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May 2010

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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 May €bulletin.

May has been a very busy month with the preparation of papers for the Programme Monitoring Committee on the 2 June 2010 in Dornoch, which will include recommendations on a number of important changes to the Programmes, alongside undertaking project surgeries on Round 5 proposals. We will update applicants in the next €bulletin. The N+2 targets are at the forefront and the need to increase expenditure and commitment, especially under ESF. Desk checks continue and will be intensive from June to October and we would be grateful if applicants could respond to any queries within the timelines given as these

checks need to be completed within certain timescales.

Stage 1 Deadline - 18 June 2010

Round 5 is about to begin with Stage 1 applications due to be submitted by 5 pm on Friday the 18 June. There has been a good amount of initial interest in the ERDF programme. However there has been a disappointing level of interest in the ESF programme, we are keen to see a significant increase in the level of ESF committed in Round 5 and would urge anyone with a potential project idea to get in touch with the IAB as soon as possible.

The timetable for Round 5 is given below, if you have any questions please contact Jamie Dunsmore at our Inverness office.

Round 5 Application Timetable

Deadline for Registrations	07 June 2010
Deadline for Stage 1 Submissions	18 June 2010
Deadline for Stage 2 Submissions	13 August 2010
Deadline for Stage 2 Corrections	To be advised
Advisory Groups	Early November 2010
Programme Monitoring Committee	08 December 2010
Ministerial Announcement	To be confirmed

Simplification Paper

As part of its response to the economic downturn, the European Commission has embarked on a "Simplification" initiative designed to ease perceived bottlenecks in programme infrastructure which were impeding effective implementation.

The Scottish Government has released a paper summarising the range of the Commission's actions and proposals – to date – and set out the Scottish Government's position on how these will be taken forward in the implementation of the 2007-13 Structural Funds programmes in Scotland. The main areas for applicants are for staff costs and revenue

generation (capital projects and revenue generating services only). The paper identifies that some projects may have the need for staff to work intensively at some point during a project cycle, mostly full-time but over a number of weeks rather than during the whole project, and that this is eligible. Such costs would have to be justified at the time of application, or through a NOC and agreed, by exception, through the IAB and Managing Authority. The other area of staff costs clarified relates to staff working concurrently on a number of projects but where the 10% minimum time requirement is not met against any single project. If the combined time being worked concurrently is 10% or more, such staff time can be claimed. The paper is on the HIPP website on www.hipp.org.uk/files/downloads/download1413.doc

€urosys

Some applicants have experienced problems with validation for the Participant Characteristics section within the Progress Report and Claim forms on €urosys. There are currently incorrect validation error messages appearing and this is due to be resolved in a new release in June. However in the meantime, if applicants are experiencing problems, please enter zeros into the tables for the current progress report activity and explain in the text box the actual activity that has taken place.

Some applicants have been prevented from completing a Notification of Change for alterations to the match funding packages. This has now been fixed in the most recent release in mid May.

Gatekeeper – some applicants have had difficulties where there is only one gatekeeper registered on €urosys and that person leaves the organisation. It is recommended that each organisation has at least two gatekeepers to avoid any difficulties (although the Scottish Government can fix this for applicants if need be) and that approved users within the organisation are kept updated e.g. staff that have left an organisation are made “inactive” on the system.

As a result of a number of recent changes on €urosys, the Scottish Government will be

providing further clarification and updated Notes for Applicants in due course.



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