

***XXVII THEMATIC CONFERENCE
Environmental Authorities Network
COMMUNITY FUNDS 2007-2013***

**European Social Fund and
the Environment**

June 2006



What is the European Social Fund?

The ESF helps people improve their skills and, consequently, their job prospects. It is the EU's main source of financial support for efforts to develop employability and human resources.



ESF and sustainable development in 2000-2006

- Sustainable development as a selection criteria
- Environmental management of projects
(e.g. waste, energy, transport)
- Raising awareness of environmental issues and actions that can be taken
- Skill needs analysis and specific training for sustainable development



Guidance for Applicants in the UK

An example at:

www.esf.gov.uk

Sustainable Development & ESF What's it all about?

Sustainable Development is all about recognising that economic, social and environmental goals cannot be pursued independently. Focusing on just one area can lead to negative impacts on the others, or at very least missed opportunities.

Within **Objective 3**, everyone should address the sustainable development horizontal theme by considering how they can help deliver each of the following issues:

Providing opportunities to allow everyone to fulfil their potential

- Addressing social exclusion in the most deprived communities by helping people into work
- Widening participation in education and learning
- Removing social, economic and cultural barriers to labour market entry
- Improving access to work and employment opportunities
- Promoting opportunities for self-employment
- Capacity building initiatives to ensure ESF reaches those that are in greatest need and to encourage local development and community delivery

Environmental protection and enhancement through the delivery of projects

- Minimising the use of private cars and promoting public transport (where available)
- Reducing waste (e.g. through innovative delivery methods, ICT, library of materials, etc.)
- Recycling of any waste materials that are produced
- Conserving energy (i.e. use efficient buildings and equipment)
- Reviewing course content to see where environmental/sustainable development issues could be incorporated
- Raising awareness of environmental issues and sustainable development within beneficiaries, and identifying practical actions that can be taken
- Environmentally focused projects – i.e. social enterprises, New Deal for the Environment, etc.

Providing the skills that businesses both demand and require – now and in the future

- Providing relevant skills to target businesses – both generic and sector-specific
- Improving managerial skills to help improve efficiency and competitiveness
- Environmental management training – help cut costs, reduce future risk, improve investment potential, etc.
- Promoting sustainable development as a key business issue for the future
- Addressing the skill requirements of the emerging and growing 'green' sector

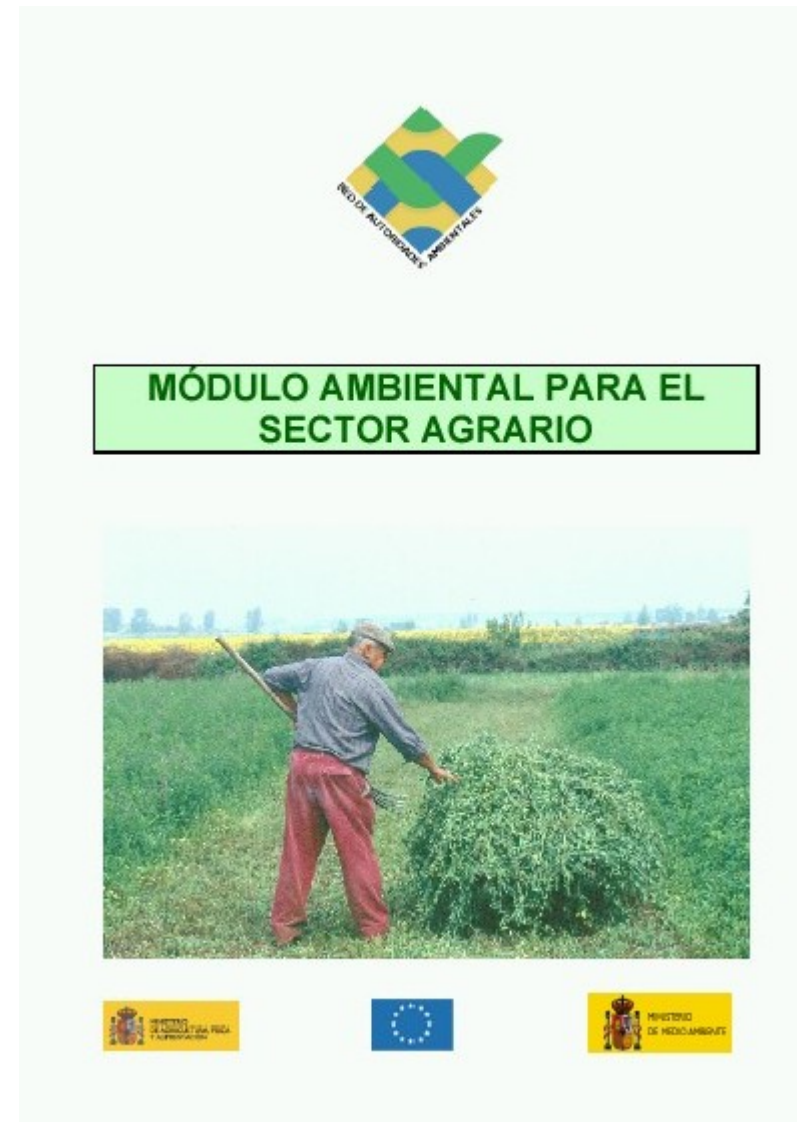


For more information go to: www.esf.gov.uk



Awareness raising in Spain

More than 3.5 million people have followed a module of awareness raising in the training actions cofinanced by the ESF



Specific actions in the environmental sector

In Spain, in 2006 more than 50 projects are being cofinanced by the ESF through Fundación Biodiversidad regarding:

Environmental observatories, Training for sustainable development, Skill needs analysis, Training on environmental management systems, Renewable energies

In co-operation with, universities, NGOs, social partners, and local authorities

www.fundacion-biodiversidad.es





Free movement of good ideas



www.ec.europa.eu/equal



Equal and the environment. Some examples:



Social economy in the field of renewable energy sources (ITALY)

Tourism, Environment, and Sustainable Development (PORTUGAL)

Social firms specialised in electric waste recycling (FINLAND)

Repanet – Jobs for the long-term unemployed in recycling (AUSTRIA)



The ESF 2007-2013. Scope of intervention

- increasing adaptability of workers and enterprises;
- enhancing access to employment;
- reinforcing social inclusion;
- partnership and networking for reform in the fields of employment and inclusion;
- Improving the links between education systems and the labour market.



The ESF 2007-2013.

Scope of intervention

Under the 'Convergence' objective and in addition to the priorities mentioned above, the ESF will also support:

- **efforts to expand and improve investment in human capital;**
- **the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations, at national, regional and local level.**



ESF and Sustainable development in 2007-2013

- In carrying its tasks, the ESF shall support economic growth and sustainable development
- Promoting lifelong learning and increased investment in human resources ESF can disseminate eco-friendly technologies and management skills
- Strengthening institutional capacity in the field of environment (Convergence and Cohesion)



Strengthening institutional capacity in the field of environment

Development of strategies and action plans, background studies to underpin policies;

Development of impact assessment capacities;

Introduction of evaluation and monitoring policies;

Supporting intra-departmental co-ordination and inter-connections between central, regional and local levels and cooperation with social partners and NGOs;

Development of implementation tools and methodologies (including operational manuals, code of conducts etc);



Thank you for your attention

Questions?

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