

Enterprise M3 PMG

9th May 2019

EU Programme Update - Item 8

To NOTE the progress on the EU programme.

1. General Update

- 1.1. Two promotional videos for ERDF and ESF with four case studies and success story videos from contracted projects should be ready by the end of April. We will manage their publication around the next round of calls to promote the fact that the EU funding is guaranteed until December 2020.
- 1.2. Managing Authorities continue to plan for a 'deal' or 'no deal' scenario, in the case of 'no deal', programmes will become a domestic version of ERDF/ESF with some simplifications expected on audits & branding requirements.
- 1.3. The next round of ERDF calls will open on 28 June and close on 30 September 2019. LEPs are expected to tender the remaining of their allocation for this call.
- 1.4. There will be some reserve funds announced for ESF and ERDF in the Autumn 2019.
- 1.5. The Enterprise M3 led Internationalisation outline project will be discussed at the next ESIF committee on 29 April.

2. European Social Fund (ESF)

- 2.1. Taking into consideration the revised exchange rate, 52.8% of our ESF allocation is published including 30.8% contracted, 15.6% in the pipeline and 13.1% spent.
- 2.2. New ESF direct calls will open before September 2019 and will include:
 - Digital skills for the unemployed worth £400k ESF (re-issue),
 - Access to higher level STEM skills worth £500k ESF (re-issue)
 - Social Inclusion, 3 lots worth £1.37m ESF
 - Employer owned funds for skills worth £2m ESF,
 - Virtual reality and online support learning worth £2.1m ESF
 - Brokerage of skills/Apprenticeship Hub worth £825k ESF
 - Labour Market Intelligence worth £543k ESF.
- 2.3. ESF DWP opt-in call for the unemployed and inactive worth £1m opened on 18 April and closes on 24 May.
- 2.4. Our first aggregated claim for our ESF Technical Assistance project from October 2015 to June 2018 has been verified along with our second claim for Q3 2018 and we await payment of £24,644.13. Our payment claim for Q4 2018 is under verification for £3,420.59 and we are ready to submit our Q1 2019 payment claim for £3,718.65.

3. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

- 3.1. Taking into consideration the revised exchange rate, 97% of our ERDF allocation is published, 20% of applications are in process, 10.2% is contracted and 6.2% of ERDF has been spent.

- 3.2 The next round of ERDF calls will open on 28th June and close on 12th September. We are arranging for an ERDF specification launch event w/c 1st July to promote the funding opportunities and encourage partnership formation. We will be launching the remaining of our allocation with 4 ERDF specifications for:
- R&D and Commercialisation Activities worth £4.6m ERDF
 - Digital Growth worth £1.5m ERDF
 - SME Growth worth £6.8m ERDF
 - Low Carbon and Energy worth £2.7m.
- 3.3 Our outline application for the extension of the ERDF Technical Assistance project passed the first stage. We have submitted a PCR (Project Change Request) for extending the project until the end of the programming period. The value to Enterprise M3 is £125k for two years.
- 3.4 We are submitting our payment claim for Q1 2019 for £14,178 at the end of April.
- 4 **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).**
- 4.1 100% of allocation is published and calls are closed with 15.4% projects contracted, 110% of applications in process, 10% EAFRD spent. We are 10% over committed on EAFRD.

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24 April 2019