

European Focus

The Newsletter of Yorkshire and Humber's ERDF Programme 2007-2012

Inclusive Enterprise in Doncaster

Doncaster has been given a boost with the announcement of £4 million of new European investment as part of an £8 million funding package for enterprise development delivered through Success Doncaster.

Success Doncaster offers a wide range of free and confidential support to those who are thinking of working for themselves, ongoing guidance for new businesses and expert advice to help them succeed and grow.

The new funding, for a project known as Inclusive Enterprise, opens economic opportunities for enterprising individuals in the most deprived communities of Doncaster by helping them to set up their own

business, set up a social enterprise or move into self-employment. This project funds a number of streams of enterprise coaching and intensive start-up support including provision to improve understanding of and access to business finance in these communities is also provided.

The new funding builds on the support financed by the Government's LEGi initiative to further stimulate enterprise in Doncaster.

By 2012, this new initiative expects to create around 50 new businesses, create or safeguard around 750 jobs and add around £4m of extra activity to the local economy.

Local Work Guarantee (Hull)

Yorkshire Forward and ERDF are investing £4.7m in Hull's GROW programme to provide part of the suite of integrated employment projects designed to address worklessness in the city.

This new investment will allow GROW in Hull to work with employers to support sustainable employment and retention levels. It complements the support available for those seeking employment funded through Jobcentre Plus, the European Social Fund and the Government's Working Neighbourhood Fund.

The investment funds job brokerage linked to local employers promoting inclusive recruitment practice and supporting employers with advertising and help accessing the broadest population of applicants. It will provide support for their recruitment process, and funds a job matching service. The range of support for businesses in Hull, that it funds includes job brokerage for specific employment sites or key sectors.

It helps businesses to recruit and retain the staff they need and helps make sure that they do not create or perpetuate barriers to employment. This employer engagement strand will provide a service that extends beyond entry to employment to include workplace mentoring to support job retention, working with companies facing restructuring, redundancy and downsizing issues or expansion plans, job fairs and job-brokering events.

Mark Jones, Head of Regional Development at Hull City Council said: "This additional support from Yorkshire Forward and ERDF is invaluable in that it extends GROW programme interventions into the first year of employment when people are at their most vulnerable. I am sure that businesses will also benefit from greater stability in the workforce and help with the recruitment of the staff they need to remain competitive in today's difficult economic environment."



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£1.5 Million Boost From Europe for Textile Innovation

Yorkshire's textile manufacturers are set to become world leaders thanks to a £1.5 million investment from the European Regional Development Fund and £4.5 million from Yorkshire Forward in the region's Textile Innovation Programme.

Weaving aircraft components and anti-counterfeiting for the fashion industry are just two focuses of the Textile Innovation Programme, which will provide practical and financial backing for manufacturers to work with experts from universities and research organisations to create new high-value, 'high tech' products.

The programme, which is being run through Textile Centre of Excellence in Huddersfield, follows a series of feasibility studies conducted earlier this year. The Centre's Managing Director, Bill Macbeth explains how the Programme will significantly increase the region's capacity to operate in the Advanced Materials sector.

"The value of the technical textiles market, which covers a wide range of sectors including medical, engineering, construction, automotive and aerospace has grown to an estimated £30 billion."

"New technologies, coupled with increasing environmental concerns are opening up major opportunities for companies that can create lighter, stronger components, and materials that can sense and adjust to their environment."

Boeing is currently developing its new 787 which is to be made of woven carbon fibre and laminates. The Textile Innovation Programme's feasibility studies demonstrated that woven aircraft components can outperform titanium and aluminium, and the potential market opportunity for these strong, lightweight components is vast.

Another area where the Programme is set to make an early impact is anti-counterfeiting. Currently the high quality textile and fashion markets along with other key regional sectors like pharmaceuticals are



Textile Centre of Excellence

facing a growing crisis, where counterfeit products are accounting for up to 10% of sales.

Bill Macbeth continued: "Our companies provide cloth for the most famous fashion houses across the world, and counterfeiting can seriously damage those brands and revenues. It's even more serious in other sectors of course, where counterfeit medical products kill thousands of people every year."

The Centre, working with US company APDN, has succeeded in impregnating fabrics with botanical DNA so they can be authenticated with 100% accuracy using the same testing methods used by forensic labs for criminal investigations.

The Textile Innovation Programme will also support a wide range of environmental improvement activities through the University of Leeds, which will allow manufacturers to use more environmentally friendly chemicals in wool processing and reduce the use of power and water at all stages of production.

The issue of textile and clothing waste recycling will also receive a major investment boost as the Programme will bring together key environmental organisations to focus on a problem that has exploded with the advent of cheap clothing imports.

Other applications from the programme include the use of nano and plasma technologies to produce fabrics which are self-cleaning, conductive fibres to make 'smart' clothing that can monitor the wearer's body functions and dressings that monitor wounds, prevent infection and deliver medication.



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Regeneris Consulting leads Strategic Evaluation of Yorkshire and Humber ERDF Programme

This summer Yorkshire Forward appointed economic and regeneration consultants Regeneris Consulting to lead the strategic evaluation of the region's ERDF fund over the next six years.

Regeneris Consulting will be supported by MTL Consulting and together they offer expertise in evaluating major public programmes, experience of strategic programme development and knowledge of the region's context.

The team has been deliberately engaged from the early stages of the programme and the evaluation runs alongside its implementation. This is an innovative approach to evaluation, which will generate real-time insights and recommendations which can help maximise outcomes and react to changing external factors, such as the recession.

Phase 1 of the evaluation is currently underway, running from June to December 2009. This initial Phase has involved:

- ▶ a review of systems and structures, exploring how the programme is managed centrally
- ▶ an assessment of engagement among stakeholders in Yorkshire Forward and across external partners and bidders
- ▶ and a review of investment fit, looking at how well the projects contracted to date contribute to the intended aims of the programme.

These elements are currently being brought together into an *Embeddedness Report*, which also includes an early future-facing review of investments and expected outcomes to date. These strands of work will culminate in a set of reflections on how the programme might wish to adjust its strategic direction.

In 2010, Phase 2 will build on this initial review by continuing to explore how the programme is performing and delving into key areas of strategic interest among partners.

Jessica Baxendale is Evaluation Analyst at Yorkshire Forward. Her role is to support the management of the evaluation plan for the Yorkshire and the Humber ERDF Programme 2007-13, advising project managers and delivery partners in developing evaluation plans, commissioning of programme and project level evaluations and dissemination of evaluation findings.

Jessica explained: "The general aim of evaluating this ERDF Programme is to improve the quality, effectiveness and consistency of the assistance derived from the ERDF with respect to the specific structural problems affecting the region, while taking account of the objectives of the cross-cutting themes."

"Evaluation is also a valuable learning tool and can highlight "what works" and "what does not work". This is integral to ongoing Programme/ERDF project level development. Evaluation can also showcase the effectiveness of the Programme and ERDF projects to partners and the public, providing evidence to show that value for money is being achieved."

The Evaluation plan was agreed by the Programme Monitoring Committee on 24th November 2008 and Regeneris Consulting will discuss its initial findings, contained within the *Embeddedness Report* with the Programme Monitoring Committee in October.



Yorkshire Forward's Jessica Baxendale: "Evaluation is a valuable learning tool and can highlight 'what works' and 'what does not work'."



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Cross Cutting Themes

A number of organisations that are developing capital proposals seeking ERDF attended a special workshop that looked at ways in which these projects could contribute towards the delivery of the cross cutting themes.

Jude Lancaster of Lancaster Consulting, spoke on the Equality and Diversity theme, explaining public sector duty, connecting disadvantaged groups to economic opportunities afforded by capital developments, consultation, and equality impact assessments.

Bruce Cockrean of Global2Local Ltd spoke about the Environmental Good Practice theme, looking at programme objectives and practical examples of implementation.

If you would like to see the consultant's and the Programme's Thematic Impact Manager's presentations please email ERDFnews@yorkshire-forward.com to request them.

An new publication "Cross Cutting Themes – an applicant's guide" has been produced. A copy of this will be distributed to all partners who have submitted a proposal to us that is being developed in October. A copy will also be sent to those who already have a contract for ERDF. If you do not fall into either category but would like a copy of the brochure, please email ERDFnews@yorkshire-forward.com to request one including your full postal address.

ESPON Workshop: UK Spatial Development Evidence Base

The ESPON 2013 Programme: European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion, launched in January 2008, is a five year European Programme for applied research into all aspects of European territorial development. It encourages the development of transnational research groups to help inform current European policy makers, for example, the work of ESPON feeds into DG Regio and their work upon EU Cohesion Policy. In layman's terms, ESPON is similar to a 'European' Yorkshire Futures - Regional Observatory'.

A workshop hosted by the UK ESPON National Contact Point was held in Leeds on 23rd September. The NCP (the Royal Town Planning Institute Development Planning Network), and the Department for Communities and Local Government brought together researchers and practitioners to explore the potential end uses for data generated by ESPON Research.

The workshop provided information on the new ESPON call launched on 16th September. UK researchers have until 11 November to submit proposals for new spatial analysis projects. Public Authorities are also invited to put forward expressions of interest in future research with an EU context. It outlined how data already generated by the programme can be accessed and used; identified gaps to be addressed in current and forthcoming ESPON research; and explored how ESPON can provide research outputs that are relevant to UK planning practice.

For further information please click on the following link: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/espon/>

Brussels Showcase for Regional Crime & Security Initiatives

European funded projects from Yorkshire that are tackling issues of crime and security are being showcased to a European audience at an event in Brussels in December. The event, hosted in YorkshireEurope's new premises in the heart of Brussels European quarter, will hear from projects funded through various EU programmes including ERDF, Interreg IV B and FP7 Security Research.

- ▶ Business Crime Reduction Centre has used ERDF to prevent crime and boost economic performance
- ▶ Project Odyssey, an FP7 security research project

tackling gun crime

- ▶ NS FRITS an Interreg IVB project looking to keep North Sea freight moving
- ▶ Textile Innovation programme developing innovative anti-counterfeiting measures
- ▶ United Kingdom Human trafficking centre—based in Sheffield looking at trafficking issues.

You can book a place at the event on 10th December, or seek further information from david.fortune@yorkshire-forward.com



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