

East Midlands European Funding Programmes

Organisations in the East Midlands region are eligible to apply for funding under a broad range of European funding programmes. This document aims to give brief details of each of the major funding programmes and provide potential applicants with information on where to find further details and who to contact.



European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The East Midlands ERDF Competitiveness Programme is valued at €268.5m for the period 2007-2013. Its objective is *'to become a region of highly productive, innovative and sustainable businesses and support the most disadvantaged of our communities to realise their economic potential'*.

To achieve this, the Programme identifies three main priorities:

- Increasing productivity through innovation
- Improving resource efficiency in businesses and communities
- Increasing sustainable economic and enterprise activity in disadvantaged communities

Activity under these priorities will support a range of beneficiaries including SMEs, universities, Local Authorities, business support intermediaries, entrepreneurs, social enterprises and community organisations. In order to ensure that the funding achieves the maximum possible impact and concentration, resources will be targeted as follows:

- **Priority Axis 1:** Activity around innovation and sustainable business practice will be thematically targeted and available across the whole region. Resources will focus on increasing the commercialisation of innovation in SMEs in priority sectors and in businesses with high growth potential to create higher value added products and services and will support SME engagement in R&D for emerging and enabling technologies. It will also promote and support innovation to improve resource efficiency.
- **Priority Axis 2:** Sustainable economic and enterprise activity will be spatially targeted to focus resources on the most disadvantaged areas, whilst exploiting the potential linkages to adjacent areas of economic growth.

Opportunities to Access Funding

An **Investment Framework** has been developed to identify programmes of activity to be supported by the Programme. Regular calls will be issued by the Programme Secretariat, either open calls, or inviting applications for specific activity. These opportunities are advertised on www.eastmidlandserdf.org.uk and are circulated to those who have registered an interest.

Calls for proposals under Priority Axis 2 are managed by the target districts. Local Investment Plans have been drawn up and calls will be issued within the districts on a regular basis against these plans.

Contact Details

ERDF is managed at the regional level by *emda*. The Programme Secretariat can be reached on 0115 947 1727 or by e-mail on europeanenquiries@emd.org.uk. A "who's who" of team members can be downloaded from the website www.eastmidlandserdf.org.uk.



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

European Social Fund (ESF)

ESF aims to improve people's skills and employment prospects. The East Midlands share of the England ESF programme for 2007-13 is worth approximately £164 million, although revaluation following exchange rate fluctuations during the first part of the Programme has increased this by a further £13 million.

There are two priorities for action, which are:

- Extending employment opportunities; and
- Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce.

In Priority Axis 1 (PA1) contracts have been let across a wide range of projects which will support those furthest from the workplace and will tackle barriers and raise skill levels.

In Priority Axis 2 (PA2) the East Midlands region has chosen to focus on raising skills and qualifications in Levels 1 to 3 and to target some sectors of the workforce as identified in the regional ESF Framework.

Approximately five percent of regional PA1 funding has been allocated for Community grants which will be overseen by the LSC. Community Grants fund smaller community projects up to a maximum of £10,000.

Two percent of the regional allocation has been assigned for Innovation, Transnationality and Mainstream projects. A maximum of three projects will be funded in the region.

Opportunities to Access Funding

Contracts to deliver the first three years' activity have been tendered and awarded already. There may be limited scope for further tendering during this period due to the revaluation of the Programme for exchange rate fluctuations.

Further tendering opportunities for the second half of the Programme will be advertised in 2010. Details will be available on the GOEM website when available www.gos.gov.uk/goem/euro

Contact Details

This programme is being managed at the regional level by Government Office for the East Midlands. The main contact is Eileen Gay, 0115 971 2544, eileen.gay@goem.gsi.gov.uk or Ursula Harrison, 0115 971 2771, Ursula.harrison@goem.gsi.gov.uk.

There are three Co-Financing Organisations in the East Midlands who have each developed a plan for investment and management of the funds in the region:

- **The Department of Work and Pensions**
Chris Beech - chris.beech@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk, 0115 989 5838
- **Local Authority Consortium**
Andy Brookes - andrew.brookes@lincolnshire.gov.uk, 01522 550631
- **The Learning and Skills Council**
Henry Kukiewicz – henry.kukiewicz@lsc.gov.uk, 0116 2281964
www.enable.uk.net (Community Grants), 0115 934 9505



Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) is funded by Defra and the European Union and runs from 2007 – 2013. *emda* is responsible for delivering the socio-economic elements of RDPE in the East Midlands. Natural England and the Forestry Commission, are responsible for managing the environmental schemes within the region.

Socio-Economic Element

£60m of grant funding is available from *emda* to support land based businesses currently operating in the farming, forestry and horticulture sectors throughout the region to bring wider benefits for the region's economy.

In the East Midlands, this element will focus on 'Competitiveness, Collaboration and Diversification' and the criteria for projects to be eligible for grant funding includes:

- Adding value to agricultural, horticultural or forestry products – including the development of new products, processes and technologies;
- Improving co-operation and collaboration between businesses to improve efficiency – including infrastructure and equipment investments;
- Promoting diversification in the rural economy; and
- Supporting resource use efficiency including water management, energy efficiency, sustainable construction, waste minimisation and renewable energy generation.

Defra has prescribed that a proportion of the budget must be allocated specifically for livestock businesses. This funding will be focused on projects that improve competitiveness, nutrient management and animal health and welfare of the East Midlands livestock sector.

Funding is also available for skills development in rural businesses and organisations. This will be focused on training in management and business development.

Part of the programme targets rural communities as part of the LEADER Approach – projects where local groups decide and agree their own priorities and needs. Local Action Groups were invited to bid for a portion of the funding to help improve the quality of life and economic prosperity of their community through smaller scale innovative projects.

Opportunities to Access Funding

The socio-economic elements of RDPE operate on an open bidding basis. Applicants may submit expressions of interest at any time.

Contact Details

Further information on the socio-economic element of RDPE is available at www.emda.org.uk/rdpe or by contacting the RDPE Team.

Adrian Matthews - rdpe@emd.org.uk, 0115 947 1797

Agri-Environment and Forestry Schemes

The Environmental Stewardship element of the Programme is an agri-environment scheme which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management under agreements running for up to 10 years on their land. Environmental Stewardship (ES) is designed to build on the recognised success of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme and the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Its primary objectives are to:

- Conserve wildlife (biodiversity);
- Maintain and enhance landscape quality and character;
- Protect the historic environment and natural resources;
- Promote public access and understanding of the countryside; and
- Natural resource protection.

Environmental Stewardship has three elements:

- Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) provides a straightforward approach to supporting the good stewardship of the countryside through simple and effective land management that goes beyond the Single Payment Scheme. It is open to all farmers and landowners.
- Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) is the organic strand of ELS.
- Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) concentrates on the more complex types of management where land managers need advice and support and where agreements will be tailored to local circumstances. HLS applications will be assessed against specific local targets and agreements will be offered where they meet these targets and represent good value for money.

Opportunities to Access Funding

The agri-environment and forestry schemes operate on an open bidding basis.

Contact Details

Responsibility for delivery of agri-environment schemes (such as Environmental Stewardship) and of the Energy Crops Scheme is the responsibility of Natural England and delivery of forestry schemes is with the Forestry Commission.

For more information on the agri-environment element visit www.naturalengland.org.uk or contact:

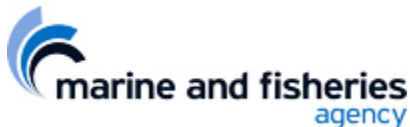
For ELS/HLS: iss.nottingham@naturalengland.org.uk

For OELS: iss.crese@naturalengland.org.uk

For details of the forestry schemes please contact the Forestry Commission:

Will Rolls - william.rolls@forestry.gsi.gov.uk (RDPE Contact)

Andy Hall - andy.hall@forestry.gsi.gov.uk (Regional Director East Midlands), 01623 821474



European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) is intended to help secure a sustainable and profitable fisheries industry. It grants financial support with a view to helping the industry adapt to changing circumstances.

The UK has approximately €138m for the duration of the programme. The types of project eligible for grant include:

- Modernising fishing vessels;
- Improving product quality;
- Investment in aquaculture and diversification of farmed species;
- Marketing fisheries products;
- Improvements to processing and port facilities;
- Pilot and collective actions by industry;
- The development of sustainable fisheries; and
- Development support towards fisheries-dependent communities.

Responsibility for the Programme lies with Defra and the Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA) and full details of the scheme eligibility and the application forms are available from the MFA website:

<http://www.mfa.gov.uk/grants/grants-eff.htm>

Opportunities to Access Funding

The EFF Grants Programme is open all year round for receipt of applications. Depending on the type, size and cost of a project, a decision will either be considered by the Selection Panel (which is likely to meet three times a year) or for smaller projects by the Business Relations Team in the MFA on an ongoing basis.

Contact Details

<http://www.mfa.gov.uk/grants/grants-eff.htm>



Framework Programme 7 (FP7)

With a budget of over €53bn across the European Union, FP7 is the EU's main instrument for funding research and commercialisation of technologies. FP7 has five major programmes: cooperation, ideas, people, capacities and nuclear research. Calls for proposals are issued by the EU until 2013, covering the following broad headings:

- Health;
- Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology;
- Information and communication technologies;
- Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies;
- Energy;
- Environment (including climate change);
- Transport (including aeronautics);
- Socio-economic sciences and the humanities;
- Space; and
- Security.

Opportunities to Access Funding

Projects must develop transnational partnerships to submit an application for funding, with grants awarded following a competitive bidding process.

Regular calls for applications are issued, usually specific to a particular strand or activity.

Contact Details

In the East Midlands G&H Associates are managing a support service for regional applicants to explore the relevance and potential benefit of applying for FP7 funds as well as providing assistance for the development of a proposal. In addition, help is available to identify potential partners or an existing consortium already receiving FP7 funding to join.

Contact G&H Associates on:

- Regional Hotline: 01283 563634
- Email: FP7Service@ghassociatesuk.com



The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



Territorial Cooperation

The East Midlands is eligible for funding under the transnational and interregional strands of the INTERREG Programme. These programmes provide funding for sustainable regional economic development projects; tackling common issues relevant to urban and rural development; strengthening the innovative capacity and knowledge based economy of regions, sustainable transport solutions and environmental resource management. Projects need to work together with partners in other Member States to share experience and best practice and develop transferable practices and solutions to the four priority issues.

- Innovation
- Environment & risk prevention
- Sustainable urban development
- Accessibility

Opportunities to Access Funding

The East Midlands can access funds from three INTERREG Programmes and details are available on the individual websites:

- North Sea Region Programme – www.northsearegion.eu
- North West Europe Programme – www.nweurope.eu
- IVC Interregional Programme – www.interreg4c.eu

The Programmes all operate on a calls for proposals basis with differing call dates for the different Programmes.

Contact Details

The East Midlands ERDF website www.eastmidlandserdf.org.uk also has a section on Territorial Cooperation with details of East Midlands specific programmes and activity.

East Midlands Development Agency takes the lead on coordinating the region's participation in the Territorial Cooperation Programmes. Contact Ruth Ribeaux, European Policy Officer, 0115 988 8529 or ruthribeaux@emd.org.uk