

Funding Alert Extra– January 2017

1. European Social Fund - Social Economy Growth Fund

A new European funded Social Economy Growth Fund is open for the first round of applications, with a deadline for submission of **5pm on Friday 17 February 2017**. There will be at least one further application deadline.

It is aimed at established organisations whose primary purpose is to tackle disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion.

The Social Economy Growth Fund will enable the third sector/social economy to improve and increase services and support for people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. It will help organisations to increase their capacity to support disadvantaged people – for example by expanding existing services and employing additional staff. The Fund will enable organisations to deliver services which:

- support people to move into better paid employment;
- increase household income;
- improve people's skills; and
- empower people to find and own solutions to poverty themselves.

Grants between £100,000 and £250,000 are available. Full details, including eligibility criteria and the application process, are available at the following link: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/social-economy-growth-fund-guidance/>

The Social Economy Growth Fund is supported by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government will provide match funding 'at source'. Applicant match funded is not required as the grant is fully funded by ESF and the Scottish Government. It is delivered by the Equality, Human Rights and Third Sector Division of the Scottish Government who will act as Lead Partner for this programme.



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2. Social Innovation Fund:

A new European funded Social Innovation Fund is open for applications, with a deadline for submission of **5pm on Friday 17 February 2017**. The fund is open to partnerships between at least one social economy organisation and one academic/research institution. There will be future funding rounds however the number will depend on the level of demand, number of awards made and the availability of funds.

The Social Innovation Fund enables social economy organisations to work in collaboration with research institutions, the public and private sector to develop, test and scale up new ideas and

solutions to tackle poverty and disadvantage.

It supports a pipeline of projects following a three stage approach to social innovation.

Stage 1:

- develop new, innovative and creative ideas and solutions to social problems;
- available funding of between £30,000 to £50,000; and
- support projects for a maximum of 6 months.

Stage 2:

- test social innovation ideas/prototypes to find out if they work in practice and identify what works/what does not and why;
- available funding of between £100,000 to £150,000; and
- support projects for a maximum of 12 months.

Stage 3:

- sustaining and/or scaling up and growing social innovations that work. These will be new ideas/products/services that demonstrate real positive impact and are expected to be sustainable and 'scalable';
- available funding of between £150,000 to £250,000 to 'successful' Stage 2 projects; and
- support projects for a maximum of 12 months.

Full details including eligibility criteria and the application process are available in the following link:

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/social-innovation-fund-guidance/>

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