

Welcome to this special Skills Show 2013 edition of the national European Social Fund Newsletter.



ESF at The Skills Show 2013

The Skills Show, the UK's biggest and most inspiring skills and careers event, took place on 14-16 November at the Birmingham NEC, attracting over 82,000 visitors. As part of an ESF Technical Assistance project, there were 27 stands where ESF funded training providers exhibited in an ESF zone, providing expert guidance and advice about the employment related training and support that they offer for young people. Many also offered engaging interactive

activities including 'have a go' opportunities to learn new skills. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) ESF Managing Authority also had a stand to showcase the England programme and answer queries, including on the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment (ESI) Fund Growth programme.

[>>Inspiring futures: The Skills Show 2013](#)



ESF Mainstreaming Leader Award winners 2013

The ESF Equal Opportunities and Sustainable Development Mainstreaming Leader Awards 2013 were presented at one of two ESF seminars held at The Skills Show on 14 November. This was the fourth year of the ESF Leader Awards, which aim to give recognition to those projects that have excelled in promoting the themes of equality and sustainable development. With so many high quality entrants this year, there were joint winners for three of the five award categories.

The awards were presented by Dimtcho Tourdanov from the European Commission, and each of the eight winners gave presentations on how they have embedded the themes of equality and sustainability in the delivery of their projects.

[>>ESF Mainstreaming Leader Award winners 2013](#)



Seminar: ESF support for young people

Angus Gray, the Head of DWP's ESF Division hosted the first ESF seminar on 14 November, which focused on employment and skills provision for young people in the current programme and future 2014 to 2020 programme. Joining him at the seminar were speakers Dot Hodgson from the Inspire! – Education Business Partnership project, who spoke about their project for 16-19 year olds, and Mary Vine-Morris from London Councils, who shared her thoughts about future European Structural Investment Funds provision for young people for the 2014-2020 programme.



Photos from The Skills Show

Over 200 photographs from the ESF Zone at the Skills Show, featuring many of the ESF project exhibitors, and from the two ESF seminars, can be viewed here.

[>>ESF – The Skills Show 2013](#)



Volunteering and mentoring

Volunteers, all wearing eye-catching yellow hoodies featuring prominent ESF logos alongside other messaging, were on hand to help visitors to The Skills Show. Each volunteer received induction training including the role and importance of ESF to the event. Some of the volunteers were from ESF eligible target groups and will complete a full qualification to support future employment, with each of these volunteers being supported and tracked for the next 12 weeks to monitor their progression.

With support from ESF this year's event also introduced a new Mentored Visitor Programme, which provided tailored visits to the show for groups of particularly disadvantaged young people not in employment, education or training who face challenges like long term worklessness, learning disabilities or long term health issues. Providers Landau and BCTG (Black Country Training Group) provided transport, guidance and individual support to ensure their mentored visitors were able to make their day at The Skills Show 2013 both memorable and inspirational; and will ensure those participating receive appropriate follow up support.

[>>The Skills Show supports young unemployed with new initiative](#)

Unable to get to Birmingham?

The Skills Show Experience delivers local skills events from now until December 2014 for young people aged 14-25. These offer skills demonstrations, "have a go" opportunities, and independent careers advice from the National Careers Service. We will provide more information on these in future newsletters. There is also Skills London 2013 which is taking place at the Excel today and tomorrow (22/23 November); this is a major (non-ESF) jobs and skills events which expects to attract 30,000 visitors.

[>>Events near you](#)

[>>Skills London 2013](#)

Helpful Links

[@DWPESFEngland on Twitter](#)

[ESF-Works](#)

[Skills Funding Agency Co-financing Organisation \(CFO\)](#)

[Ministry of Justice \(National Offender Management Service CFO\)](#)

[Department for Work and Pensions CFO](#)

[Greater London Authority](#)

[Inspiring Work: Cornwall and SW](#)

[TAEN \(The Age and Employment Network\)](#)

[Europa \(Europe ESF website\)](#)

[The National Council for Voluntary Organisations NCVO](#)

Get in touch

We want to hear about your ESF news and success stories, and welcome your ideas for features on our website – [just contact us](#)