

## ESF CoFinancing - EU Funds 2014-2020

Huckfield comments for Social Enterprises and Third Sector Organisations are in this colour.

### ESF COFINANCING

- a) In England most ESF in the 2007- 2013 Programme is CoFinanced - so that when an organisation applies for ESF, there is no need to secure or provide match funding. So these applications are for ESF which is "already matched". But applicants under CoFinancing may lose some freedom and flexibility through being required to confirm to the match funder's priorities. Most previous English Regional Development Agencies also CoFinanced ERDF - so that some applicants received 100% funding. Their abolition has led to problems in securing match funding.
- b) National CoFinancing Organisations in England are match funded from Government Department or national programme budgets. Each of these represents national programmes with regional subprogrammes:
  - Department of Work and Pensions
  - National Offender Management Service
  - Skills Funding Agency
- c) Some Local Councils in England are also CoFinancing Organisations, providing match funding from a variety of sources, including their own programmes. They have assumed management and administration responsibilities for allocation of ESF funding:
  - Central Bedfordshire Council
  - East of England Development Agency
  - Local Authorities in the East Midlands Consortium
  - London Councils
  - London Development Agency
  - Luton Borough Council
- c) From March 2011, Scotland's best example of Cofinancing has been ESF under the Priority 5 - the "Employability Pipeline" under the Lowlands and Uplands Programme. A total programme of £26.08mn for colleges consists of ESF grant of £9.28mn and Scottish Funding Council match funding of £16.8mn. This 35% grant rate covers two academic years - 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- d) It would be possible for parts of the ESF 2014-2020 Programme in Scotland to be CoFinanced and delivered through, for example, Scottish Funding Council, Skills Development Scotland and other bodies funded from the Scottish Government.
- e) It might also be possible for Social Enterprise, Development Trusts and Local Community Organisations to participate in ESF already CoFinanced by Scottish Government or other public sources - so that they would not need to secure their own match funding. This could apply within Community Led Local Development, Integrated Territorial Investment and Joint Action Programmes to be CoFinanced by Scottish Government, other public bodies or Local Authorities. Discussion is needed how this might be structured for Third Sector Organisations.