

Co-financing



<p>Background to Co-financing</p>	<p>Normally ESF provides up to 45% of the costs of a project. The remainder called 'match funding' has to come from other sources. Co-Financing means channelling both ESF money and required match funding to providers in a single funding stream. Bodies that do that will be called co-financing organisations (CFOs). It is anticipated that Co-financing will secure better value for money, ensure that ESF adds more value to the delivery of Government programmes, address the regional priorities in European programmes, allow for innovation and creativity at regional and local levels, promote greater coherence, co-ordination and targeting of provision and reduce bureaucracy and administration for providers. Any CFO must be in a position to provide money from sources other than ESF or another Co Financing Organisation to form a match funding package and it must be in the public sector.</p>
<p>What do Co-financing organisations fund?</p>	<p>CFOs are required to produce individual Co-financing plans that broadly outline where they will concentrate their resource. These plans are backed up with more detailed prospectuses that detail what types of projects and activity are required to address the priorities within the Co-financing plans. All activity must meet the priorities and objectives of the North West ESF Regional Framework and the National Operational Programme. Their role is to bring together ESF and domestic funding for employment and skills so that ESF complements domestic programmes. The Co-financing Organisations contract with the organisations or 'providers' that deliver ESF projects on the ground.</p>
<p>CFOs in the North West</p>	<p>There are three CFOs in the North West: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Department of Work and Pensions/Jobcentre Plus (DWP/JCP) and The National Offender Management Service (NOMS). It is important that activity across the CFOs is complementary and does not duplicate or leave gaps in provision. North West CFOs have been working closely together to develop their programmes and are only operating in priorities and measures that best reflect their areas of operation.</p>
<p>Co-financing through the LSC</p>	<p>The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) run a two stage e-tendering process for their e-procurement round for ESF and mainstream funds. The first stage of the process is a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) followed by the second stage which is an invitation to tender (ITT). Organisations who complete the PQQ correctly become part of the LSCs Qualified Provider Framework and are allowed to go on to tender for LSC contracts. Organisations who do not 'pass' the PQQ can not participate in the tendering process as lead providers.</p> <p>Activities funded under the LSC: for information about what activities the LSC fund under their co-financing prospectus please visit: www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/NorthWest/ESF/ESF+Co-finance+plans/</p>

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<p>Co-financing through DWP/JCP</p>	<p>For the 2007-2013 ESF programme, DWP procurement approach will follow the prime contractor model. The term “Prime Contractor” is used to describe an arrangement under which DWP contracts with a single organisation to undertake the following three main functions: to provide directly a proportion of the specified provision; to sub-contract the remainder of the specified provision to other organisations; to manage and monitor the performance and quality of the sub-contractors as well as all aspects of their own performance.</p> <p>In order to engage with and meet the diverse needs of the key ESF target groups, DWP is clear that successful prime contractors will need to work closely with specialist providers, including the voluntary and community sector. To this end, opportunities for voluntary and community sector organisations lie in sub-contracting specialist provision from the prime contractors. Activities funded under DWP/JCP: for information about what activities DWP/JCP fund under their Co-financing prospectus please visit: www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/european_social_fund.asp</p>								
<p>Co-financing through NOMS</p>	<p>The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) was awarded ESF Co-financing Organisation (CFO) status in February 2009 under the England ESF programme. NOMS is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. It will co-finance ESF activities in all nine English regions to develop the employability of offenders and ex-offenders to help them enter the labour market. NOMS procurement approach will follow the prime contractor model. For information about what activities NOMS fund under their Co-financing prospectus please visit: www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk</p>								
<p>Further Information</p>	<p>If you would like further information on Co-financing please contact the North West Network European Team at:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>North West Network</td> <td>Tel: 0161 236 6493</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Floor, Albert House</td> <td>Fax: 0161 228 6137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 Bloom Street</td> <td>E-Mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manchester, M1 3HZ</td> <td>Website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk</td> </tr> </table>	North West Network	Tel: 0161 236 6493	2nd Floor, Albert House	Fax: 0161 228 6137	17 Bloom Street	E-Mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk	Manchester, M1 3HZ	Website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk
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