

ESIF Update June 2015

1. Our European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Strategy for the period 2014 -2020 sets out our priorities for use of our £61.2m allocation comprising:
 - £28.7m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),
 - £28.7m European Social Fund (ESF), and;
 - £3.8m European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).
2. The ESIF Strategy will be implemented through the process of issuing 'Calls' for project proposals to achieve the aims and deliver the targets set out in the Strategy and Implementation Plan. Calls will be open to all eligible organisations as ESI Funds are subject to EC open procurement rules.
3. All ESI Funds have to be matched 50:50. Under ERDF and EAFRD the applicant (bidder) will provide the match funding whereas under ESF the match funding will usually be provided by a co-financing or opt-in organisation (OiO). At a later date, there will be an opportunity to bid for smaller amounts of ESF funding through a direct bidding route. In this case, applicants will need to provide the match funding.
4. The Calls will be issued and the ESI Funds disbursed by the Managing Authorities (MAs) which are the Government Departments for each of the funds; i.e. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for ERDF, Department for Work and Pensions for ESF and Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for EAFRD.
5. The geography for bidding and project delivery will be based on the LEP areas. Calls will be issued nationally with information relating the relevant participating LEP areas and the priorities in their local ESIF Strategies. The local LEP area ESIF sub-committee will advise on the applications' fit with local priorities in the ESIF Strategy. See Coast to Capital's website for more information on our ESIF Strategy [ESIF Strategy](#) and [GovUK ESIF](#) for more information on current Calls.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

6. This includes support for:
 - SME innovation and R&D, through supporting university and SME collaboration;
 - Business competitiveness including support for start-ups and growth companies, for internationalisation and for businesses in our priority sectors and their supply chains;
 - Adoption of low carbon technologies and solutions.

7. Our first Call to support the Creative, Digital and IT (CDIT) sector through promoting HEI and SME collaborative research was issued at the end of March 2015 with an allocation of approximately £500K of the £2,390,253 allotted to this activity over the life of the programme. This Call closed on 27th May 2015.
8. We are aiming to issue further Calls over the summer under *ERDF Thematic Objective 3: Business Competitiveness*. These have to be negotiated and agreed with the MA i.e. DCLG, but we have agreed the following outline Calls in principle with the Coast to Capital Area Shadow ESIF Committee.

Coast to Capital ERDF Anticipated ERDF Calls in 2015
ERDF Call D. Projects to support the capacity of SMEs to grow through developing growth ambition and internationalisation capability particularly in relation to the ASEAN nations.
Value: £1,075,601
ERDF Call F. Projects to provide business support for all stages of SME development and growth:
Stage 1: 2015 to 2017, development of a pan LEP service to include: start-up support, access to finance, digital capability and leadership & management
Value: £3,872,165
ERDF Call G. Projects to support the Low Carbon, Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGs) sector specifically wood fuel enterprises and their supply chains through business support. Also, promote take-up of wood fuel across the rest of the economy
Value: £1,290,722

European Social Fund ESF

9. Our ESIF Strategy includes support for:
 - Skills to support future growth including higher level skills and intermediate skills for our priority sectors and other important industries;
 - Support for those who need it to access employment and improved opportunities
 - Social inclusion initiatives to help those in target groups and communities.
10. Under *ESF Thematic Objective 8, Promoting Employment and Supporting Social Mobility* we have developed a draft specification for first Call in discussion with DWP, the Opt-in Organisation. This is currently being considered by their contract team and we are awaiting feedback. The

project is aimed at delivering tailored support to enter employment for those at a disadvantage in entering and progressing in the labour market including the unemployed and involuntarily inactive. The contract value is £1,488,580. DWP will provide the match funding.

11. We are hoping that this Call will be issued fairly soon, although the decision will be made by DWP so we cannot say for certain when it will be.
12. Under *ESF Thematic Objective 9: Promoting Social Inclusion and Combatting Poverty*, we have negotiated an Opt-in arrangement with the BIG Lottery Fund. BIG Lottery have issued ten Calls for projects in Coast to Capital aimed at those furthest from the labour market with a total value of £2,667,500 of ESF. Under the opt-in arrangement BIG Lottery will provide actual cash match funding which will give a total project value of £5,335,001. These Calls comprise support for:

Coast to Capital Anticipated BIG Lottery opt-in projects Tranche 1 June 2015	ESF £s	Funding Available
1. Interventions with NEETs	382,307	764,614
2. Return to work provision with the long term unemployed	340,601	681,202
3. Family focused labour market provision	291,943	583,887
4. Health and wellbeing focused labour market interventions	319,748	639,496
5. Housing centred solutions to people out of work	243,287	486,573
6. Developing community led ESF provision	150,000	300,000
7. Supporting social enterprise set up and growth	175,000	350,000
8. Community inclusion- informal and community learning- basic and social skills	264,140	528,279
9. Increasing employment levels in social enterprises	250,237	500,475
10. Social enterprise ESF delivery	250,237	500,475
	2,667,500	5,335,001

13. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Monday 3rd August 2015. For further information, go to <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf>

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

14. The Coast to Capital ESIF Strategy includes £3.8m of support for the rural economy and for rural businesses including the visitor economy
 15. Under our three strands of rural activity - tourism, skills and business support - we have indicated that we would like to issue a Call relating to tourism as a matter of priority as there will be skills and business support activities under other elements of ERDF and ESF.
 16. We are currently in discussion with Defra in relation to issuing an early Call – possibly in Summer 2015 - under EAFRD Measure: 16.3 Tourism Co-operation. This will include support for a) destinations to improve their attractiveness both in terms of sustainable tourism, including investment in skills and new jobs as well as, b) encouraging innovation, networking, new product and market development in rural tourism businesses. £958,090 has been provisionally allocated which will need to be match funded by applicants.
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