



European Union

European Social Fund

ESF Project Bulletin January 2018

Happy New Year! This is the sixth edition of the European Social Fund Project Bulletin. The bulletin, issued by the ESF Managing Authority in the Department for Work and Pensions, is aimed at partners delivering ESF projects to keep you up-to-date with the latest news and developments in the programme, and help you deliver your project in line with requirements.

[60th Anniversary of the European Social Fund](#)

ESF turned 60 in 2017

[European Programme Communications Survey 2018](#)

Have your say on communications

[ESF - making a difference](#)

Case studies from ESF projects

[Applying for ESF and other ESIF funds](#)

Important information to note

[GOV.UK Update](#)

Updates since the last bulletin.

[Contacts and useful resources](#)

60th Anniversary of the European Social Fund

2017 marked the 60th anniversary of the European Social Fund (ESF). In the past 60 years, through thousands of projects carried out across Europe, ESF has helped millions of Europeans find a job, gain a qualification or certificate and increase their skills levels. For more information about the 60th anniversary, including a pdf marking 'ESF - 60 years of investing in people' [click here](#).

European Programme Communications Survey 2018

We recently launched a survey regarding our various ERDF and ESF communications activities undertaken in 2017. It's important we make sure we are providing information to you in the most useful and practical way and we would really value your views. Feedback will help us to shape and modify our activities, as it did with the equivalent surveys conducted this time last year and in 2016.

[Click here](#) to access the survey - it will only take a few minutes to complete (the survey will close on 5 February).

ESF – making a difference

As we start a new year, we are featuring a couple of projects already delivering some life changing results...

Single Parent Employment Pathway project

Gingerbread (a well-known charity for single parent families) runs the **Single Parent Employment Pathway** project which helps single parents into employment, education, training and job search in the Liverpool City Region. Participants are able to take advantage of a range of opportunities which include:

- volunteering with partner organisations;
- employment coaching sessions including CV writing and interview skills;
- linking participants with appropriate educational support.

As at January 2018 97 single parents had entered work and 59 were entering further training or job search activities. The project has been supporting over 450 single parents.

Food for Change

Food for Change is led by the Cornwall Food Foundation with local partners, and has built four local food partnerships in Redruth, Truro, St Austell and Newquay enabling people who use foodbanks, mental health services and community centres to address barriers to their active inclusion in the economy. The project will facilitate individual progression using four key areas that provide **work experience, personal support** and **food-based training**, including, where appropriate, accredited qualifications.

- **Think food:** informing people about nutrition and food budgeting.
- **Grow food:** teaching skills from soil preparation to planting and harvesting.
- **Cook food:** promoting healthy, budget-conscious cooking.
- **Trade food:** giving practical experience in food businesses, foodbanks and community gardens.

Skills Support for Redundancy project – New Anglia LEP area

Run by TCHC (The Consultancy Home Counties) and co-financed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, this project is working with over 200 employees facing redundancy, or having been made redundant in the last 6 months, helping them to stay in the labour market by enhancing their skills. The service works in conjunction with Jobcentre Plus, employment agencies and other local partners. The project:

- responds quickly to employer's needs by offering their staff targeted information advice and guidance.
- focuses on training opportunities to up-skill or re-skill employees, helping to retain skilled workers in the local area and key sectors.
- provides employment and careers coaching, mentoring, job brokerage, training and re-skilling.

By January 2018 of those people that have been made redundant around 50 have already found paid employment and apprenticeships.

Applying for ESF and other ESIF funds – to Note

ESF, European Regional Development Fund and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Calls for Applications are published on the GOV.UK website European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) '[funding finder](#)'.

To respond to a call, applicants need to access the ESIF funding finder tool and adhere to the call document instructions/guidance. Supporting information on the Structural Funds can be found via the GOV.UK [England European Structural and Investment Funds guidance page](#).

We have recently discovered that a few (ESIF) partner websites are encouraging ERDF and ESF applicants to apply for funding using the Logasnet system, which was introduced around 2 years ago and was only in operation for around 3 months. If your website, partner sites or documents still point potential applicants to this system could you please remove the reference. If you wish to alert us or have any queries please contact esif@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

GOV.UK and ESF Action Note Update

There have been no other published changes to ESF guidance this month. Guidance is currently under review and a further update will be given in future bulletins.

There have been two [Action Notes](#) published on GOV.UK.

- ESF and Housing Costs

- ESF and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) funding
-

Contacts and useful resources

Visit the European Structural and Investment Programme website pages at www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding.

ERDF and ESF technical assistance project [contacts](#)

Follow the developments on the Programme on Twitter [@esif1420england](#)

Take a look at our [YouTube channel](#)

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from the ESF Project Bulletin or separate Action Notes mailing list please email ESF.2014-2020@dwg.gsi.gov.uk letting us know which mailing list(s) you would like to subscribe to or unsubscribe from.

You can request previous copies of the bulletin by sending an email to ESF.2014-2020@dwg.gsi.gov.uk.

Next bulletin February 2018