



Lowlands and Uplands Scotland ERDF and ESF Programmes 2007 - 2013 Programme Monitoring Committee

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – UPDATE ON APPROVED APPLICATIONS

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise this Committee on how Technical Assistance (TA) has been used to date in the 2007 – 2013 programming period.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under Article 45 of the General Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11th July 2006, Technical Assistance may finance the preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical support, evaluation, audit and inspection measures necessary for programme implementation. Such actions shall include in particular:

- (i) assistance for project preparation and appraisal;
- (ii) evaluations and studies;
- (iii) measures aimed at partners, beneficiaries and the general public relating to the provision of information;
- (iv) measures to disseminate information and raise awareness;
- (v) the installation, operation and interconnection of computer systems for management, monitoring, inspection and evaluation; and,
- (vi) improvement in evaluation methods.

- 2.2 The Monitoring Committee agreed in principle at its meeting of 08 November 2007 to the use of Technical Assistance from the ERDF and ESF Programmes, subject to the provision of an additional costs breakdown to support a range of implementation and evaluation initiatives. This additional information was provided to the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 19 March 2008. The total Technical Assistance allocations for the ERDF Programme and the ESF Programme are £4,205,982 and £3,020,298 respectively. At that time, no specific allocations were made for the different activity uses for TA. However, it was agreed that the two principal actions which should be supported in the first three years of the Programming period were The Scottish Government contract with ESEP Ltd as the Intermediate Administration Body; and, the Scottish Government initiative to introduce a new web-based application and claims process and database (EUROSYS). A full breakdown of the various TA activities undertaken to date is included in the next section.

3. Use of Technical Assistance to date

3.1 To date, technical assistance from the ERDF and ESF Programmes have been used on four separate expenditure items. These are outlined below:

Technical Assistance Item	ERDF Grant Paid	ESF Grant Paid	Comments
Eurosyst	£75,882.41	£54,437.38	As the web-based application and claims system operates on a pan-Scotland basis, the total project costs have been apportioned between the LUPS and the Highlands Programme and then between ERDF and ESF. The LUPS ERDF share of the total project costs was 46% and the ESF share was 33%.
IAB costs	£656,121.74	£475,122.64	These represent the agreed contract costs for ESEP Ltd – the IAB for the LUPS Programme. The costs have been apportioned between ERDF and ESF. The LUPS ERDF share of the total contract costs was 58% and the ESF share was 42%.
Publicity	£4,768.82	£3,421.11	As the Scottish Government publicity campaign operated on a pan-Scotland basis, the total project costs have been apportioned between the LUPS and the Highlands Programme and then between ERDF and ESF. The LUPS ERDF share of the total project costs was 46% and the ESF share was 33%.
Evaluation	£9,922.35	£7,185.15	The total costs for evaluation in the LUPS Programme have been apportioned between ERDF and ESF. The LUPS ERDF share of the total contract costs was 58% and the ESF share was 42%.
Total	£746,695.32	£540,166.28	

3.2 Future uses of TA will include the Scottish Government costs of managing the Programmes after the initial three year IAB contract has expired and a development of the evaluation activities as highlighted in paper LUPS/09/04/11 which is also being considered at this meeting.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is invited to:

4.1.1 Note the use of Technical Assistance to date in the 2007 – 2013 Programming period.

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October 2009