

Technical Assistance for EU Funds 2014-2020

Huckfield comments for Social Enterprises and Third Sector Organisations throughout this note are highlighted in this colour. Please click on highlighted blue links to access documents.

A) BACKGROUND

Please see the separate paper **Local Administration of EU Funds 2014-2020**. The EU Commission has provided for local management and involvement in actions using local delivery vehicles (Joint Actions Plans, Integrated Territorial Investments and Community Led Local Development).

Social Enterprise, Development Trusts and Local Community Organisations should argue for more local control over involvement in any strategy and the delivery of the Common Strategic Framework. Apart from additional funding proposed by the Commission for local management, most EU Programmes include "Technical Assistance" for their operation .

B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1) Technical Assistance means "funding for running the programme".

Article 51 on page 65 of the [draft Common Strategic Framework Regulation COM\(2011\) 615 final/2](#) proposes that either on the initiative of the Commission or Member State, Technical Assistance may be available for various elements of programme management, operation and administration, including awareness raising and various communication activities. Many EU Funds Conferences and Seminars about programme operation and management are funded through Technical Assistance.

Technical Assistance is not always available at 100% rates under programmes and applicants may be required to furnish match funding, often through an allocation of paid staff time. Under Article 52, Technical Assistance of the Member States, page 66 states:

"At the initiative of a Member State, the CSF Funds may support actions for preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and communication, networking, complaint resolution, and control and audit. The CSF Funds may be used by the Member State to support actions for the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries, including electronic data exchange systems, and actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the CSF Funds".

2) For the operation, management and administration of Community Led Local Development, Integrated Territorial Investment and Joint Action Plans, all this is relevant for Social Enterprise, Development Trusts, Housing Associations and Local Community Organisations since Technical Assistance may be available for funding their running.

The Scottish Government's Ex Ante Evaluation process of proposed programmes between December 2012 and July 2013 affords Social Enterprise and Third Sector Organisations an opportunity to play a significant role. This will include preliminary discussion on Technical Assistance.