

HOW?

Understanding European Funding

The European Union currently contributes about £230m to voluntary and community groups through a variety of initiatives. Many groups have found European funding bureaucratic and difficult to access and the brief description below of the shape of EU funding provides only a very broad outline.

Agenda 2000 is the name of the European Commission's financial proposals for the period 2000-2006. They were agreed by the Council of Ministers in March 1999. Most programmes started early in 2000. The current programmes come to an end in December 2006 and the debate about what the next programmes will look like is now gathering pace.

There are three Structural Funds:

- *Objective 1* will promote the development of areas seriously lagging behind the EU average.
- *Objective 2* will support the economic and social development of areas facing structural difficulties.
- *Objective 3* will support the adaptation and modernisation of education, training and employment systems and policies.

There are four Community Initiatives financed by the Structural Funds.

- INTERREG III is for transnational co-operation on spatial planning.
- EQUAL is for transnational co-operation to combat labour market inequalities and discrimination.
- LEADER is for rural development.
- URBAN II is for creating a sustainable urban environment through the economic and social regeneration of cities and urban neighbourhoods.

Matching funding is required for all the Structural Funds. The Structural Funds will contribute between 50% and 75% of the total cost of projects under Objective 1, and between 25% and 50% under Objectives 2 and 3.

Small grants

To try and reduce the bureaucracy and cash-flow problems of the past, a new initiative called **Global Grants** has recently come on stream. Global Grants provide European funding to local projects with a key theme of overcoming barriers to employment. Because there is an input of money from other sources as well as the EU, groups do not need to find matching funding. Grants can be for up to £10,000 and the application and monitoring processes are designed to be simple. In each English region, Global Grants are administered by an intermediary body.

More information

In every member state there are national or regional programmes for each appropriate Objective. Voluntary organisations wanting further information about European funding should contact their regional voluntary sector European Office:

English Regional Offices

Central: CEFET, 114 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HL, tel: 0115 911 0419, website: www.cefet.org.uk

London: LVSTC, 1st Floor, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL, tel: 020 7249 4441, www.lvstc.org.uk

Northern: ESFVON, St Cuthberts House, West Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 7PY, tel: 0191 274 9886, www.esfvon.org.uk

North West: North West Network, Room 2715, Sunley Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD, tel: 0161 236 6493, www.nwnetwork.org.uk

South East & West:

SAVAGE, 121a Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 2DR, tel: 023 8026 2655, website: www.savage-europe.org.uk



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Yorkshire & the Humber:

The Humber, West & North

Yorkshire:

The Regional Forum, 2nd Floor,
Goodbard House, 15 Infirmary
Street, Leeds LS1 2JS, tel: 0113
243 8188, www.yhregforum.org.uk

*The Yorkshire and the Humber
Regional Forum co-ordinates
European Funding services, with
strategic advice on EU funding
provided by the Regional Forum
and training and advice services
supplied by sub-regional partners:
Charities Information Bureau (for
West Yorkshire), North Yorkshire
Forum for Voluntary Organisations
(for North Yorkshire) and Humber
Community Partnership (for the
Humber).*

South Yorkshire:

South Yorkshire Open Forum, The
Ladder, Maltkiln Street, Rotherham
S60 2HY, tel: 01709 519 100,
website: [www.open-
forum.syorks.co.uk/](http://www.open-forum.syorks.co.uk/)

www.esfnews.org.uk - ESF News giving European
funding news, including Objective 3 information
and application forms.

www.esfnews.org.uk/gos/index.shtml -
Government Office European Funds webpage.

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/
index_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm) - EU website detailing support for
regional development including INTERREG and
URBAN initiatives.

<http://www.equal.ecotec.co.uk/> - the EQUAL
programme for Great Britain webpage.

www.interregiib.org.uk/index.htm - the INTERREG
pages.

www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/leader/leaderhome.htm -
LEADER+ information - comprehensively available
at DEFRA's website, which has further links to
regional contacts

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Books

*European Funding and the UK, a guide to the
funding process*, pub. European Commission
Representation in the UK, 2001, ISBN 92 894
1180 5, website: www.cec.org.uk

A Guide to European Union Funding by Peter
Sluiter and Laurence Wattier, pub. DSC, 1999,
£12.50, ISBN 1 900360 50 0.

*Your Way Through the Labyrinth: A Guide to
European Union Funding for NGOs*, pub. ECAS,
8th ed., 2002, £20, ISBN 2 9600280 2 3.
Distributed by Directory of Social Change.

Websites

www.cec.org.uk - the European Commission
Representation in the UK website.

www.europa.eu.int - EU website.



Who are we?

*High Peak CVS works to ensure that local voluntary
and community groups can access as much support,
advice and information as possible. We help groups in
many different areas, such as funding, charity
registration, practical services including printing,
training and links to training and with legal issues. We
have resources, including a meeting room, computers
and OHP for use by groups.*

***To find out how we can help you, please contact us
on 01663 735 350 or email
hello@highpeakcvcs.org.uk
Visit us at www.highpeakcvcs.org.uk***