

## Working for you in the East of England



Your four Conservative MEPs for the Eastern of England  
Robert Sturdy, Geoffrey Van Orden, Vicky Ford and David Campbell Bannerman

*A PDF of this publication – with active links to all the websites listed in this booklet – is available from these sites:*

[www.geoffreyvanorden.com](http://www.geoffreyvanorden.com) [www.robertsturdymep.com](http://www.robertsturdymep.com)  
[www.vickyford.org](http://www.vickyford.org) [www.dcbmep.org](http://www.dcbmep.org)

Produced by Geoffrey Van Orden, Robert Sturdy, Vicky Ford and David Campbell Bannerman – Conservative MEPs for the East of England



# How to unlock funding from the EU

A practical guide to obtaining funding in the East of England for

Companies  
Farmers  
Individuals  
Non-governmental and  
civil society organisations  
Public bodies  
Researchers



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## Dear Reader



Geoffrey Van Orden MEP

As we go around the East of England, we are often asked how to unlock funding from the European Union – this booklet provides you with advice and help.

Finding funding for any project can be a nightmare; we all know the pressures on councillors and community groups trying to fill in extensive application forms. The process is often long, complicated and time consuming.

Trying to get money out of the European Union carries extra complications in that, too often, people don't know what funding is available, how to apply for it or where to go for advice.

Although we may not agree with how the EU spends money, if there is money on the table then we all need to ensure that as much of it flows into the Eastern region as possible. This is an important issue as, after all, this is British taxpayers' money recycled through Brussels.

We have listed where to go for advice, summarising the funding options available to various groups and then explaining the funding streams.

We hope this will prove helpful in explaining what is out there and where to go to get it, before the new five year budget comes into effect in 2014. Please always check the appropriate websites for up to date information.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Van Orden

Robert Sturdy

Vicky Ford

David Campbell Bannerman



Robert Sturdy MEP



Vicky Ford MEP



David Campbell Bannerman MEP

## Where to start?

**Getting EU funding can be a complicated business, particularly for the un-initiated, but there are several places that you can go for advice, most of which is internet based.**

### So where to start looking?

#### EU Connects

This is a new team of four advisors in the East of England dedicated to helping potential applicants navigate their way through EU funding streams.

[www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/eu-connects.aspx](http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/eu-connects.aspx)

#### Companies and SMEs

The **Enterprise Europe Network** has over 600 partner organisations in **over 40 countries**.

[www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu](http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu)

#### Other applicants

Non-business applicants could contact **Europe Direct** on 00 800 67 89 10 11

[http://europa.eu/europedirect/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm)

### Additional advice can also be found through

#### The EUROPA portal

The EU Commission has sites offering a range of advice on grants and public contracts.

[http://ec.europa.eu/contracts\\_grants](http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants)

#### The Eastern Region

Some EU funds can be accessed at both National and Regional level. At the back of this booklet we have a contact list for East of England councils, EU Connects, the European Commission UK Office and the East UK Brussels Office.

#### Professional bodies

Some of the EU funds are job specific, so you may find that your professional organisation already has links that you can exploit.

# Background to the process

**The Commission awards money in the form of grants in order to implement projects or activities in relation to European Union policies. The grant beneficiaries are mainly private or public organisations and, occasionally, a specific individual.**

## **Grants**

Since grants cover a very diverse range, the specific conditions that need to be fulfilled will vary. However, some basic principles apply in every case.

- Grants are a form of complementary financing. The EU does not finance projects up to 100% within its own borders.
- Grants enable a given operation to break even financially and cannot lead to a profit for their beneficiaries.
- Grants cannot be awarded retroactively for actions that are already completed.

In addition, only one grant may be awarded for the same action. Instead, they are subject to annual programming.

## **Application process**

Before 31 March each year, Departments of the Commission publish their annual work programme on their internet site.

The work programme fixes the broad outlines of the grants that are envisaged over the year (area of activity, objectives, timetable, budget, etc).

Subsequently, the Commission's Departments publish calls for proposals on their internet sites; the calls for proposals invite candidates to present, within a given deadline, a proposal for action that corresponds to the objectives pursued and fulfils the required conditions.

All applications are examined and evaluated on the basis of criteria that have been announced in the calls for proposals, candidates are individually informed of the final decision concerning their proposal.

## **Beneficences**

By 30 June of each year, the Commission Departments publish on their internet sites the list of the grants that they awarded during the previous year, except those awarded in the form of scholarships to individuals.

## **Exceptional grants**

*Some grants are exceptionally awarded directly to certain beneficiaries without a call for proposals, such as humanitarian aid in a disaster zone.*

# Types of applicants

## Companies

- If you are an SME, you may benefit from EU funding through grants, loans and guarantees. There are also several programmes and business support services that might be applicable.
- SMEs can usually apply for the programmes if they present sustainable, value-added and trans-national projects.
- The initiative **JEREMIE** enables Member States and regions to use part of their structural funds to provide guarantees for loans as well as equity and venture capital finance to SMEs.

## Farmers

- Most farmers are eligible to receive direct payments, the major form of EU funding in agriculture. Money is to support farmers' incomes in return for them respecting standards of environmental protection, animal welfare, food safety and keeping the land in good condition.

## Individuals

- If you want to study abroad the **Erasmus** programme may help.
- The **Comenius** programme also provides opportunities for those in school education up to the end of upper secondary education.
- **Leonardo da Vinci** offers opportunities for those in vocational education and training.

The **Youth in Action** programme co-funds projects which reinforce active civic engagement of young people, as well as providing help for youth workers. It is open for anyone aged 15 to 28.

## Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations (NGOs)

- NGOs are involved in many areas covered by EU policies on a non-profit basis, a pre-condition for receiving funding from EU coffers.
- Funding is available both under programmes run by national and local authorities via 'structural funds', as well as Commission programmes.
- It is estimated that over €1,000 million a year is allocated to NGO projects by the Commission.
- An NGO may receive two types of funding either for a concrete proposal via an Action Grant, or by subsidising your organisation's activities via an Operating Grant.

## Public bodies

- Cohesion Policy is where most funding for local infrastructure projects or initiatives to boost employment comes from. This money is available through programmes under structural funds.
- Funding from the **European Social Fund** will be available for national and local administrations to strengthen their institutions and activities.
- **JESSICA** (funds which support urban renewal and development projects) and **JASPERS** (which covers technical, economic and financial aspects of a project) are two initiatives designed to support public administration and local authorities.
- The **Europe for Citizens** programme offers funding opportunities for town-twinning initiatives.
- Projects aimed at increasing public security can be co-financed from EU coffers. Public bodies dealing with law enforcement, crime prevention and the protection of victims and witnesses may receive funding from the **Prevention and Fight against Crime** programme.

## Researchers

- The **7th Framework** (FP7) is the EU's main body for funding research. This is likely to be replaced by a new Horizons project from 2014.
- **FP7** has five major 'building blocks' or specific programmes:
  - Co-operation.
  - Ideas.
  - People.
  - Capacities.
  - Nuclear research.
- **FP7** is based on co-financing. The standard reimbursement rate is 50%, although some organisations can receive up to 75% funding. Certain activities may be reimbursed up to 100% of the eligible costs.
- **European Research Council** provides research grants to individuals in frontier research.

# Funding programmes in the East of England

## *Funds allocated to the East of England*

### **East of England Competitiveness Programme**

*Towards low carbon economic development*

This fund is specifically dedicated to the East of England and may therefore be the first port of call for local authorities wishing to access EU funds.

Under the 2007 to 2013 programme, the region can receive €110.9m of European investment.

The programme will support low carbon economic growth until 2013. Funding supports initiatives that meet the programme's three priorities:

- Promote innovation and knowledge transfer to improve productivity.
- Stimulate enterprise and support successful business by overcoming barriers to business creation and expansion.
- Ensure sustainable development, production and consumption.

[www.communities.gov.uk/regeneration/regenerationfunding/europeanregionaldevelopment/eastengland/application](http://www.communities.gov.uk/regeneration/regenerationfunding/europeanregionaldevelopment/eastengland/application).

### **East of England Low Carbon Innovation Fund for SMEs**

The Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF) is a venture capital fund. It was initially seeded with £8m from the East of England Competitiveness Programme and matched with private sector investment.

The fund will make early-stage equity investments into small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) within the East of England that are developing new and innovative products or processes in a low carbon, environmentally sensitive manner.

[www.lowcarbonfund.co.uk](http://www.lowcarbonfund.co.uk).

### **European Social Fund**

The European Social Fund (ESF) aims to help people fulfil their potential by giving them better skills and better job prospects. It supports the EU's goal of increasing employment by giving unemployed and disadvantaged people the training and support they need to enter jobs.

ESF also equips the workforce with the skills needed by business in a competitive global economy.

#### **Objectives**

As one of the EU's Structural Funds, ESF seeks to reduce differences in prosperity across the EU and enhance economic and social cohesion. So although ESF funding is spread across all the EU, most money goes to those countries and regions where economic development is less advanced.

#### **Funding and eligibility**

The 2007 to 2013 England ESF programme is investing £5 billion, of which £2.5 billion is from the ESF and £2.5 billion is national funding. Any legally constituted organisation or partnership may apply to operate an eligible scheme.

[www.dwp.gov.uk/esf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/esf).

### **Rural Development Programme for England**

Provides support for land-based rural industries, environmental compliance and diversification of rural areas.

#### **Objectives**

- Improving the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sectors.
- Improving the environment and the countryside.
- Improving quality of life and encouraging diversification of the rural economy.

#### **Funding and eligibility**

The UK's rural development allocation for the current seven year period (from 2007 to 2013) is approximately £1.3 billion.

[www.dpenetwork.defra.gov.uk](http://www.dpenetwork.defra.gov.uk).

## Funding for research

### Seventh Framework Programme (FP 7)

This is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it will run from 2007 to 2013. FP7 is also designed to respond to Europe's employment needs, competitiveness and quality of life.

#### Objectives

The EU budget for FP7 from 2007 to 2013 is €51 billion. The structure of FP7 is based on four specific programmes: Co-operation, Ideas, People, Capacities – as well as the European Commission in-house research facility, the Joint Research Centre.

#### Funding and eligibility

Open to collaborating organisations, typically being a mix of industrial and research organisations.

There should be at least two organisations from different EU member states making a significant contribution to a project, and they should be independent of each other.

[www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7](http://www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7).

### European Research Council

The goal of the ERC is encourage high quality research through competitive funding. It aims to promote curiosity driven frontier research. The 2007 to 2013 budget is €7.5 billion. Over 2,200 grants have been awarded to date.

The ERC grants are typically to individual scientists of excellence. The ERC counts **three Nobel prize winners** and **three Fields Medallists** among its grant holders.

<http://erc.europa.eu>.

### Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme

Aims to enhance the quality of life of older people and strengthen the industrial base in Europe through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

#### Objectives

- Support maintaining health and functional capability of the elderly.
- Promote a better and healthier lifestyle for individuals at risk.
- Extend the time people can live in their preferred environment by increasing their autonomy, self-confidence and mobility.

#### Funding and eligibility

The programme's total budget is €700 million for 2008 to 2013.

Open to research consortia with a minimum of three project partners from three different AAL Partner States. The participation of companies and end-user organisations is mandatory.

[www.aal-europe.eu](http://www.aal-europe.eu)

## Other funding for businesses

### Eco-innovation

This programme is particularly relevant to SMEs to support the take up of new production processes, products or services and new management and business methods that are likely to prevent or reduce the risks to the environment.

#### Objectives

- Promote the adoption of new and integrated approaches to eco-innovation in fields such as environmental management, products, processes and services.
- Encourage the uptake of environmental solutions by increasing the market and by the removal of barriers to market penetration.
- Increase innovation capacities of SMEs.

#### Funding and eligibility

Nearly €200 million has been earmarked for eco-innovation projects for the period 2008 to 2013.

[www.ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation).

### Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)

Supports innovation, eco-innovation and SMEs through a range of measures.

#### Objectives

The EIP provides for a variety of actions to support, promote and improve SME development through access to finance, co-operation, innovation in enterprise; eco-innovation; entrepreneurship and innovation culture; and related economic and administrative reform.

#### Funding and eligibility

EIP is an initiative designed to assist enterprises in the various Member States.

[www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals](http://www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals).

### European Investment Bank

The EIB is the long-term financing institution of the European Union and its mission is to help implement the EU's policy objectives by financing sound business projects. The Bank operates on a 'not for profit' basis and borrows on the capital markets to finance these projects.

#### Objectives

- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Economic and Social Cohesion and Convergence i.e. supporting the economically less developed regions of Europe.
- Implementation of the knowledge economy.
- Development of Trans-European Networks (TENs). TENs are large infrastructure networks of transport, energy and telecommunications.
- Protecting and improving the environment and promoting sustainable communities.
- Supporting the establishment of a sustainable, competitive and secure energy supply.

#### Funding and eligibility

The EIB offers a wide range of products and services to both public and private sector organisations in the forms of loans, technical assistance, guarantees, venture capital or micro-finance. In 2010, the EIB provided €10 billion of finance to over 160,000 SMEs.

[www.eib.org/index.htm](http://www.eib.org/index.htm).

### JEREMIE: Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises

An initiative of the Commission together with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF) in order to promote increased access to finance for the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the EU.

#### Objectives

The role of the holding fund will be to organise calls for expressions of interest addressed to all interested financial intermediaries, such as venture or seed capital funds, start-ups, technology or technology transfer funds, guarantee or mutual guarantee funds, loan funds, micro credit providers, etc.

On the basis of its specific expertise, the holding fund, working closely with the managing authority, will evaluate, select and accredit financial intermediaries. It will be able to provide them with equity, loans or guarantees, as well as technical assistance, as appropriate.

#### Funding and eligibility

Structural funds provide financial assistance in the form of grants. Under JEREMIE, you can transform part of the grants into financial products. SMEs use financial products and will then reimburse the amounts.

Only available to financial intermediaries and public authorities acting as managing authorities of ERDF programmes who wish to involve financial intermediaries in their operational programmes.

[www.ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jeremie\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jeremie_en.htm).

### **JESSICA: Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas**

An initiative of the Commission in co-operation with the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank in order to promote sustainable investment, growth and jobs in Europe's urban areas.

#### **Objectives**

JESSICA will offer the managing authorities of Structural Fund programmes the possibility to take advantage of outside expertise and to have greater access to loan capital for the purpose of promoting urban development, including loans for social housing where appropriate.

Programme contributions to urban development funds will be revolving and help to enhance the sustainability of the investment effort. The programme contributions will be used to finance loans provided by the urban development funds to the final beneficiaries, backed by guarantee schemes established by the funds and the participating banks.

#### **Funding and eligibility**

Where a managing authority wishes to participate, it would contribute resources from the programme while the EIP, financial institutions, private bank and investors would contribute additional loan of equity capital as appropriate.

[www.ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jessica\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jessica_en.htm).

## Other funding

### **Community Programme**

This complements, supports and monitors the policies of Member States and contributes to protecting the health, safety, economic and legal interests of consumers.

#### **Objectives**

- To ensure a high level of consumer protection, notably through improved evidence, better consultation and better representation of consumers' interests.
- To ensure the effective application of consumer protection rules; in particular enforcement, co-operation, information, education and redress.

#### **Funding and eligibility**

Participation in the programme involves public bodies, non-governmental and non-profit making organisations and, in some cases, higher education institutions based in EU Member States.

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm).

### **Culture 2007 to 2013 Programme**

Aims to support projects and initiatives to celebrate Europe's diverse cultures and enhance appreciation of our shared cultural heritage.

#### **Objectives**

- To promote cross-border mobility of those working in the cultural sector.
- To encourage the transnational circulation of culture and art.
- To foster intercultural dialogue.

#### **Funding and eligibility**

The programme is open to cultural operators based in the EU Member States; EFTA countries which are members of the EEA, Candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy; the countries of the Western Balkans.

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm)

### Daphne III

The programme supports research and exchange of best practice in matters relating to violence against women, young people and children.

#### Objectives

The programme relates to issues of public health, human rights, gender equality, as well as actions aimed at the protection of children's rights and the fight against the trafficking of human beings and sexual exploitation. Prevention, support and protection are the key measures being championed.

#### Funding and eligibility

It is open to participation by local public authorities and institutions (mainly universities and research institutes) as well as NGOs.

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/daphnetoolkit/html/welcome/dpt\\_welcome\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/daphnetoolkit/html/welcome/dpt_welcome_en.html).

### Drug Prevention and Information

This is a small and recently established funding programme aimed at supporting the exchange of best practices and development of new approaches on prevention and treatment strategies.

#### Objectives

- To prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug-related harms.
- To contribute to the improvement of information on drug use.
- To support the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy.

#### Funding and eligibility

Local authorities, university departments, research centres and NGOs can apply to this funding programme.

[www.ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/drugs/funding\\_drugs\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/drugs/funding_drugs_en.htm).

### ESPON II

Spatial analysis and mapping research projects.

#### Objectives

- Support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and development of the European territory.
- Provide comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions and larger territories.
- Facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and potentials and contribute to improving European competitiveness.

#### Funding and eligibility

Calls for proposals will be open to public and public equivalent bodies.

[www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu).

### European Fisheries Fund (EEF)

The EEF supports restructuring in the European fishing industry.

#### Objectives

- To support the Common Fisheries Policy and promote environmentally friendly fishing and production.
- To promote a sustainable balance between resources and the capacity of the community fleet and a sustainable development of inland fishing.
- To strengthen the economic competitiveness of enterprises in the fisheries sector.

#### Funding and eligibility

To provide funding for economic entities in the fishing and related marketing and processing industries and the bodies active in the regeneration of coastal fishery areas.

[www.ec.europa.eu/fisheries](http://www.ec.europa.eu/fisheries)

[www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/funding/eff.htm](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/funding/eff.htm).

## European Integration Fund

Aims to facilitate the integration of non-EU citizens into European societies.

### Objectives

- Implementation of actions designed to put the 'Common Basic Principles for immigration integration policy in the European Union' into practice.
- Development of indicators and methodologies to assess progress, adjust policies and measures and to facilitate co-ordination of comparative learning.
- Helping to improve co-ordination and intercultural competence across the many levels of local and national governments.
- Exchange of ideas and information on integration across the EU.

### Funding and eligibility

National, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, public or private bodies working on a non-profit basis with an expertise on immigration issues are eligible for this Fund.

[http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/integration/funding\\_integration\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm).

## Europe for Citizens

The programme targets local and regional authorities, municipalities and town twinning committees.

### Objectives

- To give citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing an ever closer Europe, thus developing citizenship of the European Union.
- Foster a sense of ownership of the EU among its citizens and develop a European Identity promoting its values and achievements.
- Respect and promote cultural and linguistic diversity.

### Funding and eligibility

Funding goes towards citizen meetings through the town twinning mechanism for example, local authorities and organisations, educational institutions and citizens' groups.

[www.ec.europa.eu/citizenship](http://www.ec.europa.eu/citizenship).

## External Co-operation Programmes

Co-operation with partner countries and regions to help developing countries.

### Objectives

- Enlargement: deals with pre-accession countries as well as post-accession countries in their development and restructuring.
- Neighbourhood policy: the aim is to bridge the economic, social and cultural gap between the EU and its neighbours.
- Development: supports development co-operation to achieve Millennium Development goals for economic co-operation and for horizontal, thematic and global initiatives.
- Stability: it may be used in response to political crisis, natural disasters and peace support.
- Bilateral relations: opportunities to engage in projects between the EU and the USA, Canada, Latin America and Asia.

### Funding and eligibility

Local and regional, universities and research centres. There are also business opportunities for the private sector.

[www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu).

## ICT Policy Support Programme

This is a programme to encourage the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses via network-building and exchange of knowledge and best practice.

### Objectives

The objectives are pursued through the implementation of annual work programmes comprising a set of measures, for example:

- Policy analysis, development and co-ordination with participating countries.
- Information sharing, dissemination and awareness raising.
- Support for joint actions of Member States of regions.
- Procurement based on technical specifications elaborated in co-operation with the Member States.
- Twinning between authorities at national and regional level.

### Funding and eligibility

It is designed to assist enterprises in the Member States of the European Union. Both public and private organisations, including SMEs, may participate in appropriate actions.

[www.ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp](http://www.ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp).

### Intelligent Energy – Europe II Programme (IEE)

Actions geared towards securing a sustainable and competitive energy for Europe.

#### Objectives

The objectives of the programme are to encourage the wider uptake of new and renewable energies, improve energy efficiency and foster compliance with the EU energy regulatory framework, as well as helping increase the level of investment in new and best performing technologies.

#### Funding and eligibility

The objectives of IEE are pursued through the implementation of annual work programmes comprising a set of measures, such as:

- Community financial instruments for SMEs.
- Networks bringing together a variety of stakeholders.
- Pilot projects, market replication, projects and other measures to support the take-up of innovation.

[www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent](http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent).

### INTERREG IV A - 'Manche' France-England

Encourages co-operation between EU regions across the Channel in areas of regional/economic development. Available only for coastal council areas i.e. Essex CC, Norfolk CC, Southend-on-Sea, Suffolk CC, Thurrock.

#### Objectives

The strategic objective is to support the emergence of a common space of citizenship, a sense of belonging to a cross-border area with a unique identity through the development of durable co-operation between partners on both sides of the cross-border zone. The scheme has five goals:

- To reinforce the sense of belonging and raise awareness of common interests.
- To build partnerships for cross-border economic development.
- To build an attractive region to live in and visit.
- To ensure a sustainable environmental development of the common space.
- A common priority with the INTERREG IVA Two Seas Operational ('North') Programme.

<http://interreg4a-manche.eu>.

### INTERREG IV A – 'Two Seas'

Encourages co-operation between EU regions across the Channel in areas of regional/economic development (ERDF).

#### Objectives

To develop the competitiveness and sustainable growth potential of the programme area's maritime and non-maritime assets through building and advancing partnerships of cross border co-operation, focusing on:

- Supporting an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area.
- Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment and improving quality of life.
- Common priority with the France 'Manche' – England programme.

[www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/en](http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/en).

### INTERREG IV B - Atlantic Area

Encourages co-operation between EU regions across the Atlantic Area in areas of regional/economic development (ERDF).

#### Objectives

The prime objective is to achieve significant and tangible progress in transnational co-operation geared towards cohesive sustainable and balanced territorial development of the Atlantic Area and its maritime heritage. It focuses on:

- Promoting transnational entrepreneurial and innovation networks.
- A need to protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment in a sustainable manner.
- Improving accessibility and internal links.
- Promoting transnational synergies in sustainable urban and regional development.

<http://atlanticarea.ccdr-n.pt>.

## INTERREG IV B – European Union

Encourages co-operation between EU regions across Europe in areas of regional/economic development (ERDF).

### Objectives

It is designed to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by promoting inter-regional co-operation across the entire EU territory and neighbouring countries in order to promote innovation and the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention.

### Funding and eligibility – for all INTERREG programmes

Both UK and transnational organisations are eligible to apply through partnerships having members from at least two countries – one must be from the EU.

Please note that for INTERREG IVB – European Union, partnerships must involve partners who represent at least three EU member states. The private sector can participate only at their own expense or as sub-contractors.

[www.interreg4c.net](http://www.interreg4c.net).

## LIFE +

Supports innovative development projects with a strong emphasis on nature and biodiversity, environment policy and governance and information and communication.

### Objectives

- Life + Nature and Biodiversity  
To protect, conserve, restore, monitor and facilitate the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources, within the EU.
- Life + Environment Policy and Governance  
Will co-finance projects that contribute to the implementation of community environmental policy.
- Life + Information and Communication  
To ensure regular and effective information flow in order to provide the basis for policy decisions on the environment and to make information on the state and trends of the environment accessible to citizens.

## Funding and eligibility

Eligible applicants will be public and/or private bodies and institutions.

[www.ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm).

## Lifelong Learning Programme

Aims to contribute to the development of the European Community as an advanced knowledge society. The LLP provides funding for all stages of lifelong learning, including the workplace. It consists of six main programmes:

- **Comenius** provides support for those in pre-school and school education up to the level of the end of upper secondary education. Institutions and organisations providing such education can apply – [www.britishcouncil.org/comenius](http://www.britishcouncil.org/comenius).
- **Erasmus** is for those in formal higher education and vocational education and training as well as the institutions and organisations providing such education and training – [www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus](http://www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus).
- **Leonardo da Vinci** is open to all those in vocational education and training including institutions and organisations providing such education and training – [www.leonardo.org.uk](http://www.leonardo.org.uk).
- **Grundtvig** focuses on the teaching and study needs of learners taking adult education and ‘alternative’ education courses – [www.grundtvig.org.uk](http://www.grundtvig.org.uk).
- **Jean Monnet** is aimed at all pupils, all categories of staff involved in education and all types of educational institutions – [www.ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc88\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc88_en.htm).
- **Transversal** is directed at all pupils, staff and educational institutions involved in any level of education – [www.transversal.org.uk](http://www.transversal.org.uk).

## Marco Polo II

Encourages private freight operators to diversify their models of transport.

### Objectives

It aims to achieve a substantial traffic shift in international road freight traffic to short sea shipping, rail and inland waterways or to a combination of modes of transport in which road journeys are as short as possible; it includes new actions such as 'motorways of the sea' and traffic avoidance measures.

### Funding and eligibility

Only economic operators and commercial undertakings are eligible for the Marco Polo II programme. However, administrations may be up to 100% owners of a participating commercial undertaking.

[www.ec.europa.eu/transport](http://www.ec.europa.eu/transport).

## MEDIA 2007

Commitment to support the production, development and promotion of EU audiovisual works.

### Objectives

- Preserve and enhance European cultural and linguistic diversity and its cinematographic and audiovisual heritage.
- Increase the circulation and viewership of European audiovisual works inside and outside the EU.
- Strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector in the framework of an open and competitive European market favourable to employment.

### Funding and eligibility

The programme is open to applications from companies in the audiovisual sector. Applicants should be registered in the EU Member States.

[www.mediadeskuk.eu](http://www.mediadeskuk.eu).

## MEDIA international

It has been established for promoting co-operation between organisations from the audiovisual industry in the EU and non-EU counterparts.

### Objectives

- Strengthening the exchange of information, international expertise and familiarity with foreign audiovisual markets of audiovisual professionals.
- Improving the competitiveness and access to international markets of cinematographic/audiovisual works.

### Funding and eligibility

Public and private organisations working in the audiovisual sector are eligible for funding.

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm).

## Progress

To obtain insight into EU social affairs and improve social services through the exchange of best practice.

### Objectives

- To improve the knowledge and understanding of the situation prevailing in the Member States through analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies.
- To support the development of statistical tools, methods and common indicators where possible broken down by gender and age in areas covered by the programme.
- To support and monitor the implementation of community law and, where applicable, policy objectives in the member states, assessing their effectiveness and impact.
- To promote networking, mutual learning, identification and dissemination of good practice and innovative approaches at EU level.
- To enhance the awareness of the stakeholders and public about the EU policies and objectives pursued under each of the five sections
- To boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote, support and further develop EU policies and objectives, where applicable.

### Funding and eligibility

Access to this programme is open to all public and/or private bodies and institutions.

[www.europa.eu/pol/socio](http://www.europa.eu/pol/socio).

### Public Health Programme

To protect EU citizens from health threats, generate health information and improve general health by focusing on key health determinants.

- To promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities.
- To generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.

#### Funding and eligibility

The legal status of organisations which apply for funding under the Health Programme depends on the type of actions to be covered. Some actions are open to all organisations registered in one of the participating countries; some are open only to public or non-governmental bodies. Other applicants must have member organisations in more than one participating country.

[www.ec.europa.eu/health](http://www.ec.europa.eu/health).

### URBACT II

Networking and exchanges for urban areas.

#### Objectives

URBACT II will organise exchanges, mutual learning opportunities and the dissemination of knowledge around its main priorities of economic growth, jobs, fighting urban deprivation, improving innovation and improving social integration.

#### Funding and eligibility

All cities and urban areas in Europe are eligible for the programme.

[www.urbact.eu](http://www.urbact.eu).

### Youth in Action

It promotes active citizenship amongst young people. There are opportunities to establish partnerships with other organisations in at least two other countries.

#### Objectives

Encouraging participation in democratic life, the European Voluntary Service, the Youth in the World programme and helping to contribute to the development of policy co-operation in the youth field.

#### Funding and eligibility

Young people or groups between 15 and 30, youth workers, youth organisations and other partners working in the field of youth are eligible.

[www.ec.europa.eu/youth](http://www.ec.europa.eu/youth).

## Additional help in the East of England

### The East of England Brussels Office (EEBO)

This is a dedicated EU office designed to assist the East of England in securing a joined-up approach for representing the region in the EU.

**Address** East of England Brussels Office  
Rue du Trône 4  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium

**Phone** 0032 22 89 12 00

**E-mail** [brusselsoffice@east-of-england.eu](mailto:brusselsoffice@east-of-england.eu)

**Website** [www.east-of-england.eu](http://www.east-of-england.eu)

### EU Connects Team

The EU Connects project is a new and dedicated resource for local authorities, the voluntary sector and Local Enterprise Partnerships, to improve access to and take up of EU funds in the East of England.

[www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/eu-connects.aspx](http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/eu-connects.aspx).

#### Research and Events Management

Michelle Armstrong  
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07709 483445

#### Essex, Southend-on-Sea, Suffolk and Thurrock

Nick Burfield  
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07799 415720

#### Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Luton

Alan Corbett  
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07872 184028

#### Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Peterborough

Matt Jones  
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07738 697528

## The European Commission UK Office

Most advice here is a repetition of what many of the local authorities offer; however the website does publish the current 'calls for proposals' on [ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/work\\_with\\_eu/tenders](http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/work_with_eu/tenders).

**Address** Europe House  
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**Head of Representation** Jonathan Scheele

**Phone** 020 7973 1992

**E-mail** [jonathan.scheele@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jonathan.scheele@ec.europa.eu)

**Website** [ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom](http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom)

## East of England Councils

Most East of England County and Unitary Councils have a dedicated Council Officer who works in partnership with the EEBO office. *Please be aware this list is subject to change.*

### Bedford Borough

Mark Oakley  
[Mark.oakley@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.oakley@bedford.gov.uk)  
01234 276 251

### Cambridgeshire

Liz Stevenson  
[Liz.stevenson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.stevenson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
01223 715 852

### Central Bedfordshire

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0300 300 6041

### Essex

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01245 430 472

### Hertfordshire

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01992 588 090

### Luton

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01582 546 270

### Norfolk

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### Southend on Sea

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### Thurrock

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01375 652314