

Welcome to this edition of the national European Social Fund Newsletter.

## ESF Operational Programme 2014-2020

The draft version of the ESF Operational Programme which has been sent to the European Commission has been published on the GOV.UK website, alongside the Government Response to the 2014-2020 ESF Operational Programme consultation undertaken in Spring 2014.

Negotiations with the European Commission on the draft Operational Programme will start shortly. We will update you on progress towards the agreement of a finalised Operational Programme and its formal adoption by the Commission in due course.

[>>European Social Fund Operational Programme 2014 to 2020](#)

## Nominations for ESF Leader Awards close on 18 September

Thursday 18 September is the last date on which nominations can be submitted for the ESF Mainstreaming and Leader Awards 2014. Until then there is still time for ESF providers and sub-contractors to enter the competition, which will highlight examples of good policy and practice in the cross cutting themes of equal opportunities, gender equality and sustainable development, with an award ceremony at the Skills Show, NEC Birmingham on 13 November 2014.

[>>Enter the ESF Equal Opportunities and Sustainable Development Mainstreaming Leader Awards 2014](#)



## Events to boost exports from Leeds City Region

A programme of events to help businesses which are new to exporting trade overseas is scheduled to take place in the Leeds City Region. With co-financing support from ESF and the Skills Funding Agency, this is a Skills Support for the Workforce contract managed by Leeds City College and involving specialist international trade body Chamber International. Novice exporters will be able to attend themed networking

events and receive practical help and advice from experienced exporters free of charge. The events will be held at business premises in the region, including in Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds, Selby, Wakefield and York.

[>>Events to boost exports from Leeds City Region](#)



## Low season training to support tourism businesses in Devon

North Devon+ and the Northern Devon Employment & Skills Board (ESB) have secured funding from the European Social Fund to offer free in-work development of customer service skills for 20 eligible businesses. This training is worth up to £1,250 and will take place in the low season to enable seasonal workers or tourism-related businesses to take part.

[>>Free customer service training](#)

## Skills London 2014

Skills London 2014, which takes place this year on 22-23 November at Excel London, is London's biggest skills and careers event. Though not directly supported by the ESF, it should prove to be of significant interest to training providers in receipt of ESF funding and to young people, including those not in education, employment or training, which are a main target group for ESF.

[>>Skills London 2014](#)

## Can Do beach clean is raising aspirations



More than 30 adult learners and their children took part in a Community Beach Clean on August 14th as part of an innovative course to help Cornish residents find out how they can access higher education whilst gaining an accredited qualification in a specific subject area. Can Do offers courses in Community Development, Studio Arts, Health and Social Care or Science and the Environment – all developed to reflect higher education opportunities and priority areas for the Cornish economy. More than 30 adults are now on the course and progressing through a

Level Two qualification. Can Do is delivered by CN4C as part of the Combined Universities in Cornwall Raising Aspirations Programme (RAP), which receives ESF Convergence investment. RAP aims to increase adult participation in higher education and raise skills levels across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

[>>Can Do beach clean is raising aspirations](#)



### TAEN Seminar: mid-life career reviews

The Age & Employment Network (TAEN) is holding a seminar: Policy and Practice Issues of Mid Life Career Reviews, on 24 September at the London School of Economics. The idea of mid life career reviews links in with the Government's Fuller Working Lives strategy, which is the subject of another TAEN seminar on 23 September, also at the LSE.

[>>TAEN seminar: Mid Life Career Reviews](#)

[>>TAEN seminar: Fuller Working Live](#)

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## Helpful links

[England ESF programme national website](#)

[@DWPESFEngland on Twitter](#)

[@esif1420england on Twitter](#)

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

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

[Department for Work and Pensions CFO](#)

[Big Lottery Fund](#)

[Greater London Authority - European Programmes Management Unit - ESF pages](#)

[Inspiring Work: Cornwall and the South West](#)

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

[Europa \(European Commission website\) ESF pages](#)

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

[Gibraltar ESF secretariat website pages](#)

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## 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](#)