



A Brief Guide to European Funding Opportunities in the East Midlands

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European Conservatives
and Reformists Group



Conservatives
in the European Parliament

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Dear Reader,

Since being elected in 2009 to represent the East Midlands, many of you have asked me how to unlock funding from the European Union. After extensive research, I hope you find that this booklet provides the help and advice you were seeking.

We all know that trying to access funding for any project can be very difficult, with extensive bureaucracy and a lack of information being the primary barriers.

Funding from the EU is especially challenging, as most people don't know what types of funding are available, how to apply for it or even if you are eligible for it.

I believe that, although the EU can be reckless and wasteful when it comes to spending taxpayer money, if there is funding available for constituents and businesses in my region, then I will do my utmost to secure them.

So I've tried to summarise the funding opportunities available from the EU in this booklet and explain the differences in the various funding streams available, as well as providing contact information for advice centres.

I hope that this helps you to find the financing you are looking for and get as much taxpayer money back into the region as possible before the new EU budget comes into force in 2014.

Yours sincerely,



Emma McClarkin



Background to EU Funding”

The Commission awards money in the form of grants in order to implement projects or activities in relation to European Union policies. The grant beneficiaries are mainly private or public organisations, and occasionally a specific individual. Since grants cover a very diverse range of fields, the specific conditions that need to be fulfilled vary from one field to another. However, some basic principles apply in every case.

- Funding is always complementary. The EU does not finance projects for 100% of their cost.
- Funding a project can only be used in order for it to break even financially; it cannot lead to a profit for the beneficiary.
- Funding cannot be rewarded retrospectively.
- Normally only one grant can be awarded for a single project.

Grants are subject to annual work programmes, which are published before 31 March each year by the Directorates in the European Commission who manage the funds. The work programme fixes the broad outlines of the grants that are envisaged over the year (area of activity, objectives, timetable, budget, etc...).

Subsequently, the Commission’s Directorates publish calls for proposals on their internet sites; the calls for proposals invite candidates to present, within a given deadline, a proposal for action that corresponds to the objectives pursued and fulfils the required conditions.

All applications are examined and evaluated on the basis of criteria that have clearly been announced in the calls for proposals, while ensuring equal treatment; candidates are individually informed of the final decision concerning their proposal.

There are, however, some grants awarded directly and without calls for proposals, such as for humanitarian

efforts or natural disasters, but these are few and far between.

By 30 June each year the beneficiaries of grants are published on the Departments' respective websites for those projects awarded during the previous twelve months, with the exception of scholarship grants for individuals.

Success stories from the East Midlands

Enterprise Inc – University of Leicester



Funded through European Regional Development Fund, East Midlands Development Agency and Higher Education Innovation Fund. The Enterprise Inc programme is creating value and supporting graduates and students to be innovative, enterprising with their learning and research.

During the last 3 years the Enterprise Inc Project has been running and provided Business Start up Training and mentoring to 60 students and graduates to set up their own businesses.

European Social Fund (ESF)



EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

The ESF project backed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the East Midlands and Jobcentre Plus, is investing more than £28 million in Nottinghamshire projects. £376 million is being spent across the East Midlands for the whole ESF programme from 2007 to 2013.

One project, delivered on behalf of LSC East Midlands, helps former offenders to get back into work and training. Already the project has helped 1,300 former offenders get onto training courses, improving their job chances.

Digital Development – Regional Development Fund

investing
in **your** future
European Regional Development Fund
European Union



In 2011, Lincolnshire County Council won a tender for £1.1 million for developing rural broadband infrastructure. This now brings the amount earmarked by the authority to improve internet connection speeds and eradicate “not spots”, areas where there is no connection, up to £25.4 million.

The council's Conservative executive is prepared to commit £10 million to the project after it was awarded £14.3 million from the Government.

Business Support for Women – Inforegio



The project was awarded over €400,000 in 2011 by the EU's Regional Development Fund.

Women looking to start a business of their own or develop a career in the UK's East Midlands region can access Leicester Business Women. This multi-year project aims to offer guidance on the practicalities of business and to improve participants' confidence and motivation.

Leicester Business Women (LBW) is focused on women in everything from start-ups to established businesses, whether working from home or their own office. The partners aim to offer assistance through a wide range of actions, such as increasing awareness of women's entrepreneurship, workshops, motivational coaching, networking events and a dedicated website. They are also setting up a network of women's hubs that provide information and guidance.

The East Midlands was one of nine English regions to qualify for Competitiveness and Employment funding. Under the 2007-13 programme, the region received €268.5m of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investment.. The East Midlands Operational Programme Document outlines the investment priorities for the region. It focuses on two main priorities:

- **Priority 1 – Increasing productivity through innovation and sustainable business practice**

This priority focuses on increasing commercialisation of innovation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region's priority sectors: transport equipment, construction, food and drink, health and in businesses with high growth potential to create higher value added products and services. It will include support for small and medium-sized enterprise engagement in Research and Development for emerging technologies and for innovation to improve resource efficiency.

- **Priority 2 – Increasing sustainable economic and enterprise activity in disadvantaged communities**

This priority focuses on stimulating economic and enterprise activity in the most disadvantaged areas whilst exploiting the potential linkages to adjacent areas of economic growth, through a range of actions but with a strong focus on enterprise and start-up activity. It also aims to create new economic opportunities by building local capacity, resources and support; reviving local infrastructure and environments and stimulating and supporting enterprise.

A series of changes introduced by the Government have had an impact on the way in which the East Midlands ERDF Programme is both governed and delivered. From 1 July 2011 responsibility for delivering the 2007-13 ERDF Programme in the East Midlands transferred from the East Midlands Development Agency (emda) to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Examples of European Regional Development Funding in Northamptonshire

Icon Centre

The iCon is a new landmark for the town of Daventry and a beacon for the low carbon economy in the UK and beyond. The award winning building includes over 55 offices for small businesses in the emerging market of sustainable construction, together with conference facilities, support and advice. The £8.5 million scheme has been designed to achieve an 'excellent' rating from BREEAM, a worldwide environmental assessment method. As well as playing home to a diverse range of innovative, green businesses, the iCon is a leading example of energy-efficiency and sustainability in its own right. It has been funded by West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, the European Regional Development Fund and the East Midlands Development Agency.

The iCon is a recognised exemplar of progressive design and energy efficiency. It has been designed to achieve an 'excellent' rating from BREEAM, the leading assessment method for the environmental performance of buildings. The building has been the recipient of two design awards, having

won a 2010 Green Apple Award for the Built Environment and a 2009 Milton Keynes-South Midlands Excellence Award.

Design features:

- A 'fabric first' energy efficient building, designed for stunning CO2 emissions of only 15kg/m²/year.
- Low carbon design features including a natural ventilation system, exhaust air heat pumps and phase change materials in the ceiling.
- A central 'street' with an inflatable roof – supporting natural temperature regulation of the building.

Corby Enterprise Centre

The Corby Enterprise Centre (CEC) was officially opened on Friday 24th June 2011. The new, purpose built Enterprise Centre has been designed to provide ideal accommodation for entrepreneurs and start-ups to realise their business ambitions as well as giving existing businesses access to flexible office and workshop space to allow them to grow. With different sized offices and studios suitable for between 2 and 25 people, the Enterprise Centre is destined to be a lively new focus for business activity in the area. In addition to 24/7 access, free car parking and high speed communications, the Enterprise Centre will provide tenants with unique on-site support including access to a network of business development experts from a wide range of industries. As well as high class business accommodation the centre boasts top quality meeting and training space for up to 40 people which is available for hire to all businesses around the region.

The CEC received over £1.1m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) which aims to stimulate enterprise and support the growth of successful businesses. The remainder of the £8.3m was funded by the East Midlands Development Agency (emda) £6.5m, Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP) and Northamptonshire County Council £1m and Corby Borough Council £700k. Having secured funding and a site, North Northants Development Company (NNDC) worked with funding partners and the developers Bela Partnership

Rural Development Programme for England

Northamptonshire has received around £7 million to date under the main Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The North Northamptonshire Leader Programme received an allocation of £1.164m until 2013. To achieve their vision for the North Northamptonshire rural area, the aim will be to:

- Increase opportunities for “green” tourism and leisure activities in rural North Northamptonshire
- Help local land based businesses (e.g. farmers and foresters) to diversify into new activities and markets, particularly those that take account of energy efficiency and the “carbon footprint”.
- Grow the market for locally sourced food and drink products
- Support local small business growth and community enterprise solutions to service provision

Through securing public and private investment in the Local Development Strategy for rural North Northamptonshire, the partnership is committed to achieving the following targets by the end of 2013:

- 40 farm diversification projects supported and 31 jobs created/sustained
- 12 new tourism projects supported bringing over 700 extra day and overnight visitors and 13 new jobs created/sustained
- 60 small rural enterprises supported and 29 jobs created/sustained
- 9 rural heritage projects supported benefitting 350 people in the rural population

Where to start looking

Companies and other SME's

The [Enterprise Europe Network](http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm) has over 600 partner organisations in 40 different countries so is an excellent place to start looking:
www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Other Applicants

For other non-business applicants then we would suggest talking to [Europe Direct](http://europa.eu/eurodirect), who can be contacted via:
Phone: 0080067891011
Your local Europe Direct centre:
europa.eu/eurodirect
E-mail via the Europe Direct website.

Additional advice can be found at:

Europa Portal

The EU Commission has good sites offering a range of advice on grants and public contracts at their website
ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/index_en.htm.

The East Midlands Region

A lot of EU funds can be accessed at both National and Regional level. At the back of this booklet we have a contact list for all East Midlands councils as well as contact details for the European Commission UK Office and the East Midlands UK Brussels Office, all of which should be able to offer some advice and assistance.

Professional Bodies and NGO's

Some of the EU funds are job specific so you may find that your professional organisation already has links that you are able to exploit.

Types of Applicants

Farmers

Most farmers are eligible to receive direct payments for the major form of EU funding in agriculture. Money is to support farmers' incomes in return for adherence to various standards of environmental protection, animal welfare, and food safety.



Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations

- NGOs are involved in many areas covered by EU policies on a non-profit basis, a pre-condition for receiving funding from EU coffers.
- Funding is available both under programmes run by national and local authorities via 'structural funds', as well as Commission programmes.
- It is estimated that over €1 billion a year is allocated to NGO projects directly by the Commission.
- An NGO may receive two types of funding either for a concrete proposal via an 'Action Grant', or by subsidising your organisation's activities via an 'Operating Grant.'

Public Bodies

- Cohesion Policy is where most funding for local infrastructure projects or initiatives to boost employment comes from. This money is available through programmes under the structural funds.
- Funding from the **European Social Fund** will be available for national and local administrations to strengthen their institutions and activities.
- The **Europe for Citizens** programme offers funding opportunities for town-twinning initiatives.
- Projects aimed at increasing public security can be co-financed from EU coffers. Public bodies dealing with law enforcement, crime prevention, and the protection of victims and witnesses may receive funding from the **Prevention and Fight against Crime** programme.

Researchers

- The **7th Framework** (FP7) is the EU's main body for funding research.
- **FP7** has 5 major 'building blocks' or specific programmes: Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities and Nuclear Research.
- **FP7** is based on co-financing. The standard reimbursement rate for research and technological development activities is 50% although some

organisations can receive up to 75% funding. Certain activities may be reimbursed up to 100% of the eligible costs.

Small Companies

- If you are an SME, you may benefit from EU funding through grants, loans and guarantees. There are also several programmes and business support services that might be applicable.
- SMEs can usually apply for the programmes if they present sustainable, value-added and trans-national projects.
- Direct aid to SMEs is only possible in less economically developed regions, of which, fortunately, there are not so many in the East Midlands. In other regions, priority tends to be given to increasing leverage rather than direct aid.

Young People

- If you want to study abroad the **Erasmus** programme may help.
- The **Comenius** programme also provides opportunities for those in school education up to the end of upper secondary education.
- **Leonardo da Vinci** offers opportunities for those in vocational education and training.
- The **Youth in Action** programme co-funds projects which reinforce active civic engagement of young people, as well as providing help for youth workers. It is open for young people aged 15-28.
- The recently announced **Erasmus for All programme**, designed for education, training, youth and sport, will bring together a number of youth related programmes, beginning in 2014. The project will be funded by up to €19 billion until 2019 and has the goal of allowing 5 million additional European students the opportunity to study in another Member State.

Funding Programmes available in the East Midlands

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)



The EAFRD was initiated in 2005 and is designed to provide support for land-based rural industries, environmental projects, and sustainable farming schemes, as well as to preserve the diversification of rural areas.

The fund has four specific objectives:

1. Improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector
2. Improve the environment and the countryside
3. Improve the quality of life in rural areas and the diversification of rural economies
4. Implement local development strategies through public-private partnerships, known as **LEADER**.

The UK's rural development programme allocation for the 7 year period 2007-2013 is around £1.3 billion, out of a total of €93 billion, of which the East Midlands will receive about £60 million. The figures for each region were designed by DEFRA under the previous Labour government.

The specific EAFRD fund constitutes around £1.3 billion. Support is available from this fund for individuals or organisations involved with farming and rural issues.

For more information on the fund itself, go to www.ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev

For information on how to access funding, go to www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe or contact them via phone (08459 33 55 77) or email defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk

The Comenius Programme

Aims to develop knowledge and understanding among young people and educational staff of the diversity of European culture & language.



Objectives

- To increase the number of staff and students working and studying across the EU. In addition promoting cross border educational partnerships.
- To encourage the learning of modern foreign languages.
- To support the development of innovative ICT approaches for lifelong learning.
- To enhance the quality and European dimension of teacher training.
- To support improvements in teaching approaches and school management.

Funding & Eligibility

Pre-school and school education up to the level of the end of upper secondary education, and the institutions and organisations providing such education can apply.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture

Community Action – Consumer policy

This complements, supports and monitors the policies of Member States and contributes to protecting the health, safety, economic and legal interests of consumers.



Objectives

- To ensure a high level of consumer protection, notably through improved evidence, better consultation and better representation of consumers' interests.
- To ensure the effective application of consumer protection rules; in particular enforcement, co-operation, information, education and redress.

Funding & Eligibility

Participation in the programme will involve public bodies, non-governmental and non-profit making organisations and, in some cases, higher education institutions based in EU Member States.

Further information

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm

Culture 2007 Programme

Aims to support projects and initiatives to celebrate Europe's diverse cultures and enhance appreciation of our shared cultural heritage.



Objectives

- To promote cross-border mobility of those working in the cultural sector.
- To encourage the transnational circulation of culture and art.
- To foster intercultural dialogue.

Funding & Eligibility

The programme will be open to cultural operators based in the EU Member States, EFTA countries which are members of the EEA, candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy and the countries of the Western Balkans.

Further information

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Daphne III

The programme supports research and exchange of best practice in matters relating to violence against women, young people and children.



Objectives

The programme relates to issues of public health, human rights, and gender equality, as well as actions aimed at the protection of children's rights and the fight against the trafficking of human beings and sexual exploitation. Prevention, support and protection are the key measures being championed.

Funding & Eligibility

It is open to participation by local public authorities and institutions (mainly universities and research institutes) as well as NGOs.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/daphnetoolkit

Drug Prevention and Information

This is a small and recently established funding programme aimed at supporting the exchange of best practices and development of new approaches on prevention and treatment strategies.



Objectives

- To prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug-related harms.
- To contribute to the improvement of information on drug use.
- To support the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy.

Funding & Eligibility

Local authorities, university departments, research centres and NGOs can apply to this funding programme.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/justice/anti-drugs/programme/index_en.htm

Eco-innovation



This programme is particularly relevant to SMEs to support the take up of new production processes, products or services and new management and business methods that are likely to prevent or reduce the risks to the environment.

Objectives

- Promote the adoption of new and integrated approaches to eco-innovation in fields such as environmental management, products, processes and services.
- Encourage the uptake of environmental solutions by increasing the market and by the removal of barriers to market penetration.
- Increase innovation capacities of SMEs.

Funding & Eligibility

Nearly €200 million has been earmarked for Eco-innovation projects for the period 2008-2013.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)

Supports innovation, eco-innovation and SMEs through a range of measures.



Objectives

The EIP provides for a variety of actions to support, promote and improve SME development through access to finance, co-operation, innovation in enterprise; eco-innovation; entrepreneurship and innovation culture; and related economic and administrative reform.

Funding & Eligibility

EIP is an initiative designed to assist enterprises in the various Member States.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/index_en.htm

The Erasmus Programme

Aims to support the idea of a Pan European Higher Education system and reinforce the contribution of higher education to the process of innovation.



Objectives

- To improve the quality and to increase the volume of student and staff mobility throughout Europe as well as improve multilateral co-operation between higher education institutions within the EU.
- To increase the degree of transparency and compatibility between higher education and advanced vocational education qualifications gained in Europe.
- To improve the quality and to increase the volume of co-operation between higher education institutions and enterprises.
- To facilitate the development of innovative practices in education and training at tertiary level, and their transfer, including from one country to another.
- To support the development of innovative ICT-based content, services, teaching and practice for lifelong learning.

Funding & Eligibility

All of those in formal higher education and vocational education and training at tertiary level, whatever the length of their course or qualification, and the institutions and organisations providing such education and training.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/newprog

ESPON II

Spatial analysis and mapping research projects.



Objectives

- Support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and development of the European territory.
- Provide comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions and larger territories.

- Facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and potentials and contribute to improving European competitiveness.

Funding & Eligibility

Calls for proposals will be open to public and public equivalent bodies.

Further information

E-mail: www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Calls/Menu_Calls/Overview.html

European Fisheries Fund (EEF)

The EEF supports restructuring in the European fishing industry.

Objectives

- Support the Common Fisheries Policy, and promote environmentally friendly fishing and production.
- Promote a sustainable balance between resources and the capacity of the community fleet and a sustainable development of inland fishing.
- Strengthen the economic competitiveness of enterprises in the fisheries sector.

Funding & Eligibility

To provide funding for economic entities in the fishing and related marketing and processing industries and the bodies active in the regeneration of coastal fishery areas.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/eff/index_en.htm

European Integration Fund

Aims to facilitate the integration of non-EU citizens into European societies.



Objectives

- Implementation of actions designed to put the 'Common Basic Principles for immigration integration policy in the European Union' into practice.
- Development of indicators and methodologies to assess progress, adjust policies and measures and to facilitate co-ordination of comparative learning.
- Helping to improve co-ordination and intercultural competence across the many levels of Local and National Governments.
- Exchange of ideas and information on integration across the EU.

Funding & Eligibility

National, Regional and Local Authorities, non-governmental organisations, public or private bodies working on a non-profit basis with an expertise on immigration issues are eligible for this Fund.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



The East Midlands is one of nine English regions to qualify for Competitiveness and Employment funding. Under the 2007-13 programme, the region can receive €268.5m of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investment.

Objectives

- Increasing productivity through innovation and sustainable business practice. This priority will focus on increasing commercialisation of innovation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region's priority sectors: transport equipment, construction, food and drink, health and in businesses with high growth potential to create higher value added products and services. It will include support for small and medium-sized enterprise engagement in Research and Development for emerging technologies and for innovation to improve resource efficiency.
- Increasing sustainable economic and enterprise activity in disadvantaged communities. This objective will focus on stimulating economic and enterprise activity in the most disadvantaged areas whilst exploiting the potential linkages to adjacent areas of economic growth, through a range of actions but with a strong focus on enterprise and start-up activity. It will also aim to create new economic opportunities by building local capacity, resources and support; reviving local infrastructure and environments and stimulating and supporting enterprise.

Funding & Eligibility

The programme is delivered through two structural funds: the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. Most of the programme will already be commissioned.

Further information

E-mail: em.erdfenquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Call: 0303 444 6427

Website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/regeneration/regenerationfunding/europeanregionaldevelopment/eastmidlands/funding/>

European Social Fund (ESF)

The aim of Convergence funding is to speed up the economic convergence of the less developed regions and to promote growth-enhancing conditions and factors that lead to real convergence.



The East Midlands Local Authority Consortium has completed all ESF tendering for the immediate future. There may be further ESF contracts offered in the late part of 2011, and detail will be posted on the Lincolnshire County Council website when available. The next round of funding contracts will be available in early 2013.

Objectives

The objective is to support sustainable economic growth and social inclusion in England by contributing to policies by increasing the employment rate and to develop a skilled adaptable workforce.

Funding & Eligibility

Any legally constituted organisation or partnership may apply to operate an eligible scheme.

Further information

Website: www.dwp.gov.uk/esf/

Local Website: <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/business/lcc-services-for-business/economic-regeneration/funding/european-social-fund-in-lincolnshire/>

Europe for Citizens

The programme targets local and regional authorities, municipalities and town twinning committees.



Objectives

- To give citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing an ever closer Europe, thus developing citizenship of the European Union.
- Foster a sense of ownership of the EU among its citizens and develop a European identity promoting its values and achievements.
- Respect and promote cultural and linguistic diversity.

Funding & Eligibility

Funding goes towards citizen meetings through the town twinning mechanism for example, local authorities and organisations, educational institutions and citizens' groups.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm

External Co-operation Programmes

Co-operation with partner countries and regions to help developing countries.



Objectives

- Enlargement: deals with pre-accession countries as well as post-accession countries in their development and restructuring.
- Neighbourhood policy: the aim is to bridge the economic, social and cultural gap between the EU and its neighbours.
- Development: supports development co-operation to achieve Millennium Development goals for economic co-operation and for horizontal, thematic and global initiatives.
- Stability: it may be used in response to political crisis, natural disasters and peace support.
- Bilateral Relations: opportunities to engage in projects between the EU and the USA, Canada, Latin America and Asia.

Funding & Eligibility

Local and regional, universities and research centres. There is also a good number of business opportunities for the private sector.

Further information

Website: www.eeas.europa.eu/foreign_affairs/index_en.htm

The Grundtvig Programme

Aims to respond to the educational challenges of an ageing population and help provide adults with pathways to improve their knowledge and competences.



Objectives

- To improve the quality and accessibility of mobility of individuals involved in adult education across the EU, and increase the volume and co-operation between organisations involved in adult education throughout Europe.
- To assist people from vulnerable social groups and in marginal social contexts, in particular older people and those who have left education without basic qualifications.
- To facilitate the development of innovative practices in adult education and support the development of innovative ICT based content, services, teaching and practice for lifelong learning.
- To improve teaching approaches and the management of adult education organisations.

Funding & Eligibility

All forms of adult education, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education.

Further information

Website: www.grundtvig.org.uk

ICT Policy Support Programme

This is a programme to encourage the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses via network-building and exchange of knowledge and best practice.



Objectives

The objectives are pursued through the implementation of annual work programmes comprising a set of measures, for example:

- Policy analysis, development and co-ordination with participating countries.
- Information sharing, dissemination and awareness raising.
- Support for joint actions of Member States of regions.
- Procurement based on technical specifications elaborated in co-operation with the Member States.
- Twinning between authorities at national and regional level.

Funding & Eligibility

It is designed to assist enterprises in the Member States of the European Union. Both public and private organisations, including SMEs, may participate in appropriate actions.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

Inforegio – Regional Policy Programme: 'North-West Europe'



The main goal of the Operational Programme is to capitalise on the cooperation between key actors and to address territorial issues across the North West Europe area. The Programme seeks to contribute to the economic competitiveness of the region, thereby equally promoting regionally balanced and sustainable development.

Objectives

- To ensure a long-term, strategic approach to cooperation-
- To act as the catalyst for cooperation projects for subsequent infrastructure

investments that offer transnational relevance.

- To facilitate cross-fertilisation between projects that address similar issues and complement other programmes.

Funding and Eligibility

Local and regional, universities and research centres are the predominate beneficiaries.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

Inforegio – Regional Policy Programme: ‘North Sea Region’

The Programme’s main aim is to make the North Sea region a better place to live, work and invest in. It seeks to make a measurable difference by increasing the overall level of innovation taking place across the region, by enhancing the quality of the environment and by developing sustainable and competitive communities.

Objectives

- Build on capacity for innovation by encouraging transnational partnerships between businesses, industry, researchers, universities and public bodies.
- Promote the sustainable management of the environment, specifically related to chronic marine pollution.
- Improve accessibility to the North Sea region, in particular relating to the transport, cargo, and freight industries.
- Promote sustainable and competitive communities through projects that tackle problems in service delivery, integration of migrant workers, and economic restructuring.

Funding and Eligibility

Both UK and transnational organisations are eligible to apply through partnerships having members from at least two countries. Local and regional, universities and research centres can also apply.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

INTERREG IV B – European Union

Encourages co-operation between EU regions across Europe in areas of regional/ economic development (ERDF).



Objectives

It is designed to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by promoting inter-regional co-operation across the entire EU territory and neighbouring countries in order to promote innovation and the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention.

Funding & Eligibility

Organisations, both UK and transnational, are eligible to apply through partnerships that involve partners who represent at least three EU member states. The private sector can participate only at their own expense, or as sub-contractors.

Further information

Website: www.interreg4c.net

Intelligent Energy – Europe II Programme (IEE)



Actions geared towards securing a sustainable and competitive energy for Europe.

Objectives

The objectives of the programme are to encourage the wider uptake of new and renewable energies, improve energy efficiency, and foster compliance with the EU energy regulatory framework, as well as helping increase the level of investment in new and best performing technologies.

Funding & Eligibility

The objectives of IEE are pursued through the implementation of annual work programmes comprising a set of measures, such as:

- Community financial instruments for SMEs.
- Networks bringing together a variety of stakeholders.
- Pilot projects, market replication, projects and other measures to support the take-up of innovation.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent

Jean Monnet Programme

Supports institutions and activities in the field of European integration.

Objectives

- To stimulate teaching, research and reflection in the field of European integration studies in higher education institutions.
- To enhance knowledge and awareness among EU academics and citizens.
- To support key EU institutions dealing with European integration
- To support the existence of high quality European associations active in the fields of education and training.

Funding & Eligibility

The programme is aimed at all pupils, all categories of staff involved in education, all types of educational institutions; the people and bodies responsible for education systems and policies at local, regional and national level within the EU.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/calls/grants_en.html

LIFE +

Supports innovative development projects with a strong emphasis on nature and biodiversity, environment policy, governance and information & communication.



Objectives

Life + Nature and Biodiversity

To protect, conserve, restore, monitor and facilitate the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources, within the EU.

Life + Environment Policy and Governance

Will co-finance projects that contribute to the implementation of community environmental policy.

Life + Information and Communication

To ensure regular and effective information flow in order to provide the basis for policy decisions on the environment, and to make information on the state and trends of the environment accessible to citizens.

Funding & Eligibility

Eligible applicants will be public and/or private bodies, and institutions.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm

The Leonardo da Vinci Programme

Aims to support the acquisition of skills, knowledge and qualifications of participants, to facilitate personal development, employability and participation in the European labour market.



Objectives

- To improve the quality and to increase the volume of mobility throughout Europe of people involved in vocational education and in continuing training.
- To improve the quality and to increase the volume of co-operation between institutions or organisations providing learning opportunities, enterprises, social partners and other relevant bodies throughout Europe.
- To facilitate the development of innovative practices in the field of vocational education and training other than at tertiary level.
- To improve the transparency and recognition of qualifications and competences, including those acquired through non-formal and informal learning.
- To encourage the learning of modern foreign languages.
- To support the development of innovative ICT-based content and services.

Funding & Eligibility

All those in vocational education and training including initial and continuing vocational training, other than advanced vocational education and training at tertiary level, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training.

Further information

Website: www.leonardo.org.uk

Marco Polo II

Encourages private freight operators to diversify their models of transport.



Objectives

It aims to achieve a substantial traffic shift in international road freight traffic to short sea shipping, rail and inland waterways or to a combination of modes of transport in which road journeys are as short as possible; it includes new actions such as "motorways of the sea" and traffic avoidance measures.

Funding & Eligibility

Only economic operators and commercial undertakings are eligible for the Marco Polo II programme. However, administrations may be up to 100% owners of a participating commercial undertaking.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/

Media 2007

Commitment to support the production, development and promotion of EU audiovisual works.



Objectives

- Preserve and enhance European cultural and linguistic diversity and its cinematographic and audiovisual heritage, guarantee its accessibility to the public and promote inter-cultural dialogue.
- Increase the circulation and viewership of European audiovisual works inside and outside the EU.
- Strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector in the framework of an open and competitive European market favourable to employment.

Funding & Eligibility

The programme is open to applications from companies in the audiovisual sector. Applicants should be registered in the EU Member States.

Further information

Website: www.mediadeskuk.eu

MEDIA international

It has been established for promoting co-operation between organisations from the audiovisual industry in the EU and non-EU counterparts.

Objectives

- Strengthening the exchange of information, international expertise and familiarity with foreign audiovisual markets of audiovisual professionals.
- Improving the competitiveness and access to international markets of cinematographic/audiovisual works.

Funding & Eligibility

Public and private organisations working in the audiovisual sector are eligible for funding under this programme.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/culture/media/index_en.htm

Progress

To obtain insight into EU social affairs and improve social services through the exchange of best practice.

Objectives

- To improve the knowledge and understanding of the situation prevailing in the Member States through analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies.
- To support the development of statistical tools, methods and common indicators where possible broken down by gender and age in areas covered by the programme.
- To support and monitor the implementation of community law, and where applicable, policy objectives in the member states, assessing their effectiveness and impact.
- To promote networking, mutual learning, identification and dissemination of good practice and innovative approaches at EU level.
- To enhance the awareness of the stakeholders and public about the EU policies and objectives pursued under each of the five sections.
- To boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote, support and further develop EU policies and objectives, where applicable.

Funding & Eligibility

Access to this programme is open to all public and/or private bodies and institutions.

Further information

Website: www.europa.eu/pol/socio

Public Health Programme

To protect EU citizens from health threats, generate health information and improve general health by focusing on key health determinants.

Objectives

- To promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities.
- To generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.

Funding & Eligibility

The legal status of organisations which apply for funding under the Health

Programme depends on the type of actions to be covered. Some actions are open to all organisations registered in one of the participating countries; some are open only to public or non-governmental bodies. Other applicants must have member organisations in more than one participating country.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/health

Seventh Framework Programme (FP 7)

This is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it will run from 2007-2013. FP7 is also designed to respond to Europe's employment needs, competitiveness and quality of life.



Objectives

The structure of FP7 is based on four specific programmes: Co-operation, Ideas, People, Capacities – as well as the European Commission in-house research facility, the Joint Research Centre.

Funding & Eligibility

Open to collaborating organisations, typically being a mix of industrial and research organisations. There should be at least two organisations from different EU member states making a significant contribution to a project, and they should be independent of each other.

Further information

Website: www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

The Transversal Programme

Policy co-operation and innovation in lifelong learning.

Objectives

- To support policy development and co-operation at EU level in lifelong learning.
- To ensure an adequate supply of comparable data, statistics and analyses to underpin lifelong learning policy development, as well as to monitor progress towards objectives and targets in lifelong learning, and identifying areas of particular attention.
- To promote language learning and to support linguistic diversity in the Member States.
- To support the development of innovative ICT- based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning.

- To ensure that the results of the Integrated Programme are appropriately recognised, demonstrated and implemented on a wide scale.

Funding & Eligibility

The programme is aimed at all pupils, students or other learners; all categories of staff involved in education, all types of educational institutions and the people and bodies responsible for education systems and policies at local, regional and national level within the Member states.

Further information

Website: www.transversal.org.uk

URBACT II

Networking and exchanges for urban areas.



Objectives

URBACT II will organise exchanges, mutual learning opportunities and the dissemination of knowledge around its main priorities of economic growth, jobs, fighting urban deprivation, improving innovation and improving social integration.

Funding & Eligibility

All cities and urban areas in Europe are eligible for the programme.

Further information

Website: www.urbact.eu

Youth in Action

It promotes active citizenship amongst young people. There are opportunities to establish partnerships with other organisations in at least two other countries.



Objectives

Encouraging participation in democratic life, the European Voluntary Service, the Youth in the World programme and helping to contribute to the development of policy co-operation in the youth field.

Funding & Eligibility

Young people or groups between 15 and 30, youth workers, youth organisations and other partners working in the field of youth are eligible.

Further information

Website: www.ec.europa.eu/youth

Further Contacts

IN THE REGION

Under plans unveiled by the Government in summer 2010, a number of the existing Regional Development Agency's were scrapped, to be replaced by Local Enterprise Partnership's, or LEPs. They are locally-owned partnerships between authorities and businesses and play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs. They are also a key vehicle in delivering Government objectives for economic growth and decentralisation, whilst also providing a means for local authorities to work together with business in order to quicken the economic recovery.

As LEPs are based on more meaningful economic areas, they will be better placed to determine the needs of the local economy along with a greater ability to identify barriers to local economic growth.

Of the 38 LEPs currently established, 4 cover the East Midlands;

Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire

Contact: Matthew Wheatley, Co-ordinator

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber

8 Experian Way
ng2 Business Park
Nottingham
NG2 1EP

Phone: 0115 9578757 (ext 3121)
07817749907

Email: matthew.wheatley@dncc.co.uk

Website: www.d2n2lep.org

Greater Lincolnshire

The Great Lincolnshire LEP has 11 Board Members each with their own speciality (eg. Education, Agriculture, Technology etc...). Contact can be made via the email address below to get in touch with the person best suited to your enquiry.

Email: GLLEPsecretariat@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Website: <http://microsites.lincolnshire.gov.uk/GLLEP>

Leicester and Leicestershire

Contact: Mandip Rai, Head of LLEP Support Team

A10, New Walk Centre
Welford Place
Leicester
LE1 6ZG

Phone: 0116 252 7312

Email: mandip.rai@llep.org.uk

Website: www.llep.org.uk/

Northamptonshire

Contact: Paul Southworth, Chairman Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership

Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership

Enterprise House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ

Phone: +44 (0)1604 609 393

Fax: +44 (0)1604 627 401

Email: info@northamptonshireep.co.uk

Website: www.northamptonshireep.co.uk/

EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS

East Midland Councils is a consultative forum for local government in the East Midlands and represents the interest of local councils to national government and other organisations. It enables local councils to work together on key issues of common concern and supports the improvement and development of local councils and their workforce.

East Midlands Councils

Phoenix House
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
East Midlands
LE13 0UL

Email: info@emcouncils.gov.uk

Phone: 01664 502 620

Fax: 01664 502 659

Website: www.emcouncils.gov.uk/Home

Derbyshire County Council

Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

Phone: 08456 058 058 or 01629 533 190

Text phone: 01629 533 240

Fax: 01629 533 295

Email: contact.centre@derbyshire.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk>

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 8.00 pm, Saturday 9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Leicestershire County Council

County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE3 8RA

Phone: 0116 232 3232

Text Phone: 0116 305 6870

Email: information@leics.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/>

Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
Lincolnshire
LN1 1YL

Phone: 01522 552 222

Text Phone: 01522 552 055

Email: customer_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 6.00 pm

Northamptonshire County Council

Customer Services
John Dryden House
8-10 The Lakes
Northampton
NN4 7YD

Phone: 01604 236 236

Fax: 01604 236 828

Email: customerservices@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk>

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 5.30 pm

Nottinghamshire County Council

County Hall
Loughborough Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG2 7QP

Phone number: 0844 980 8080

Text Phone: 01623 434993

Email: enquiries@nottsc.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk>

Opening Hours Phone:

Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 8.00 pm, Saturday 8.00 am to 12 noon

Rutland County Council

Catmose
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6HP

Phone: 01572 722 577

Fax: 01572 758 307

Email: enquiries@rutland.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.rutland.gov.uk>

Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm
(telephone enquiries)

The European Commission UK Office

Your first port of call will be to the European Commission's website which lists all the funding on offer from the EU:

http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/index_en.htm

Most advice here is a repetition of what many of the local authorities offer; however the website does publish the current 'calls for proposals' on the various funding streams available which can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/work_with_eu/tenders

The contact details for the Commission Office are:

Europe House,
32 Smith Square,
London,
SW1P 3EU

Head of Representation: Jonathan Scheele

Phone: 020 7973 1992

Email: jonathan.scheele@ec.europa.eu

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom>



Website: www.emmamcclarkin.com
Email: emma.mcclarkin@europarl.europa.eu
or
emmamcclarkin@eastmidsmeps.co.uk

Phone: +32 228 45684

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**European Conservatives
and Reformists Group**



**Conservatives
in the European Parliament**

Promoted by Emma McClarkin MEP at
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32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU
Printed by ?????

Design and artwork: Bernard Fallon Associates, 01962 863355