

Priorities 1 and 4 will improve the employability and skills of unemployed and inactive people, and tackle barriers to work faced by people with disabilities or health conditions, lone parents, people over 50, ethnic minorities, young people, people with no or low qualifications, and other disadvantaged groups, including people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

Priorities 2 and 5 will improve the qualifications and skills of people without basic skills and with no or low qualifications. They will also develop managers and workers in small enterprises. In Cornwall, the skills priority will support Cornwall's Higher Education strategy.

Priorities 3 and 6 will fund technical assistance activities to support the delivery of the programme.

Implementation

The programme's Managing Authority and Certifying Authority will be the European Social Fund Division of the Department for Work and Pensions. The Audit Authority will be the Department's Risk Assurance Division. At national level, the programme will be overseen by a Programming Monitoring Committee.

Most of the delivery of the programme will take place at regional level. Regional Skills Partnerships will have a leading role in developing regional ESF strategies. Regional ESF strategies will provide the framework, along with the Operational Programme, for Co-financing Organisations to develop detailed ESF delivery plans. Co-financing Organisations will have responsibility for bringing together ESF and the required domestic match funding, and for contracting with providers.

The Convergence area of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will have its own strategy and committee. The regional strategies and committees in the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber will take account of the specific needs of the phasing-in areas of Merseyside and South Yorkshire. In Gibraltar, the Government of Gibraltar will be the Intermediate Body.

The programme will contain two cross-cutting themes: gender equality and equal opportunities; and sustainable development including environmental sustainability. These themes will build on good practice developed in 2000-2006. All activities will be expected to address these themes.