



January 2012

€bulletin >>>

> regeneration > sustainability > innovation > commitment



Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme
January €bulletin >>>

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

Welcome to the first €bulletin of 2012

2011 culminated with Ministerial announcements on key investments under ERDF Round 6 and the achievement of N+2 targets for both the ERDF and ESF Programmes. We look forward to working closely with applicants in future to ensure projects remain on track and that 2012 also ends positively.

Education boost for the Highlands and Islands

On 28 December 2011 Youth Employment Minister, Angela Constance, announced further funding to the University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness College and Lews Castle College, specifically to aid economic recovery in the region including:

- £5.6 million for the Investing in Recovery project, sponsored by UHI, to accommodate the higher than anticipated demand for places up to 2013

- £100,000 for Inverness College to meet local demand from young people for college places
- £38,748 for Lews Castle College to improve skill levels locally

These important investments will provide additional student places on courses throughout the region to satisfy increasing demand and provide more opportunities, particularly for young people.

The full article can be downloaded here

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/12/23095534>

N+2 Update

As reported in the December €bulletin, N+2 targets were successfully met. Almost without exception, applicants are now in live time with all claims and checks up-to-date. During 2011, the desk checks did highlight a number of areas where applicants are still not complying with guidance including:

Apportioned Staff

The hourly rate calculations shown clearly in the National Rules,

<http://www.hipp.org.uk/files/downloads/download1816.pdf>,

should be used by all projects for apportioned staff (staff that do not work fully on the project). Some projects have been wrongly using a different calculation method or percentages of time. Whilst these had to be provided at application stage, they are not an acceptable basis of calculations for any claim thereafter. Only actual time, detailed in timesheets and calculated using the hourly rate system, can be accepted.

Timesheets

Previous €bull€tins and newsletters have detailed more fully the need to ensure that timesheets show an accurate record of time spent on delivery of a project and not just the name of the project and number of hours. Long descriptions are not required, however it is important that the timesheets do break down the activities undertaken alongside the number of hours. Timesheets showing the name of the project and standard hours being worked every day (regardless of what project activity is taking place that day) cannot be accepted and time may be disallowed. Therefore, it is important that project managers ensure that timesheets more accurately reflect project activity.

Marketing

If marketing costs are highlighted in the sample for desk checks we would be grateful if

the items purchased could be sent with the rest of the financial evidence as the IAB is required to check that the logo and fund acknowledgement comply. All marketing materials need to incorporate correct use of the logo and follow issued guidance:

<http://www.hipp.org.uk/files/downloads/download698.pdf>

and additional guidance detailed in the Summer 2011 newsletter:

http://www.velocitydesign.co.uk/hipp/issue_8/index.html

