



April 2010

## €bulletin >>>

> regeneration > sustainability > innovation > commitment



Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme **April 2010 €bulletin >>>**

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

**Welcome to the April €bulletin.**

Preparations for Round 5 have started, with planned workshops in advance of the Stage 1 deadline on 18 June 2010. Also underway are plans to recommend some alterations to the Programme to make it as fit for purpose as possible to enable the best use of the funds in the remaining years. More details are provided below with fuller information to come in May.

### **Updating the Programmes**

### **Emerging Amendments**

As many of you will be aware major efforts are underway to identify key strategic projects

that will help to increase the current levels of commitment and accelerate expenditure across both Programmes. Various options will be considered by the Monitoring Committee at its meeting in June but you may wish to bear in mind some of the options that may emerge.

## **ESF**

Consideration is being given to the creation of a new Priority 5: Workforce Development, through the merger of the existing Priorities 1 and 2. It is thought that this would remove artificial demarcation between those in employment and those seeking work. This would assist the delivery of local employability strategies.

To aid cashflow to projects, multi-annual projects may have the opportunity to claim at a higher rate.

## **ERDF**

Subject to PMC and Commission agreement, monies would be vired from Priority 3 to Priority 1 to support the major effort likely to be required to aid investment in renewables infrastructure and in "new generation" ICT.

Major efforts will be made to encourage investment in key tourism projects determined by World Heritage criteria and a limited number of strategic communications infrastructure projects. The £3.5m "ring-fences" for locally significant transport projects is almost fully absorbed, while energy efficiency in existing social housing remains a priority.

The report to the Monitoring Committee will have a "notional" strategic list which may be used to guide future priorities.

## **Project Surgeries**

In anticipation of the forthcoming challenge round, and following the success of last year's round of Project Surgeries, HIPP will again be providing the opportunity for one-to-one consultations on project ideas and potential applications. The programme for the surgeries is given below, each surgery will be up to one hour and will give applicants an opportunity to discuss their project ideas, find out how these fit with the Programmes and receive informal advice and guidance on next steps and the application process.

To book a place on one of the surgeries please complete the booking form on our website

<http://www.hipp.org.uk/files/downloads/download1356.doc> To get the most of the time available we would ask that you complete the relevant sections of the booking form to give an outline of your project idea and please feel free to provide any other information that you feel is relevant.

Booking is essential for these events and all booking requests must be submitted at least five working days before the date of the surgery.

Inverness	Times	Venue
4 May	09:30-13:30	HIPP Offices, Jubilee Lodge
11 May	10:00-16:00	
25 May	10:00-16:00	

Shetland	Times	Venue
11 May	10:30 – 14:00	Solarhus, Lerwick

Stornoway	Times	Venue
13 May	09:00-16:00	HIE, Stornoway

Oban	Times	Venue
19 May	11:00-16:00	SNH, Oban
20 May	09:30-14:00	

Thurso	Times	Venue
26 May	10:30-15:00	HIE, Thurso

Orkney	Times	Venue
27 May	10:00-14:00	HIE, Kirkwall

### Participant Data on Eurosyst

We appreciate some applicants have been experiencing problems and delays since the changes made to the Participants section of the Progress Report and Claim forms on

€urosys. We are working closely with The Scottish Government to try to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. In terms of any PRCs about to be submitted, please double check the participant data has carried forward correctly from previous claims i.e. the previous running total should have carried forward. If you require any assistance please contact HIPP.

## **Publicity**

We continue to identify a lack of acknowledgement of the funds with no logo or the incorrect logo (the previous 2000-2006 Programme logo) being used. Please ensure the logo is clearly visible on advertisements and relevant project documentation and marketing materials. The latter may be deemed ineligible if the logo has not been used.

## **Desk Checks**

We have identified an issue with sick pay during the checks recently and would like to highlight the guidance issued in Spring 2008 within the Questions and Answers paper by The Scottish Government. This states that "Where a staff member/employee is 100% on a project, the salary would remain eligible until such time as statutory sick pay is payable (more than 4 days). At such time the salary becomes ineligible and payments must be met by the employer. Noting statutory sick pay is ineligible at all times." Please refer to the Q&A for information: <http://www.hipp.org.uk/files/downloads/download696.doc>



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