDF and covers the period 2000-2006.

The objective of this new phase of INTERREG is to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by promoting cross-border, trans-national & Interregional co-operation and balanced development of the European Union territory. The new programme will be implemented through 3 strands:

- promoting integrated regional development between neighbouring border regions, including external borders and certain maritime borders;
- contributing to harmonious territorial integration across the EU
- improving regional development and cohesion policies and techniques through transnational/ interregional co-operation; this is by far the smallest strand financially.

Other European Funding for Transnational Projects

European Funds are also directed at specific areas of work eg. tackling domestic violence, arts & culture. These funds are for projects working with transnational partners mostly within the European Community but sometimes involving emerging and developing countries with which Europe has ties.

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Is European Funding right for us?

Applying for European Funding is not always straightforward. Below are listed some of the pros and cons.

The Benefits

- Valuable source of funding
- Tackles social problems
- Grass roots & Community led projects are encouraged
- Innovation encouraged
- Staff and running costs can be paid for
- Working with other projects in Europe is possible

Disadvantages

- Only organisations can apply, NOT Individuals
- Projects must usually benefit people of working age
- Some funds are only available in certain areas
- You may need match funding
- Developing and applying for your project can take a long time - start early!
- Paperwork, record keeping and management can be time consuming

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Where can I get help?

More information on ESF and Cofinancing is on the UK ESF website at www.esf.gov.uk

Yorkshire and Humber Region

The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum provides training and advice services through their partners. They also produce a newsletter available from their Euronet website.

For advice on European funding in:

West Yorkshire contact Tina Ingley or Paul Barrett at The CIB Tel: 01924 239063

E-mail: europe@fit4funding.org.uk

North Yorks:

North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations

Jim Pearse

Email: Jim.pearse@nyfvo.org.uk

01347 825710

Humber:

Humberside Learning Consortium

Gina Dent

Email: dentg@hlc-vol.org

Tel: 01482 312028

Elsewhere in Yorkshire and Humber region look at the Regional Forum website for further information. The website also contains European funding news for the region.

Website: www.yhregforum.org.uk

For information on European funding available within West Yorkshire go to the West Yorkshire funding sources page.

Elsewhere

You should be able to find help and advice with European Funding relevant to your geographical area. Contact your local CVS - England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland. or Government Office to find out who can help you or provides technical assistance for your area..

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Further Information on European Funding

The latest on national ESF funding issues , plus ESF application forms, are available from:
www.esf.gov.uk (the DfEE's ESF website)

NCVO also have information about European Funding on their website:
www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/?id=115

For further information on European Structural Funding look at the Department of Trade and Industry Website:
www.dti.gov.uk/regional/european-structural-funds/index.html