

Mclsaac C (Cathy)

From: Margaretanne.McKillop@central-glasgow.ac.uk
Sent: 08 January 2007 16:48
To: Structural Funds Consultation Mailbox
Subject: Consultation Response

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Future European Structural Funds Programmes in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland 2007-2013**RESPONDENT INFORMATION DETAILS**

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Responding as: on behalf of a group or organisation
Individual Permission:
Confidentiality:
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Questions and Answers

Question 1: Are there any additional socio-economic factors to be considered – and which Structural Funds can address – in assessing the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?

It would have been preferable if a more detailed and inclusive socio economic report had been produced earlier in the planning process in order to facilitate more considered responses and provide the opportunity to make comparisons with and draw down conclusions from the outputs of the 2000 - 2006 programmes. This would have highlighted additional socio economic issues that the present document may have omitted. Areas that we as a college have heavily focused on in previous programmes such as ICT development and urban tourism do not feature as much as we would have anticipated although these still represent major issues important to the growth of the West of Scotland

	economy.
Question 2: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ERDF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland address the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the region?	Following on from the above and echoing the response made by Woscop, is our concern over the omission of e-Business from Priority 1.
Question 3: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ERDF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland show appropriate coherence and concentration?	We are surprised by the inclusion of a priority solely for rural issues which seems an unfair concentration of resources on a relatively small percentage of the population. Some of the proposals to use structural funds to assist transport and communications links etc do not really seem the kind of assistance that the funds are devised to support. Most of the socio economic deprivation is concentrated within the central belt area and yet there is no spatial targeting proposed for Priority 1.
Question 4: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ESF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland address the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the region?	
Question 5: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ESF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland show appropriate coherence and concentration?	As there is to be considerably reduced funding available it will be of paramount importance to ensure that project sponsors can convincingly demonstrate transparency and added value. It has been our experience that projects work best when beneficiaries include those from a wider target group than exclusively the socially deprived as a better "mix" ensures a level of peer support and encouragement and helps avoid drop out and attendance problems.
Question 6: What are your views on the proposed balance of funding between priorities for the future ERDF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?	As mentioned previously, the ring fencing of funds within Priority 3 seems unfair and unbalanced and we would agree with the revised percentages proposed by Woscop as well as the suggestion regarding replacement of this priority with one on Sustainability and Environmental Protection.
Question 7: What are your views on the proposed balance of funding between priorities for the future ESF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?	
Question 8: Do the proposed priorities outlined in the draft Operational Programmes focus sufficiently on the right priorities in Scottish domestic policy?	
Question 9: What are your views on how the principle of environmental sustainability has been integrated into the Operational Programmes?	
Question 10: What are your views on how the principle of equal opportunities has been integrated into the Operational Programmes	
Question 11: What are your views on how the Operational Programmes will ensure complementarity between Structural Funds and other EU funding	We would be very keen to support complementarity between structural fund programmes and other EU funds and have been endeavouring to do this for a number of years, particularly via Socrates programmes which have

streams?	supported ESF beneficiaries with work placements and exchange visits to other EU states.
<i>Question 12: How can the challenge-fund approach be improved to make it more effective in delivering outcomes and more efficient in operation?</i>	Again as a result of restricted funding we would wish to voice our concerns about the management and administration of the funds and feel that a rolling programme arrangement would be preferable with the aim of providing more flexibility. Similarly a less time consuming appraisal and claims process would be welcomed.
Question 13: What would be the most effective approach to using Community Planning Partnerships and other local partnerships for the delivery of elements of the programmes?	
<i>Question 14: What are your views on spatial targeting for community regeneration under ERDF Priority 2 and ESF Priority 1?</i>	It seems obvious that the Glasgow area is the one most in need of spatial targeting and so this is where the investment should be made.
Question 15: What are your views on spatial targeting for rural development under ERDF Priority 3?	
<i>Question 16: Do you have any additional comments on the draft Structural Funds Operational Programmes for Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?</i>	We would concur with the issues and concerns expressed in the Woscop response to this question.

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