

Newsletter 53: 14th November 2008

This is part of a fortnightly series of newsletters that will help explain the process and progression of the Convergence Programmes for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The newsletters will contain the most up to date information about Convergence as it evolves over the coming months. [New information will appear in blue.](#)

The Convergence Programmes are investing in a higher value, more knowledge based economy. The table below summarises the value of Convergence investments as at 14 November 2008.

CONVERGENCE PROGRAMMES' POSITION AS AT 14 NOVEMBER 2008

All monetary figures are £ Million	TOTAL	ERDF Programme	ESF Programme
Programme budget	500.20m	347.00m	153.20m
Value of investments contracted	98.13m	29.63m	68.50m
Value of investments endorsed (but not contracted)	14.75m	14.25m	0.50m
Actual project spend to date	0.07m	0.07m	0.00m
N+2 spend target by end 2009	43.2m	30m	13.2m

NB. The Programmes' budgets are given in Euros in the European Regional Development Fund Convergence Operational Programme and the European Social Fund Operational Programme for England and Gibraltar. The pound sterling figures above are estimates, as at 14/11/08, and will vary due to changes in the exchange rate during the life of the Programmes.

GLOSSARY

- Contracted:** Contracts signed by both the applicant and the organisations managing the Programmes (South West Regional Development Agency for ERDF and Department for Work and Pensions for ESF).
- Endorsed:** Investments awaiting final exchange of contracts.
- Spend:** Money claimed from the European Union by projects for work in progress.
- N+2 spend target:** The amount of money the Programmes must spend on a yearly basis. The first target is for 2009.

NEWS

- Call for proposals – innovation and transnationality** – The European Social Fund (ESF) innovation and transnationality call for proposals was launched on 31 October 2008. The call focuses on supporting a small range of strategic, regional projects to develop and deliver new ways of extending employment opportunities and raising workforce skills. Learning from other countries is an important dimension of innovation within the ESF programme and therefore projects will include an element of transnational or inter-regional co-operation with at least one other EU Member State.
- Deadline for applications** – More information about the call and relevant documentation is available on the ESF website at www.esf.gov.uk/innovation_transnationality. The deadline for applications is 16.00 hrs on Wednesday 17 December 2008.
- Business Support – call for expressions of interest** – The South West Regional Development Agency is seeking organisations who can deliver business support packages for the ERDF Convergence Programme. The first stage in this process is inviting interested organisations to make an expression of interest. Further details can be found at www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/policy/european-prog/open-call-for-expres.shtm.

ERDF CONVERGENCE INVESTMENTS CONTRACTED

- ERDF Convergence investments** – Information about other contracted European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Convergence investments in the Truro-Falmouth branch line, the Peninsula Dental School, business support and Watson Marlow Pumps Ltd can be found at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FRAMEWORKS ESTABLISHED

- Definition** – Strategic Investment Frameworks (SIFs) provide a framework and justification for potential Convergence investments in specific areas in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Proposed individual investments within the SIFs will then be appraised and, if suitable, endorsed for investment.
- Established investment frameworks** – The latest Strategic Investment Framework to be established is for Newquay and St Columb Major. Information about the SIFs which have been established for Bodmin and Camborne, Pool and Redruth can be found at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm.
- Proposed frameworks** – Strategic Investment Frameworks are being developed for: Falmouth, Penzance and the Isles of Scilly, St Austell and the Clay Country, and Truro.

ESF CONVERGENCE INVESTMENTS CONTRACTED

Investments managed by Department for Work and Pensions/Jobcentre Plus

Helping people into work Three ESF Convergence investments to help people overcome barriers to work have been contracted: Cornwall Works Plus, Cornwall Works for Social Enterprise and Cornwall Works for Learning Disabilities. For details, please refer to www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm.

Investments managed by the Learning and Skills Council

Investing in skills A range of ESF Convergence investments focussing on raising skills levels have been contracted by the Learning and Skills Council. Details can be found at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm and www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/SouthWest/.

Investments managed by Government Office for the South West

Higher Education investments The Graduate Placement Scheme is the first element of Higher Education investment contracted by the Convergence Programmes. Other investments in research, enterprise, higher level skills and raising aspirations are being developed. More detailed information can be found at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm.

PARTNER'S PERSPECTIVE

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES IN CORNWALL'S 10th ANNIVERSARY – Prof Alan Livingston, Combined Universities in Cornwall and University College Falmouth

A new model of regeneration “Next week we will be marking ten years since the foundation of the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) partnership. I think the anniversary is an opportunity to look back on how much has been achieved, and to look ahead to an exciting future. We also owe thanks to the many, many people who put their energy and enthusiasm behind CUC. This was a new model of regeneration through education, a bridge between further and higher education and one which would provide a knowledge-based renaissance of the Cornish economy.

Transformation “In 1998 Cornwall was one of the last few counties without a university. What little higher education did exist was fragile and fragmented. The trains heading east each autumn were crowded with young people leaving Cornwall to pursue their ambitions. By having the strength of partnership to focus so much of its Objective One Programme investment in CUC, Cornwall created a higher education infrastructure which now enables more than six thousand people to study at a dozen campuses from Penzance to Saltash. Behind these dry figures are the stories of individuals from all walks of life who have chosen to invest in their own knowledge and skills. If Cornwall is poised, as I believe it is, to reclaim its reputation for innovation and creativity, then these individuals will undoubtedly have a vital role in achieving this.

Business is key “Business is key to realising Cornwall's economic potential. Many hundreds of businesses of all sizes have already seized the opportunity to engage graduates,

work with academics and access cutting edge equipment, and there are some truly groundbreaking proposals in the pipeline to bring business and education even closer together in the future.

The future

“So what next for CUC? Building on what has gone before, we now have the opportunity to create greater access to pools of knowledge, skills and research which strengthens Cornwall’s economy for generations to come. I can’t say what they will write about CUC in 2018, but I would like to think that by then higher education working with business will be an integral part of a confident, outward looking Cornwall which holds its head high on the world stage.”

Professor Alan Livingston CBE
Chair, Combined Universities in Cornwall Executive Group
Rector, University College Falmouth

RELATED EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND

Processing farm produce

An application for investment towards processing farm produce was received in late October by the South West Regional Development Agency (who are managing the socio-economic aspects of the Rural Programme) and is currently under appraisal.

Vocational Training Scheme rolled out

The Vocational Training Scheme (VTS), run by the Rural Business School, Duchy College, is now up and running across the South West. Due to the previous success of the scheme, run since 2000 in Cornwall, it has been extended to include Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucester and Wiltshire. It provides training for people working in farming and forestry, making up to the minute research and best practice available at a local level. For more information please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485.

South West Healthy Livestock Initiative

Bluetongue is a disease of cattle and sheep that can be devastating to affected herds and flocks which, in turn, can inflict a serious economic blow to livestock producers and the farming industry. As part of the South West Healthy Livestock Initiative, Duchy College’s Rural Business School will be delivering a Bluetongue awareness project aiming to inform farmers about the condition and its economic consequences. The first of a series of training events is planned for 2009 and a website is to be launched. For further information please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485.

Accessing the Rural Programme

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) can be accessed through the Rural Development Gateway which provides advice about project proposals. They can be contacted by telephoning 0845 600 9966 or at www.sw-ruralgateway.info. For more information please see www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/index.htm, www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/O1-convergence/post2006_faq.htm#Q4 and www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafnd/introduction.shtm.

EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND PROGRAMME FOR THE UK

Fisheries Operational Programme approved

The European Commission has now agreed the UK Operational Programme for the European Fisheries Fund. In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly there is over £7m available to 2013 for projects which help secure a sustainable and profitable fishing industry. The scheme is now open for applications and facilitation service is provided by Steve Bailey on 07876 035733, 01503 240384 or s_bailey@seafish.co.uk. Further details are at www.mfa.gov.uk.

More detailed information about Convergence, links to key organisations and websites can be found in the 'Convergence' section of the website www.objectiveone.com.

Information is also available from the Partnership Office's helpline on 0800 028 0120.