

Building Better Opportunities



Guide to delivering European funding

Section ten: Cross-cutting themes

About this guide

This is just one section in a series of guidance documents that make up the Guide to Delivering European Funding (the ‘**Guide**’). These documents are designed to support you to manage your Building Better Opportunities grant and should be used in conjunction with guidance produced by the Managing Authority and European Commission and does not replace it. This is guidance only and cannot cover all scenarios that grant holders will encounter.

This version of section ten replaces all those we have previously published. **For the full contents visit our website [here](#).**

The Guide remains under review and is subject to change. It should be read alongside the **Essential Updates** published on our [website](#) and emailed to the lead partner. Essential Updates contain details of any guidance changes, updates, clarifications and reminders. Information will often appear within Essential Updates some time before being incorporated into the Guide.

Summary of changes

November 2020 for version 7.0 the following updates have been made:

- ✓ Branding has been updated to reflect our name change from the Big Lottery Fund to The National Lottery Community Fund.
- ✓ **About this Guide** has been updated to align with recent changes elsewhere in the Guide and an additional paragraph has been added to remind readers to use it alongside our Essential Updates.
- ✓ Links to the Managing Authority’s Cross Cutting Themes Guidance has been added, along with reference to the Policy and Implementation plans.
- ✓ Our guidance for action plans has been removed, to ensure grant holders refer to the Managing Authority’s guidance.

May 2017 - Lottery logo updated.

March 2017 - Delayed quarterly update with updated logo.

September 2016 - Quarterly update, with use of National Insurance number for participant ID, updated Annex K, new Annex Q and revised annexes in Oct/Nov.

June 2016 - This version of the Guide incorporates appropriate comments gained from the consultation review in April 2016.

Any changes to the Guide will be:

- communicated on our website and on the inside page of each section
- emailed to current grant holders and highlighted in our programme e-bulletin.

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10.1 Explaining the cross-cutting themes

There are two cross-cutting themes for ESF that must be fully integrated in the delivery of your project. These are:

- ✓ sustainable development and
- ✓ gender equality and equal opportunities.

The European Commission takes these cross-cutting themes very seriously and they expect to see projects fully embracing the principles behind them.

Lead organisations must lead by example in the way they run their own operations, including procurement and the way in which personnel are equipped with the skills and training needed.

You need to develop, implement and revise a **Policy and Implementation/Action Plan** for **each** of the themes and notify us regularly on your progress towards them. For more details please see the Managing Authority's [Cross Cutting Themes Guidance](#). This guidance sets out the basic requirements for completing both Policies and Action/Implementation plans.

10.2 Sustainable development

Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It recognises the need to balance environmental, social and economic considerations when designing and delivering activities.

10.3 Gender equality and equal opportunities

The need to treat everyone equally, regardless of race, sex, gender reassignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy and maternity, or disability, plays an important part in the sustainable development of local economies.

All organisations involved in delivering the projects we fund must be committed to promoting equal opportunities and non-discrimination in all areas of their work. This should be in line with current legislation, including the Equality Act 2010.

We look for the ways in which you have integrated your approach to equalities and actively promote equality in every aspect of the project, including how you ensure the involvement of disadvantaged groups in the way the project is run.