**CALL 7: MAIN PROJECTS ESF FUNDING GRANT MANUAL**

1. **INTRODUCTION**
	1. The aim of the Folkestone Community Works programme is to promote the social and economic cohesion of Folkestone through interventions to help the most deprived communities. This will be achieved by helping residents to access jobs and by supporting local businesses to help them grow and provide new job opportunities.
	2. The Folkestone Community Works is part of the EU Community Led Local Development Programme and has received funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
	3. Folkestone Community Works programme has three Objectives and eight Actions:
* **Objective 1** **- Enhancing work-readiness and well-being** (ESF funding)
	+ Action 1: Work experience and job preparation for young people
	+ Action 2: Getting people back into work
	+ Action 3: Promoting emotional and physical well-being
	+ Action 4: Promoting financial wellbeing
* **Objective 2** - **Promoting local business and social enterprise** (ERDF funding);
	+ Action 5: Promotion of SMEs and social enterprise
	+ Action 6: Support for SMEs and business start-ups
	+ Action 7: DIY Space /incubation facilities
* **Objective 3 - Setting up an integrated delivery mechanism for the strategy** (ERDF funding).
	+ Action 8: Setting up and operating Employability/Enterprise/Community hub
	1. The ESF funding available in this Main Projects Call 7 is to deliver Objective 1 through services that will allocation across the programme’s Objectives and Actions, including 50% match funding to be secured by project applicants, is as follows:

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective 1:** Enhancing work-readiness and well-being |
| Action 1: Work experience and job preparation for young people  | £650,000 |
| Action 2: Getting people back into work |
| Action 3: Promoting emotional and physical well-being  |
| Action 4: Promoting financial wellbeing | £150,000 |
| **Total Funds Available** | **£800,000** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. The Folkestone Community Works programme has to deliver specific indicators for the ESF funding. The definitions of the indicators and the evidence requirements can be found in the *Output and Result Indicator Definitions Guidance for the European Social Fund August 2018 V2 (published October 2018)* and *ESF Data Evidence Requirements – Eligibility and Results V4 (published October 2019).* The project specification indicates the expectations for Output and Result delivery from this Call.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ESF code** | **ESF INDICATORS FOR FCW - OUTPUTS1** | **Target** |
| ESF CO01 | Unemployed, including long term unemployed participants | 350 |
| ESF CO03 | Inactive | 650 |
| ESF CO15/O5 | Migrants, people with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma / Participants from ethnic minorities | 75 |
| ESF O4 | Participants over 50 years of age  | 100 |
| ESF CO16 | Participants with Disabilities | 250 |
| **ESF code** | **ESF INDICATORS FOR FCW - RESULTS2** | **Target** |
| ESF R2 | Inactive Participants into employment or job search upon leaving | 189 |
| ESF CR02 | Participants in Education/Training upon leaving | 200 |
| ESF R1 | Unemployed participants into employment (including self-employment) on leaving | 160 |

1Outputs are the status of participants on date of joining the project

2Results are the status of participants within 4 weeks of exiting the project

* 1. In the table below is the ESF funding available in this Call and indicates the type of eligible expenditure:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ESF Revenue Grants:** | **ESF funding available** |
| **Premises costs and associated running costs** which are exclusively used for the project. Proportional costs are not claimable**Equipment** (small items under £1,000 only)**Participant costs****Marketing and publicity costs****Procured goods/services****Premises costs if 100% used by project** such as rent, gas electricity, water and insurance (no**Staff salaries costs** including employer National Insurance and pensioncontributions – for staff working on the delivery of ESF project | Objective 1: £400,000 |

* 1. Match funding in kind is restricted to use of volunteer time, however there are rigorous obligations related to this. All projects are required to have at least 10% cash match funding as a minimum i.e. paid staff or other project costs. FCW uses *ONS Work Region Occupation SOC10(4) Table 15.6 hourly pay excluding overtime 2017. Tab: All. Description: United Kingdom, Column D: Median to set the volunteer hourly rates for each role*.
	2. Further details of what is eligible including calculating salary costs can be found in the *ESF Guidance: England European Social Fund Operational Programme 2014-20 Programme Guidance December 2016 V2 (published 15 December 2018).*
	3. Ineligible expenditure includes:
* In-kind contributions which comprise the provision of land, real estate, equipment
* Purchase of furniture, vehicles and equipment (other than small items of equipment under £1,000)
* Purchase of second hand equipment
* Bank debit charges
* Legal fees
* Fines, financial penalties and expenses arising from litigation
* Purchase of land
* Purchase of real estate (i.e. buildings after construction and the land on which they are built)
* Expenditure relating to venture capital loan and guarantee funds
* Redundancy costs if people leave the employment of the organisation at the end of or during the life of the project.
1. **GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS**
	1. The Main Project ESF Grant Programme is open to delivery organisations looking to support the aims of the programme through delivering services to the beneficiaries – residents, within the Folkestone Community Works area. To access the application documents, please go to: [www.folkestonecommunityworks.com](http://www.folkestonecommunityworks.com)
	2. Calls for projects will operate through a competitive and open call to grant applicants. All relevant programme documents and project application material is available for download at [www**.**folkestonecommunityworks](http://www.folkestonecommunityworks)**.**com
	3. This programme Grants Manual is intended to provide further information and supplementary guidance on the application process, terms and conditions for grants and the grant claims and monitoring processes.
	4. The process for applying and being awarded grants through the programme comprises the following stages:
* Stage One: Completing the Eligibility Questionnaire and Expression of Interest
* Stage Two: Completing the Full Application
* Stage Three: Assessment and Decision
* Stage Four: Contracting
* Stage Five: Project Commencement
* Stage Six: Grant Claims and Monitoring Processes

**Stage One: Completing the ESF Eligibility Questionnaire (EQ) and Expression of Interest**

* 1. The ESF Eligibility Questionnaire (EQ) should be completed by all the organisations involved in the delivery of any project to ensure they are eligible for ESF funding. The completed EQ form should be submitted to the Folkestone Community Works Programme Management Team no later than the deadline for the submission.
	2. The lead organisation for any project will be responsible for entering into a legally binding Grant Funding Agreement with the Folkestone & Hythe District Council (as the Accountable Body for the programme), for the overall delivery of the project and for meeting the required European Social Fund (ESF) Outputs and Results. However, all partners involved in the delivery of a project will be required to be eligible for European funding and must adhere to EU procurement and eligibility rules and regulations.
	3. The Expression of Interest (EOI) should be completed and submitted by the lead organisation no later than the deadline for the submission.
	4. Any further support required to complete the EQ and EOI will be available through the Folkestone Community Works Programme Management Team which can be contacted by emailing folkestonecommunityworks@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

**The submission date for the Eligibility Questionnaire and Expression of Interest is 5pm Friday 22nd May 2020.**

* 1. Once submitted, the Programme Management Team will assess the eligibility of the Project Delivery Organisation to undertake a European Social Investment Fund (ESIF) funded project, which will include appropriate credit checks.
	2. Recommendations from the EQ and EOI assessment will be made to the Folkestone Local Action Group (LAG), which will decide whether the project applicant has met the eligibility criteria and should progress to next steps and complete a full application.
	3. All project applicants submitting the EQ will be informed of the outcome of the assessment. Successful project applicants at the EQ and EOI stage will be invited to continue to Stage 2 of the application process and submit a full application.

**Stage Two: Completing the Full application**

2.12 Specific guidance notes to support the completion of the application form and the application form is available at [www.folkestonecommunityworks](http://www.folkestonecommunityworks)**.**com. The following guidance notes and forms are available:

* C1.0 Main Project ESF **Grant Manual** (this document)

**Main Project Grant Programme**

* C2.1 Main Projects Grant Call 7 Specification
* C2.2a Main Projects Grant Call 7 Expression of Interest
* C2.2b Main Projects Grant Call 7 Delivery Organisation Eligibility Questionnaire
* C2.2c Main Projects EQ Definitions
* C2.3 Main Projects Grant ESF Application Guidance Notes
* C2.4 Main Projects Grant ESF Application Form
* C2.4a Main Projects Grant ESF Application Form - Output annex
* C2.4b Main Projects Grant ESF Application Form -Budget annex

Examples of the forms used to assess applications and templates of the offer letter and Grant Funding Agreement are also available for your information, should your application be successful:

* D1.0 Main Projects EQ Assessment Form
* D1.1a Main Project Grant Assessment Form
* D1.1b Main Project Grant Assessment Form
* D1.2 Main Projects Offer Letter
* D1.3 Main Projects Grant Funding Agreement
* D1.4 Main Projects ESF Grant Claim Form
* D1.5 Main Projects ESF Grant Output Monitoring Form
* D1.6 Participant Schema form

2.13 The Workshops will be held at Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill CT20 2QY, during July between 10:00 and 14:00hrs. Organisations who submit an Expression of Interest will be informed directly by email when the dates are confirmed with our EU funding specialist.

2.14 The project applicant is advised to start working on their application, including: determining what will be delivered and identifying budget lines and match funding sources as soon as possible, before attending at least one of the application workshops.

2.15 Each applicant will be required to submit a list of questions and their draft application form three days before attending workshops, so that 1-2-1 support can be provided.

2.16 The Programme Management Team are available to assist applicants throughout the whole application process.

2.17 Project applicants will be required to submit full applications by the deadline

**The submission date for the Full Application form is 5pm Friday 4th September 2020.**

2.18 All applications should be accompanied by a full set of supporting documents and applicants will be required to submit their applications by e-mail to the Programme Management Team to folkestonecommunityworks@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

2.19 Should an applicant have any queries regarding the completion of the Application Form, then they should contact the Programme Management Team at folkestonecommunityworks@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk who will be able to answer any questions in relation to the project they wish to implement and the application in general.

2.20 After the submission of the Full Application, the Folkestone Community Works’ Project Assessor will undertake an appraisal of the application and make recommendations to the Local Action Group. The Local Action Group will make the decision(s) whether to recommendations the application(s) for funding to the Accountable Body.

**Stage Three: Assessment and Decision**

2.21 The Programme Management Team will assess the grant applications and present the reasons and recommendations to approve or reject to the Local Action Group (LAG).

2.22 Each application will be assessed first by the Project Assessor, using established criteria. The Project Assessor will use separate assessment forms (D1.0 & D1.1) for Main Projects seeking ESF funding.

2.23 These completed documents will be submitted as part of the decision-making process, along with other supporting documents to the Local Action Group for their consideration.

2.24 Prior to the meeting, the Programme Management Team will ensure that all material is submitted to the Local Action Group members on the Friday before the meeting date.

2.25 The Folkestone LAG will make recommendations on whether a project should be funded to the Accountable Body, after a full discussion on the project at the LAG meeting. This process will operate in accordance with the LAG Terms of Reference (available on [www**.**folkestonecommunityworks](http://www.folkestonecommunityworks)**.**com). Project applicants may be invited to attend the LAG meeting to answer questions about the project and the LAG might also chose to invite an expert or representative from the Community to provide advice.

2.26 The recommendations made by the Folkestone LAG will ideally be made by consensus, but if this is not possible then by a majority vote. For all decisions made by the LAG there is a requirement that any public sector members or any single interest group does not have more than 49% of the voting rights during decision-making.

2.27 The project recommendations by the LAG will be considered by Folkestone & Hythe District Council as the accountable body for the Folkestone Community Works programme. Responsibility for the decision which will be made by the Local Decision Panel, comprising Council Leader, David Monk and the Cabinet Lead Member for District Economy, Cllr David Wimble and the Corporate Director for Place and Commercial. Ewan Green.

2.28 Three decision notifications will be made:

**Approved**: The project is successful and can go on to the contracting stage.

**Rejected:** The project does not meet the priorities and outputs of the Folkestone Community Works programme and should not be resubmitted in this form.

**Referred**: The project in its current form does not sufficiently meet the requirements for approval and will be referred back. In this case the applicant will be encouraged to revise and resubmit a revised application.

2.29 Applications that are Referred will receive recommendations from the LAG as to which aspects of the project would need to be improved for the revised application to be successful in the future.

2.30 With projects that are Rejected/Revise, applicants will be given feedback and, where appropriate, will be encouraged to address any shortcomings and to re-apply for support.

2.31 Once the LAG has made decisions, the individual names of LAG members voting for and against projects will be recorded and signatures will be collected from each of the members in attendance, as evidence of the validity of the vote. Both the LAG’s recommendation and the decision by the Accountable Body are final. There is no right of appeal against the decision, its timing or phasing and the Programme Management Team will not normally enter into correspondence in this respect.

2.32 All project applicants will be notified of the outcome of the decision-making process via email or telephone following the formal decision by the accountable body.

2.33 The minutes of the LAG meeting will generally only record the recommendations made and detailed discussions on projects will generally not be minuted. However, this will be at the discretion of the Chair.

2.34 It is proposed that the programme management team members from other South East LEP CLLD programmes are used on each other’s programmes to independently assess large contract value projects, or where conflicts of interest are at such scale that an independent assessment is prudent. The requirement of independent assessment will be at the discretion of the LAG board and accountable body in each area.

**Stage Four: Contracting**

2.35 Successful applicants will first receive an Offer Letter and will be required to complete and sign and return the Grant Funding Agreement. **The project can only start after both the applicant and Folkestone & Hythe District Council have signed the Grant Funding Agreement.** These agreements will specify the scope of work and the terms and conditions under which the grant has been approved, as well as the termination process and reporting requirements.

2.36 The Programme Management Team will work with each project applicant to put in place all legal agreements. Visits to each project applicant will be made by the Programme Management Team to ensure that they have the necessary understanding and systems in place to undertake the required monitoring and meet all other requirements for the European funding, especially with regard to evidence gathering, match funding source and procurement requirements.

2.37 Once the legal documentation has been signed by both signatories, the Grant Holder will be able to commence the project as specified in the Funding Agreement. **Any expenditure prior to the signing of the Grant Funding Agreement by both applicant and Folkestone & Hythe District Council, as the accountable body, cannot be claimed.**

2.38 Upon returning on the completed Grant Funding Agreement, details of the grant holder will be entered into an Electronic Form so that payments can be set up for payment through the financial system.

**Stage Five: Project Commencement**

2.39 It is envisaged that the earliest delivery start date will be **1st December 2020.**

1. **PROJECT CONTRACTS**
	1. As the Accountable Body, Folkestone & Hythe District Council sits at the nexus of the grant process for the Main Project Grants.
	2. The Accountable Body’s core responsibility is to manage the dispersal process on behalf of the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) under an ESF compliant framework, to prevent any future financial claw-back.

3.3 The Accountable Body is a core member of the Local Action Group and will need to agree with the decision made by the Local Action Group to award European funding.

3.4 All grant holders will be required to sign up to a legally binding Grant Funding Agreement with Folkestone & Hythe District Council. This will specify the exact eligibility of expenditure and the evidence required to support all expenditure, including defrayal.

3.5 The Programme Management Team, which represents the Accountable Body, will engage with the appropriate finance teams from each grant holder organisation to ensure that their responsibilities and deadlines are fully understood and complied with.

1. **PROJECT GRANT CLAIMS PROCESS**

4.1 Grant holders will be required to utilise the electronic template provided by the Folkestone & Hythe District Council for all records, including financial claims and to submit this along with the required evidence to support each claim. The project grant forms are available in electronic form and can be downloaded from [www**.**folkestonecommunityworks](http://www.folkestonecommunityworks).com

4.2 A project claim will be made by the lead project Delivery Organisation according to the dates set out in the Grant Funding Agreement with Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

4.3 Each project claim will be paid in accordance with the details set out in the Grant Funding agreement where:

1. The Council has received an invoice for the relevant grant amount from the lead Project Delivery Organisation.
2. The Grant Claim is for Eligible Expenditure and is in arrears on defrayed expenditure.
3. The payment of the Grant related to actual costs incurred with required evidence submitted to substantiate the claim.
4. The required evidence of receipt of the required match funding, as detailed in the Grant Funding Agreement, is provided.
5. The agreed outputs for the specified period, as set out in the Grant Funding Agreement, have been achieved and evidence provided to substantiate this. This will include completing the Participant Data Schema.

4.4 Grant holders will be required to produce each quarter:

* A detailed transaction report from their financial system showing payment amount, date, recipient and payment reference.
* A business bank statement showing an itemised transaction list, with relevant project expenditure clearly highlighted.

4.5 For each individual transaction evidence will be required for all aspects of finance and procurement, including:

* quotes/tender and other documentation complying with ESIF procurement requirements
* copy of purchase orders
* properly certified final invoices
* receipt of goods
* payment details (from finance system)
* remittance advice
* timesheets
* business bank statements showing payment
* any other evidence of defrayal for expenditures related to the match funding and the grant

4.6 Each claim made by a grant holder will be checked for expenditure eligibility by the Programme Management Team against business bank statements, programme delivery records and budget profiles, before being compiled into a central report that will form a central part of the project claim.

4.7 This information will be checked against the reported expenditure budget, by both the Programme Assistant and the Programme Manager.

4.8 A procurement procedure check list will be used by the Programme Assistant to check that expenditures are in line with ESIF procurement guidelines (see Key Documents section). This check list will include, for example, such things as:

* checking that the expenditure is not part of a series of contracts that have been artificially divided;
* that expenditures have been advertised on contracts finder if required; etc.

4.9 For any project expenditures over £25 000, the Programme Manager will check thoroughly the evidence provided. The checks carried out will include making sure that the contracts haven’t been artificially divided and that the contract opportunity has been advertised on contracts finder.

4.10 For contracts over £50 000, the Head of Economic Development will carry out a further check of all evidence, according to the procurement check list.

4.11 The defrayal evidence submitted from each grant holder will need to be collated by the grant holder onto a Grant Claim Form, signed off by the grant holder, the Project Manager and countersigned by the Chief Economic Development Officer.

4.12 Once approved, the dedicated finance officer for the Folkestone Community Works programme at Folkestone & Hythe District Council will process the information into an order which the Accounts Payable team will then act on to pay the grant to the recipient. The order will be downloaded and stored alongside the Grant Claim Form; this will form part of the claim from the accountable body to the managing authority. All records will be maintained by the Programme Management Team in accordance with ESIF requirements.

4.13 The Council will normally pay Grant Claim within 25 Working Days of receipt, but this is subject to the grant recipient satisfactorily meeting any request for further particulars about the Eligible Expenditure and achievement of outputs in the Grant Claim.

4.14 The Council will provide a maximum of 90% of the total ESIF project funding after the evidence documents have been submitted and checked by the accountable body. The final 10% of the total ESIF funding will be made on the satisfactory completion of the project and delivery of all agreed outputs and results.

4.15 Project and claim start and end dates will be carefully monitored and communicated to ensure that no expenditure outside the programme timeframe is submitted. The Programme Management Team will update project level budget monitoring tables that include both actual spend and budget forecasts to highlight potential over/under spend against the approved budget. This information will be a regularly reported to the LAG.

Third Sector Organisations - Voluntary Group and Charities

4.16 In the case of approved projects being delivered by Third Sector Organisations where the total project cost is below £400 000, an advance payment of 10% of the ESIF offer will be made.

4.17 For projects being delivered by third sector organisations where the total project cost is over £400 000, then an advance payment of 5% of the ESIF funding will be made.

4.18 These payments will be made after the signature of the Grant Funding Agreement.

4.19 The conditions for further grant payments will need to adhere to those set out in Sections 4, 5 & 6 and the Council will withhold the final 10% of the total ESIF funding until satisfactory project completion, where an advance payment has been made.

1. **PROJECT RECORD KEEPING**

5.1 All documentary evidence ascertaining to outputs, finance and procurement is required to be maintained and kept by the grant holders, in accordance with guidance laid out in the Grant Funding Agreement and this will include the retention rules.

5.2 By keeping orderly and comprehensive records, it is far easier to assess the project status and progress towards overall outputs and results. The need to be able to provide records to substantiate claims and prove that the programme has satisfied the various ESIF requirements is a ‘golden thread’ which runs through the ESIF Regulations. This will be reiterated in the Project Grant Offer Letter.

5.3 Each project grant holder will be responsible for maintaining the original documentation and transferring it to the Programme Management Team at the end of the project and certified copies on a quarterly basis to support regular project level claims.

5.4 For any projects that involve expenditure on fixed assets valued over £5,000 which have been bought, built or improved using an ESF grant, there is a requirement to record this information in an Asset Register. It is the responsibility of the grant holder to provide this information to the Programme Management Team. This register, which will be maintained by the grant holder and provided quarterly to the Programme Management Team, will capture and show the following information:

* Date of purchase
* Description of asset
* Type of asset (fixed or mobile)
* Price paid net of recoverable VAT
* Amount of ERDF grant paid
* Location of the asset and of the title deeds
* Serial or identification numbers
* Photograph of item in situ
* Date of disposal
* Sale of proceeds net of VAT

5.5 It is the responsibility of the grant holder to keep individual records for the following reasons:

* It is an essential requirement of European funding;
* To enable the project to complete interim and final claims;
* To monitor the progress and achievement of outputs and expenditure against the Offer Letter and Grant Funding Agreement;
* To provide exact evidence of expenditure (i.e. there must be an audit trail);
* To use as evidence in annual reports;
* For monitoring and audit visits from internal and external parties.

5.6 It is the responsibility of the accountable body to maintain additional records to demonstrate:

* Sufficient audit trail – this should be traceable back to the original documents;
* Evidence of all expenditure;
* Evidence of open and fair procurement of goods and services (see ESIF Requirements);
* Evidence of auditable, accountable match funding;
* Compliance with publicity, equal opportunities and environmental requirements;
* Clear records of businesses supported for State Aid purposes.
1. **PROJECT PUBLICITY**

6.1 All organisations that are provided with ESIF funds to deliver actions that support the Programme outputs and results will be informed of ESIF publicity requirements. Checking adherence to these requirements will form part of the monitoring process. All materials used by grant holders to support the delivery of the project will be required to be provided to the Programme Management Team for approval before use.

6.2 The accountable body must ensure that any publicity used for each project supported through the Folkestone Community Works programme notes the EC’s contribution and that the EC logo is displayed appropriately. The accountable body will keep copies of all publicity (e.g. adverts, press releases, photos, leaflets and posters).

1. **KEY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

7.1 Below is a list of key programme documents, many of which are also listed in the Application Form Guidance Notes and can be also accessed via the website [www**.**folkestonecommunityworks](http://www.folkestonecommunityworks)**.**com

* Folkestone Community Led Local Development: Programme Strategy, November 2016. To access click [here](http://folkestone.works/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Folkestone-CLLD-Strategy-November-2016.pdf)
* Output and result indicator definitions guidance for the European Social Fund; 2014 to 2020 European Growth Programme; August 2018 v2, published October 2018. To access click[here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/506534/MI_definitions__Final_V1_20160210.pdf)
* ESF Data Evidence Requirements – Eligibility and results; 2014 to 2020 European Growth Programme; Version 4; Published October 2019. To access click [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835524/data_evidence_guidance.pdf)
* European Social Fund England Operational Programme 2014-20 published October 2018 To access click [here](EU%20guidances%20%26%20other%20docs%20for%20call%207/ESF_Operational_Programme_2014_2020_Oct%202018.pdf)
* [European Social Fund England Operational Programme 2014-20 Programme Guidance v2, Published 15 December 2016](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/578823/ESF_2014-2020_Programme_Guidance.pdf). To access click [here](EU%20guidances%20%26%20other%20docs%20for%20call%207/ESF%202014-2020%20Operational%20Programme%20Guidance%20vs2%20dec%202016.pdf)
* Volunteer Hourly rates use ONS Work Region Occupation SOC10(4) Table 15.6 hourly pay excluding overtime 2017 revised. Tab All. Use median rates. To access click [here](EU%20guidances%20%26%20other%20docs%20for%20call%207/Work%20Region%20Occupation%20SOC10%20%284%29%20Table%2015.6a%20%20%20Hourly%20pay%20-%20Excluding%20overtime%202017.xls)
* National ESIF Procurement Requirements; 2014 to 2020 European Growth Programme; ESIF-GN-1-001, Version 6; published 16 August 2019. To access click [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592852/ESIF-GN-1-001_ESIF_National_Procurement_Requirements_v5.pdf)
* National Eligibility Rules for 2014-2020 European Social Fund; Version 7; published 11 July 2017. To access click [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626878/ESF_national_eligibility_rules.pdf)
* Procurement Aide Memoire for Applicants and Grant Recipients; 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programme; ESIF-GN-1-007 Version 2 Date published 8 December 2016. To access click [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591555/ESIF_Procurement__Aide_Memoire_for_Applicants_and_Grant_Recipients.pdf)
* State Aid: The Basics Guide; July 2015; Department of Business Innovation and Skills. To access click [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443686/BIS-15-417-state-aid-the-basics-guide.pdf)
* The State Aid Manual; July 2015; Department of Business Innovation and Skills. To access click [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/607691/bis-15-148-state-aid-manual-update.pdf)
* ERDF and ESF Branding and Publicity Requirements; 2014 to 2020 European Growth Programme; ESIF-GN-1-005, Version 8 Date published 1 August 2019. To access click [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/634288/ESIF_Branding_and_Publicity_Requirements.pdf)
* Cross-Cutting Themes Guidance for ESF (Sustainable Development and Equality); 2014 to 2020 European Growth Programme; Version 3 Published 2 August 2018. To access click [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/832417/ESF_Cross_Cutting_Themes_guidance.pdf).
1. **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

CLLD Community-Led Local Development

ESF European Social Fund

ERDF European Regional Development Fund

ESIF European Structural Investment Funds – this is a collective term for ESF and ERDF funding

SME Small Medium Enterprise. A business is defined as an SME if it has < 250 employees and a turnover under €50million. These ceilings apply to the figures for individual firms only. A firm that is part of a larger group may need to include staff headcount/turnover/balance sheet data from that group too. Access further information on the definition of an SME [here](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en).