

Enterprise M3 Programme Management Group

17 January 2019

EU Programme Update - Item 11

To NOTE the progress on the EU programme.

1. General Update .

- 1.1. The Brexit Support Package for SMEs in the Enterprise M3 area is being launched in January following the partnership working of EM3 LEP with the Enterprise M3 Growth Hub and a number of partners, including the Chambers of Commerce in Surrey and Hampshire, the Federation of Small Business, County Councils, Local Authorities and the Department for International Trade (DIT) on activities to support businesses to prepare for Brexit. The package of support will include 14 workshops hosted at each Local Authority in the area where SMEs can access impartial advice on risk assessment planning for the economic event element of Brexit that will be delivered by the Growth Hub. The events will take place from January to March. The second element of the Brexit Support Package for SMEs is the creation of a Brexit information page and toolkit hosted on the Enterprise M3 Growth Hub website which will be live in January. A direct link will be made to the Enterprise M3 LEP website and those of partners.
- 1.2. We have created an ESF and an ERDF leaflet to promote the fact that funding is still available for projects in the EM3 area in 2019. These will be available as printed leaflets to be used by ourselves and partners at events and pdf versions will be uploaded onto our website and those of our EU project partners in January.
- 1.3. We are also procuring a photographer to create an ESF and an ERDF video to further promote these funds. The videos will include interviews with project managers of successful ESF and ERDF funded projects in the EM3 area at the next ESIF Practitioners Network meeting on 6 February and provide case studies of real-life success stories in our area. These will be completed by mid-March and be available to share online and on social media as part of our Technical Assistance promotional activities of ESF and ERDF funding.
- 1.4. EM3 Internationalisation Programme, led by Hampshire County Council (on behalf of Enterprise M3 LEP) worth £977,293 ERDF has been submitted and is at the outline stage to be assessed at the next ESIF Committee Meeting on 21 January 2019. The project output target is to support 350 SMEs in the EM3 area to internationalise their activities.

2. European Social Fund (ESF)

- 2.1. Taking into consideration the revised exchange rate, 52,8% of our ESF allocation is published including 14% live calls, 30.8% contracted, 4,4% in the pipeline, 11% ESF spent,
- 2.2. We have 3 direct live calls opened on 24th October closing on 14th January 2019. We ran an ESF event in Farnborough on 16th November 2018 and launched £2.5m to include: - £1m ESF for 'Constructions skills for the unemployed', - £0.5m ESF for 'STEM skills', - £1m ESF for 'Retraining for a Fuller Working Life'. Over 20 representatives attended from FE colleges and Local Authorities.
- 2.3. Our aggregated payment claim for our ESF Technical Assistance Project from October 2015 up to June 2018 for £22,993.47 of ESF grant funding, worth £22,596.99 to Enterprise M3 has passed the verification process and payment is expected soon.

- 2.4. We have submitted the payment claim for our ESF Technical Assistance Project for July, August and September 2018 for £3301.32 of ESF grant funding worth £1639.67 to Enterprise M3 in December. We are working on the next payment claim for October, November and December 2018 which will be submitted to DWP, the Managing Authority by the end of January.
- 2.5. We submitted a request for an extension through a project change request to extend the delivery of the ESF TA project until 31 December 202. We are not requesting any additional budget, just an extension of time delivery and a couple of additional deliverables with the production of a promotional video and the mandatory evaluation at the end of the delivery period.

3. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

- 3.1 Taking into consideration the revised exchange rate, 82% of our ERDF allocation is published, 20% of applications in process, 22% contracted and 8.8% ERDF spent.
- 3.2 The most recent round of ERDF calls closed on Friday 23 November 2018. There was only one outline application submitted which was our EM3 Internationalisation Programme.
- 3.3 Our ERDF TA extension has passed the outline assessment and we will submit the project change request in January. Another round of ERDF calls will be launched in April/May.
- 3.4 The ERDF Technical Assistance (TA) Project payment claim submitted in October for July, August and September 2018 with £14,053.25 of ERDF grant funding, worth £13,734.02 to Enterprise M3 has passed verification and payment is due soon. We are working on the next payment claim for October, November and December 2018 which will be submitted by the end of January.
- 3.5 The ERDF Technical Assistance project Summative Assessment has been completed by Katharine Hughes, Insight and Engagement Manager from Hampshire County Council. This independent evaluation of our ERDF Technical Assistance project provides a valuable review of the success of this project and lessons learnt which was submitted to MHCLG, the Managing Authority in December. Katharine and her team interviewed project partners and collated feedback from the evaluation forms from the various ERDF specification launch events during the project as part of the assessment criteria. The staff hours claimed for this work has enabled Hampshire County Council to utilise their underspend on the ERDF TA project. The power point presentation and written report are available upon request. All outputs that were within our control for the project have been hit or exceeded.

4 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

- 4.1 100% of EAFRD allocation is published and calls are closed now with 14% projects contracted.
- 4.2 From the 42 expression of Interests received at the last call, 16 have been invited to progress to Full Application and 2 are in assessment. If everything goes through we shall be 34% over committed on EAFRD.

5 Next ESIF Committee

- 5.1 The next ESIF Committee will take place on 21 January 2019.

Kathy Vuillaume/Susan George 3 January 2019