

## 2009-10 Funding ESF Match Requirements



Leading learning and skills

### Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this document is to explain the ESF matching funding requirements for providers who have secured funding in the 2009-10 academic year through tendering and allocation. The requirements cover data, notification and the use of logos.

The LSC will be using your programme(s) as match for the 2007-13 ESF (European Social Fund) programme, and this document outlines why this is and what needs to be done.

There is provision within your contract for the LSC to ask for specific data to assist with matching ESF. This document is asking you to collect match.

**European Funding & Other Sources of Funding** "The Council reserves the right to use payments made under this agreement as match funding for European Social Fund Co-Financing Projects. Where requested to do so in writing by the Council, [the Body] shall provide such information in the form needed by the Council to enable the Council to comply with the requirements of the European Social Fund. The [Body] shall, if requested to do so by the Council, inform Learners or others that the Services provided have been financed in whole or part by the European Social Fund."

### What is match?

For the new programme, the LSC is a co-financing organisation (CFOs) in the region with a programme to tackle worklessness and workplace skills issues. To be able to draw down the ESF funds for projects in the region, we need to be able to fund an equal amount of similar activity from our other budgets: this is known as 'match'. Within the West Midlands, the CFOs have secured £260m of ESF funding over the next 6 years to help people into work and improve the competitiveness of the region, but we can only do this if we can identify and document the match funding and learners. The learner information from providers will enable the LSC to draw down these ESF funds for the benefit of the region, and providers may also be successful in tendering for ESF funds themselves.

ESF has moved to 'programme based' matching, where the programmes used as match fall within the scope of the two new ESF priorities: worklessness and employee flexibility. The list below shows the funds/programmes that are currently within scope of ESF match, either in the current or previous academic years. Please note that the main FE participation budgets are not included, unless they are being used for the specific programmes below.

1. Apprenticeships
2. Deprived Area Fund
3. Employability & Skills Programme
4. Entry to Employment
5. NEET
6. OLASS
7. Programme Led Apprenticeships
8. Six Months Offer
9. Twelve Months Offer
10. Skills for Jobs
11. Train to Gain
12. Train to Gain Pre Employment Pilot
13. Working Neighbourhoods Fund

This list may be updated if new funds become available during the academic year.

### **What is required?**

To be able to use these funds as match, providers need to do the following:

- Display an ESF plaque prominently in their premises (many mainstream providers will have these anyway from their ESF contracts),
- Inform all learners that they are on a programme part financed by ESF
- Return of ESF data fields on the ILR

These are explained in more detail below.

### **ESF Plaque**

It is an ESF requirement that projects advertise their ESF/European union links. Providers can do this by securing an ESF plaque in their premises where it can be seen by visitors and learners, by reception, for example, or outside by the entrance.

Providers who do not already have one of these plaques can get them from the LSC; please email [wmesf@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:wmesf@lsc.gov.uk).

When you use the ESF logo, please make sure it is the new logo available from [www.esf.gov.uk](http://www.esf.gov.uk). The new logo is shown at the head of this document.

Additionally, in providing match, the provider becomes part of the ESF Programme and may be asked to take part in publicity or research activities relating to it.

## Informing Learners

During their induction, providers should inform the learners that they are part-funded by ESF. A CD is available from the LSC ([wmesf@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:wmesf@lsc.gov.uk)) explaining the background to ESF. The ESF logo is also on the ILR.

## Learner Data – ESF Data Set

For every learner on 2009-10 contracts, the LSC needs some extra information to be able to report back to Government Office on the learners who have been engaged, both ESF and match funded. Further information is available in the ILR Specification available from the Information Authority ([www.theia.org.uk](http://www.theia.org.uk)).

To provide ESF match, you need to complete 2 extra fields on the learner record.

A66 Employment Status

A67 Length of Unemployment

The Dossier Number (A61) and Local Project Number (A62) are not required for match in the 2009-10 academic year and can be left as 'null' (see ILR specification).

### Please note:

**Employer Responsive (ER) Collections:** For ER collections, the A66 and A67 are mandatory and must be completed for each aim for it to be accepted by the Online Data Collections System (OLDC).

**Learner Responsive (LR) Collections:** For LR collections, A66 and A67 are not mandatory, and the aim will be accepted without them. However, you are requested to complete these aims for the programmes detailed above. The LSC will review LR data regularly to identify aims where these fields are not completed.

The LSC does not currently pull match from other collections.

## 2008-09 Match Data

Where you have had a contract in one of the match programmes above, the LSC may continue to ask you to cleanse data until the closure of all collections for the 0809 academic year. Thank you for your support with this exercise.