



Dear colleague,

Welcome to the seventh European Social Fund (ESF) bulletin for Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCOs) in the South West Competitiveness area. This bulletin summarises current ESF developments, with the intention of connecting regional policy makers with frontline VCOs.



1. Join the ESG Refresh Consultation, and Get Free Entry to South West Forum's Annual Conference

15 free places are available for the second day of South West Forum Annual Conference on 4 November in Cheltenham. Worth up to £80 to VCOs. This offer is free to those who participate in the workshop 'ESF Framework Refresh Consultation' at 9.30-11.45am, 4 November 2009, Thistle Hotel, Cheltenham.

Workshop participants are invited to participate in the remainder of the conference programme. The event runs all day, with speeches from Justin Davis-Smith (Chief Executive of Volunteering England) and Simon Blake (Chair of Compact Voice). The full programme is available at <http://www.southwestforum.org.uk/docs/Value%20voice%20and%20vision%20booking%20form.pdf>

The ESF workshop is a valuable opportunity to include a strong VCO voice on the re-drafting of the ESF framework for the South West Competitiveness region. The framework is the blueprint for ESF activity through to 2013, and guides the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in developing their ESF programmes.

Ekos Gen, the lead researchers on the framework refresh, would like to hear your thoughts on:

- I. Are the ESF regional objectives outlined in the Frameworks still the right ones?
- II. How has the economic downturn impacted upon delivery and progress towards targets, and how should the refresh respond?
- III. How should the Frameworks be re-focused to address changing national and regional priorities?
- IV. What are the one or two big things that the refresh needs to do?

The workshop is of relevance to all VCOs engaged in skills, employment and worklessness, infrastructure organisations supporting frontline delivery in these areas, and all VCOs who wish to deliver an ESF project in the future.

To secure your free place, email a completed Booking Form (<http://tiny.cc/IGtC4>) to debra@southwestforum.org.uk quoting 'Voluntary Value conference place' in the subject. Free places will be offered on a first come-first served basis.

2. Wider Refresh Consultation

Additionally, Ekos Gen has arranged three wider consultations on the ESF Regional Framework Refresh to which VCOs, public and private organisations are all invited to participate. The events will be held at the following venues:

- I. **Tuesday 3rd November at Future Inn, Bristol, from 1-4pm.** <http://www.futureinns.co.uk/bristol-travel.htm>
- II. **Monday 9th November at the Guildhall, Salisbury, from 1-4pm.** <http://www.salisburyguildhall.co.uk>
- III. **Friday 13th Exeter at Ashford's Solicitors, Exeter, from 1-4pm.** <http://www.ashfords.co.uk/Exeter>

To confirm your attendance at one of the events above, email stephanie.hardy@swrsp.org.uk

3. Voluntary Value Conference, SCAT, Taunton, 3 December 2009

The annual Voluntary Value conference will provide advance notice of the 2010 ESF opportunities, examine the relationship between providers and sub-contractors, and champion the added value of involving VCOs in project delivery.

Downloads: [Conference Flyer](#) & [Booking Form](#)

For further information email debra@southwestforum.org.uk

4. How to Influence Regional ESF Policy

On all matters relating to ESF, frontline VCO concerns and recommendations can be taken to the regional policy makers through South West Forum's Voluntary Value project. ESF can help VCOs to deliver the projects needed in their communities – but only when regional policy is heading in the right direction. The diagram [here](#) describes how local information feeds the ESF delivery process.

5. Case Study: Plymouth YMCA Delivers ESF Success

From being a school leaver trying different jobs with no real sense of what career path to follow, a Plymouth teenager has been crowned the country's top Sports Leader and won an all expenses paid scholarship to continue his studies.

Tony Harris, 18, was one of a number of students who completed the Sports Leadership course, delivered by the YMCA in Plymouth as part of the NewLeaf ESF project.

Tony's success has left him full of excitement and enthusiasm and looking forward to beginning a career in the sport and leisure industry. Tony said: "I've always loved sport but I had no idea when I began the Community Sports Leader course what it would lead to. It's changed my life, given me self-confidence, tolerance and a real sense of direction."

Since his competition success, Tony has also been offered a full time apprenticeship at the YMCA, which he will start immediately.

6. A New Profile of Social Exclusion in the South West

The 'Moving to Inclusion' report was commissioned by the ESF Team at Government Office for the South West with the aim of providing everyone involved in the implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the 2007-2013 ESF programme in the South West with 'as comprehensive picture as possible of current levels of disadvantage amongst the population of the South West'.

The report is part of a set of statistical briefings that individually and collectively present a portrait of economic disadvantage in the South West through the lenses of gender, age, disability and ethnicity. Additionally, the report provides a picture of the situation in each sub-region in the South West.

The full report is available at <http://www.swslim.org.uk/research/inclusion-2009.asp>

View jobs and add jobs to Voscur's website [here](#)

www.voscur.org

0117 909 9949

info@voscur.org



subscribe

forward to a friend

unsubscribe

update profile

This mailing system may only be used for sending permission based email.
If you did not give permission to receive emails from this sender, [please notify us](#).

This email was sent to stephanie@voscur.org by stephanie@voscur.org | [Print / PDF version](#) | Read our [Privacy Policy](#).
Voscur - Voscur, Create Centre, Smeaton Road, BS1 6XN, United Kingdom