

FINAL DRAFT

# England and Gibraltar European Social Fund (ESF) Sustainable Development Mainstreaming Plan 2007-2013

European Social Fund Division  
Moorfoot  
Sheffield  
S1 4PQ

8 July 2008 (Updated January 2009)



**European Union**  
**European Social Fund**  
Investing in jobs and skills

## Contents

<b>Section</b>		<b>Page</b>
	<b>Foreword</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> <b>1.1 Aim of this plan</b> <b>1.2 Who should read this plan?</b> <b>1.3 What does sustainable development mean in the context of the ESF programme in England and Gibraltar?</b>	<b>5</b> <b>5</b> <b>6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b> <b>2.1 Mainstreaming – the challenges</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Overview of action plan</b> <b>3.1 Overview of action plan</b> <b>Table 1 : Overview of sustainable development action plan</b>	<b>9</b> <b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>The Action plan</b> <b>4.1 The action plan - introduction</b> <b>4.2 What the sustainable development theme will look like by 2010 and between 2010-2013.</b> <b>4.3 How will this plan make a difference?</b>	<b>11</b> <b>11</b> <b>13</b>

	<p><b>4.4 What difference will the plan make to the environment?</b></p> <p><b>4.5 Arrangements for reporting progress</b></p> <p><b>Table 2: the action plan</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>15</b></p>
	<p><b>Annex 1: Useful website addresses for background information on sustainable development</b></p> <p><b>Regulations</b></p> <p><b>Commitments in National Strategic Reference Framework and ESF Operational Programme</b></p> <p><b>Policy Context</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>

**This document sets out our vision for mainstreaming sustainable development in the England and Gibraltar ESF programme during 2007-2013. It describes the action that will be taken to help ensure that sustainable development is integrated into all aspects of the programme and that our approach adds value to the DWP and LSC's own sustainable development policies and procurement strategies.**

**This plan aims to build upon the approach to promoting sustainable development in the 2000-2006 programme whilst introducing some new approaches to mainstreaming. For example, for the first time, there is a national mainstreaming plan and a Sustainable Development Sub-committee which is responsible for overseeing the progress of the plan.**

**The new approach also acknowledges the contribution that ESF partners already make towards key elements of sustainable development such as promoting social inclusion and supporting a sustainable economy by promoting jobs and skills. The focus of this mainstreaming plan is therefore on promoting the environmental element of sustainable development whilst pursuing our key strategic priorities of helping people back to work and increasing the skill levels of those in work.**

**A key part of the plan is the need to develop the knowledge capacity of partners to help them understand what they have to do to help mainstream sustainable development.**

**The plan also gives a commitment to launch a new award scheme to reward partners who have 'gone the extra mile' in promoting sustainable development in England and Gibraltar.**

**ESF Division in DWP and the Sustainable Development Sub-committee are committed to ensuring that sustainable development is mainstreamed throughout the ESF programme. We will regularly review its implementation and report on progress to the Programme Monitoring Committee.**

**I hope that all of our partners in ESF familiarise themselves with the key aims and objectives of this plan.**

**Ken Lambert  
Chair, ESF Sustainable Development Sub-committee**

## Section 1 : Introduction

### 1.1 Aim of this plan

This plan describes the range of objectives, activities, outputs and outcomes, that will need to be achieved in order to ensure that the 2007-2013 England and Gibraltar ESF programme:

- complies with structural fund regulatory requirements concerning sustainable development (SD) and the environment; and
- fulfils the commitments to promote sustainable development through a dual approach to mainstreaming as described in the ESF operational programme document.

Ultimately, the mainstreaming approach should help ensure that the ESF's key strategic priorities of promoting work and skills are delivered in a way which minimises any negative impacts on the environment by ESF providers as well as maximise positive impacts. In addition, the mainstreaming approach aims to support a number of environmental projects which promote jobs and skills in each region.

For further information on regulatory requirements and programme commitments see annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

### 1.2 Who should read this plan?

All implementing bodies will need to be aware of how they will be expected to contribute to the plan; this includes ESF providers themselves.

The national ESF Sustainable Development Sub-committee will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of this mainstreaming plan and the Managing Authority will report on progress to the national Programme Monitoring Committee on behalf of the sub-committee.

Regional ESF committees will be expected to review regional progress reports on SD mainstreaming annually. These reports will be designed to show the region's contribution to mainstreaming SD and will be aggregated up to inform the annual national progress report as well as contribute to the Annual Implementation Report (AIR).

CFO staff involved in monitoring and contract monitoring their contractors will need to understand the plan to see how they fit in to the process as will Managing Authority staff (in ESF Division and Government Offices) involved in CFO reviews and also in Article 13 monitoring activity.

### 1.3 What does Sustainable Development mean in the context of the England and Gibraltar ESF programme?

During the 2000 -2006 programme, a SD co-ordinator was appointed and tasked with the job of integrating SD into the ESF programme as far as was possible. A key challenge at that time was to decide upon an operational definition of SD within the context of the ESF programme (i.e. one that was operational).

The 2000-2006 programme defined sustainable development in terms of the following three elements:

- (i) providing opportunities to allow everyone to fulfil their potential (social inclusion);
- (ii) environmental protection and enhancement through the delivery of projects (environment); and
- (iii) providing skills that businesses both demand and require – now and in the future (economy/labour market).

A toolkit was developed which helped applicants and providers identify what they were already doing to promote SD as well as identify what they were not doing. This enabled them to undertake an action plan to address any shortfall. Projects which gave such commitments strengthened their position, all other things being equal, at project application stage.

The limit to this approach was that the providers often scored highly on strands relating to social inclusion and the economy and felt that they did not need to address the environmental element.

**In the new programme** providers will be contracted to CFOs to deliver projects that support the programme's strategic priorities of jobs and skills. They will have contractual and legal obligations to actively promote sustainable development and will be monitored for this. They will inherently be supporting two key elements of sustainable development - social inclusion and the economy by: (i) helping individuals overcome barriers in the labour market; and (ii) by increasing the supply and quality of workers in the labour market. Since projects will already be contract managed and monitored for their performance in achieving various targets relating to these strands, we do not propose to duplicate this work under the SD mainstreaming approach.

The strand, which we know from past experience, is likely to need most development and support is the environmental strand. We want all projects to consider how they deliver their services in terms of trying to reduce negative impacts and increase positive impacts on the environment. They will do this by:

- (i) preparing environmental policies; and
- (ii) undertaking SD implementation plans as described in the ESF guidance manuals and in future guidance issued (unless they already have an environmental management system in place which meets minimum criteria).

As far as possible, match-funded providers running under existing CFO contracts will be encouraged to introduce the environmental standards that the other providers have.

We also want regions to identify and fund a number of environment-specific projects which can help address local/regional needs in terms of protecting or enhancing the environment whilst also supporting jobs and / or skills. The ESF programme document is an enabling document which allows a wide range of activities to be funded within the framework of activities that are described under each priority axis. Regions have the flexibility to identify priority groups and activities to be funded which best suit the region's needs. Priority 2 of the national programme allows support for training in environmental management and protection skills and supports training in environmental management and protection skills and in eco-friendly technologies, including training which supports renewable energy sectors, energy efficiency and recycling.

CFO contracts with CFO providers do not cover the providers' sub-contractors. We would encourage suppliers directly contracted to CFOs to pass-on any environmental requirements to providers on a voluntary basis.

The programme also offers limited scope for lifelong learning and training for managers (at any level including level 4 and above) in SMEs , including training and development in technical skills required for sustainable business development.

The programme document explains that Regional ESF Frameworks will identify sectoral skills priorities. Guidance issued by ESF covering SD and the regional ESF frameworks enables regions to identify a range of region-specific environmentally-based activities that could be supported, for example:

- ESF support which complements ERDF activities and other relevant regional economic strategies by promoting training and/or employment which also supports environmental sustainability;
- identifying skills needs in key sectors driving economic growth in the regions and which are likely to have an impact on the environment;
- entrepreneurial and skills support for SMEs in the environmental goods and services (EGS) sector;
- support for skills and jobs identified in LANTRAs Sector Skills Agreement.

The knowledge capacity of individuals within CFOs will be a key element of the mainstreaming approach and is also likely to be one of the ways in which this work will help add value to existing DWP and LSC SD strategies by developing people.

## Section 2 : Background

### 2.1 Mainstreaming – the challenges

This section briefly describes some of the challenges which the action plan in section 3 aims to respond to.

Previous experience of promoting sustainable development has shown that ESF providers are often very strong in terms of promoting the social inclusion and economic aspects of sustainable development but, traditionally, have not been required to address environmental aspects – so may face more of a 'learning curve'. The need to promote and embed the environmental aspect of sustainable development needs to be made clear from the start of the programme. A high level of commitment towards doing this needs to be communicated to all partners through plans and guidance.

One of the key lessons we have learned through mainstreaming sustainable development and equal opportunities is that it is important that individuals know what they need to do, in terms of their day-to-day job, in order to help embed and promote the horizontal themes. The organisations involved in delivering ESF have had significant staff turnover. Therefore developing the knowledge capacity of individuals with regards to this theme will be vitally important if the mainstreaming approach is to be successful.

Mainstreaming is concerned with integrating a theme or concept into the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a programme or policy. Mainstreaming is not a 'one-off' exercise. The ESF programme runs until 2013 – so promoting sustainable development over this lengthy period will need to be maintained. We need to begin by making the theme highly 'visible' in the programme to help raise awareness of sustainability issues. By establishing a network we can ensure that people are informed and kept up-to-date on sustainability issues – especially those relating to ESF operational policy as well as wider policy development which can affect our work.

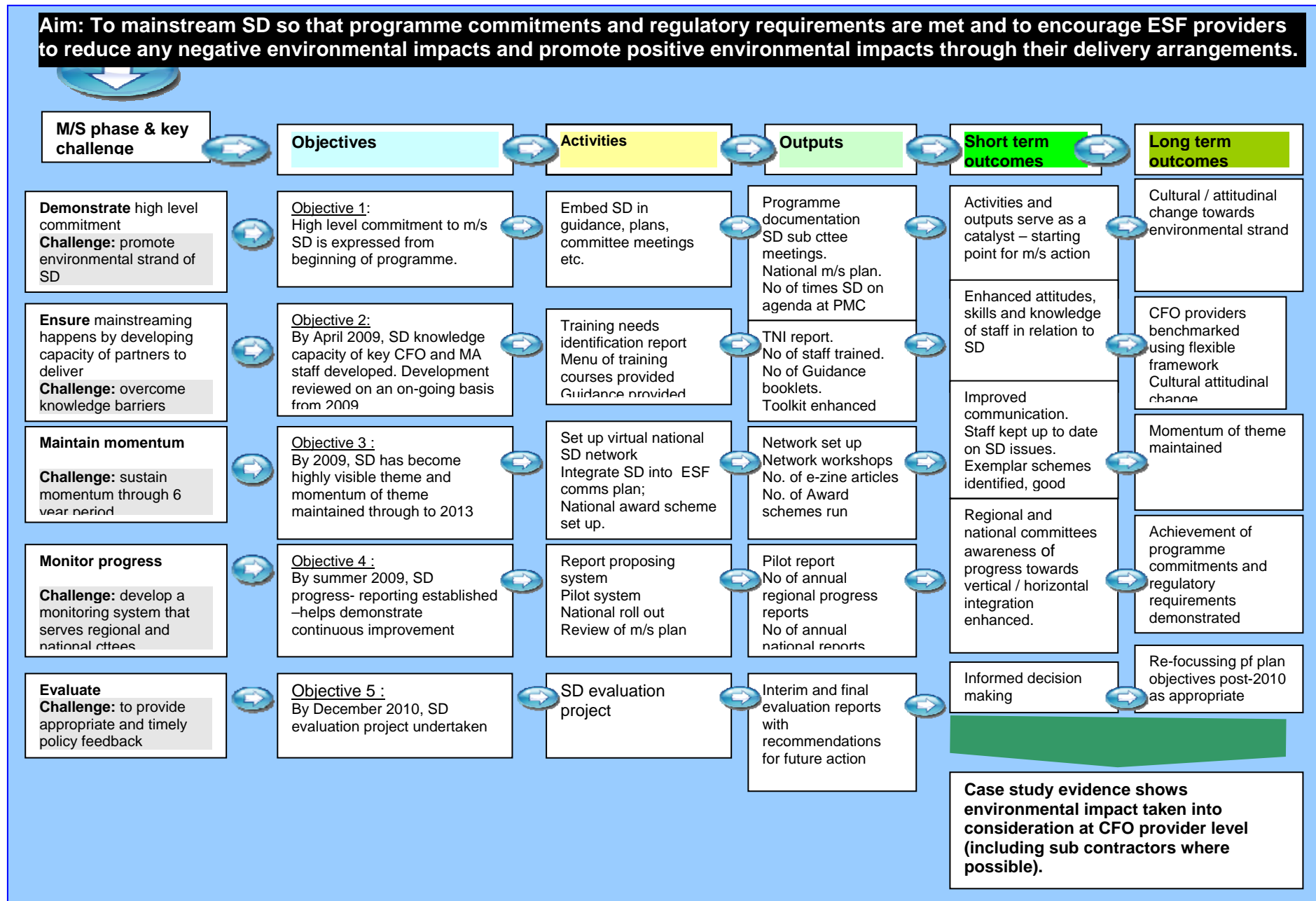
For the first time, the England and Gibraltar ESF programme has a formal sustainable development mainstreaming plan and a sub-committee to oversee it. The Managing Authority will report on progress at each national Programming Monitoring Committee meeting on behalf of the Sustainable Development Sub-committee. In addition, the Managing Authority will ask regions to submit annual progress reports which can be compiled into a national progress report designed to inform the sustainable development section of the annual implementation report which is sent to the European Commission each June.

### Section 3 : Overview of the action plan

Table 1 below provides a simplified overview of the action plan. It describes the overall **aim** of the plan and shows the relationship between the key mainstreaming elements and challenges that inform the plan's objectives. The **objectives** describe how the aim will be achieved. The objectives in the plan are therefore the desired future situations and describe what it will be like when something has been improved, reduced, developed etc. In order to achieve the objectives of where we want to be, activities need to be undertaken which lead to a series of outputs, which in turn help provide or contribute towards a series of short and longer term outcomes. **Activities** are the services, facilities and actions delivered. Activities should support the objectives, especially the outputs. **Outputs** describe the completed activities or products and are usually expressed in numerical terms – e.g. number of people trained, number of guidance booklets produced. **Outcome** describes the broader impact that may result from (usually) a number of activities and related outputs being delivered. The plan refers to short and longer-term outcomes.

Although each short and long term outcome is desirable in itself, collectively, they should help achieve the overall aim of mainstreaming to meet regulatory requirements and programme commitments as well as reduce negative impact on the environment and promote positive impacts on the environment at organisational level.

**Table 1 : Overview of SD Mainstreaming Plan in ESF**



## Section 4: The Action Plan

### 4.1 The action plan

The full action plan is provided in table 2 below. It is a management tool and will develop over time.

### 4.2 What the SD theme will look like by 2010 in the ESF programme

The period 2008-2010 will be a period in which SD is embedded into the structure and systems of the ESF programme. The focus of mainstreaming work during this stage will be to ensure that the SD theme is integrated both horizontally and vertically so that programme commitments and regulatory requirements are met and that, by 2010, a culture of 'continual improvement' for SD has also been embedded into the programme. The evaluation of the sustainable development theme in 2010 should also produce recommendations which may lead to some re-focusing of the SD plan post 2010.

By 2010 we would therefore expect that:

- the programme will have an agreed sustainable development mainstreaming plan, the Sustainable Development Sub-committee will have met regularly, usually twice a year, and the national Programme Monitoring Committee will have been regularly updated on the progress made on sustainable development;
- the programme will have had an annual reporting process in place for three years which will have informed annual progress reports and the annual implementation report and which shows how mainstreaming has contributed to wider DWP and LSC SD strategies through capacity building knowledge of staff;
- all key staff in CFOs and MA to have received training in SD and developed knowledge capacity on SD to help monitor and review SD;
- all CFO providers to have been supplied with adequate guidance so that they know what to do in terms of producing policy statements and implementation plans and understand the minimum requirements;
- a virtual network set up to keep key partners informed of SD developments and to act as a forum for sharing knowledge, ideas and links to local and regional web pages;
- there will have been a change in the culture and the longer term attitude towards the SD themes so that its importance is raised alongside the equal opportunities theme;

- 100% of CFO provider and non-CFO provider organisations with new contracts dating from the launch of the programme will have a satisfactory SD implementation policy statement (organisations running under older contracts to be encouraged to have policy statements);
- 100% of CFO provider and non-CFO provider organisations with contracts dating from the launch of the programme will have a satisfactory SD implementation plan (organisations running under older contracts will have been encouraged to have implementation plans);
- 100% of CFO providers and non-CFO provider organisations with new contracts will have benchmarked themselves against the recognised SD 'flexible framework' and committed themselves to continuous improvement in their SD implementation plans so that they aim to minimise their impact on the environment year-on-year wherever possible. Organisations running under older contracts to have been encouraged to benchmark themselves;
- a reporting system which enables regional and national level progress reports to be undertaken so that monitoring committees at regional and national level can assess progress in the theme, and to use the results to inform the annual implementation report for the European Commission;
- a number of exemplar organisations will have been identified through the reporting system and promoted widely through the national award scheme, with detailed case study descriptions showing how they have minimised impact on the environment;
- a number of interesting SD projects at regional level identified and good practice shared across regions;
- CFO plans and procurement systems will have been reviewed so that any shortfalls or problems are remedied in time for the second major tranche of contracting from 2010;
- all regions will have had a number of environmentally-specific projects funded by ESF;

The second half of the programme, 2011-2013, should see a larger proportion of CFO provider organisations moving beyond compliance and towards becoming exemplar organisations in terms of integrating sustainable development into their delivery systems. We would hope that the second half of the programme would see more innovative and strategic approaches to integrating SD – for example through more synergy and complementarity through partnership working at regional level and through identifying more case studies and anecdotal evidence that shows and demonstrates that effects on the environment are being minimised at the organisational level. Ideas developed at the regional level should be shared across the country.

The action plan is likely to be refocused post-2010. The recommendations from the ESF evaluation project will inform this along with the on-going general progress towards the objectives, activities, outputs and outcomes.

### **4.3 How will this plan make a difference?**

If we achieve the aim and related objectives set out in this plan we will, for the first time ever, have achieved an ESF programme which has fully mainstreamed SD. This, in itself, would represent a significant step forward for the programme.

We expect the mainstreaming approach to make a key impact on people by:

- promoting positive attitudes towards SD;
- improving knowledge capacity; and
- changing behaviours.

We expect mainstreaming to make a difference to organisations by helping them assess themselves against a recognised benchmark (flexible framework) which will encourage them to develop appropriate implementation plans which will encourage continuous improvement/progressions and help share good practice which ultimately leads to an improvement in their environmental performance.

By helping people and organisations through capacity building we will also be helping the DWP and LSC achieve some of the objectives contained in their Sustainable Development strategies – in particular those strategy objectives relating to developing staff. The work we undertake with our co-financing partners should contribute towards helping develop a culture within the organisations of promoting SD in a positive way.

### **4.4 What difference will it make to the environment?**

The mainstreaming approach aims, ultimately, to have a positive impact on the environment by encouraging ESF providers to engage in activities whereby they identify and try to reduce any negative impacts their organisation has on the environment as well as consider what positive impacts they may have. If attitudes and behaviours are changing at individual and organisational level, and if SD implementation plans are in place and are being monitored, then, intuitively, one might expect to see some positive change in environmental terms - although such a positive change cannot be assumed.

Baselining and assessing real environmental changes at the macro/ national programme level is likely to be methodologically very difficult. At the time of writing, we are not aware of any credible, practical and cost-effective assessment methodology that we could use. However, this plan does contain an objective to explore this issue further to see if some form of assessment at this purely environmental level could also be made (estimations of carbon usage, for example).

The mainstreaming approach will have an objective of identifying and sharing good practice and it is possible that, through evaluation work, we can identify changes to the impact on the environment at organisational level through anecdotal examples or case studies.

### **4.5 Arrangements for reporting progress**

Managing Authority regional teams and their CFO partners will be expected to report to their regional ESF committees on:

- the number and % of CFO beneficiary organisations that have (i) SD policies and (ii) implementation plans;
- the flexible framework 'benchmark level' each organisation has reached – and details of CFO provider organisations that are, or are likely to become, 'exemplar' organisations because they have reduced their impact on the environments - and who might be nominated for the SD award scheme; and
- case study examples of ESF-funded environmentally-specific projects/activities that are addressing skills or jobs needs within the region.

This information will be gathered annually (as part of the Annual Implementation Report process) and aggregated to provide a national picture of progress being made by the ESF Division. This national progress report will be discussed at the Sustainable Development Sub-committee and progress will be reported to the national PMC. The results of this work will inform the sustainable development contribution to the annual implementation report.

Progress towards the sustainable development action plan objectives will be reviewed at meetings of the sustainable development sub committee. The Managing Authority will provide the national PMC with regular update reports on progress being made towards this plan's aim and objectives.

**Table 2 : The Action Plan**

Objective 1			
<p><b>A high level commitment to the promotion of sustainable development will be expressed throughout the life of the of the ESF programme so that, (i) partners understand that the importance of this cross-cutting theme. All partners will be expected to take mainstreaming action as appropriate to reduce environmental impact in the delivery of the programme and to promote the theme generally.</b></p>			
<p>Mainstreaming phase: <u>to demonstrate high level principles and commitment</u> – a prerequisite for action.</p>			
<p>Key challenge that this objective has to address: promoting the importance of the environmental strand of SD.</p>			
Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes	Long Term Outcomes
<p>Commitments to mainstreaming SD made in Programme agreed with European Commission and integrated into operational guidance  <b>(Who: Managing Authority When: December 2007 Review: Action completed)</b></p> <p>ESFD to draft and agree high level mainstreaming plan with SD Sub-committee and to have plan published with endorsement statements from Chair of national PMC and from CFO SD teams by September 2008  <b>(Who: Managing Authority When: September 2008 Review: Action completed July 2008)</b></p> <p>ESFD to circulate mainstreaming plan to national PMC and to circulate to regional ESF committee meetings for discussion. CFOs to circulate internally to raise awareness amongst key staff.  <b>(Who: Managing Authority When: October 2008 Review: Action completed July 2008)</b></p> <p>ESFD to ensure that the SD mainstreaming plan is advertised in `ESF at Work' e-zine and highlighted in the ESF national website in summer 2008  <b>(Who: managing Authority When: September 2008 Review: Action completed September 2008)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant sections in programme document and guidance manual</li> <li>• Mainstreaming plan produced</li> <li>• Circulation to national PMC</li> <li>• No of regional committees who discussed m/s plan.</li> <li>• No. of teams circulated to within CFOs</li> <li>• E-Zine Article</li> <li>• Web-page</li> </ul>	<p>Acted as a catalyst for future and on-going mainstreaming action at national and regional level to help reduce environmental impact in delivery by explaining what needed to be done.</p> <p>Raised awareness of the theme at all levels by stimulating discussion and debate.</p> <p>Helped to embed SD into structures and systems by explaining importance of mainstreaming approach.</p>	<p>Plan contributed towards or influenced longer term attitudinal changes amongst partners in CFOs concerning the importance of SD in ESF delivery alongside the strategic priorities of promoting jobs and skills.</p>

<p>ESFD ensures that SD is a regular agenda item at national PMC meetings by 2009.  <b>(Who:</b> Managing Authority <b>When:</b> Ongoing 2008-2013  <b>Review:</b> ongoing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of times SD is on the agenda of PMC – either as an update / progress report or as a separate agenda item</li> </ul>	<p>Helps to embed SD into structures and systems</p>	
<p>Representatives from each ESF Regional Committee to be invited by ESF Division to attend Sustainable Development Sub-committee meetings during first 4 years of the programme to present good practice in promoting SD their region</p> <p><b>(Who:</b> Managing Authority, CFO representatives on regional committee <b>When:</b> Ongoing from January 2009 <b>Review:</b> on-going)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of regional committee presentations given at SD Sub-committee meetings</li> </ul>	<p>Helped to strengthen links and communication between regions and national sub committee</p> <p>National sub committee has improved understanding and awareness of regional issues.</p> <p>Raised awareness of the theme at regional levels</p>	<p>Regions made more accountable their approach to promoting SD</p>

**Objective 2**

**Knowledge capacity of key staff in CFOs and MA developed so that they know what they have to do to make sure that the SD theme is mainstreamed in a way that will lead to the environment being taken into account in the delivery of the programme**

Mainstreaming phase : enabling and developing

Key challenge that this objective has to address: overcoming knowledge and attitudinal barriers

Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes	Long Term Outcomes
<p>To set up and project-manage a TA project which:</p> <p>(i) identifies who needs training support                      (ii) undertakes a training needs identification process                      (iii) delivers a range of support / guidance to meet the training needs identified                      (iv) reviews and evaluates training provided – including how it has added value to SD strategies for LSC and DWP</p> <p><b>(Who:</b> Managing Authority <b>When :</b> specification developed, July 2008, tender August – October, project starts October/November finishes 2010.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim report on who needs support &amp; and TNI</li> <li>• Number of staff trained</li> <li>• Guidance provided / toolkit updated</li> <li>• End of project evaluation report</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation work raises awareness and profile of the theme.</p> <p>Raise knowledge capacity of key partners</p> <p>Partners more confident</p>	<p>Change attitudes, skills and knowledge (competence) of staff which contributes to capacity-building objectives contained in DWP and LSC SD strategies</p> <p>Increased competence in staff supports effective and continuous improvement in delivery in term of helping to minimise impact of delivery on the environment</p>
<p>To complete the DWP contract manager SD training project that started in February 2008</p> <p>Review and evaluate training provided – including how it has added value to SD strategies for LSC and DWP</p> <p><b>(Who:</b> Managing Authority and contractors. <b>When:</b> July 2008 <b>Review:</b> Training completed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of contract managers trained</li> <li>• End of project evaluation report</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation work raises awareness and profile of the theme.</p> <p>Raise knowledge capacity of key partners</p> <p>Partners more confident</p>	<p>Providers benchmarked according to flexible framework</p>

**Objective 3 : By December 2009 SD has become a highly visible cross-cutting theme. This visibility is sustained through the remaining years of the programme**

Mainstreaming phase : Maintain momentum

Key challenge that this objective has to address: Maintain momentum over life of programme – 6 years

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Short Term Outcomes</b>	<b>Long Term Outcomes</b>
<p>Set up a virtual SD network.</p> <p>(Who: Managing Authority When: July 2009 Review: June 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of reference for network</li> <li>• Drafted and agreed</li> <li>• E-mail network distribution list</li> <li>• Established</li> <li>• Number of messages / bulletins sent</li> </ul>	<p>Raised awareness</p> <p>Regional CFO partners kept up to date on SD policy</p> <p>Improved communication between centre and regions</p>	<p>Interest in the SD theme maintained</p>
<p>Hold annual workshops for regional CFO partners involved in the networks.</p> <p>(Who: Managing Authority When: December 2009 Review: late October/early November 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of workshops</li> </ul>	<p>Raised awareness</p> <p>Regional CFO partners kept up to date on SD policy</p>	<p>Interest in the SD theme maintained</p>

<p>Ensure that SD is featured in publicity / communication plan.</p> <p><b>(Who:</b> Managing Authority <b>When:</b> July 2008 <b>Review:</b> action completed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of ESF e-zine issues which contain SD article</li> <li>• Webpage set up</li> </ul>	<p>Raised awareness</p>	
<p>Set up national award scheme for SD to reward individuals and organisations who have been active in promoting SD and in sharing good practice</p> <p><b>(Who:</b> managing authority <b>When:</b> TBC – possibly late 2009/early 2010 <b>Review:</b> January 2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award scheme set up</li> </ul>	<p>Raised awareness</p> <p>Knowledge and good practice shared</p>	<p>Motivates other organisations to enter for award</p> <p>Improved publicity for theme</p> <p>Interest in the SD theme maintained</p>

**Objective 4: To produce and present a national ESF sustainable development mainstreaming progress report to the national Programme Monitoring Committee to demonstrate the progress that is being made at national and regional level and to inform the annual implementation report for the programme .**

Mainstreaming phase : Check on progress

Key challenge that this objective has to address: develop a monitoring / reporting system to meet needs of regional and national partners.

Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes	Long Term Outcomes
<p>ESFD to prepare a draft national progress report which is compiled from regional progress reports produced by the regional Managing Authority teams in the GO regions (the LDA in London) on the basis of information from CFOs and other beneficiaries (as set out in Action Note 010/08). Report to be approved by the sub committee and then presented to the national PMC  <b>(Who: Managing Authority When: April/May 2009)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National progress report agreed by national sub committee and presented to national PMC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buy-in and commitment from CFO and GO regional partners</li> <li>Raised awareness</li> <li>Report informs and updates PMC on progress</li> <li>Final report informs future updates to mainstreaming plan</li> </ul>	

<p>Qualitative questions issued to CFOs and other beneficiaries to be reviewed by working group of the national sub committee who may make recommendations for changes as appropriate. The questions to be reviewed on an annual basis in time to inform future guidance on the reporting process for the AIR.</p> <p><b>Who:</b> ESFD / sub committee working group  <b>When:</b> June–August 2009; <b>Review:</b> August 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review process progress report with recommendations for change as appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-committee and partners better informed, able to refine reporting system in light of any practical difficulties</li> </ul>	<p>Buy-in and commitment from CFO and GO regional partners</p>
<p>Small working group, led by ESF evaluation team, to consider how impact on environment might be assessed across the programme post-2010.</p> <p><b>(Who:</b> Managing Authority, ESF Evaluation Team and reps from Sub-committee <b>When:</b> June 2009; <b>Review:</b> June 2009)</p>	<p>Brief report with findings and recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub committee has better grasp of issues relating to reporting on environmental impact in ESF.</li> </ul>	<p>Any published results of monitoring and evaluation are credible and environmental effects such as carbon usage not over-stated.</p>

**Objective 5 : By December 2010 a sustainable development evaluation project has been undertaken which assesses the progress made in mainstreaming SD as well as considering the short and longer term impact of the mainstreaming work**

Mainstreaming phase : Evaluate progress made

Key challenge that this objective has to address: To provide timely and appropriate policy feedback

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Short Term Outcomes</b>	<b>Long Term Outcomes</b>
<p>ESF Evaluation Team project-manage evaluation of SD cross-cutting theme. (Who: ESF Evaluation Team When: 2009-2010)</p> <p>Evaluation Sub-committee consulted on the evaluation work. (Who: ESF Managing Authority &amp; ESF Evaluation Team When: On-going 2009-2010 Review: December 2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of reference</li> <li>• Interim report</li> <li>• Final evaluation report with recommendations</li> </ul>	<p>Policy feedback on effectiveness and impact of SD mainstreaming informs development of the mainstreaming plan priorities for the second half of the programme in 2010-2013.</p> <p>Evaluation provides feedback to DWP, LSC and other CFOs on ESF's contribution to their SD strategies</p>	<p>Evaluation contributes towards any refocusing of SD activity in the programme through its recommendations.</p>

## **Annex – Useful websites for background information on sustainable development**

### **Regulations**

The following website provides details about structural fund regulations 1083/2006 ( Article 17) and 1081/2006 Article 2 para 2):

[www.eur-lex.europa.eu/JoHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:210:SOM:EN:HTML](http://www.eur-lex.europa.eu/JoHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:210:SOM:EN:HTML)

### **Commitments in National Strategic Reference Framework and ESF Operational Programme**

The following websites provide information on the commitments made towards promoting sustainable development:

[www.berr.gov.uk/consultation/page\\_28796.html](http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultation/page_28796.html) (NSRF)

[www.esf.gov/docs/4\\_implementation.pdf](http://www.esf.gov/docs/4_implementation.pdf) (ESF Operational Programme 2007-2013)

### **Policy Context**

The following websites provide useful background information on the policy context of ESF:

[www.sustainable-development.gov.uk](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk)

[www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/aboutsd.html](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/aboutsd.html)

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l28117.htm>

[www.dwp.gov.uk/sus-dev/](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/sus-dev/)

[www.lsc.gov.uk/whatwedo/sustainable-development.htm](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/whatwedo/sustainable-development.htm)