

ENGLAND AND GIBRALTAR EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND 2007-2013



INFORMATION EVENT

Innovative and Transnational Projects
13 November 2008
Plymouth

Introducing

- David Oatley, Department for Work and Pensions
- Sarah Beeson, Government Office South West
- Jenny Milligan, Government Office South West
- Lloyd Broad, ITM Unit, Birmingham City Council

Content

- Aims and objectives
- Themes for innovation
- Innovation, transnationality and mainstreaming
- Thematic networks
- Calls for proposals
- Appraisal and selection
- Eligibility and guidance
- Regional priorities
- Timetable
- Questions and answers

Aims and objectives

The ESF call for proposals aim to support a small range of strategic, regional projects to develop new ways of extending employment opportunities and raising workforce skills.

But remember.....

- This is not Equal
- Only three project per region (four in London)
- Projects will support Regional ESF Frameworks and Strategies
- Strong partnership dimension
- Collaboration not competition
- Strategic rather than individual or organisational benefits
- Strong emphasis on **Innovation**, **Transnationality** and **Mainstreaming**

Background

- Part of England and Gibraltar Operational Programme 2007-2013
- Dedicated innovative and transnational projects
- Operates outside of usual co-financing arrangements
- Menu of themes developed by ESF innovation, transnationality and mainstreaming sub-committee
- Regional ESF committees have chosen themes for their regions

ESF priorities

Priority 1 - Extending employment opportunities

Priority 2 - Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce

Priority 4 - Tackling barriers to employment (Cornwall only)

Priority 5 - Improving the skills of the local workforce
(Cornwall only)

Themes for innovation

- Active inclusion
- Engaging with employers
- ICT and the digital divide
- Skills for climate change and sustainable development
- Demographic change - Older workers and migration
- Social enterprise

Active inclusion

Aim

To facilitate labour market integration by;

- developing and testing integrated pathways
- mainstreaming innovative integrated new approaches
- disseminating active inclusion good practice
- tackling multiple disadvantage

Regions

East of England, East Midlands, London, Merseyside, North East, North West, South East and West Midlands

(All Priority 1)

Indicative actions

- Inclusive labour market interventions
- Addressing barriers to work
- Adding value to City Strategy and Working Neighbourhoods Fund
- Worklessness and Health

Engaging with employers

Aim

To develop new ways of engaging employers to;

- enable ESF target groups improved access, retention and progression into and through work
- address employers' skills needs

Regions

East of England (P1, P2)

East Midlands (P1, P2)

London (P1, P2)

Merseyside (P2)

North East (P1)

West Midlands (P1, P2)

Indicative actions

- Working with employers to improve employability and skills of ESF target groups
(Priority 1)
- Working with employers to address skills needs in the workforce
(Priority 2)

ICT and digital divide

Aim

To test and explore how ICT can help widen participation in employment and learning

Regions

East Midlands (P1, P2)

South Yorkshire (P1)

Yorkshire and Humber (P1)

Indicative actions

- Improving access to ICT skills (P1)
- Widening access to ICT to increase labour market participation (P1)
- Supporting ICT skills development (P1, P2)
- Supporting employees needs and upskilling the workforce (P2)

Skills for climate change and sustainable development

Aim

Test and develop new ways of addressing the skills needs required to respond to the challenges of climate change and sustainable development

Regions

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly (P5)

East of England (P2)

East Midlands (P2)

London (P2)

North West (P2)

South East (P2)

South Yorkshire (P2)

West Midlands (P2)

Yorkshire and Humber (P2)

Indicative actions

- Training in environmental management
- Addressing the challenges of climate change and the environment
- Respond to skills challenges of new processes
- Developing skills in new relevant employment areas

Demographic change

Aim

To test and develop new ways of addressing the employment and skills challenges of demographic change, with a particular focus on older workers and migration.

Regions

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly (P4,P5)	North West (P1)
East of England (P1,P2)	South East (P1)
East Midlands (P1,P2)	South West ((P1,P2)
London (P1,P2)	South Yorkshire (P1)
North East (P2)	Yorkshire & Humber (P1)

Indicative actions

Older Workers -

- Training and re-engagement
- Improving access to care
- Encouraging employers to support retraining
- Updating qualifications
- Promoting more flexible workplaces
- Training care workers to address skills gaps
- Using professional skills to help mentor SME's

Migration and integration

- Schemes for cross-referencing UK and foreign qualifications
- Supporting migrant workers to meet employer skills needs

Social enterprise

Aim

Promoting innovative actions in social enterprise to support the development of employment and skills opportunities.

Regions

East Midlands (P1,P2)

Merseyside (P1)

South West (P1,P2)

Indicative actions

- Supporting employment of disadvantaged groups
- Developing leadership and management skills
- Developing impact measurement skills
- Training for new approaches to business growth
- Developing finance skills
- Identification of public sector contract opportunities and developing consortia
- Fostering careers in social enterprise

Innovation (1)

Innovation can be defined as the successful exploitation of new ideas ('Innovation nation', DIUS, 2008)

- In the context of ESF this can include new approaches, tools, methods and service provision to extend employment and raise skills.
- It can also mean adapting and applying existing approaches, tools, methods and services to new regions, sectors or target groups.

Innovation (2)

How can innovation be identified?

- **Why?** (what is the purpose of the innovation?)
- **What?** (what is the activity which forms the innovation and how does it resolve the problem?)
- **Who?** (who should be involved in developing and delivering the innovation?)
- **Where?** (where the location of the activity delivered can form the actual innovation)
- **How?** (how the activity is delivered can also form the innovation)
- **When?** (when the activity is delivered also impacts on success)

Transnationality (1)

Some core requirements;

- 5-15% of total budget must be dedicated to transnational activities
- All projects must have at least one transnational partner
- Past experience of working together is essential
- There are opportunities to secure additional partners
- Letter of intent is required with application form
- Successful projects will require a transnational agreement
- Added value must be demonstrated
- Complementarity with other funding and programmes

Transnationality (2)

Selecting your transnational partners;

- Build on past experiences (no more speed dating)
- Does not have to be another ESF project
- They must be able to add value at the thematic or strategic level
- Consider working with city or regional partnerships rather than individual organisations
- Consider 'tiers of co-operation' (who will work with whom?)
- Look for a clear track record or evidence of good practice, knowledge or experience in the thematic area

Transnationality (3)

Working together/Co-operation;

- Joint development of new activities
- Piloting, testing, transferring new ideas
- Thematic networking
- Study visits
- Thematic workshops
- Joint research and studies
- Work shadowing towards practice development
- Events, conferences and seminars

Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming can be defined as..

“the sharing and transferring of good practice, lessons learned and innovative areas of projects or programmes”

Things to consider

- Record the journey
- Develop a strategy
- Monitor progress
- Evaluate impact
- Disseminate results
- Identify links to influence policy and funding

Note:

The mainstreaming process is crucial. Be clear who? how? when? why? etc

Thematic networks

- Six in total, one for each theme
- Involve all ITM projects
- Involve key policy and decision makers
- Engage with other policy and thematic networks
- Facilitate cross-regional working
- Capture new learning and support mainstreaming
- Link with Equal Opps and Sustainability Sub-Cmttees
- Support the process of evaluation (link practice with policy)

Calls for proposals

- All details can be found on www.esf.gov.uk/innovation_transnationality
 - priorities
 - themes
 - funding
 - guidance
 - application form

Remember..

Deadline for applications is 17 December 2008. Send 5 copies to ITM Unit.

Appraisal and selection

- Innovative activity
- Transnationality
- Mainstreaming
- Project description
- Cross cutting themes
- Capacity
- Financial viability
- Track record
- Project expenditure
- Financial summary
- Public match funding
- Declaration

Note: highlighted sections are gateway questions

Eligibility and guidance

- See extract from Manual 1, section 1.12 “innovation and transnationality”
- Outlines eligible and ineligible costs
- Some issues to remember;
 - match funding requirements. Private sector match funding is not eligible
 - staff costs cannot be included in transnational budget
 - cannot pay costs of transnational partners but can pay for external ‘experts’

Regional priorities

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Jenny Milligan, Government Office South West

South West Region

Sarah Beeson, Government Office South West

Timetable

- 31 Oct 2008 - Calls for proposals
- 10-17 Nov 2008 - Information events (North, Midlands, South & South West)
- 17 Dec 2008 - Applications submitted to Co-ordinating Body
- 30 Jan 2009 - Appraisal and selection completed
- April 2009 - Contract with successful applicants
- April 2009 - Project activities start
- May/June 2009 - Set up thematic networks

Questions and Answers

Further information/Contact

ITM Unit

Co-ordinating Body, Birmingham City Council

Telephone: 0121 303 3064

Email: esf.itm@birmingham.gov.uk

Website: www.esf.gov.uk/innovation_transnationality