



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Social Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

European Social Fund Challenge Fund FAQs

Q. Match funding, 3rd Sector organisations asking if Match funding could be from another ESF Source.

A. Organisations cannot use ESF from other programmes to double fund the same activity; bidding organisations are responsible for sourcing their own match-funding

Q. Can match funding be evidenced each year or does it have to be evidenced for the duration of the project?

A. There are many sources available to organisations and they can **provide and evidence match on an annual basis**

Q. Do you know of any sources of match funding that 3rd sector organisations can tap into? Either through SG or DWP etc

A. As lead partner, PKC will check all match funding is clean upfront to ensure it is eligible, so no other EU funding or outputs related to it. Organisations will need to tell PKC where the money is coming from and PKC will need the evidence to support this prior to agreements being drawn up. Lottery could have outputs related to it, so just be aware of this too. Organisations who have applied for funding through BL and considering using this as their Match PKC will need to check the details in the award letters, this applies to any Government or other agencies that will provide grants to 3rd sector that they can use as match.

Q. Could a potential delivery Agent procuring a consultancy to deliver a project have to have their consultants 100% on the project? consultants delivering this provision would be doing so on a workshop/ mentoring basis and are self-employed with their own business, therefore could they also work as a consultant for another company at the same time?

A. Yes they can (they don't have to be 100% on the project) as the service/provision. If procuring specific services/number of workshop the 100% on ESF does not apply as testing the market to get a competitive price through transparent process. This will be paid on actuals/invoice such as number of workshops provided etc depending on how the procurement is advertised.

NATIONAL RULES - Staff costs incurred through contracts for services such as consultancy services are not considered eligible under these flat rate options - these would be covered under the **procurement** option and paid as actual costs. Unpaid voluntary work is also not eligible under direct staff costs. Staff travel should not be considered as a direct staff cost. It can be considered as an indirect cost.

Q. Childcare costs, can a beneficiary receive childcare costs from the delivery agent as per National rules as long as there is an evidenced need? Just want to check my understanding is correct.

A. Childcare is an indirect cost within the flat rate model for challenge/in-house activity and should be with a registered childminder/nursery or actuals if the participant is on this methodology for the activity. Providing childcare removes a barrier to allow the participant to join and participate in the operation and should be evidenced – e.g. how do you know they have a child/children?

NATIONAL RULES - 4.3.4. Dependent Care

Actual costs towards the provision for dependents to allow participation in operations is eligible where a full evidence trail can support the costs.

Q. Could Match Funding be in the form of Kind?

A. Match funding must be in the form of a direct cash contribution or expenditure incurred i.e. by delivering units or incurring actual costs through procured services/flat rate methodology. Also noted in the National Rules

NATIONAL RULES 5.7 Other *ineligible* costs In-kind costs (excluding land or real estate)

Q. Can current SLA's from PKC be used to match fund this?

A. Yes they can as long as the current SLA funds from PKC are not derived from EU funds and that there is evidence of additionality to the project activities and outcomes e.g. if a project have an agreement to support 10 participants ESF would support additional places over and above the 10 for those that have multiple barriers. Details of the SLA and the funding would need to be established, in order to obtain the correct information; ultimately it is up to the organisation to provide evidence to PKC that this is clean match.

*NB If it is to provide general support to this client group or fund a post etc then this would be eligible

Q. How do payments work?, successful applicants need to match the difference of their total project costs from the awarded ESF funding (Up to 50%) e.g. 45% ESF Funding would require 55% match funding, and claims are made quarterly in arrears, but payments are made based on particular outcomes i.e. so much for gaining a qualification, or a job or for attendance etc.

A. As this is challenge fund PKC are paying on the direct staff costs and agreed performance targets to work towards and plan to monitor throughout.

Q: Can an eligible participant work with 2 different providers on the pipeline at the same time?

A: Participants can be supported by a number of providers at various stages of the pipeline; however no participant should be undertaking the same activity with different providers. Management and tracking of milestones will be monitored throughout.