

## **European Structural and Investment Funds 2014 - 2020**

### **Employability Pipelines – 15th December 2014**

#### **Strategic Investment Application**

At a meeting of the SLAED European Funding Group held on 15 December 2014, it was indicated that the application template for the strategic interventions had been delayed. It is expected that the application template will be agreed and issued to Lead Partners in January 2015 for return in February.

Part of the application will include sections that can be completed once for the strategic intervention with additional sections completed individually to demonstrate the local focus. We have volunteered to be part of the writing group who will prepare the National sections, along with representatives from South Lanarkshire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and West Lothian.

#### **ESIF Allocation for Employability**

Fife has received the indicative allocation of £7.03m to be spent on pipeline activities and an additional £1.95m for poverty and social inclusion, giving a total of just under £9m.

The latter allocation is specifically for financial inclusion and childcare activities to enhance the pipeline provision. Further guidance on eligible activities is still being sought. Proposals for new delivery activities will be requested once the costing model has been agreed, the National Rules have been published and the Strategic Investment application has been invited.

#### **Scale of Unit Cost Model**

A working group has been developing a model for Scale of Unit Cost and testing (on Model 2, Version 11) was completed and submitted to the group on 28 November 2014. Testing used historical data and actual costs claimed through EUROSYS for the existing ESF programmes, split across activities at each stage of the Employability Pathway. Unfortunately the results of the testing indicated that the data varied so much across the 32 Local Authorities that it was not robust enough to satisfactorily assign a single set of values to the milestones and outcomes

Work is now being undertaken to propose an alternative method, based on an average participant cost, which will be submitted to Scottish Government in January.

#### **EUMIS Testing**

Testing of the new EUMIS Management Information System by Scottish Government took place on 10 and 11 December 2014. A number of places were allocated for CPP's to take part. Feedback from the Local Authorities that tested was mixed. Although the system looks robust and fairly user friendly, the data entry requirements will be extensive. Work is currently ongoing to develop the xml schema, which will link the system to FORT and ideally

draw a lot of the data directly from FORT. In addition a working group has been established to develop and update the FORT system, in order to ensure it is able to sufficiently collect and provide data to EUMIS. Further updates will be given as progress is made.

### **Action**

A start date for the new ESIF programme has been set as 1 April 2015, and a contingency plan has been put in place to provide extensions to existing P5 ESF programmes, and to the pilot activity being run by the Fife Employability and Training Consortium until 31 March 2015.

Strategic Intervention applications will be invited in January 2015, once the template has been finalised, National Rules have been published and the costing model has been agreed. Proposals for delivery activities will then be requested from partners ahead of new programmes commencing in April 2015.