



March 2010

€bulletin >>>

> regeneration > sustainability > innovation > commitment



Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme

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... prosperous, inclusive and self-sustaining communities, where the unique cultures, traditions and environments are enhanced ...

Welcome to the March €bulletin.

The Scottish Government and IAB have almost completed visits across the region to gain more information on the scope for further strategic projects as reported in the February edition. It is anticipated that this will result in a number of important submissions this year particularly targeting the key sectors. Currently commitment levels stand at 60% for ERDF and 43% for ESF and so we are keen to see ESF applications in particular for Round 5. Please contact the IAB staff if you have any proposals you wish to discuss. The IAB hopes to undertake workshops in Spring to assist with Round 5 queries and on audit and compliance issues.

Fast Track Applications

A number of applications have recently been submitted for fast-tracking, however many of these do not comply with the strict criteria established by the Programme Monitoring Committee <http://www.hipp.org.uk/files/downloads/download763.pdf> Applicants should carefully consider the criteria and ensure that projects are strategic for the region and time critical prior to submission. Round 5 will start in June and be completed by the first week of December 2010.

Participant Data on Eurosyst

The Scottish Government is introducing some changes to the Eurosyst system for Progress Report and Claim forms in respect of the Participant Data section for ESF projects. These take effect from the 29th March. The new format shows both the number of new starts in the latest quarter and the total to date. The forms will automatically show the running total to the end of the preceding quarter; applicants will be asked to provide numbers and characteristics for the new participants in the claim period only and Eurosyst will automatically calculate the cumulative total, shown in a final column. Running totals should no longer be entered. This will allow reporting of ESF as a whole to meet the needs of the European Commission more effectively. Applicants will be given prior notice and the Notes for Applicants will be changed accordingly.

Publicity

The IAB has been to raising awareness through newsletters and previous bulletins of the importance of complying with the publicity requirements. During recent checks, limited or no publicity was visible - especially on project documentation and websites. Please ensure the logo with the appropriate text (ensuring the correct fund is quoted and not Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme) is utilised as it is important that the general public, as well as beneficiaries of projects, are aware of the use and impact the Structural Funds have in the area. They play an important role and need to be acknowledged. The guidance is available on the HIPP website:

<http://www.hipp.org.uk/files/downloads/download550.pdf>

Credit Card Transactions

Under the desk checks we have identified that some applicants have been providing the defrayment for credit card transactions as the date the item was paid for by the credit card and not the date the credit card statement was paid and defrayed. Please ensure the latter is the date included in the transaction list as opposed to the initial transaction.

