



**European Union**  
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### **D2N2 Active Engagement Bulletin: May 2018**

Welcome to the May edition of the D2N2 and One East Midlands Active Engagement & Skills bulletin; news, activities and opportunities relating to the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the VCS and partners. This bulletin is distributed at the start of every month; providing a round-up of recent news and highlighting what's coming up.

For information on the role of LEPs and their relevance to your work please visit the One East Midlands [policy page](#). Information specific to D2N2 can be found [here](#) at One East Midlands or on the D2N2 website at [www.d2n2lep.org](http://www.d2n2lep.org). You can also visit the D2N2 Technical Assistance website at [www.d2n2ta.org](http://www.d2n2ta.org) for information on European Funding and support available to organisations wishing to access European Funding.

If you would like to contact the Active Engagement Officer at D2N2 or have items of relevance to this bulletin please contact [Rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org](mailto:Rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org) or tel: 07551 124225.

#### **Update from Jane Howson: VCSE representative on the D2N2 Board**

It is a very busy time for the LEP team, with the refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan still in development and also the development of the Local Industrial Strategy to sit alongside it.

The SIEAG inclusive growth work has been put forward to feed into the D2N2 Business Plan. East Midlands Inclusion Framework commissioned by One East Midlands is approaching completion. A large number of organisations have contributed to this work and I very much look forward to seeing the finished product. I am keen to promote this framework with the LEP Board.

We recently wrote to Peter Richardson, Chair of the LEP, and DWP raising the issue of evidencing defrayal and the impact the change in approach has had on the community grants programme. It was agreed that the ESIF committee would also write to protest.

I am looking forward to a busy time over the next couple of months as things come together.

Jane Howson

#### **D2N2 Social Inclusion & Equalities Advisory Group (SIEAG)**

At the last SIEAG meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> February a discussion took place regarding problems relating to the commissioning of the D2N2 Active Inclusion Community Grants Programme. In particular the decision by the Managing Authority (DWP) that defrayal of funds can only be claimed once defrayal can be evidenced at end beneficiary group level; significantly extending cash flow implications and risk to the managing agent. This decision has resulted in all but 1 project withdrawing at full application stage and has hampered delivery of D2N2's strategy for inclusion.

The decision by SIEAG was to seek support from the D2N2 ESIF Sub-Committee in a complaint to DWP. This support was gained at the March meeting and this letter was sent in April; feedback is expected imminently.

Feedback will be picked up and discussed at the next SIEAG meeting which will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Please send any items you would like discussed at that meeting to [rachel.guinn@d2n2lep.org](mailto:rachel.guinn@d2n2lep.org)

### **East Midlands Inclusion Framework**

One East Midlands have procured the support of New Ground Consultancy for delivery of an East Midlands Inclusion Framework.

The purpose of the framework will be to support and inform policy makers and decision makers across the East Midlands in their approach to inclusion activity. This work builds on the previous work of the East Midlands as a leader in social inclusion policy.

For more information and to get involved in the framework development, please visit the [One East Midlands](#) website. You can also attend the consultation update event taking place on Friday 4th May (1.30-3.00pm) in Nottingham. If you would like to attend the event, please email Sandra Casey via [office@one-em.org.uk](mailto:office@one-em.org.uk) to register your place. Deadline for consultation is May 5th 2018.

### **Apprenticeship Information Event - Wednesday 27 June**

The Erasmus+ project, 'Increasing SME engagement in Apprenticeships' is a three year project that commenced on 1 September 2015. The aim of the project was to research the barriers to SMEs engagement with apprenticeships and share best practice from around Europe on overcoming those barriers.

In the UK Gedling Borough Council are delivering a support service for SMEs to assist them with every stage of the recruitment process along with funded accredited mentoring training.

The information event will explore the findings of the project and examples of the best practice found and look at one year on from the Apprenticeship reforms and what is next for apprenticeships and SMEs. For more information or to book your place see the event [flyer](#).

### **Building Resilience and Wellbeing for Growth Conference: 16th May – Derby**

Stress, anxiety and depression within the workplace are at the highest levels ever recorded. According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), in 2016, 45% of all reported absenteeism was accounted to stress. This is now costing UK businesses, over £2.4 billion a year (UK Statistics Authority).

The D2N2 Growth Hub is hosting a 'Building Resilience and Wellbeing for Growth' conference to look at all aspects of wellbeing from HR support to enabling leaders to drive a 'wellbeing culture' for business growth and employee satisfaction and alternately employee retention.

For more information and to book your place visit:

<http://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/events-training/7/event-details?id=3584>

## **Civil Society Strategy: have your say**

On 27th February the Office for Civil Society (OCS) launched an online platform for the Civil Society Strategy Engagement Exercise. The Strategy is being developed through open dialogue across sectors to build upon experiences from the past and shape the future of government's work with and for civil society. The online platform will gather views from as many people as possible over the coming weeks.

To help shape government's upcoming Civil Society Strategy [Click here](#) to have your say on how government can work with and for civil society to build a stronger society now and in the future.

Help raise awareness of the Strategy by sharing this [GOV.UK news story](#) with your networks and encourage them to get involved. If you have any questions about the Strategy contact [CivilSocietyStrategy@culture.gov.uk](mailto:CivilSocietyStrategy@culture.gov.uk)

## **Draft Withdrawal Agreement published**

On 19 March, Government and the European Commission published the draft withdrawal agreement which translates the December joint report into legal text and marks an important step towards finalising the full Withdrawal Agreement by October.

The agreement reaffirms the commitment to continued UK participation in EU programmes financed by the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020 until their closure. This means that, subject to final agreement, we will remain in the 2014-2020 ESI Fund programmes until they close – [click here](#) to see the Draft Withdrawal Agreement

## **ESIF Programme Updates**

### European Social Fund Project Bulletin

The latest issue of the European Social Fund Project Bulletin was circulated to subscribers on Monday 26 March and contains information on how existing TA project may be able to extend their funding. To subscribe to the ESF Project Bulletin please send an email to [ESF.2014-2020@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:ESF.2014-2020@dwpgsi.gov.uk) with "subscribe to ESF Project Bulletin" in the subject.

### ERDF Practitioner Network Bulletin

The latest [ERDF Practitioner Network Bulletin](#) was circulated to subscribers on 26 March. Aimed at partners delivering ERDF projects, the bulletin offers more detailed / technical information relating to the programme and is currently circulated to a database of over 700 subscribers  
If you would like to sign up please email [esif@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:esif@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

### E-CLAIMS update

For ESF: the service has now been rolled out to all Grant Recipients, for the submission of claims and related activities. So far over 100 2017 quarter 4 claims have been submitted. Development of the service is almost complete; the Managing Authority (DWP) is currently considering the most effective way of utilising E-CLAIMS, for applications and Project Change Requests.

For ERDF: Growth Delivery Team Contract Managers continue to work with applicants to arrange access to the system; this is a phased approach but it is anticipated that over 60% of ERDF applicants will be using E-CLAIMS by the summer. A number of applicants are already using E-CLAIMS to upload claims. The payment process within the system has now been automated which will make the actual payment process faster. However, as per the article above on ERDF targets and deadlines, the ability to pay a claim in the first instance is dependent on the correct information being submitted.

You are receiving this bulletin as a member of the D2N2 Active Engagement Network (formerly the One East Midlands' D2N2 Information Network). Please feel free to share this e-bulletin or any of the information in it with your members and contacts. If you are receiving this bulletin via a third party and would like to receive it direct please email [office@one-em.org.uk](mailto:office@one-em.org.uk) and ask to be added.

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