



April 2009
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prosperous, inclusive and self-sustaining communities, where the unique cultures, traditions and environments are enhanced ...



Welcome to our April Ebulletin

Introduction

Our objective is to keep you as informed as possible regarding the delivery of Structural Funds in the Highlands & Islands. The format for the Ebulletin will be evolving to ensure an effective service and this month our colleagues in Glasgow have contributed a national perspective. In future editions your news could be incorporated. So please get in touch.

Background

At the Monitoring Committee in February, concern was expressed at the flow of project expenditure during 2009 and the effect that this would have on the end of year N+2 target.

In the last month, extensive and wide ranging discussions have taken place with principal partners to help us establish the pipeline of projects needed to absorb available funds. Significant progress was made, hopefully enough to convince Commission colleagues that key investment will be coming forward at the level needed to commit the funds. If you have a project let us know.

N+2 (2009) remains a challenge but we are now able to demonstrate continued demand for the funds.

Round 4

Key to all of this are the bidding rounds, allied to new 'fast-track' arrangements for 'strategic' bids. Following recent Ministerial announcements on projects approved earlier this year, we are moving into Round 4.

To facilitate the Round, we are delivering a series of project surgeries across the region. These are designed to provide assistance or guidance to organisations wishing to apply under Round 4, providing individual sessions to discuss specific

proposals.

The timetable details are as follows:

Round 4 Surgery Timetable	
Inverness	Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 May 2009
Stornoway	Thursday 21 May 2009
Oban	Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 May 2009
Lerwick	Tuesday 2 June 2009
Kirkwall	Monday 8 June 2009
Thurso	Tuesday 9 June 2009

Venue details and booking forms will be posted on the HIPP website by 4th May 2009. Bookings should be made at least 5 working days in advance of the surgery date (apart from the Inverness surgeries). If you have any queries please get in touch with either Rosemary Currie (01463 279500) or Jamie Dunsmore (01463 279508).

If you cannot make these dates we can also arrange appointments outwith these dates.

The timetable for Round 4 has been agreed as follows:

Round 4 Application Timetable	
15 June 2009	Deadline for New Registrations
26 June 2009	Stage 1 deadline
21 August 2009	Stage 2 deadline
Early October 2009	Stage 2 corrections deadline
2nd week November 2009	Advisory Groups Meetings
9 December 2009	PMC Meeting (project recommendations)
To be Confirmed	Ministerial Announcement

The dates for the return of Stage 2 applications that require amendment during the appraisal process will be confirmed to applicants within four weeks of the Stage 2 deadline. It is important that all projects have the match funding in place to allow recommendations to be made by the PMC in December. The match funding deadline therefore is 2 December 2009 at the latest. We have experienced substantial delays in receiving match funding confirmation for Round 3 projects and it is essential that early funding applications are submitted so that projects are not deferred.

N+2

As mentioned earlier, N+2 remains a serious challenge for us all. We need expenditure and we need claims to ensure payment. There are still a number of applicants who have yet to complete the migration of Progress Reports and Claims onto the Eurosys system. Please can you ensure that all migration is completed as soon as possible. Where there are further delays in achieving the approved expenditure targets, please let us know without delay. The Monitoring Committee approved an N+2 Action Plan. This required applicants to:

- Complete migration to Eurosys;
- Pursue expenditure and press to maximise expenditure for November. Remember this will benefit your organisation's cash flow;
- Alert us to any slippage; and
- Discuss any potential projects. It's better to ask than miss an opportunity.

Publicity

The Scottish Government launched publicity guidance during 2008 and this is

available under the Downloads section on the HIPP website (under additional guidance). Applicants must ensure that they acknowledge the provision of ERDF or ESF grant for their project in marketing material, advertisements, project documentation, on plaques within supported buildings etc. A number of recent recruitment and training adverts have not included any acknowledgement or have used incorrect logos. At the final claim Stage, a publicity portfolio needs to be submitted before the final payment is released and this should be developed and maintained during project implementation. The guidance and logo formats are all available in the Scottish Government guide and applicants are encouraged to read these and implement them. If you do need any advice, please get in touch with any of the Programme staff.

Finally

Highlands and Islands has to date contributed 122 projects to the Scottish total of 472 to which almost £335 million in ERDF and ESF has been allocated. Together with partner contributions, Structural Funds could help deliver investment of £938 million in the Scottish economy, critical in supporting the Government's Economic Recovery Plan.

Finally belated birthday wishes to Eurosyst - one year old on the 8th April with the Highlands and Islands pilot.

Good Luck

