

Embedding Social Inclusion: A framework to support LEP investment strategies for the 2014-20 EU Structural and Investment Fund programme

August 2013

Introduction

This framework forms the basis of a practical methodology for addressing Social Inclusion issues in the next European Union Structural & Investment Funds (SIF) Programme 2014-20. This guidance is designed for use by the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in shaping the sector's views on social inclusion in relation to local growth. It is intended to support the sector to formulate a response to Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) boards: helping them develop a considered approach to addressing social exclusion and combating poverty through their EU investment strategy. In doing so it may also be useful or relevant for use by LEPs themselves or by other statutory or civil society partners in identifying the contribution of social inclusion towards growth objectives and achieving inclusive growth across their areas.

In the next programme of the EU SIF, there is a requirement to use a minimum of 20 percent of the value of the European Social Fund (ESF) on projects/activities/interventions that address social exclusion. Each LEP board is required to put forward a plan on how this will be achieved as part of their Investment and Growth Plan for the EU SIF programme. In addition to this specific requirement there are added economic benefits of considering social inclusion perspectives across other strands of investment activity.

This framework is a tool to help embed the principle of social inclusion across LEP thinking as well as being a distinct strand. This approach this will also support the LEP towards meeting the requirements of the cross-cutting theme on Equality & Anti-Discrimination.

For the purposes of this exercise the following definition of social inclusion is provided by the European Commission:

Social inclusion and combating poverty is defined as provision for those beneficiaries furthest away from the labour market. Provision should assist in improving employability, promoting active inclusion and combating discrimination in a holistic and integrated way, including early action before problems become entrenched, outreach activities and access to locally provided services. Target groups can include those people with caring responsibilities, minority ethnic groups, those requiring debt and money management assistance and those people who experience digital exclusion. In addition, provision can assist in reducing drug and alcohol dependency; improving educational attainment (particularly due to lack of basic literacy and numeracy and those with ESOL needs); improving family, parenting and relationship intervention; improving access to flexible and affordable childcare, addressing health problems (including mental health); homelessness; learning difficulties and disabilities; life skills; offending; and access to transport.

Allocations for social inclusion activity are large with a national indicative allocation of EU SIF purely for social inclusion is in the region of €500m. Prioritising and spending this level of EU investment within EU timescales will require careful planning. In order to do this we need to be clear on the local social inclusion priorities, delivery mechanisms and potential sources of match funding that can support effective activity to take place. Please note however that this work is required with urgency. LEPs are expected to submit draft investment strategies by **7 October 2013**. It is important that advice on the broad social inclusion issues and needs are submitted by **early September** at the latest in order to be of practical support and to be considered for inclusion. After September there will be time to negotiate further around delivery models and commissioning.

Social Inclusion (SI) Assessment Framework

Please respond to each question from the perspective of your organisation, evidencing the reasons for your position and referencing any additional supporting data or intelligence.

NB this is a suggested framework but we encourage users to add to questions and explanations using detail pertinent to their local LEP to aid the gathering of data and local intelligence.

1	Identification of need and priorities		
	<p><i>Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty</i> is a specified priority within the 2014-20 EU SIF programme. Within this theme the sorts of activities that can be supported include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ tackling barriers to work, ▪ tackling barriers to participation, ▪ combating discrimination in the workplace, ▪ growing the social investment market, ▪ supporting bottom-up and community-led approaches to local development (CLLD) initiatives, ▪ community grants, ▪ fair access to services (rural) ▪ developing the capacity of community groups to participate in delivery of any of these services <p>Use this section to articulate current information relating to poverty and exclusion across the area using local authority data and other local intelligence.</p>		
		Response	Evidence
1a	From your experience what groups and communities (of place or identity) are most at risk of social exclusion or experience the highest levels of social exclusion?		

1b	Considering the types of intervention and support listed above, which of these approaches deliver the best outcomes for those groups identified in 1a?		
1c	Other comments or issues?		

2 Successful approaches and methods for promoting social inclusion			
	Community Led Local Development (CLLD) is one tool available to the LEP to use in addressing very localised issues if it chooses to do so. CLLD is usually a partnership between public, private and civil society sectors coming together to address local priorities. Partnerships can be highly empowering for local communities in identifying and then developing solutions to their own priorities. LEPs can choose whether or not to use CLLD approaches in addressing SI issues but will also need to understand alternative ways of working that will deliver successful results in addition or in place of CLLD		
		Response	Evidence
2a	What specific ways of working have you found to deliver the best results in promoting social inclusion or combating poverty for the communities identified in 1a?		
2b	Do you have experience of approaches that have been tried that have resulted in poor or unwanted outcomes for the communities identified in 1a that should be excluded from the LEP strategy?		
2c	Do you support the use of CLLD approaches in the LEP area, and if so, how is it best used for greatest impact?		
2d	Other comments or issues?		

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3 Links between SI and other thematic priorities			
	There are a number of thematic national priorities that the LEP will need to address within their EU SIF strategy and others that are optional on the basis of identified local need and opportunity. For each of these priorities (listed below) please identify any social inclusion issues that may form a barrier to the achievement of these objectives or particular ways in which SI could be embedded within the delivery approach.		
		Response	Evidence
3a	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation		
3b	Enhancing access to, use and quality of information and communication technologies		
3c	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises		
3d	Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy		
3e	Promoting employment and supporting labour market mobility		
3f	Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning		

	Potential local priorities – these priorities are eligible for EU investment but have not been identified as national priorities by Government. In this section please include perspectives as to whether these are local priorities and how they link or contribute to the wider SI agenda – please evidence your comments.		
3g	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management		

3h	Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency		
3i	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructure		

4	Financial strategies to support social inclusion		
	<p>LEPs are expected to spend a minimum of 20 percent of the ESF element of their allocation on activities that promote SI and combat poverty. The supplementary guidance issued to LEPs by government in July 2013 details an offer from BIG Lottery Fund to match fund all or part of each LEPs social inclusion allocation. The assumption is that LEPs will take match funding from BIG Lottery Fund for at least half their SI allocation for the first two years of the programme as a minimum unless they choose to 'opt-out'. The BIG Lottery Fund will match and allocate the proportion of funds opted in (from 50 percent to 100 percent for the first two years) and the match through its own systems, under the strategic direction of the LEP. In this case how the LEP effects that strategic direction and synergy with other aspects of the Programme will need careful development.</p> <p>If LEP's choose not to opt-in to the BIG Lottery Fund match funding element, the LEP will need to demonstrate that match funding for SI can be found locally.</p> <p>NB. Ncvo have produced a more detailed analysis of the BIG Lottery Fund offer. This can be viewed at http://europeanfundingnetwork.eu/policy/cohesion-policy-2014-2020/local-enterprise-partnerships</p>		
		Response	Evidence
4a	Is 20 percent an appropriate allocation for the LEP in consideration of the other priorities listed in three OR should the LEP consider spending more than 20 percent		

	of the ESF allocation on SI and anti-poverty objectives? Please justify answer.		
4b	How could BIG Lottery Fund match usefully support the delivery of local social inclusion objectives? Should the LEP accept the maximum possible BIG Lottery Fund offer of match funding or leave flexibility for identification of local match?		
4c	Are there other financial tools and mechanisms that you would like the LEP to consider in helping to address poverty and social exclusion e.g. community grants, social impact bonds or social investment products?		
4d	There are a number of national products/programmes that the LEP can choose to opt-in to in order to provide additional value to the EU funding programme. These are detailed in the supplementary guidance for LEP's (see Link below). What would be the value in opting into a national programme? Are there any programmes that would support the delivery of social inclusion work?		
4e	Other comments or issues?		

5	Programme vision, management and governance
	The LEP will need to articulate a vision for SI as a contributor to local growth as part of their overall

	strategic approach. What should this vision say and how can the internal systems and process put in place by the LEP ensure that they positively support and enhance that vision?		
		Response	Evidence
5a	How should the LEP articulate a vision for social inclusion within a context of local growth?		
5b	How can performance of the programme be managed in such a way that it does not become a barrier to projects which will address social issues? E.g. reducing bureaucracy, proportionality, appropriate commissioning models		
5c	How can the LEP ensure that governance reflects the need to deliver against SI objectives; both in isolation and in relation to other strategic objectives?		
5d	Other comments or issues?		

Useful resources

The Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion is the UK's leading not-for-profit company dedicated to tackling disadvantage and promoting social inclusion in the labour market and have toolkits and statistical information on areas such as child poverty and social exclusion: www.cesi.org.uk

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and the recognised national statistical institute of the UK and has statistics relating to poverty and social exclusion for 2005-2011: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/household-income/poverty-and-social-exclusion-in-the-uk-and-eu/2005-2011/rpt--poverty-and-social-exclusion.html

The Poverty and Social Exclusion (PSE) website has been developed to support the Poverty and Social Exclusion in the United Kingdom research project and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The first results from the PSE: UK 2012 from the PSE UK team can be found in their report, 'The impoverishment of the UK': www.poverty.ac.uk/pse-research

Government's guidance on the Development and Delivery of EU Structural and Investment Funds Strategies, supplementary guidance for Local Enterprise Partnership's – July 2013. This guide provides additional information and about some of the opt-in options for LEP's and flexibilities: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224755/13-1049-development-and-delivery-european-and-investment-fund-strategies-guidance-for-leps.pdf

Government's initial guidance for LEPs and the technical annexe: www.gov.uk/government/publications/development-of-eu-structural-and-investment-fund-strategies-preliminary-guidance-to-local-enterprise-partnerships

One East Midlands has published a policy briefing on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and their role in the 2014-20 EU Funding Programme: www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/oneemleppolicybriefing

One East Midlands

One East Midlands is the regional voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisation for the East Midlands. We work to ensure that the voluntary and community sector is actively engaged with key regional bodies and other partners, from across the public, statutory, business and social enterprise sectors. We bring together organisations that support voluntary and community groups across the region to influence and shape policy, improve services and provide a point of contact at a regional level. For further information visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk.

Regional Voices

Regional Voices is the collaboration of the nine VCS regional networks across England. The Regional Voices collective connects directly to over 25,000 voluntary and community organisations across England connecting local groups to national policy changes that will affect them and their communities. Our coverage is broad, deep and well established. For further information and membership details visit www.regionalvoices.org

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