



The Employer Investment Fund

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills gave a £5 million Employer Investment Fund to the UK Commission in April 2011, to work with and through our partners to raise skill levels and drive investment, enterprise, jobs and growth.



What is the Employer Investment Fund

Projects totalling over £5 million have been given the green light, thanks to a new Employer Investment Fund (EIF), run by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. Launched on 8 March, the fund aims to raise employer investment in skills across the UK by supporting innovative and sustainable programmes run by Sector Skills Councils (SSCs).



Charlie Mayfield, chairman of the John Lewis Partnership and the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, explained:

“Commissioners were keen to invest only in projects that were able to describe how Sector Skills Councils would work with employers to deliver solutions which address the specific skills needs of their sector. Successful proposals needed to be clear and concise about how the proposals would contribute to raising employer investment in skills across all four nations. I believe we have achieved that goal with the projects we have chosen, and I am confident that they will have a real and lasting impact on the skills of the UK’s workforce.”

Investments

We have broad range of investments covering:

- License to Practice
- Green Agenda
- Skills Passports
- Redeployment
- Guild Feasibility Study
- Employability
- Equality and Diversity – (2,300 women to be up-skilled)
- Course Labelling

Drawing on our investment experience, we provide support the type of partnership working needed between SSCs and their sector employers, to bring new investment in skills and tackle future skills gaps.

The Employer Investment
Fund

Prospectus – Phase 1
2011/12

Successful EIF Bids in 2011

The following table contains details of the successful bids Sector Skills Councils for projects across the UK approved by the Commissioners of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

Each of the projects detailed below include a project summary, the work areas/policy lever, the combined investment from EIF and Employer investment, and the contact details for the project leads.



Asset Skills:

The projects supports 425 women to improve low level skills and qualifications and leads to a rise in women occupying senior and management positions.

Policy Lever:
Funding allocated:
CEO:
Project Lead:
Contact email

Equality & Diversity
£318,750
Richard Beamish
Carol Shillito
cshillito@assetskills.org



Cogent:

The project will deliver 355 opportunities for women in the sector to give them confidence to move into non traditional roles, and build on existing skills to take on more responsibility and duties. It will also assist women into leadership and management roles.

Policy Lever
Funding allocated:
CEO:
Project Lead:
Contact email

Equality & Diversity
£353,225
Joanna Woolf
Chas Hubbard
Chas.hubbard@cogent-ssc.com

Cogent:

To explore the applicability of a Licence to Practise model based on the existing Cogent Gold Standard, for SMEs in the Life Science sector.

Policy Lever
Funding allocated:
CEO:
Project Lead:
Contact email

Licence to Practise
£100,000
Joanna Woolf
John Holton
John.holton@cogent-ssc.com



ConstructionSkills:

The project will provide employers with female only training courses in order to improve soft skills such as confidence building, career building, leadership training and networking.

Policy Lever:
Funding allocated:
CEO:
Project Lead:
Contact email

Equality & Diversity
£255,500
Mark Farrar
Judith Sutton
Judith.sutton@cskills.org

ConstructionSkills:

Building the infrastructure to support a government initiative designed to help the UK meet stringent targets on the reduction of energy. This will require the retrofit of 14 million homes between 2012 and 2020.

Policy Lever:
Funding allocated:
CEO:
Project Lead:
Contact email

Standards
£500,000
Mark Farrar
Richard Bayliss
Richard.bayliss@cskills.org



e-skills UK:

The project if for an improved pipeline of talent into the IT industry.

Policy Lever:
Funding allocated:
CEO:
Project Lead:
Contact email

Employability
£499,630
Karen Price
Mark Feeney
Mark.feeney@e-skills.com

Successful EIF Bids (cont...)

 <small>THE INSTITUTE OF THE MOTOR INDUSTRY</small>	IMI: The project is to build on existing work of the Automotive Technician Accreditation Scheme and develop a profession register which will reinforce the need for continuous professional development.	Policy Lever: Funding allocated: CEO: Project Lead: Contact email	Licence to Practise £450,000 Sarah Sillars Lesley Wooley, Steve Schofield, Stirling Wood, Ruth Hall Lesleyw@motor.org.uk Steves@motor.org.uk Stirlingw@motor.org.uk Ruthh@motor.org.uk
	Lantra: To raise the skill levels of 500 women in both technical and more generic business areas such as management and leadership.	Policy Lever: Funding allocated: CEO: Project Lead: Contact email	Equality & Diversity £395,500 Peter Martin Lyndsay Bird Lyndsay.bird@lantra.co.uk
	People 1st: The project will provide entry level into passenger transport industry training and management development for women working in hospitality, leisure and travel.	Policy Lever: Funding allocated: CEO: Project Lead: Contact email	Equality & Diversity £395,425 Brian Wisdom Dan Power Dan.power@people1st.co.uk
	Semta: The project will increase integration within the organisation, maximising progression opportunities and influence good practice with employers.	Policy Lever: Funding allocated: CEO: Project Lead: Contact email	Equality & Diversity £281,600 Philip Whiteman Michelle Henderson mhenderson@semta.org.uk
	Semta: The project will ensure that high valued skilled employees displaced following the strategic Defence and Security Review are retained and employed within the growing Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering sector.	Policy Lever: Funding allocated: CEO: Project Lead: Contact email	Redeployment £450,000 Philip Whiteman Carolyn Mason cmason@semta.org.uk
	Skills for Health: To develop a skills passport for the health sector.	Policy Lever: Funding allocated: CEO: Project Lead: Contact email	Skills Passport £400,000 John Rogers Andrew Butcher Andrew.butcher@skillsforhealth.org.uk
	Skills for Logistics: To explore the potential in developing a Modern Logistics Guild.	Policy Lever: Funding allocated: CEO: Project Lead: Contact email	Feasibility Study £100,000 ?? Dr Ross Moloney Ross.moloney@skillsforlogistics.org
 <small>The Sector Skills Council for Creative Media</small>	Skillset: To create a gold standard for creative industries indicating the very best in training and education. The project aim is to extend the quality mark to Apprenticeships, Internships, vocational progression or feeder courses. It will provide a navigation tool to identify good practice.	Policy Lever: Funding allocated: CEO: Project Lead: Contact email	Course Labelling £450,000 Dinah Caine Nicole Hay nicoleh@skillset.org

Case Study

A Case Study from Lantra's (Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and land-based industries) Women and Work



Tractor driver Victoria Forsyth is celebrating after becoming the 20,000th woman to be trained under a pioneering initiative aimed at getting women good jobs in male-dominated industries.

The twenty-one year old, who gave up a budding career as an artist to drive heavy farm machinery, has qualifications in farming, welding and tractor driving. She now works as a farm labourer on a 900-acre arable farm in Merseyside and says she has never been happier.

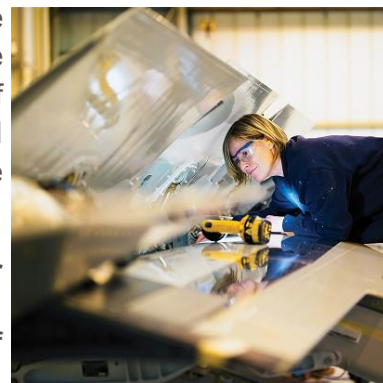
Victoria's qualifications were funded through the Women and Work, a social partnership scheme managed by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. The initiative provides government funding to encourage employers to invest in the skills of women within their workforce, particularly in sectors and occupations traditionally dominated by men.

Victoria said: **"I've always loved working outside, and these qualifications mean that I'm able to prove I have the skills to do this job really well – even if my boyfriend and the lads on the farm take the mickey out of women drivers when they see me in a combine harvester!"**

Employer Investment Fund—Phase 2

The Employer Investment Fund is one of two investment funds available through the UK Commission, to drive employer led action that leads to the achievement of increased ambition, skills investment and the better use of skills. The UK Commission's role is to be an investor. Commissioners will back those activities that demonstrate the strongest potential for impact of the ambition and vision to increase enterprise, jobs and growth and in doing so:

- **Stimulate leadership from the bottom up to significantly raise employer ambition.**
- **Drive innovation, change employer behaviours and develop new ways of working.**
- **Secure momentum from employers of all sizes to support sustainable increases in skills levels and better use of those skills across their sectors.**



The Prospectus for phase two of the Employer Investment fund will be launched on 30 June. The fund available will approximately be £30M in year one falling to approximately £27M in year two. The fund is available to SSCs only and is UK wide.

To find out more about the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, please visit www.ukces.org.uk

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