



## **THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND IN THE SOUTH WEST (EXCLUDING CORNWALL): KEY FACTS**

### **2007 to 2013 Programme**

#### **Funding**

£109 million ESF

£109 million national match funding

£318 million in total

#### **Targets**

Total number of people who will be helped to improve their skills and job prospects = 85,000

Number of people not in work who will be helped in to jobs by the end of their ESF course = 10,000

Number of the most disadvantaged people who will make positive progress towards jobs = 7,000

Number of disadvantaged young people who will be re-engaged in learning or a job = 4,000

Number of people who will gain (full) qualifications (including basic skills qualifications) = 16,000

#### **Regional priorities**

##### *Priority 1 – Extending employment opportunities*

Priority will be given to projects which take account not only of supply, but also the demand for labour. This is a crucial element in developing support which assists individuals back in to sustainable employment, reflecting the needs of employers.

Feedback for employers and others have highlighted the need to focus on ensuring that candidates are employment ready, and to provide continuing support during employment. The first element is a major focus of this priority, ensuring that workless and at risk individuals develop the necessary skills to move into employment. Target groups for this priority include:

- young people not in education or training (NEETs) and those at risk of becoming NEETS, particularly in those areas where the proportion of NEETs is above the English and regional averages and/or related to areas of multiple deprivation;

- workless households: these present a particular challenge as they are linked to a range of wider issues. There are links between workless households and child poverty, and workless households contribute to the number of young people that are NEET. Ensuring targeted support is available to those areas where the concentration of workless households is greatest will be a priority in the South West;
- older people: the South West continues to import labour, while at the same time activity rates for those aged over fifty are low. Increasing participation by this group will be a priority for the region;
- areas with significant workless and claimant households: while the designation of programme wide intervention areas, by local authority, ward, or postcode is likely to prove too restrictive, there is a spatial concentration of worklessness in many urban areas; and
- rural areas: given the rural nature of much of the region, it is essential that the additional barriers facing rural areas (such as access to training and employment) are identified and measures to overcome these barriers are incorporated into the programme activities.

#### *Priority 2 – Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce*

While all of the target groups and activities are relevant to the South West, there are a number of elements which have added weight within the region, reflecting the profile of the labour market and regional policy priorities. These are:

- basic skills and training for those without level 2 will remain a major priority for the South West given the substantial numbers of the workforce involved;
- employability: The Priority actions will have a general focus on employability skills, ensuring that more generic issues are incorporated across all ESF activities. More specific support will be provided for:
  - numeracy and literacy
  - ESOL, for migrant workers
  - meeting the ICT need of the workforce;
- skills shortages and gaps: The main focus of Priority 2 in the South West will be those sectors and occupations where skills shortages have been identified. It will build capacity in those areas to increase programme effectiveness;
- management and leadership development: For managers and workers in small enterprises, both private and social enterprises (up to 50

employees, and including working owners with no or few employees); and

- smaller businesses: In order to address the under-utilisation of the region's existing skills base and to provide additional support to the region's small and micro businesses, Priority 2 will also focus on the delivery of skills which will increase business productivity.

## **Co-financing Organisations**

Department for Work and Pensions

Learning and Skills Council

### **2000 to 2006 Programme**

#### **Achievements**

Number of people helped into jobs since 2000 = 22,000

Number of people gaining qualifications since 2000 = 74,000

#### **Case study: The Parents into Work project**

The 'Parents into Work' ESF project, run by Somerset Council for Christian Care provided back to work support, advice and mentoring to economically inactive parents in Somerset and Dorset. Through one-to-one practical support, it helped participants identify their perceived and actual barriers to work and then delivered support to enable them to access employment, voluntary work, Jobcentre Plus programmes or vocational training. It ran from 6 January 2006 to 31 December 2007.

The project worked with Sure Start and community centres which referred clients to Parents into Work for one-to-one help. As there are many isolated areas in Somerset, it also uses outreach, which brought in about half of the participants who were not otherwise engaged in community groups, family centres, training or Jobcentre Plus programmes.

As at 31 December 2007 the project had achieved: 474 participants, 350 leavers, 180 positive outcomes and 95 jobs.

**There is a separate sheet on Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly which benefits from Convergence funding in 2007-2013.**