
date: **10 July 2009** agenda item: **03**
title: **Update on EEDA activity**
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Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief update on EEDA activity since the last meeting and planned forthcoming activity.

Progress against actions identified at last meeting

No specific action points were identified in the last set of minutes. However:

No comments were sent to MA for inclusion in a group response to the East of England Implementation Plan consultation.

Feedback from GO about the discussion of the Migration Impacts Fund (MIF) was that the points raised had been very useful.

Other activity

myUKinfo.com (the national information portal) was launched on 11 June. Initial feedback is being compiled ready for the first formal review. The next language (Slovakian) is hoped to be on line within the next few weeks. A number of other regions have expressed an interest in working with us on this, some have sought funding through the MIF. An application for funding from the European Commission through the Innovative Workers Mobility projects was submitted that would bring a second phase to the project. This would include matching skills against specific jobs in a range of industries to help employers attract the workers they need, to assist people to find work to match their skills or identify the skills they need for the jobs available; and to demonstrate to training providers the skills that are in demand.

The ESF project 'English language training for migrant workers' has picked up speed in terms of delivery although remains slightly behind target at the end of May. A joint website for the English language and transfer of qualifications projects has been established at www.migrantskills.org.uk 40% of clients have been ineligible to join the English language project as it is aimed at people in employment. Additional money has been sought through the MIF to address this eligibility issue. Only in Essex was there a problem in terms of sub-regional lead and recruitment of learners but both of these are now in hand.

The meeting between Sheila Childerhouse, Mark Allison and Michael Jack MP, chair of the EFRA Select Committee, was cancelled. We hope to re-organise a meeting as soon as possible.

The evaluation of EEDA funded migrant worker activity is underway and a discussion will take place at the meeting on 10 July. A final report is due out at the end of July. There have been a number of challenges for the evaluation team to deal with but the report will be a foundation on which to build further work for the duration of the current EEDA corporate plan period.
