

Bulletin 21



heefs

Higher Education European Funding Services

September 2010

Welcome

The next call for applications under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) is due to be announced in October. There is a great deal of interest in the LLP amongst UK HEIs and in order to help Institutions prepare for the call we have planned an information event to be held in London on 10 November 2010. Details of the event can be found on [page 2](#).

As mentioned in previous Bulletins, the involvement of UK HEIs in some aspects of the LLP (i.e. the Erasmus Programme) has grown in recent years. However, few HEIs have explored the opportunities available under other elements of the Programme, such as, the support available for teacher training activities under Comenius and for community engagement under Grundtvig. As an example of the sort of project that might be funded, a case study of a project being delivered by London Metropolitan University under the Grundtvig Programme is provided on [page 3](#).

We have had an overwhelming response to our event, focussing on EU funding opportunities for humanities and social science subject areas which will take place on 6 October 2010. The event is now full but we are adding names to a reserve list, in case we receive any late cancellations.

The European Commission has just opened consultations on the next generation of EU Programmes in the field of education and culture, including the current LLP, Erasmus Mundus and Culture Programmes. It is our intention to respond to the consultations, drawing upon our own experience of the programmes and from comments made by HEIs. Individual HEIs, however, with specific interests in the Programmes are encouraged to respond independently. Details of the consultations are provided on [page 8](#).

In this Issue

Page

Event - EU Funding Opportunities for UK HEIs 2
An Introduction to the Lifelong Learning Programme
10 November 2010

Lifelong Learning Programme - Case Study 3
Older Women in Learning and Enterprise 50+
London Metropolitan University

Calls for Proposals and Tenders

Competitiveness & Innovation Programme 5
Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme
Call for Tenders
Feasibility Study on New Forms of EU Support to Member States and Regions to Foster SMEs Innovation Capacity
Deadline 26 October 2010

Europe for Citizens Programme 7
Call for Tenders
Study on Active Citizenship in the EU
Deadline 29 October 2010

EU Consultations

On the next generation of EU Programmes 8
concerned with education and culture



EU Funding Opportunities for UK HEIs – An Introduction to the Lifelong Learning Programme - Event

Wednesday 10 November 2010 at the Offices of Universities UK, London

Background to the event

The 2011 call for applications under the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) will be announced in October, with deadlines in February/March 2011. The Programme offers significant opportunities for UK HEIs to collaborate transnationally to develop and deliver projects in some key priority areas. The Programme, however, has more than 60 action lines and funding streams, which can be confusing and time-consuming to interpret. The purpose of our event, therefore, is to highlight and explain the most pertinent opportunities for UK HEIs.

Most UK HEIs are familiar with elements of the LLP, such as the Erasmus exchange programmes that support staff and student mobility. Less well known, however, are opportunities to obtain support for longer term collaboration with partners across the EU and beyond.

The LLP will support collaborative work amongst small groups of partners across the EU and the work of larger academic or strategic networks. The programme aims to improve and develop learning provision across Europe, it addresses all levels of learning, from schools, higher education and vocational training to adult learning. It offers opportunities in areas of clear importance and relevance to UK HEIs.

Who should attend?

We expect the event to be of interest to:-

- Academics interested in curriculum development and networking;
- Colleagues involved in community and business engagement and widening participation;
- Those developing new teaching and learning methodologies;
- Colleagues with an interest in internationalisation and modernisation
- Colleagues responsible for external funding.

Timetable for the event

The Programme for the event is as follows:-

9.30	Registration and coffee
10.00	Introductions
10.15	Lifelong Learning Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the Programme and Opportunities • Priorities for 2011 • Project requirements
12.00	Issues for project development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and managing transnational partnerships • Application process • Application timetable • Hints and tips for preparing an application
12.45	Project examples and closing remarks
1.00	Finish

How to reserve a place

If you would like to reserve a place at the event, please send us an email to request a booking form. There will be a charge of £100 per person; invoices will be issued after the event. Places are limited and are filling up fast, so if you would like to attend please contact us as soon as possible as places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Lifelong Learning Programme

Case Study

Older Women in Learning and Enterprise 50+ (OWLE50+) London Metropolitan University

Introduction

The OWLE50+ project aims to identify and address issues relating to employability, entrepreneurship and later life skills for women aged 50+. The project results from the experience gained by the Centre for Micro-Enterprise (CME) at London Metropolitan University in working with and researching the needs of older women over a number of years. Previous work has been undertaken with support from a range of EU, national and regional funding streams, including the European Social Fund. CME coordinate the project, working with partners in Italy and Sweden, to explore ways in which a micro-enterprise course and women's development programmes developed in the UK can be adapted to form a multi-module 'pick and mix' package capable of meeting the needs of similar groups of women in the three partner countries.

The project began earlier this year and is set to run for two years. Set out below is a summary of the experience of the project team in delivering the project to date:-

The application process

HEEFS actually alerted us to the bid opportunity at a very early stage in 2009, having spotted that Grundtvig had a criteria for older people. CME has specialised in working with older women for some 4 years, through several ESF older women's enterprise projects, and we have found that older women have other learning needs to adjust to changing life circumstances. London Metropolitan University has no European Funding Unit and we very much relied on HEEFS to help with interpreting over 100 pages of Grundtvig regulations, editing the text, plus the budget table for the bid.

The complex budget table is daunting and difficult to balance, and Martin McCauley's (Executive Director of HEEFS) EU budget expertise was invaluable, including vital input over a weekend. It took 3 solid weeks to write the bid and to engage with partners, obtaining required sign-offs. The application process was tough – so many documents to read and so many criteria to remember; it is difficult to get sample bids to see what is acceptable.

Grundtvig and the whole suite of LLP funding is very tight, and then EACEA cut our UK management costs to less than half a day per week. There is no appeal process. It seemed as though EACEA responses and scores were only connected with the scoring page in the bid – they disregarded the rest of the text!

This cut means in practice:

- little scope to explore any aspects which emerge from the project, not specified as outputs in the bid
- difficulty in responding rapidly to partners re: long documents
- volunteer time from the UK team has to be put in over and above the planned match funding time

So our advice on the process with hindsight is:

1. be very explicit in the bid
2. spread the money about through the budget headings

Partners

In the first 2 months we found ourselves dealing with a partner change, and thus having to re-calculate the budget – we needed HEEFS to operate on the budget table again.

Though we have run transnational projects before, and our team members have been evaluators for EQUAL projects, each partner team is different. With only 3 face to face meetings budgeted for in the entire 2 year

project, we have managed to slot in an informal extra meeting with one partner who happened to be in London, and we have made use of Skype, but we haven't yet been able to connect all partners at once.

We have invigorating and thoughtful partners: Norkopping Council in Sweden and Tecnopolis, Bari, Italy: all are actively involved and fully contributing. Interesting cultural differences have emerged in working lives: the UK team work at home, in the office, on the train, and often at weekends, and took very little summer leave this year. The 9-5 working culture and the summer break tradition is a much stronger influence in Sweden and Italy. For the face to face partner meetings we checked that the UK team could fly cheaply from Stansted to Norrköping and Bari, however we hadn't checked the difficulty of flying between Bari and Sweden.

The OWLE50+ project: Older Women in Learning and Enterprise 50+

OWLE50+ aims to identify issues for 50+ women, and work with 90 women over 2 years to enhance their life skills, their contribution to society, their earning and learning. There are 5 learning strands:

- Older women's enterprise competencies & micro business start up
- Employability & life skills
- ICT for social & business growth
- Community involvement
- Effective senior citizenship in the EU and own country.

The project will run Forums (in UK: December 1st, London), 30 case studies, comparisons between the partners, will address ageing positively, and evaluate for dissemination.

The OWLE50+ Multi Module course

In 2010, 20 women enrolled on a multi module 12 day course in UK, 10 in Sweden and Italy, and similar year 2 groups will run in 2011.

The course covers a wide range of issues around:

Planning and having goals	Setting up a viable enterprise
Health matters, ageing positively	Career boosting, career changing, job search
Personal safety	Self presentation
IT awareness	Visits e.g. to libraries
Action planning for after the course ends	

The course differed in each country: Italians included computers in the classroom; participants in the UK favoured neuro-linguistic programming; Swedes were more psychoanalytical. Our UK course members needed lots of interaction and information given in small bites. The UK women have all reached some sort of crossroads, and came to the project because they want assistance to make changes in their lives. Most of them want to change jobs, get a job again, or start a micro business.

Earning a living is more of an issue for the UK women than the Swedish women, as welfare benefits are more generous in Sweden: some of the UK women are in real poverty on the Jobseekers £65 a week, and would not be able to even attend the course if we did not pay their travel expenses. The Italian partner targeted women 50+ who are self employed and setting up small enterprises.

In December we are running a Forum event in London, which will explore issues arising from the project so far around 50+ women, society, later life, work, and learning.

Further Information

Further information about the OWLE50+ project can be obtained from the project website www.owle50plus.eu or from the Project Coordinator Hilary Farnworth Hilary.farnworth@londonmet.ac.uk

Competitiveness & Innovation Programme Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme

Call for Tenders

Feasibility Study on New Forms of EU Support to Member States and Regions to Foster SMEs Innovation Capacity

Deadline: 26 October 2010

55/PP/ENT/CIP/I0/F/S01C16

Background

An EU consultation exercise¹ revealed that enterprises expect better innovation support from public intervention. Efforts have been made at EU level to promote better practices in innovation support through policy learning and policy cooperation activities. However, no consistent strategy has been followed so far to identify how to achieve better complementarities between EU and Member State actions and to understand which policy gaps could be best supported at EU level. The purpose of the feasibility study, therefore, is to examine how to achieve complementarities by identifying which key challenges for fostering SME innovation capacity would be best addressed at EU level and how European added value could be enhanced through new forms for EU support. The results of the study will be used to prepare future EU support actions that will complement other innovation support available under, for example, the Enterprise Europe Network, the Structural Funds and the Research Framework Programme.

Purpose of the Contract

The feasibility study is required to address the question of better innovation support at Member State and European level, with a view to providing a better understanding of the needs and scope for more effective forms of innovation support. Specifically the study will:-

- Identify the top ten key challenges for providing better support to foster the innovation capacity of SMEs in Europe;
- Identify and assess the barriers to faster development of better innovation support practices and their coordination; and
- Provide recommendations on the form of support the EU could/should provide to successfully address these challenges in full respect of the subsidiarity principle while highlighting the European added value of the creation of synergies between the regional, national and European levels.

Technical Features

- Contract duration is 8 months
- Contract is expected to start 3/1/2011
- Maximum price for contract is €200,000

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/swd_effectiveness_en.pdf

Selection Criteria

Contractors will be required to demonstrate their financial and technical capacity to deliver the contract. The contract will be awarded to the most cost effective tender having taken the following criteria into consideration:-

Criteria	Proportion of score available
Degree of understanding of the objectives of the tasks to be performed including the organisation and understanding of the work to be carried out in order to achieve the objectives	20%
Overall quality, innovativeness and coherence of the proposed methodology	20%
Quality of the analytical approach to elaborate on the research hypothesis and to assess different options for implementation	30%
Quality of the work programme and efficiency of the project management	15%
Quality of the proposed strategy to involve stakeholders in the study and disseminate its results	15%

Further Information

All information relating to this call for tenders can be found at:-

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4502&lang=en&ref=newsbytheme%2Ecfm%3Flang%3Den%26displayType%3Dfo%26fosubtype%3Dt%26period%3Dlatest%26month%3D%26page%3D

Europe for Citizens Programme

Call for Tenders

Study on Active Citizenship in the EU

Deadline: 29 October 2010

EACEA/2010/02

Background

Within the framework of the Europe for Citizens Programme, the Commission wishes to support a study to examine active citizenship in Europe. The Commission recognises that in recent years civic participation has undergone significant changes, with a decline in traditional forms of participation and the emergence of new forms such as e-participation.

Purpose of the contract

This study is intended to deepen understanding of what active citizenship is, the relationship between active citizenship at local, regional, national and European levels and between individual and collective action and how it can best be fostered at the different levels. The study should also enable the Commission to identify the contribution active citizenship makes to achieving the EU's strategic objectives in the economic and social fields (Europe 2020). This enhanced knowledge and understanding would enable the development of an evidence-based policy leading to EU action for active European citizenship targeted more closely on needs.

The study should raise policy makers' awareness of the benefits of fostering active European citizenship at national and European level, where possible identifying tangible, measureable effects as well as softer intangible benefits.

The study will cover all 27 EU Member States (and where possible Albania, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). It should build on existing European and national studies and draw upon information gathered from a broad range of stakeholders.

Technical Features

- Duration of contract is 9 months
- Maximum price is €300,000

Selection Criteria

Contractors will be required to demonstrate that they have the necessary financial, technical and professional capacity to deliver the contract. Tenders will be evaluated in relation to the following criteria:-

	Criteria	Points available
Technical evaluation	Methodology	50
	Project Management	40
	Quality of Geographical Coverage	10
Financial evaluation	100 points will be awarded to the lowest priced tender All others will be awarded points on the basis of the following Calculation (lowest price tender/price of the tender in question) x 100	

The contract will be awarded to the contractor offering the best price/performance ratio.

Further Information

All information relating to this call for tenders is available from:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/call_tenders/2010/call_tenders_02_2010_en.php

Consultations on Next Generation of EU Programmes

Introduction

The European Commission is seeking views on the next generation of EU Programmes to operate from 2014. Public consultations have been launched to obtain views on three Programmes concerned with education, training and youth policy as follows:-

- **Education and Training Programme** to replace the **Lifelong Learning Programme**
- **International Higher Education Programme** to replace the **Erasmus Mundus Programme**
- **Youth Programme** to replace the **Youth in Action Programme**

The consultations seek views on:-

- The development and design of the programmes; and
- How they can contribute to the **Europe 2020 strategy** for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, especially the flagship initiatives **Youth on the Move** and **An Agenda for new skills and jobs**

The deadline for the submission of consultation responses for these three programmes is **30 November 2010**.

The **EU Culture Programme** is the subject of another consultation, which has a submission deadline of **15 December 2010**. This consultation seeks views on how the Programme's objectives and action lines should be revised in the light of current developments so that they:-

- Respond to current European and global developments and exploit the cultural sector's potential to contribute to the **Europe 2020 strategy** for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Ensure the greatest possible structuring and multiplier effects through its funding, which should have a real added value
- Prioritise spending on project content rather than administration – by having as streamlined and cost effective a programme design as possible.

Information on all of the consultations can be obtained from the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/index_en.html

UK HE Sector Responses

The UK HE Europe Unit has published an E-Note on the consultations relating to the programmes being designed to replace the Lifelong Learning and Erasmus Mundus Programmes. The Europe Unit is urging HEIs to respond individually to ensure that the UK HE sector's views are fully voiced and taken into consideration by the Commission.

We will be preparing a response to each of the consultations on behalf of the UK HE sector. Our response will be based upon our experience and the knowledge we have gained in supporting HEIs to access the programmes to date. We will, where possible, for instance, highlight the preference, amongst UK HEIs for projects leading to the award of double rather than joint degrees within the Erasmus Mundus Programme and

reiterate the UK HE sector's preference for the status of doctoral candidates to be a matter for each country to decide.

In line with the Europe Unit, we would also urge HEIs to respond individually, especially those Institutions with extensive experience and involvement in the programmes that may have particular areas of concern.

However, if there are any issues you would like us to reflect in our sector-wide response then please let us know and we will try to include them in our response.

Further Information

All information relating to the consultations can be obtained from:-

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/index_en.html

The UK HE Europe Unit E-Note can be obtained from:-

http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/sites/europe_unit2/resources/E-2010-10YouthontheMoveConsultationI.pdf

Details of the **Europe 2020 Strategy** can be obtained from:-

http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm

Information about **Youth on the Move** can be found at:-

http://europa.eu/youthonthemove/europe2020_en.htm and

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=950&langId=en>

Information about **An Agenda for New Skills for New Jobs**

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=822&langId=en>

Higher Education European Funding Services (HEEFS)

Who we are

- A Non-profit making Registered Charitable Company, Limited by Guarantee
- Wholly owned and managed by the HE Sector. HEEFS is owned by Universities UK and GuildHE and has strong links with the HE Europe and International Units
- Hosted by Liverpool John Moores University
- Established in 1991 as the Higher Education European Social Fund Unit (HEESF) to manage the HE Sector's participation in national European Social Fund (ESF) Programmes
- As HEESF, the Company enabled 133 HEIs to mount 1750 projects with £207m support from the ESF
- Re-launched in 2009 as HEEFS, with a broader remit, to support UK HEIs to progress their internationalisation strategies through participation in a wide range of EU Programmes

What we do

Represent and act as a central resource for UK HEI participation in EU Programmes by:

- acting as an observatory, monitoring and reporting on UK HEI participation
- representing UK HEIs at EU and national level, responding to consultations and informing policy

Identify and promote EU funding opportunities and developments to HEIs by:

- analysing EU Programmes, identifying opportunities and interpreting them in an HE context
- providing an e-bulletin summarising funding opportunities
- visiting HEIs to promote and explain opportunities
- organising events for HEIs to come together to consider opportunities in specific fields of interest

HEEFS collaborates with HEIs to develop, deliver and manage effective EU funded projects by:

- working with HEIs to map opportunities against Institutional objectives
- helping HEIs to fully prepare for an application round, interpreting call documentation and drawing up a work plan to meet deadlines
- providing professional and technical support throughout the application stage, tailored to the needs of individual HEIs
- working with successful HEIs, ensuring an effective management plan is in place, carrying out project evaluation and completing reports and claims
- providing its expertise to support HEIs delivering transnational collaborative partnerships

For further information about HEEFS, our role and services and the EU Programmes we support please visit our website. Our services range from assisting individual academics to develop proposals and submit applications, to supporting the development of Institutional strategies. We do not operate as a consultancy and have a range of options for recovering our costs, to suit the Institution concerned and the specific EU Programme regulations.

Please feel free to contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to assist your Institution.