

Insight

The One East
Midlands Magazine

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www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk



one
East Midlands

Inside...

- DCLG updates on the ERDF 2007-2013 and ESIF 2014-2020 Programmes
- Case Studies from 7 ERDF funded East Midlands Projects
- Spotlights on an ERDF funded Community Interest Company and an OEM Trustee

The One East Midlands Magazine

Welcome

How time flies. Back in July 2012, One East Midlands launched a unique Technical Assistance project called Reach & Impact; engaging the voluntary & community sector with ERDF.



Three years on and following the first calls for activity under the 2014-20 European Structural & Investment Funds programme we are operating in a very different climate.

Our small project has become a nationally recognised model of good practice in engagement with EU funding. We work extensively across the VCS, with social enterprises and with a range of partners and stakeholders from other sectors. Our aims have become as much about shaping good economic growth through coordination across organisations as they have about purely encouraging VCS participation. Our thinking has mirrored that of localisation and we are delighted to see the VCS now being viewed in many areas as a proactive and innovative partner in local economic growth.

With many of our members now playing more active roles around economic tables across the region, it is our hope that better and more inclusive growth will result.

Rachel Quinn - Chief Executive

It has been nearly three years since the ERDF Reach & Impact project began, crossing two different ERDF programmes.

During that time we have seen a change in how the England programme strategically plans and prioritises the funds, including those here in the East Midlands. The project's 'Engagement Tour' has spread across the region, with events in Horncastle, Lincolnshire, across to Buxton in the Peak District, and back down to Northamptonshire (with many more in-between). Similarly, in many cases our series of ERDF workshops have also been delivered across the region, engaging with a wide range of VCS organisations (ranging in size, legal structure, sector focus and theme focus). Many of you who attended these events were new to ERDF, whilst some had been delivering ERDF projects for many years and were subsequently included in our ERDF case studies; however, you all came along to find new information and, hopefully, make new contacts.

We understand that it has been difficult for the VCS to successfully access ERDF. We, therefore, ensured that we were available to help build the capacity of the sector and to encourage overall economic development, with the aim of boosting potential success of future VCS ESIF ERDF bids. With Reach & Impact running until September, the team will continue to ensure that we keep pushing the key ERDF stakeholders to open more opportunities in the new programme. Please keep an eye on our ERDF E-Bulletin for the latest ERDF news, including any calls for ERDF applications.

Chris Hill - ERDF Reach & Impact Project Manager

Credits:

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An Update on the Current ERDF Programme from DCLG

2007- 2013 East Midlands ERDF Programme

It's currently a very busy time for European funding as one Programme starts to come to an end and a new funding Programme gets underway.

For the current 2007 to 2013 ERDF Programme there is much to reflect on and celebrate. With the help of partners we managed to meet our annual spend target at the end of last year which was an excellent achievement and as things currently stand projects have created over 6,000 new jobs, assisted around 9,000 new businesses to get started, and a helped a further 14,200 businesses to improve their performance.

Many of our European funded projects focus on helping local people explore new ways to develop skills and business ideas. Through a variety of business network events and workshops, the Social Enterprise Network helps local entrepreneurs, charities and voluntary organisations who want to increase their services through independent trading and winning contracts, rather than reliance on grant funding. Of a similar nature is Social Enterprise Way based in Leicester which focuses on helping to build capacity and knowledge allowing businesses and enterprises to grow and expand.

Some £3.3 million of European funding has supported the Prince's Trust Sustainable Enterprise work with many people from disadvantaged communities in Nottingham. Focussing on encouraging enterprise and helping young people to establish new businesses they have set on their way electricians, eco-friendly inventors, architects, agriculturalists, beauticians and even buffalo farmers.

Our focus now is to invest the balance of the programme and ensure that results and impacts are delivered.

There are many lessons learnt from the current Programme which we can take into the next. Many of you will have attended the One East Midlands event which was held in Leicester in February. It was great to see such a good turnout and the event provided the perfect forum to take stock of key delivery areas, learn from best practice and hear from a selection of successful projects in the local area. Sometimes you can get lost in the details of management and it's important to be reminded of the benefits and impact that the work we all do has on local people, businesses and communities.

2014 - 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme

Looking to the 2014 to 2020 ESIF Programme, the end of March saw the launch of the first funding calls and the publication of a large number of guidance documents to help with the application process. The majority of the calls have now closed and outline applications are being assessed. The next call will be later this summer with all details placed on our website. Working is continuing at pace by all the Government Departments involved to ensure that all aspects of the Programme are fully functional and up and running.

The new Programme provides an exciting time in European funding. With different funds being brought together and the local dimension, the scope for projects that will provide real benefits to local areas is great. This brings with it many opportunities and I would urge all partners from different sectors and networks to get involved, work together and take advantage of the opportunities on offer.

Figures correct as at May 2015

Mark Foley - Head of the Growth Delivery Team: Midlands Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

In this issue:

	Page		Page
Welcome	2	Spotlight on a Member	12
Update on the Current ERDF Programme	3	Derbyshire VCI Consortium	
Mark Foley, Department for Communities and Local Government		Spotlight on a Trustee	13
Case Studies from 7 ERDF Funded Projects ...	4 - 11	Laurie Moran	
Broadway Derbyshire Enterprise Agency Pro Help Community Action		Report Back	14 - 15
The Race Equality Centre Heritage Lincolnshire The Mighty Creatives		East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnerships	

Broadway: Projector / Know How



Located in Nottingham City Centre, Broadway is an independent cinema and media centre. The charity has two ERDF funded projects, Projector and Know How.

Projector is Broadway's Creative and Digital Entrepreneurs Programme, supporting start-ups and existing businesses within Nottingham's creative and digital content industries. Running from November 2012 to September 2015, the project has worked with around 150 individuals and received £250,000 of ERDF funding, with an intervention rate of 54.67 percent match-funded by Broadway.

Projector has nurtured the potential of pre-start, start-up and growing businesses with support including grants, a corporate client residency, one-to-one business and HR advice industry specific workshops and networking opportunities.

The project has also developed partnerships to jointly host activities with Nottingham Women's Centre and Business in the Community, which, respectively, have helped women address and challenge potential barriers to starting and running a business and provided access to mentors and advice for creative businesses.

Know How is Broadway's Digital Innovation and Creative Enterprise Programme (January 2014 to June 2015), which aims to stimulate knowledge transfer between higher education institutions and East Midlands small to medium enterprises in the arts, culture and heritage sector. The total programme cost was £1,023,097, with a 40% ERDF intervention rate. Match-funding came from Broadway, Arts Council England, the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.

A key element of the programme was a capital build project turning the underutilised basement floor space at Broadway into a new collaborative studio, workspace and production facilities to develop and exhibit work.

Another strand of the project was the Know How programme, which over six months in 2014 helped 16 organisations to conceive new ideas using design thinking and digital technology, to bring them to life and explore their potential, before refining them through prototypes and completing final projects. At the end of the 2014 programme two organisations received £5,000 to continue developing their prototypes. A further seven organisations have gone through the programme in 2015.

Know How also includes a scheme for graduates and postgraduate researchers at universities, including Derby, Nottingham and Nottingham Trent, to undertake placements in creative businesses.

For both projects Broadway had a very positive relationship with its ERDF contract managers who visited the projects to get a feel for them, always tried to respond to enquiries and happily shared advice from across other projects.

Going forward, both projects will be part of a broader Broadway team continuing to support creative individuals, start-ups and established businesses.

For further details visit:

www.broadway.org.uk

www.shinewithprojector.org.uk

www.nearnow.org.uk/projects/know-how

broadway
CINEMA | CAFEBAR | NOTTINGHAM

 **Projector**
Helping creative business shine


KNOW HOW

Derbyshire Enterprise Agency: Cotton Lane Sustainable Workspace

Providing a range of support services across Derbyshire for over 25 years, Derbyshire Enterprise Agency, a subsidiary of East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire), helps small businesses and enterprising agencies to develop their business ideas, survive and prosper.

Starting in 2012 and finished in 2013, the Cotton Lane Sustainable Workspace capital build used £252,000 of ERDF funding, at an 80 percent intervention rate with the remainder funded by the Derbyshire Enterprise Agency's reserves, to develop the site of a former brewery and print works in Osmaston into 12 small commercial units for start-up and fledgling businesses from the Osmaston and Sinfin areas of Derby.

Eight out of the 12 units in the space, which also includes a reception area, meeting room, kitchen and storage space, are currently full, with three businesses already outgrowing the spaces and moving into other units on the Cotton Lane site. The meeting space is also available for use by other businesses on the site and local community groups.

Since the units were completed Derby City Council has taken MEPs to the site to showcase it as excellent example of an ERDF capital funded project.

Derbyshire Enterprise Agency's application for ERDF funding took over 18 months and six different versions of the application, as it changed from a capital/revenue project when the Single Programme ended to a capital only project.



Although Derbyshire Enterprise Agency had previously received ERDF funding, Cotton Lane Sustainable Workspaces was their first capital only project and so they learnt lessons around procuring and project managing a capital build, as well as marketing business space rather than business support.

Derbyshire Enterprise Agency is looking to apply to the 2014-20 ERDF programme as they believe there is a gap in the market across the D2N2 LEP (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) area for businesses who have gone through the start-up process and require further support.

The workspace forms part of the Brian Clough Business Centre, which offers tenants access to a range of facilities and support services, including general business advice, business counselling, events and information. There is access to a dedicated centre manager and meeting room facilities. As well as offering a range of flexible accommodation and 'easy in, easy out' lease terms, tenants can access a number of start-up business programmes, along with support from the Chamber. Each unit is supplied with an integrated telephone system, water and electricity as well as high levels of security including continuous digital CCTV and audio monitoring and car parking.



For further details visit:

www.derbyshireenterpriseagency.org

Business in the Community: ProHelp

Business in the Community (BITC) is a national business-led charity committed to forging better relationships between business and society. In the East Midlands BITC supports businesses to integrate responsible business practices and connect them with the local community to help tackle social and environmental issues.

From July 2012 to June 2015 BITC has run its second ERDF funded ProHelp contract divided into four projects across the East Midlands, including Lincolnshire, Nottingham City, Derby City, North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire.

The project aims to engage private sector businesses in the region who wish to give a proportion of their expertise to social enterprises, including solicitors, architects, accountants, marketers, PR companies, website and graphic designers, and IT and health and safety experts.

“
These occasions confirm why we operate a business like ours, delivering independent advice, and make me glad we joined ProHelp to deliver our service.”

Nick Gall - Joint Managing Director, Economit

As of June 2014 ProHelp had provided at least 12 hours of support to 33 organisations across the region and was in the process of supporting 96 other organisations with the support delivered by 85 businesses.

This support included:

- Bolsover Community Voluntary Partners supported by Economit to improve their computer systems.
- Home-Start Nottingham supported by Arch Communications to help raise their profile and increase fundraising.
- Hope Springs Horticulture CIC receiving help from Shoosmiths Solicitors and McGregors accountants to become a community interest company and sustain their future programme.
- The Smile, Stop Hate Crime campaign supported by Pete Ramskill Design to improve their logo and marketing materials to support their campaigning.



“
The support we received through BITC has made the world of difference. Without the help of ProHelp firms we would not have reached this stage.”

Helen Powers - Director, Hope Springs Horticulture CIC

ProHelp also manages a network of 130 Business Champions who provide support to social enterprises. Champions, managers of start-ups, large businesses or retirees, have 5+ years management experience.

One example of the work of the Business champions is working with groups in Derby City, in conjunction with Community Action Derby, Children & Young People's Network and Derbyshire Learning & Development Consortium to look at how they might work in collaboration.

ProHelp has a total contract value of around £309,000 with a 62 percent intervention rate, match funded by BITC.

“
It has been a beneficial experience and I would not hesitate to recommend ProHelp to anyone.”

Sue Fenton - Service Manager, Home-Start Nottingham

Regarding the ERDF application process, Ann Hilton at BITC believes that although the application form was similar to that of other funders applicants should take into account the length of the application process, especially if applying for a second time to maintain continuation and seamless transfer between projects.

Ann Hilton also stated that she found the team at the Department for Community & Local Government who managed their contract, very supportive, flexible and willing to listen. The introduction of the automated review process for reporting has also been positively embraced.

For further details on ProHelp visit:
www.prohelp.org.uk

Community Action: Social Enterprise Network

Community Action is a registered charity providing support and guidance for VCS groups in Derby.

In 2013, Community Action received ERDF funding to run its Social Enterprise Network project, designed to support local social entrepreneurs, charities and voluntary organisations working in Derby city, as well as individuals who wanted to start up social enterprises. Helping them to increase their services through independent trading and winning contracts, rather than relying on grant funding.

The project achieved this through one-to-one support; workshops, e.g. capacity building, procurement and marketing; monthly network meetings; newsletter; online resources and signposting to other services.

The project also ran a Funding, support and enterprise fair in May 2014, supported by 40 stall holders, including business professionals, the City Council, other ERDF funded projects, which around 200 individuals from VCS attended. The event not only supported the target groups for the project, but also gave the private sector an opportunity to learn more about the voluntary sector.

During the first 18 months of the project, 2,600 hours of support were provided to 364 organisations and individuals, with an additional 459 individuals attending its workshops. This led to the creation of 4 new businesses, 8 new jobs and groups winning over £90,000 of funding.

Beneficiaries assisted include:

- Community Links, who provide community based support for people with learning disabilities using personal budgets, created a new CIC and 6 new jobs
- Vita Snowden who created a new CIC, Creative Carers supporting carers in Derby
- Impact Derby, who work with young people at risk of involvement in gang lifestyle and criminal activity

Community Action benefited from the project, as it enabled the organisation adapt, to become more businesslike and work in new partnerships including Business in the Community and their ProHelp programme.



“ The process was challenging but we received good feedback from those who valued the service and that’s what we do, we help the sector. ”

Michelle Nally - Community Action

The total value of the project, March 2013 to June 2015, was £221,585 with an ERDF intervention rate of 76.42019 percent, match-funded by Community Action.

In regard to the ERDF application process Michelle Nally, Social Enterprise Network Coordinator, advises applicants to be aware of how long the process can take and the cost in terms of staff time of applying. This project took a year from early planning to approval.

Other advice Michelle would offer to ERDF funded projects includes adapting throughout the project to meet the needs of service users; learning about state aid; having excellent monitoring systems; connecting with similar projects to share best practice, and using free online support with event booking and management e.g. EventBrite.

Going forward, Community Action is considering applying for funding in partnership with other organisations. Michelle believes the project should continue as 30-40 new UK social enterprises are created each month and advice services are needed to support them.

For further details visit:

www.communityactionderby.org.uk

Community Action

The Race Equality Centre: Enterprising New Arrivals

The Race Equality Centre (TREC) in Leicester and Leicestershire works towards the elimination of racial discrimination; promotes equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups; and advances education and relieves poverty amongst immigrants and refugees through the provision of legal and other advice services.



In 2012, TREC was successful in its application for ERDF funding to support the entrepreneurial needs of new arrivals and refugee communities in Leicester through the Enterprising New Arrivals (ENA) programme. Running from April 2012 to March 2014, the total programme value was £224,859, with 20% match-funded by TREC.

The programme surpassed its target of supporting 100 people, providing over 12 hours assistance to 155 people. As an unexpected outcome, from the support received, 30 new businesses were established, including retail, e-commerce, care and recruitment services.

The aim of the programme was to support and enable newly arrived individuals to engage in the economic regeneration of their communities; support the development of successful entrepreneurs and ensure that post-recession these businesses were in a position to thrive and survive.

Developed from the work of TREC's New Arrivals Integration Team, which supports the integration of individuals that have been given leave to remain in the UK, it was found that some had their own businesses in their previous country but now had no support to explore self-employment as a progression route, the ENA programme provided that route.

Once a client was identified, ENA provided one-to-one support through a team of three qualified Enterprise Development Officers. The Officers provided the appropriate research, training, business planning processes, financial forecasting and an understanding of the legal and financial requirements of starting new businesses. A wrap around service was developed to encourage entrepreneurship.

To further support the participants 20 business mentors were recruiting, some of whom had themselves been new arrivals and had now successfully set up their own businesses in Leicester. The mentors were trained and supported by TREC to work with participants. The mentors used their skills and experience to work on issues such as legalities, sales and marketing either on a one-to-one or group basis. The majority of the programme's participants received some form of mentoring.

TREC further carried out three scoping exercises focusing on the entrepreneurial activities of new arrivals and migrant communities in four disadvantaged areas of Leicester; Westcotes, Highfields, Belgrave and St. Matthews. The aim was to assess the current level of entrepreneurial activity, highlight the different levels of support available and the barriers faced in accessing this support. The study culminated in a dissemination report, "Entrepreneurial Activity of New Arrival Communities in four areas of Leicester", which provided solutions to overcome these barriers and enhance help available to establish new enterprises in the City of Leicester.

ENA also ran outreach sessions to recruit participants and raise awareness of business start-up mechanisms. This was achieved by building contacts with the community leaders, leading to joint community events enabling sessions at suitable times for people to attend e.g. during evenings and weekends.

Feedback showed participants were inspired to consider the product / service they wanted to offer and to access a service which supports good business plan development.

Continued: Enterprising New Arrivals

Generally individuals not meeting the ENA criteria were signposted to other services within TREC or where available, externally. TREC never refused assistance to individuals, even if they fell outside the eligibility criteria of the programme, staff worked under their own volition to support and guide the individual.

A "Business Advisors Toolkit" was also developed to enable professionals and other advice services to respond to the complex needs of newly arrived communities in the area of developing their entrepreneurial skills.



The main learning for TREC during the programme was to adapt to and accommodate the needs of the individual. TREC want to share this learning and models of good practice with other organisations to move entrepreneurial support for new arrivals forward.

Since the programme finished in March 2014, TREC has continued to work with clients from newly arrived and migrant communities to ensure the programme continues. TREC has partnered with the "Leicester for Business" consortium to deliver the "Enterprise Development Service" and is now looking to apply for further funding.

For further details on TREC visit:

www.theraceequalitycentre.org.uk

The Reach & Impact Project: Successful Workshop Delivery

Workshops:

- **Nov 2012** - European Roadshow
- Nottingham
- **Dec 2012** - ERDF / EMFAN Regional Network Event
- Derby
- **Mar 2013**
ERDF Collaboration Events / Challenge Fund (2007-13)
- Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham & Worksop
- **Jul - Sep 2013**
LEP Engagement (with EUSIF - ERDF) Events
- Derby, Leicester, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire,
Nottingham, TREC (Leicester)
- **Sep 2013**
Getting the VCS ready for European Funding (ERDF)
- Nottingham
- **Nov 2013 - Jun 2014**
Preparing to Collaborate (EUSIF - ERDF) Events
- Derby, Derbyshire (2), Leicester, Lincolnshire,
Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Worksop
- **Feb 2014** - ERDF Film (Case Study) Launch
- Nottingham
- **Jun 2014** - State Aid Workshop
- Nottingham
- **Jun - Oct 2014** - Introduction to EUSIF (ERDF)
- Derby, Leicester, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire,
Nottingham, Worksop
- **Nov 2013, Jul 2014 - Jan 2015**
Understanding your Local Economy and
measuring your economic contribution
- Derby, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire,
Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire
- **Mar 2015** - ERDF SME Competitiveness Event
- Nottingham
- **Jul 2015** - ERDF Equalities
- Nottingham

ERDF Annual Information Events:

- **Nov 2012** - Nottingham
- **Mar 2014** - Derby
- **Feb 2015** - Leicester

Heritage Lincolnshire: 116 High Street, Boston



Heritage Lincolnshire is a charitable trust, which since 1991 has undertaken a range of activities in the promotion and conservation of Lincolnshire's heritage.

The trust incorporates a building preservation trust, saving historic buildings at risk of dereliction by undertaking difficult building projects, raising funds to repair listed buildings and finding appropriate new uses for them.

In 2008, the Trust was approached by English Heritage as 116 High Street had been on its 'At risk' register for 15 years. The local community also wanted to see this Grade II* listed building restored. Built in the late 17th century, the house was owned by wealthy merchant William Garfit II who founded it as Lincolnshire's first private bank in 1754. The decision was taken to turn the property into office and training space for start-up businesses in the Boston area, one of the most deprived wards in Lincolnshire.

After a successful ERDF application, the project began in March 2011 (total project value £2.4 million (£416,480 ERDF)). Match funding came from English Heritage (nearly £1 million), Heritage Lottery Fund (£650,000), the John Paul Getty Junior Charitable Trust, the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust, Lincolnshire County Council and Boston Borough Council. The ERDF funds enabled the addition of new build units to the rear, ensuring financially viable.

Building work finished in November 2012 and, working with the ERDF team to ensure compliance with the grant contract, the property was sold to the Trust's partner Lincolnshire Community Foundation in July 2013.

“

We found the ERDF process challenging, but it brought essential funding for our project and useful experience for our staff.

”

Liz Bates - Chief Executive and Project Manager, Heritage Lincolnshire

The Trust also received support from the ERDF team, its solicitor and Lincolnshire County Council to applying for ERDF funding, equalities and demographics research.

The Trust found the ERDF process complex, making support from partners and the contract manager crucial, including training on the online claim system. Multiple funders, with different eligibility criteria and guidelines, presented the greatest challenge and meant the Trust had to balance different deadlines for spending and multiple cash flow records. Notably, skilled conservation fees had to be capped for their ERDF proportion and topped up by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Trust learnt several lessons throughout the course of the project, particularly around ERDF eligibility criteria and procurement process. Despite the work of the trust not easily meeting the funding criteria for restoration work (not a new build capital project), the Trust feels more confident in applying for future ERDF funding, as it believes in bringing more external funding into Lincolnshire, with the support and local understanding of the LEPs.

HERITAGE LINCOLNSHIRE



For further details on Heritage Lincolnshire visit:
www.heritagelincolnshire.org

The Mighty Creatives: Bank of TMC

The Mighty Creatives (TMC) is a charity working across the East Midlands to champion young people's creativity and innovation. Working with The Mighty Creatives, young people and relevant adults work together to help transform their lives, the services they use and the communities they live, learn, work and play in.

From May 2013 to June 2015, TMC's first ERDF funded project, the Bank of TMC, will have provided bespoke business start-up support to creative young people aged 16 to 25 in Leicester City, and Oadby and Wigston.

In Leicester City, the project aimed to support 65 young people to set up a business and 90 young people to improve their existing business, resulting in 32 new businesses and full-time jobs created and 40 businesses improving. The total cost of the project was £544K, including £341K of ERDF funding, match-funded by RBS, anonymous corporate donations, SME grants and TMC.

In Oadby and Wigston the project aimed to support 24 young people to set up a business, resulting in 16 new businesses and full-time jobs. The total cost of the Oadby and Wigston project was £287K, with £180K of ERDF, match-funded by Leicestershire County Council, SME grants, TMC and partnered by Spring to Action Ltd.

The Bank of TMC provided access to a team of highly experienced business and creative consultants who are used to running small businesses and working with young people, and can offer one-to-one support and coaching.

The project also delivered a range of two-day boot camps and workshops covering all aspects of business, including legal entities, cash flow, marketing, communications, finance, grant writing etc, and which were holistic and take into account the skills of the delegates.

Young people could also apply for up to £5,000 grant funding from the project to start or grow businesses, with 30 grants awarded as of January 2015. Applicants for the grants had to provide match-funding and complete a written application, before receiving a couple of hours support on presentation skills etc from a business advisor who had appeared on BBC's Dragon's Den. They then pitched their idea to each other and the grant panel of



four people, which met monthly and included a Natwest small business advisor, representatives of TMC and young people.

In late 2014 the project also introduced lower level grants for existing creative businesses offering services and products for young people, which required match-funding.

The lessons The Mighty Creatives learnt from undertaking the project included how to build its profile, partnership working, developing local relationships, the time it takes for young people to develop ideas into businesses, and the capacity and paperwork required to apply for ERDF and meet compliance regulations.

Looking to the future, while youth unemployment is still high, the option of starting up or growing a business can be the right route for some young people. It offers a great opportunity to gain new life skills as well as business acumen. This work aligns to a number of strategies and priorities across the region's local enterprise partnerships and the ERDF agenda. The Mighty Creatives is keen to develop its work with creative young entrepreneurs.



For further details on The Mighty Creatives visit:
www.themightycreatives.com

Spotlight on a Member:

Derbyshire VCI Consortium – Saira Ali

Q: What does Derbyshire VCI Consortium do?

A: Established in 2013, in partnership with Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire VCI Consortium is a Community Interest Company which ensures that services to Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) continue, despite reduced funding locally and nationally. We specialise in coordinating VCS services delivered to CYPF.

At the heart of the Consortium's vision is the positive impact on the lives of CYPF these services deliver, both independently and in collaboration with our partners. Since our incorporation, with Children and Young People as primary beneficiaries, our activity has gathered momentum.

I am proud to Chair an organisation whose members reflect such expertise, commitment, flexibility, creativity and diversity. However, as the economic landscape changes, presenting both predictable and unpredictable challenges, I remember the acronym TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More. In the coming year it will become increasingly important to build our organisational strengths and collaborate effectively to ensure continued support for CYPF.

We have delivered countywide themed consultation and networking events for our members, resulting in a number of projects being identified for development by the Consortium. By offering to co-ordinate and facilitate project development, as well as bid writing, we give all our members access to funding, particularly smaller organisations, who would otherwise be denied.

As funding streams get larger and fewer contracts are available, the Consortium provides an opportunity for our 120+ members to bid in partnership with each other, and with others, increasing our chances of success, thereby protecting the smaller bespoke services that meet local needs.

Q: What do you think are the benefits of being a member of One East Midlands?

A: Being a member of One East Midlands has had real benefits for the Consortium not only as it gives us a sense of connection across the East Midlands region but also having the support they offer to navigate the ever changing, ever stumbling economic landscape we find ourselves navigating. In addition, the One East Midlands website contains invaluable and relevant information and is very easy to navigate.

Q: What advice would you give to other VCS organisations that have European Structural Investment Funding or are considering applying when the next round opens?

A: ERDF funds offer the opportunity for community organisations to improve both infrastructure and amenities in local communities through working at grass roots level and identifying need; mobilizing local people and harnessing their commitment to build social cohesion and a sense of pride in the place where they live.

Q: How can One East Midlands ERDF Reach & Impact project benefit VCS organisations in the East Midlands?

A: The team are an invaluable resource, not only to the Consortium but also to many of our members. The sessions that have been delivered as the EU programme has unfolded have facilitated two way communication and been clear, accessible, focused and most importantly honest. Having an infrastructure organization that can be trusted is priceless!

For further details visit:
www.dvcic.co.uk



Spotlight on a Trustee: Laurie Moran

Q: How did you get involved in One East Midlands?

A: I founded CEFET in 1991, which was, I believe, the first Regional Infrastructure body in the East Midlands. So have always been very involved in regional infrastructure and so I was in the founding group and the original board of Engage. I played less of a role subsequently, due to what in the music business would be called 'artistic differences'. When Regional Infrastructure was re-made with the Single Platform and later One East Midlands I saw the opportunity to help develop something useful.

Q: What role do you have within the board?

I am vice-Chair, and hope I contribute extensive experience in EU Funding, particularly on ESF and Social Inclusion but on the wide range of opportunities and difficulties EU Funding presents for the sector. I am a member of the Cabinet, which helps support Rachel, the CEO, in realising the strategic direction of the organisation.

Q: What knowledge and skills do you bring to this role?

A: I ran CEFET for about 14 years which, as well as leading on Social Inclusion policy for the whole East Midlands multi sector ESF partnership between 2000-2007, was a substantial delivery body for Local Social Capital projects. At its peak it was a £1m organisation (although 80% went out of the door to other small community bodies). So, as well as experience of managing this size organisation, I developed quite extensive awareness of bottom-up community inclusion work and the policies and practices that enable it. I led for the sector nationally, and internationally, on these issues in that period. I also have reasonable financial analysis, and, from my mathematical background, research analysis skills.



Q: What do you see are the benefits of One East Midlands and our ERDF Reach & Impact project and how can it support the VCS in the region?

A: I believe ERDF has generally been under-used by the sector (with a few notable exceptions) in our region. I believe One East Midlands can help change that in two ways - information and support to the sector on the opportunities and methods needed to deploy ERDF. But on the other hand: helping the managing authorities and decision-making bodies (that specify and allocate the funds) to develop their thinking as to how to tackle the problems that ERDF is designed to address. To use innovative methods and policies that the VCS has taken forward.

Q: What areas of work would you like One East Midlands and our ERDF Reach & Impact project to focus on?

A: The next EU funding period, that is about to be delivered through the LEPs, has the theoretical opportunity to respond to local needs and to join up actions in a holistic attack on poverty and deprivation in the region. To make this real will require imagination in developing methods for the new fund, breaking down the silos, which - for example - separate economic development and community engagement. One East Midlands can help realise that potential.

Report Back: Local Enterprise Partnerships



Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP) has set out how it will approach the ESIF strategy in its Implementation Plan.

The plan outlines how, by working in partnership, NEP will ensure that our £48.3m allocation is effectively utilised. This has been structured around the four priorities of the ESIF Strategy, of which the ERDF priorities are - innovation; SME competitiveness and entrepreneurship. The ESIF strategy and Implementation Plan can be found here: www.northamptonshireep.co.uk/strategy-documents

At a national level, NEP has been working closely with key stakeholders to apply implementation arrangements for the ERDF/ESF strands of the ESIF programme. Priority Axis 1- strengthening and promoting research, technological development and innovation and Priority Axis 3- support to SMEs and promoting entrepreneurship are now available on the new ESIF Funding Finder on GOV.UK

NEP has also committed to supporting partners looking to collaborate on bid development, and will facilitate this collaboration for the overall benefit of Northamptonshire.

Updates will also be posted on the NEP website together with details of relevant recent and future ESIF events, so keep checking back for further news or to register for our E-News (sign-up on our website).

For further details on ESIF, please contact Sajeeda Rose:
e: sajeeda.rose@northamptonshireep.co.uk

VCS Organisations:
ERDF 2007-2013 and
2014-2020 in Derbyshire
and Nottinghamshire (D2N2).



The ERDF 2007-13 programme saw numerous VCS organisations successfully manage projects specifically supporting business and communities across D2N2. VCS organisations managed a range of diverse ERDF projects; from canal developments, to bespoke geographical and sector based start-up and business support activities for existing and new businesses. D2N2 is keen to replicate this VCS sector engagement with the 2014-2020 ERDF programme. D2N2 and strategic partners are keen to see their £104.4 million ERDF allocation make a real difference to businesses, communities and individuals, and recognise the key role VCS organisations can play in this aspiration.

For more information on how D2N2 wish to spend their 2014 -2020 ERDF allocation, please visit www.d2n2lep.org/EUFunding - This gives more details on ESIF calls for project bids and provides access to key information which needs to be taken into consideration when making bids to the ESIF programme.

D2N2 is also very interested in hearing from VCS organisations who are developing ideas for future ESIF projects. Please feel free to send us your initial thoughts for projects using our 'Big Idea' template and return by email to the D2N2 ESIF Coordinator:

w: www.d2n2lep.org/EUFunding/Ideas
e: richard.kirkland@d2n2lep.org

VCS engagement in Greater
Lincolnshire (GLLEP).



Involving Lincs, as the VCS infrastructure consortium in Lincolnshire, are co-ordinating VCS engagement in the 2014-20 EU programme for Greater Lincolnshire. Involving Lincs have worked collaboratively with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the community and voluntary sector to develop a Third Sector and Social Inclusion Strategy, whilst commencing local research on the impact and value of the sector.

Involving Lincs are facilitating the development collaborative project proposals and delivery plans to ensure greater impact and cohesion of delivery for third sector activity promoting growth opportunities, increasing sustainability and facilitating and supporting innovation.

For further details, please contact Ben Barley:
e: ben@voluntarycentreservices.org.uk
t: 01522 551 683
w: www.voluntarycentreservices.org.uk

Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) received a notional allocation of ~€126m (£111m) 2014-20 European Structural Funds. ERDF Priorities: TO1 - Innovation: £10m; TO2 - ICT: £4m; TO3 - SME Competitiveness: £25m; TO4 - Low Carbon: £15m.



During 2013/14 we held a series of consultation events developing our ESIF Strategy to target Structural Fund allocation (www.llep.org.uk/ESIF). Under-pinning the ESIF Strategy is the Strategic Economic Plan (www.llep.org.uk/strategies-and-plans/our-strategic-economic-plan-sep).

We are also commissioning 8 sector-growth plans: Food & Drink manufacturing, Textile Manufacturing, Creative Industries, Low Carbon, Logistics & Distribution, Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering, Tourism & Hospitality, and Professional & Financial Services. Applicants should take these documents into account when applying.

In March, the Government launched Calls for Activities including the following for SME Competitiveness in Leicester & Leicestershire:

- **Enhanced MAS Service**
- £0.5m ERDF and Match, 2 year duration
- **Growth Accelerator**
- £0.5m ERDF and Match, 2 year duration
- **International Trade Advice**
- £0.5m ERDF and Match, 3 year duration
- **Business Gateway**
- £0.75m ERDF and Match, 3 year duration

On 21st May the ESIF Committee agreed to launch the following Calls once the UK receives formal sign-off of its Operational Programmes by the European Commission. The activities underpinning these Calls will be developed and uploaded in the coming weeks.

LLEP - ERDF and ESF Spend Profile 2015-2018

To	Calls Mar 15	Calls Jun 15	2015/16	Post 2018
1	-	£8m	-	£2m
2	-	£3m	-	£1m
3	£2.25m	£8m	£13.75m	£1m
4	-	£2.5m	£7m	£5.5m
	£2.25m	£21.5m	£20.75m	£9.5m
To	Opt-in Calls Jun-Sep 15	Opt-in Calls 16	2015/16 Open Calls	Post 2018
8	£12m	£0.45m	-	£9.55m
9	£7.05m	-	-	£3.95m
10	£6m	£4m	£4m	£7m
	£25.05m	£4.45m	£4m	£20.5m

For further details, please contact Mary-Louise Harrison:
e: mary-louise.harrison@llep.org.uk
t: 0116 454 2944

The South East Midlands (SEMLEP) has been given an allocation of European Structural Investment Funding (ESIF) of approximately £79 million for delivery over a 6 year period, starting from March 2015.



First calls for projects commenced on 20th March 2015 (approx £19m). SEMLEP will use these funds to increase social and economic prosperity and to reduce disparity, creating a more competitive, prosperous and inclusive economy.

Plans on how this local allocation of funding will be spent can be found in the ESIF Strategy and Implementation Plan: www.semlep.com/european-funding-2014-2020

For further information and applicant support:

- Register to receive SEMLEP's electronic newsletter by emailing esif@semlep.com
- Information and technical guidance events are being finalised for April. Timings and dates to follow on the SEMLEP website.
- Calls for projects, tender opportunities, application forms and accompanying guidance can be found at www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds

Please send any enquiries about the programme to:
e: esif@semlep.com
t: 01234 436 100



One East Midlands is a registered charity working with the voluntary and community sector.

One East Midlands brings together organisations that support voluntary and community groups across the region to influence and shape policy, improve services and provide a single point of contact for all stakeholders at a regional and national level.

One East Midlands is accountable to its members: voluntary and community organisations, frontline groups, public and private sector agencies. Through its membership, the sector is able to influence One East Midlands' work and ensure that the organisation does what it sets out to do.

For more information visit:
www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk

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Insight

