

# EUROFLASH



Special issue

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## Department for Employment and Learning £20 million cash injection to improve employment prospects

A £20million package from the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) will help projects aimed at improving skills and employment prospects and addressing the needs of those disadvantaged in the labour market. Organisations locally were encouraged to apply for support under the latest round of European Social Funding.

Priority 2 of the Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity is primarily supported by the European Social Fund which is aimed at helping develop employment by promoting employability, the business spirit and equal opportunities and investing in human resources. The Department has issued a third call for applications for financial assistance from the European Social Fund under the following Measures of the Employment Priority of the Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity:

- **Measure 2.1**    **Education and Skills Development**
- **Measure 2.2**    **Tackling the flows into Long Term Unemployment**
- **Measure 2.3**    **Promoting a Labour Market open to All**
- **Measure 2.8**    **The Advancement of Women**

Applications are now invited and successful projects will receive funding for up to two years on the basis of 65% European Social Funds and 35% match funding independently secured by the successful organisation. Activities which may be supported under these Measures are set out in the Programme Complement for Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity. Applicants under the Measure 2.8 should note that an element of the Measure allocation has been established to fund any eligible organisations within Northern Ireland which wish to develop cross-border initiatives.

This will be the third and final call made by the Department for applications under the Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity. As under the previous two calls, applications will be invited from eligible organisations in the voluntary and community sector, universities and Further Education Colleges throughout Northern Ireland. Further background information on European Social Fund eligibility, Programme management requirements and guidance for applicants is available on the Department for Employment and Learning's website: [www.delni.gov.uk/eu](http://www.delni.gov.uk/eu)

Applicants without access to the internet may contact **Nuala Murray either in writing or by telephone 028 9025 7643** at the Department for Employment and Learning's European Unit for printed versions of documents. Application forms are available in either paper or electronic format. Full details are available at [www.eugrants.org](http://www.eugrants.org)

**Completed applications must be received by noon on Friday 4 November 2005.**

The contact information and address for submission of applications is:

**Jim Hyndman**  
**NI Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity,**  
**European Unit, Room 307**  
**Department for Employment and Learning,**  
**Adelaide House**  
**39 - 49 Adelaide Street**  
**Belfast, BT2 8FD**

**Tel: 028 9025 7643**  
**E mail: [bsp@delni.gov.uk](mailto:bsp@delni.gov.uk)**

**NICVA CONFERENCE  
EUROPE AT THE CROSSROADS**

**Tuesday 15 November 2005**

Organised by NICVA and the Institute of Governance and Public Policy and Social Research at Queens University, this conference aims to update participants on current thinking within and about the EU, outline possibilities for the future direction of the Union, illuminate how the Union impacts on our daily lives and facilitate discussion on what kind of Europe we want to live in.

Given the internal divisions over Iraq, the two no votes on the Constitution and the difficulty in agreeing on the budget we want to take some time to explore the kind of Europe we want to live in. Is it more than an economic community driven by the need to compete in an increasingly global market? The Commission's own opinion polls run by 'Eurobarometer', show that most 'No' voters fear a weakening of social solidarity and social inclusion. Among the top seven reasons given for voting No in France, nearly all reflected the fear that the EU, and their country, was moving in a 'neo-liberal' direction, ignoring issues like unemployment and social solidarity. In the Netherlands, two thirds of the total electorate (yes, no and abstainers) saw the No vote as an opportunity to change the Constitutional Treaty in a more 'social direction'.

The conference will begin with an outline of the Government's vision for the future of Europe and an update on the progression of the UK Presidency of the EU. After an explanation of the thinking behind the draft EU Constitutional Treaty from Dr David Phinnemore of QUB, journalists John O Farrell and Eamonn McCann will have 'the debate that never happened' as they outline why they were prepared to vote for and against the constitution.

Speakers from a Brussels based voluntary organisation will outline why protecting the European Social Model is so important and then Professor Elizabeth Meehan will outline her thoughts on how the EU can move forward from this impasse. As we focus in on the meaning of the European project we will hear short snapshots from five speakers about what the European Union has done for civil society, peace-building, local government, workers and the environment.

The key note address will be given by the renowned Portuguese European expert and advisor to former Commission President Romano Prodi, Miquel Mesquite da Cunha. The event will have ample time for questions and discussion and participants will be encouraged to share their views about the future direction of Europe.

The conference is free of charge but numbers are strictly limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Full details of the programme will be available in mid-October but

Euroflash readers can reserve a place now by emailing [cathy.breslin@nicva.org](mailto:cathy.breslin@nicva.org) or calling Cathy on 028 9087 7777.

**Leonardo da Vinci Mobility programme  
European placements and exchanges**

Do you want to send your staff or students abroad to enhance their skills and experience? Are you interested in working with European partners to develop new approaches to training or professional development?

Leonardo da Vinci is the European Union's action programme for vocational training and will invite proposals for funding in February 2006. The Mobility element of the programme, run by the British Council's Education and Training Group, aims to add value to current UK training systems and qualifications through work placements and staff exchanges across the EU.

For example, while your staff could spend time exploring the equivalent of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in Germany, students could benefit from a period of work based training in France. Case studies of previous projects are available on the Leonardo website and show how universities, colleges and training providers have used the programme to their advantage.

**An information day will be held at NICVA in Belfast on 3 November 2005.**

An overview of the Leonardo Programme will be provided along with more specific information related to mobility and advice on how to apply. A registration form can be found at <http://www.leonardo.org.uk/events/index.htm>.

Please book early to avoid disappointment.

For more information and to reserve a place please visit [www.leonardo.org.uk](http://www.leonardo.org.uk) or call 020 7389 4389

**Socrates Programme**

This year's deadlines for most of the funding from the EU Socrates II education Programme, which supports education, training and lifelong learning, are 1 November 2005 and 1 March 2006. The aims of the Socrates Programme are:

- To strengthen the European dimension of education at all levels;
- To improve knowledge of European languages;
- To promote cooperation and mobility throughout education;
- To encourage innovation in education;
- To promote equal opportunities in all sectors of education;

The Socrates Programme runs from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 and has a budget of €1,850 million over this time period. This Programme is managed by the national agencies of the participating countries and in the case of the United Kingdom, this agency is the British Council. For more detailed information please visit:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education\\_culture/publ/pdf/socrates/brochnew\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/publ/pdf/socrates/brochnew_en.pdf)

### **School education - Comenius**

The overall objectives of Comenius are to enhance the quality and reinforce the European dimension of school education, in particular by encouraging trans-national cooperation between schools, contributing to the improved professional development of staff directly involved in the school education sector, and promoting the learning of languages and intercultural awareness. There are three different Actions. Grants will be awarded of up to €415,000 per network and **the deadline for applications is 1 November for projects starting on 1 October 2006.**

Further information about Comenius programmes, including examples of projects funded by the scheme, can be found on the Commission's website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/comenius/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/comenius/index_en.html)

### **Higher education - Erasmus**

This programme seeks to enhance the quality and reinforce the European dimension of higher education by encouraging trans-national cooperation between universities, boosting European mobility and improving the transparency and full academic recognition of studies and qualifications throughout the Union. Grants of up to €500,000 per network are available and the closing date for applications is **1 November 2005.**

Further information on the Erasmus programme is available on the Commission's website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/erasmus/erasmus\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/erasmus/erasmus_en.html)

### **Grundtvig - Adult education and educational pathways**

Grundtvig aims to strengthen the European dimension in adult education and lifelong learning. It targets adult learners, teachers and trainers in both formal and non-formal education across Europe in a range of projects and initiatives, and reflects a commitment at national and European level to ensure learning opportunities continue throughout life.

**Grundtvig 1** supports European Co-operation Projects, partnerships of organisations that develop teaching and training materials and approaches in adult education, awareness raising activities and methods for assessing and recognising adult learning. The Commission will award grants of up to €190,000 per project and the closing date for grant applications is **1 November 2005.**

The Commission also funds Grundtvig Training Courses as part of its cooperation project budget. These should aim to

improve the quality and availability of European training courses for adult education teachers and staff and should last two years. Applications must be submitted by **1 November.**

**Grundtvig 2** supports Learning Partnerships, small-scale partnerships involving adult learners who work together with other learners from across Europe on projects of common interest. Applications should be submitted by **1 March 2006.**

**Grundtvig 3** provides training grants for staff involved in adult education to undertake training courses and activities abroad.

**Grundtvig 4** supports European networks of organisations involved in Grundtvig, enabling them to share best practice, exchange information and ideas and support the development of further projects. In this area, the Commission will provide grants of up to €250,000 for new networks covering the following themes:

- language learning in adult education;
- basic skills;
- adult learning opportunities for disabled people;
- adult learning opportunities through sport;
- art and culture;
- education in prisons and for the reintegration of offenders into society;
- education in hospitals; and
- gender issues in adult education.

In addition, one year grants of up to €50,000 will be made available to help create networks in areas where they do not already exist. The funding will be used to help organise seminars, workshops or other events and priority will be given to activities covering the areas above. The closing date for applications is **1 November 2005.**

Further information on the Grundtvig programme is available online at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/grundtvig/home\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/grundtvig/home_en.html)

### **Lingua - Language teaching and learning**

Aims to increase the diversity and quality of languages spoken across Europe through providing direct access to language learning opportunities. Projects under Lingua aim to encourage people to learn foreign languages and to help raise standards in language teaching and learning and ease access to lifelong learning opportunities.

Further information on the Lingua programme, including examples of previously funded projects, can be found on the Commission's website at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/lingua/community\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/lingua/community_en.html)

### **Minerva**

The Minerva programme aims to promote a better understanding of **Open and distance learning (ODL)** and ICT amongst teachers, learners, decision makers and the general

public as this is the key action to implement the EU eLearning action plan.

Grants of up to €285,000 per project will be awarded to successful projects. The deadline for applications is **1 November 2005**. Further information about the Minerva programme is available online at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/minerva/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/minerva/index_en.html)

#### How to apply

Socrates is open to pupils, students and other learners, teachers and staff directly involved in education, all types of educational institutions and the people and bodies responsible for education systems and policies at local, regional and national level. Other public/private sector bodies may take part e.g. local and regional bodies, associations of teachers, students or parents, social partners, research centres, companies and professional bodies can apply.

Application procedures vary according to the different sub-programme. In the first instance, applicants should obtain the relevant programme guidelines, available on the Commission's Socrates website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates.html>

Guidelines can also be obtained from the following UK national agencies, which also organise seminars and help applicants find suitable partners in other participating countries:

*All Socrates except Erasmus*  
British Council England and Wales  
Internet <http://www.socrates-uk.net>  
E-mail [socrates@britishcouncil.org](mailto:socrates@britishcouncil.org)  
Tel 020 7389 4157  
Fax 020 7389 4426

British Council Northern Ireland  
Tel 028 9024 8220  
Fax 028 9023 7592

*Erasmus only*  
UK Socrates-Erasmus Council  
Internet <http://www.erasmus.ac.uk>  
E-mail [info@erasmus.ac.uk](mailto:info@erasmus.ac.uk)  
01227 762712  
Fax 01227 762713

Alternatively, for all programmes contact the European Commission's technical assistance office:

E-mail [info@socrates-youth.be](mailto:info@socrates-youth.be)  
00 32 2 233 0111  
Fax 00 32 2 233 0150

A new generation of education programmes replacing the Socrates II programme will come into effect in 2007.

## European of the Year

European Voice Magazine and a distinguished panel of European leaders and thinkers have drawn up the names of the 50 people who, in their view, have most influenced the European agenda over the past 12 months. The 50 chosen include Commissioners, MEPs, Heads of State, Politicians, EU Fonctionnaires, NGOs, Campaigners - and, very importantly, European citizens. As part of the European Public and for your chance to vote please visit:

<http://www.ev50.com/poll/default.asp?id=16>

## Online Information



For all the events affecting the voluntary and community sector within Northern Ireland visit: [www.nicva.org](http://www.nicva.org)



Grant Tracker has been designed by NICVA as a one-stop funding resource for voluntary and community groups in Northern Ireland. It functions as a searchable website and is supported by the staff from NICVA's Funding Advice Service. Visit: [www.grant-tracker.org](http://www.grant-tracker.org)



### European Information Network

This site provides a definitive list of EU information providers in Northern Ireland, as well as providing links to a whole host of related European, regional and national websites. Visit: <http://www.europe.org.uk>

If you require any further information please contact:

James Lavery, European Information Officer or  
Lisa McElherron, Public Affairs Manager  
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