

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

2007-13 STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMMES

What can be funded?

General

- ***What has driven changes to the 2007-13 Programmes?***

The major driver of change for the 2007-13 Programmes is the sharp reduction in funding coming to Scotland. Compared to the 2000-06 period, Scotland will only receive about half of the same level of funding in 2007-13 – a steeper fall in funding than Scotland has ever experienced before. This reduction is being experienced across the whole of the UK – indeed, most of the older EU Member States – because of the pressures on the overall EU Budget caused by the enlargement of the EU to include new Member States with severe development needs.

In addition, there are several other significant differences between what is eligible in the 2007-13 period and the activities which have been eligible in the past. This note cannot summarise them all – applicants should consult the list of eligible activities under the different priorities – but a few key changes are set out here.

First, for 2007-13, there are tighter restrictions on eligible activities. Programmes will now have to meet expenditure targets set by the EU to ensure that supported activities contribute to achieving the EU's Lisbon Strategy goals for employment and economic growth. These targets differ across Scotland: for programmes under the Convergence Objective (the Highlands & Islands), at least 60% of the Programme should be spent in support of Lisbon goals; and for those under the Competitiveness Objective (Lowlands & Uplands Scotland), the minimum is 75%.

In practice, the Commission has prescribed the types of activities that directly support Lisbon goals – these are contained in Annexes in the current version of the OP documents. This 'earmarking' significantly limits the areas of spending for the Programmes, particularly in the Lowlands & Uplands Scotland area. For example, in the latter, there are now substantial constraints on how much capital infrastructure spending can be supported in the Programme.

Second, the EU has focused on some issues which feature more strongly in the new generation of Programmes. This is particularly true of research and innovation support, which has been given a special priority in EU Cohesion Policy for 2007-13. This is reflected in the creation of a dedicated priority for research and innovation in the Lowlands & Uplands Scotland ERDF Programme, its prominence throughout the Highlands & Islands ERDF Programme, and in support of the managerial and entrepreneurial skills required to support R&D in enterprises and establish new businesses.

In light of the sharp reduction in funding and the strong possibility that this will be the last significant Structural Funds support coming to Scotland, there will be a greater emphasis on assisting strategic, legacy projects. In practice, this will mean a greater weight will be given to assessing the strategic fit and sustainability of projects than in previous programming periods. More detail of the scoring criteria for the new Programmes will be published in advance of the first Programme round.

• ***How much funding is available in the different Programmes?***

Overall, Scotland will receive approximately £540.2 million in funding (approximations are necessary because of need to convert from the prevailing euro exchange rate). This breaks down into a total of about £116.4 million for the ERDF and ESF Programmes for the Highlands & Islands under the Convergence Objective and £423.8 million for ERDF and ESF Programmes for Lowlands & Uplands Scotland under the Competitiveness Objective.

Scotland will have four Programmes: two in the Highlands & Islands, two in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland. Allocations under each priority of the different Programmes will not be finalised until the negotiations with the Commission have concluded and the Programmes approved. However, the following total EU allocations for 2017-13 have been put forward in the draft OPs submitted to the European Commission.

For the Highlands & Islands ERDF Programme:

- Priority 1 (Business Competitiveness, Commercialisation and Innovation): €47.53 million (about £32.78 million)
- Priority 2 (Key Drivers for Sustainable Growth): €41.43 million (about £28.57 million)
- Priority 3 (Peripheral and Fragile Communities): €29.25 million (about £20.17 million)

For the Highlands & Islands ESF Programme:

- Priority 1 (Increasing the Workforce): €15.12 million (about £10.43 million)
- Priority 2 (Investing in the Workforce): €20.34 million (about £14.03 million)
- Priority 3 (Improving Access to Lifelong Learning): €15.12 million (about £10.43 million)

For the Lowlands & Uplands Scotland ERDF Programme:

- Priority 1 (Research and Innovation): €92.11 million (about £63.52 million)
- Priority 2 (Enterprise Growth): €122.19 million (about £84.27 million)
- Priority 3 (Urban Regeneration): €101.51 million (about £70.01 million)
- Priority 4 (Rural Development): €35.26 million (about £24.32 million)

For the Lowlands & Uplands Scotland ESF Programme:

- Priority 1 (Progressing into Employment): €121.19 million (about £83.58 million)
- Priority 2 (Progressing through Employment): €99.6 million (about £68.69 million)
- Priority 3 (Improving Access to Lifelong Learning): €42.65 million (about £29.41 million)

In addition, there will be some funding in each Programme available for 'technical assistance' to support delivery of the Programme by the Managing Authority.

The amount of EU funding that can be spent on projects in different priorities are set by intervention rates. These will differ for different priorities – average rates can be found in Chapter 5 of each of the OP documents. Full guidance on how much funding can be applied for will be provided in advance of the first Programme round.

Eligible Activities

- ***What activities will be eligible for funding in the new Programmes?***

The list of eligible activities for 2007-13 set out in the respective Scottish Operational Programmes. Under each of the priority descriptions in Chapter 4 in each of the OP documents, there is a section specifying eligible activities. The OPs can be found here:

- Highlands & Islands ERDF Programme: [link to be added]
- Highlands & Islands ESF Programme: [link to be added]
- Lowlands & Uplands Scotland ERDF Programme: [link to be added]
- Lowlands & Uplands Scotland ESF Programme: [link to be added]

This Q&A note accompanies the latest draft of the OPs. This is not the final version. The final version of the OPs – and the list of eligible activities – will be published as soon as the Programmes have been agreed with and approved by the European Commission. However, it is anticipated that there will not be significant changes to the list of activities set out in the current draft version.

As part of the publicity events in June and July discussed below, the Intermediate Administration Bodies (as defined below) will work with potential applicants to confirm the eligibility of individual project ideas.

• ***Will there be geographical targeting in the new Programmes?***

Yes. For parts of the Lowlands & Uplands Scotland Programmes, eligibility will be limited to particular parts of the region. Such geographical targeting will apply in three priorities:

- Priority 1 of the ESF Programme (Progressing through Employment)
- Priority 3 of the ERDF Programme (Urban Regeneration)
- Priority 4 of the ERDF Programme (Rural Development)

For ESF Priority 1 and ERDF Priority 3, the approach to targeting is set out under the 'Targeting' sections in the relevant priority descriptions in Chapter 4 of the two OP documents. Local Authority areas will be designated on the following basis:

- priority areas as set out in Scottish Executive policy, specifically Workforce Plus priority areas, NEET priority areas and the geographical priorities identified in the Regeneration Policy Statement; and
- on the basis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, the ten Local Authority areas with highest national shares of population in the 15% most deprived data-zones.

Local Authority areas that qualify under either approach will be deemed eligible. Project applications must show that activity will benefit the designated areas but do not necessarily have to take place within those areas. Eligibility will apply for the duration of the project award, although the list of eligible areas may change on an annual basis for new project applications.

For Priority 4 of the ERDF Programme, a similar approach will be used to the urban targeting described above. Again, areas will be defined at Local Authority level. Given the limited funding in this priority, it is important that it is not thinly spread but concentrated on the most peripheral, disadvantaged rural parts of the Lowlands & Uplands Scotland region. Consequently, eligibility will be determined on the basis of the Scottish Executive's system of measuring rurality – the six-fold urban-rural classification. Funding will be targeted on Local Authorities with high concentrations of 'remote rural' and 'accessible rural' areas: ie. areas defined as having less than 3,000 people and within 30 minutes driving of settlements of 10,000 or more. A population threshold will be applied to capture those Local Authorities that have the most significant share of population in remote and accessible rural areas. This will be set at 35%, reflecting the limited funding and ensuring that most clearly rural areas are addressed by funding.

As with ESF Priority 1 and ERDF Priority 3, where projects cover beneficiary groups that overlap with remote and accessible rural areas in bordering Local Authority areas, up to 10% of the project award could be spent outside of the list of designated Local Authorities. Again, activity needs to demonstrate benefit to the most rural areas, but does not necessarily have to take place in those areas.

For the Highlands & Islands, funding in some of the priorities will be focused on 'peripheral and fragile areas', though not exclusively so. Support will be focused on such areas in: Priority 1 of the ERDF Programme (Business Competitiveness, Commercialisation and Innovation); Priority 3 of the ERDF Programme (Peripheral and Fragile Communities); and Priority 1 of the ESF Programme (Increasing the Workforce). The methodology for determining these areas is set out in the 'targeting' section of the Priority 3 description in Chapter 4 of the ERDF OP document. More detailed guidance on how this will operate will be published in advance of the first Programme round.

- ***How often will the list of eligible areas be reviewed?***

In advance of each round of the Programmes, the list of eligible areas will be reviewed by the Managing Authority and published along with the other eligibility and application guidance on the Intermediate Administration Body websites. The list of areas will be updated using the most recent set of statistics. For the first round of the new Programmes, it is anticipated that the list of eligible areas will be published by the end of June.

- ***How flexible will the approach to geographical targeting be?***

Targeting will be applied with a degree of flexibility. For the Highlands & Islands, as noted above, funding in some priorities will be weighted, but not exclusively directed towards 'peripheral and fragile areas', as set out above. Guidance on how this will work will be published before the launch of the Programmes.

For Lowlands & Uplands Scotland, there will also be flexibility in how the spatial criteria will apply. First, it will only operate at Local Authority level. While projects should address the most deprived areas within each eligible Local Authority area, project activity does not have to take place in those areas. Second, where projects cover beneficiary groups that overlap with immediately-bordering deprived areas in neighbouring Local Authority areas, up to 10% of the project award could be spent outside of the designated Local areas. Guidance on this will be set out in the application guidance to be published in advance of the first Programme round.

- ***Will there be sectoral targeting in the new Programmes?***

A degree of sectoral targeting will only be applied in the Highlands & Islands ERDF Programme. Under Priority 1 (Business Competitiveness, Commercialisation and Innovation), support for 'businesses of scale' – as set out in the priority description in Chapter 4 of the OP document – will be focused on key sectors in the regional economy. While a list of these sectors is likely to alter over the lifetime of the Programme, currently these are regarded as: renewable energy; food and drink; forestry; nuclear de-commissioning supply sectors; and life sciences. Under Priority 2 of the Programme (Key Drivers of Sustainable Growth), funding will be targeted at supporting the R&D capacity of the region to support these key sectors as well as projects to improve the competitiveness of sectors dependent on the region's natural, historical and cultural heritage (such as tourism).

There will be no sectoral targeting in the Scottish ESF Programmes or in the Lowlands & Uplands ERDF Programme.

- ***Will there be any eligibility criteria relating to the size of project seeking funding?***

Yes. For Lowlands & Uplands Scotland, eligible projects must have a minimum annual average of total eligible projects costs of £200,000 or over. This threshold will apply for all priorities in the new LUPS Programmes. No threshold will apply in the Highlands & Islands Programmes, owing to the smaller nature of projects in the area.

Where applicants are concerned that their project size falls below the threshold, they should contact the Intermediate Administration Body for advice. It may be possible for several smaller complementary projects – either by the same applicant or by different applicants – to be joined together into a larger, eligible project.

- ***How will Structural Funds projects fit with activities funded through the new Scottish Rural Development Programme and the European Fisheries Fund?***

One of the major new developments for 2007-13 is the changes in EU agricultural and fisheries funding. In past programmes, an element of both funding has been contained in the Highlands & Islands Special Transitional Programme – this has now been transferred to the new funding streams, as has LEADER as a mechanism for delivering support for rural development.

Plans for the Scottish Rural Development Programmes and the European Fisheries Fund are being negotiated separately from the Structural Funds – however, there is a need for strong co-ordination between the different funding streams to ensure that there is clear sign-posting for different projects. In the Structural Funds OP documents, the issue of co-ordination is discussed in sections 6.2 and 6.3.

In practical terms, this will mean that, where appropriate, Structural Funds projects will be expected to take full account of the priority-setting by the local Rural Development Fora for Axis 3 of the Scottish Rural Development Programme at the time of application. Guidance on how this should be done will be issued in advance of the first Programme round. Both Programmes will include representatives in cross-membership of the respective decision-making bodies.

How will the Programmes be delivered?

Intermediate Administration Bodies

- ***What are these?***

The Intermediate Administration Bodies (IABs) will administer the 2007-13 Structural Funds Programmes under contract to the Scottish Executive. The bodies will be responsible for: publicising the Programmes and forthcoming application rounds; advising applicants on potential projects; assisting in project appraisal; processing claims; and monitoring projects. They will be the main point of contact for advice on applying for 2007-13 funding.

The contracts for the IABs were awarded following a tendering exercise in 2006. For the period up to the end of 2010, the IAB for the Highlands & Islands programmes is:

Highlands & Islands (Scotland) Structural Funds Partnership Ltd
Jubilee Lodge
12c Ness Walk
Inverness IV3 5SQ
www.hipp.org.uk

For Lowlands & Uplands Scotland programmes, the IAB is:

ESEP Ltd
Suite 3, Forth House
Burnside Business Court
North Road
Inverkeithing
Fife KY11 1NZ
www.esep.co.uk

ESEP will also have a Glasgow office. Full contact details will be available on the ESEP website.

- ***How do the IABs differ from the existing Programme Management Executives?***

The IABs will undertake many of the current Programme Management Executive tasks, but for the new 2007-13 Programmes. Their responsibilities are principally the same, with the following key differences: the IABs have been selected through tender and are subject to a three-year contract, which will be reviewed at the end of 2009; and the IABs will be funded directly by the Scottish Executive rather than through voluntary partner contributions, as the PME's have been.

The two IABs are also PME's under the 2000-06 Programmes: ESEP Ltd is the PME for the East of Scotland Objective 2 Programme and Highlands & Islands Structural Funds Partnership is the PME for the Highlands & Islands Special Transitional Programme.

- ***What will the role of the Programme Management Executives be?***

The PME's will continue to fulfil their role for the 2000-06 Programmes, particularly with regards to the closure of these Programmes. All queries on these Programmes should be directed to the relevant PME's.

Project Selection

- ***What is changing about project selection in the 2007-13 Programmes?***

The main features of the existing system for selecting projects and making Structural Funds awards will stay the same. In essence, awards will continue to be made on the basis of competitive rounds in each of the priorities. Projects will continue to be assessed through a mixture of technical checks by the IABs and an expert and peer review process through advisory groups and Programme Monitoring Committees.

However, there are a number of areas where scope for improving on the system to benefit applicants and generate legacy projects in the 2007-13 Programmes has been explored. These include:

- a two-stage application process (as discussed below)
- greater co-ordination of bids to different priorities and Programmes (as discussed below)
- the introduction of new eligibility criteria for geographical and sectoral targeting and minimum project size thresholds (see above)
- some changes to project selection criteria (as discussed below)
- some changes to the national rules governing eligible expenditure (as discussed below)
- the frequency of application rounds (as discussed below)
- the duration of awards (as discussed below)
- advance payments will no longer be available and 'retentions' no longer held

These issues are discussed elsewhere in the document, though additional comments are made here about the latter point on advance payments. For the new Programmes, all funding will now be provided to projects on the basis of declared expenditure. Advance payments will no longer be provided.

- ***How will a two-stage application process work?***

To streamline further the application process for Structural Funds, the Executive is introducing a two-stage application process for the 2007-13 Programmes. This will help to ensure only those projects with a clear fit to the eligibility criteria progress to a full application. In parallel with some streamlining of the application form, it should reduce the overall burden of making applications for funding and facilitate more co-operation between potential projects.

The first stage will be an expression of interest, in which applicants will need to supply a summary description of the projects and its aims, the partners involved, the funding and the anticipated outcomes. These summaries will be reviewed to filter out those not meeting the eligibility criteria. In addition, where projects overlap or appear to be naturally complementary, applicants will be strongly encouraged to consider stronger, collaborative bids.

After feedback from the IABs to applicants from the first stage, full applications will be invited for the second stage. These applications will be assessed by the advisory groups. The Programme Monitoring Committee will make final recommendations on which projects should be funded.

Further guidance and a timetable for the two-stage process will be published shortly. The first stage of the first round of the new Programmes is anticipated to have its first deadline in October 2006, but formal notification will be publicised through the Scottish Executive's Structural Funds website and through the IABs.

- ***What about projects that 'cross over' several priorities?***

Projects often find that their eligible activity straddles different parts of a Programme and may require separate applications under different priorities. Under the new regulations, where projects have a small amount of activity that would normally be covered by another Fund – for example, an ERDF project that would involve an element of ESF-style training – there will be scope to cover the residual activity under a single application. Guidance on this will be given in advance of the first Programme round.

Where a number of related projects cut across several priorities, to ease the uncertainty to projects of separate related applications, decisions on all priorities within a Programme will be made at the same time. Where projects have signalled that applications under separate priorities are related, advisory groups in the relevant priorities could consult and assess the two applications together to ensure decisions are joined up.

Separate audit trails will need to be maintained for the separate awards that projects receive. Full guidance on keeping audit trails for Structural Funds-supported projects will be provided in advance of the first Programme round.

- ***What about projects that ‘cross over’ several Programmes?***

The co-ordination between linked applications to different priorities will also apply across Programmes. In addition, under Priority 1 of the two ESF Programmes and both Priority 3 of the H&I ERDF Programme (Peripheral and Fragile Communities) Priority 3 of the ERDF LUPS Programme (Urban Regeneration), joint ERDF-ESF awards are being planned, given the complementary nature of their regeneration/social inclusion goals. Projects will not have to apply for both funds, but where appropriate, will be encouraged to do so. Separate applications to each priority will still be required, but projects will be asked to show ERDF and ESF funding can be used effectively together.

In addition, the new EU Regulations allow for up to 10% of the resources in the ESF or ERDF Programme in each area to be spent on activities relating to the other Fund. This will enable projects to avoid unnecessary applications on projects where such activities are likely to be a small proportion of total project funding. At the start of the programming period, the Executive will set out detailed guidelines on the types of activities that could be covered by this flexibility.

- ***Will there be any changes in project selection criteria?***

Full guidance on the selection criteria on which project applications will be assessed will be issued in advance of the first Programme round. However, it is anticipated that greater emphasis will be placed on the following criteria in future appraisals:

- fit with national and local strategies
- partnership with relevant local and national bodies
- track record of the lead applicant in running Structural Funds projects
- taking forward the Programme's environmental sustainability and equal opportunities aspirations

- ***Will there be any changes in the type of expenditure that is eligible for funding?***

The national rules governing the eligibility of expenditure have changed for the 2007-13 period. Full guidance on the rules will be set out in advance of the first Programme round, but applicants should be aware that projects applying for European funding must be discrete and additional to the core functions of the organisations. There will be some changes to the treatment of some costs, such as in-kind contributions. In kind contributions will be treated as eligible expenditure only in certain circumstances where they comprise the provision of land or real estate – effectively eligible therefore in a limited number of ERDF projects. Staff or other costs are not contributions in kind but may be eligible project costs.

- ***What is the role of the Programme Monitoring Committee?***

The new Programme Monitoring Committees are currently in the process of being established. The Committees will continue to have the same role in the 2007-13 Programmes as in the 2000-06 Programmes. The key change will be that the single H&I PMC will oversee the two H&I Programmes and another will oversee the two LUPS Programmes. Having a single body to oversee each area's Programmes will ensure greater co-ordination between the different Funds. The Committees for the 2000-06 Programmes will also continue to fulfil their functions until those Programmes are fully closed.

- ***Can awards be made for more than one year?***

Applicants will be invited to apply for awards for funding for up to three years for revenue projects. While a funding commitment will be made for the three years, funding in each year will depend on successful applicants demonstrating progress in the implementation of their projects. Capital projects, as before, should be for the costs of providing the infrastructure/facilities.

Intermediate Delivery Bodies

- ***What are these?***

Intermediate Delivery Bodies will be charged with delivery of a handful of key strategic projects within five of the priorities that will make major contributions to the goals of the Programme. The IDBs will be receiving funding from only part of these priorities – the rest will be available for competitive bidding. As with all projects, Structural Funds will be supporting activity that is clearly additional to the existing activities of the IDBs. The bodies will set out their planned activity through annual plans which will include financial and performance targets. Projects will be approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee and reviewed and monitored regularly.

Four IDBs will be used. For the Highlands & Islands:

- Highlands & Islands Enterprise for part of Priority 1 of the ERDF Programme (Business Competitiveness, Commercialisation and Innovation); and
- the University of the Highlands & Islands Millennium Institute for part of Priority 2 of the ERDF Programme (Key Drivers of Sustainable Growth) and part of Priority 3 of the ESF Programme (Improving Access to Lifelong Learning).

For Lowlands & Uplands Scotland, these bodies will be:

- Scottish Enterprise for part of Priority 1 of the ERDF Programme (Research and Innovation); and
- the South of Scotland Alliance for part of Priority 4 of the ERDF Programme (Rural Development).

- ***How much funding will the IDBs receive?***

The financial envelope for the IDBs will be set by Scottish Ministers on an annual basis. Decisions on the funding for the IDBs have yet to be finalised and will be set out when the Programmes receive their final approval. Project activity will be described in annual action plans for approval by the Programme Monitoring Committee.

Community Planning Partnerships

- ***What funding will be available for Community Planning Partnerships in the new Programmes?***

In Lowlands & Uplands Scotland, a special dedicated pot of funding will be set up to support eligible Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) in implementing integrated social inclusion/regeneration action plans. The pot of funding will be formed from a small share of the allocations of Priority 1 of the ESF Programme (Progressing into Employment) and Priority 3 ERDF (Urban Regeneration). The scale of this funding will be announced along with details of the application process in advance of the first round of the Programmes, with which it will run in parallel. The funding would complement the key role of the CPPs in delivering social inclusion and regeneration goals at a local level. Funding will be awarded to three CPPs on a pilot basis for two years.

In the Highlands & Islands, no dedicated pot of funding is being established. All CPPs will have access to Priority 1 ESF (Increasing the Workforce) and Priority 3 ERDF (Peripheral and Fragile Communities).

- ***Which CPPs will be eligible for the funding and what can they fund?***

For Lowlands & Uplands Scotland, eligible CPPs must be based in the areas on the list of eligible areas for Priority 3 ERDF and Priority 1 ESF (as set out in the 'Geographical and Sectoral Targeting section' above). The list of eligible areas will be published in advance of the first Programme rounds.

For the Highlands & Islands, all CPPs will be eligible.

The activities will be the same as the list of eligible activities for the relevant priorities within the Programmes. These are listed under the priority descriptions in Chapter 4 of the Operational Programmes. CPPs will be expected to target their funding at the most deprived communities within their areas.

- ***How and when will the selection of the pilots take place?***

In Lowlands & Uplands Scotland, the CPP pot of funding will be open to competitive bidding for all CPPs within the eligible areas. This will enable bids to be assessed on the quality, need of the area and the capacity of the delivery organisations. Details on the criteria for the bids and the appraisal and selection procedures will be provided before the start of the first Programme round. The aim is to make awards

within the same timescale as that for other projects in the first round. Pilots will run for a full two years from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009. Evaluation of the pilots will take place from September 2009 onwards. The evaluations will inform decisions on the future of direct funding to the CPPs.

In the Highlands & Islands, CPP project bids will be assessed alongside all other project bids.

- ***Can pilot CPPs in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland apply for other Structural Funds support?***

Yes, pilot CPPs can apply for funding in all other competitive pots, including the rest of Priority 3 ERDF and Priority 1 ESF, so long as: a) their activity is eligible; and b) they are applying for activity clearly additional to what they are already being funded to deliver through the awards made from the CPP pot.

- ***How does this fit in with the Regeneration Outcome Agreements process?***

The successful CPPs will have to produce a complementary statement aligned to their community plan objectives and Regeneration Outcome Agreements (ROAs), outlining how the additional activity that ESF Priority 1 and ERDF Priority 3 pilot funding will enhance delivery of their ROA objectives. The format for the ROAs after March 2008 is subject to review – consequently, successful CPP pilots would need to take into account what emerges from that review, including the wider consideration of the single outcome agreement approach.

When will the new Programmes start?

- ***When will the new Programmes be launched?***

Following the conclusion to the public consultation of the Programmes, the revised OP documents were submitted to the European Commission in early April to start the process of formal negotiations. These negotiations are expected to last several months, but it is anticipated that a formal approval to Programmes will be given in the early autumn. The Executive has a target date of October for launching the new Programmes, but will update partners on the negotiations over the coming months.

- ***Will there be any further shadow rounds?***

A shadow round was held in the first few months of 2007 in Priority 1 of the two 2007-13 ESF Programmes to accommodate their late start. There are no plans to introduce any further shadow rounds. Should the launch of the new Programmes be delayed significantly beyond current expectations, the Executive will consider whether interim arrangements may be appropriate.

- ***How can partners find out more about the new Programmes?***

A series of publicity events is being planned for late June/early July to present the new Programmes to partners and the new arrangements for applying for EU funding. Ten, separate day-long workshops will be held across Scotland. Details and times will be available in mid-May from the Scottish Executive's Structural Funds website and the websites of the two Intermediate Administration Bodies.

The Executive's Structural Funds website – www.scotland.gov.uk/structuralfunds – will also be regularly updated. If you are interested in receiving news alerts for the website, please send your e-mail contact details to europeanstructuralfunds@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

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