

## **ERDF Support Session FAQ Document**

Q: Why isn't healthcare on the OP list?

A: The list is not sector specific, but rather thematic.

Q: What is DCLG's view on social enterprises in terms of ERDF?

A: Social enterprises are encouraged to apply

Q: Can you use ERDF to support businesses facing challenging conditions due to Brexit?

A: It would depend on the local ESIF Strategy. Locally, the Solent ESIF Strategy sets out a broad approach to business support responses, which can include any challenges that may be faced by businesses.

Q: In the SME call would a proposal that is purely revenue be prioritised?

A: There are a range of factors that form part of the assessment process, including the financial basis of the proposal.

Q: Is the £500,000 the total project cost? How does it tie into the de minimis state aid rule?

A: No. The minimum total project cost would be £1,000,000, assuming a 50% intervention rate, with the minimum ERDF set at £500,000. It is up to the applicant to ensure that the proposal is compliant with state aid rules.

Q: Would match funding in kind be considered?

A: In-kind match-funding is not eligible for ERDF projects.

Q: If you support collaboration, who decides who works with who?

A: It is up to applicants to form any collaborative arrangements.

Q: Is there likely to be a preference for a large international project that shows good import and export practices?

A: No. This programme is a domestic programme, and should support domestic businesses.

Q: Will you be giving further guidance on how DCLG assesses value for money? Do you have a ratio in mind on internal investments that applicants need to consider?

A: No.

Q: Could you give clarification on what you'd be expecting in terms of where the match funding comes from?

A: The national guidance documents provide further detail in relation to eligible sources of match funding, and these should be referred to.

Q: Are there any benchmarks around staff costs?

A: No, but they should be reasonable in relation to what the project is seeking to deliver.

Q: How long does it take from submitting an application to receiving the money?

A: This is a lengthy process, and depending on the complexity of the project it can take up to 12 months to get a grant funding agreement in place.

Q: For projects that have already commenced, at what stage is it too late to apply? Can we apply retrospectively?

A: Retrospective match funding can be problematic, as all match funding does need to clearly demonstrate that it is part of the project proposal. It is not impossible to include retrospective costs, but applicants should be aware that this does increase complexity. Part of the assessment process by the Managing Authority will examine these types of issues.

Q: Would having a European partner strengthen the submission?

A: No.