

Mclsaac C (Cathy)

From: d.macleod@crichton.gla.ac.uk
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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**

Name: Dr Donald Macleod
Organisation: University of Glasgow, Crichton Campus, Centre
 for Research into Regional Development
Address: University of Glasgow, Crichton Campus,
 Dumfries, DG1 4ZL
Postcode: DG1 4ZL
Email: d.macleod@crichton.gla.ac.uk
**Telephone
 Number:** 01387 702010
Responding as: on behalf of a group or organisation
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 Organisation:** Yes
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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?

The South of Scotland should be regarded as a regional area with distinct socio-economic and cultural issues and challenges: see South of Scotland Competitiveness Strategy 2007-2013 (SOSCS).

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?

The South of Scotland has a need for support regarding its working population decline, learning and skills development, the improvement of local businesses, especially in tourism, food, textiles and increasingly renewable energy. The quality of life should also be improved and seen as a real asset together with the natural heritage.

Question 3: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ERDF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland show appropriate coherence and concentration?	There is coherence and concentration, although there needs to be more emphasis on research and innovation concerning higher education, small businesses and key economic sectors, especially in the South of Scotland where HEIs are in an early stage of development and need more investment.
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?	The South of Scotland should have a specific programme (see SOSCS).
Question 5: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ESF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland show appropriate coherence and concentration?	Yes, and the SOSCS should be supported.
Question 6: What are your views on the proposed balance of funding between priorities for the future ERDF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?	The balance is acceptable.
Question 7: What are your views on the proposed balance of funding between priorities for the future ESF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?	Resources should be in accordance with the SOSCS.
Question 8: Do the proposed priorities outlined in the draft Operational Programmes focus sufficiently on the right priorities in Scottish domestic policy?	There should be more inclusion of rural-based policies.
Question 9: What are your views on how the principle of environmental sustainability has been integrated into the Operational Programmes?	Environmental sustainability is integrated well, and also plays an important part in the SOSCS.
Question 10: What are your views on how the principle of equal opportunities has been integrated into the Operational Programmes	The principle has been integrated appropriately.
Question 11: What are your views on how the Operational Programmes will ensure complementarity between Structural Funds and other EU funding streams?	The programme is ensuring complementarity for EU funding.
Question 12: How can the challenge-fund approach be improved to make it more effective in delivering outcomes and more efficient in operation?	There is a need for flexibility in its support of the SOSCS.
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?	The SOSCS utilises the community plan for Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders, and should therefore be supported.
Question 14: What are your views on spatial targeting for community regeneration under ERDF Priority 2 and ESF Priority 1?	This is acceptable.
Question 15: What are your views on spatial targeting for rural development under ERDF Priority 3?	The statement recognises the specific role of the SOSCS in dealing with strategic projects.
Question 16: Do you have any additional comments on the draft Structural Funds Operational Programmes for Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?	The South of Scotland should be recognised as an area needing specific attention and funded as such.

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