

# ++++++ IT ALL ADDS UP ++++++

A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND

<b>Project Title</b>	Hi Hopes in the Highlands and Islands Development Partnership
<b>Lead Partner</b>	UHI Millennium Institute

## Background

Hi Hopes in the Highlands and Islands is a Scottish Development Partnership under the Theme E of the Equal Programme, *'Promoting Lifelong Learning and inclusive work practices'*

The DP has been established in Round 2 of the Equal Programme (2004 – 2007) by 15 partners organisations, drawn from Further and Higher Education, Voluntary Organisations, Public and Private sectors across the Scottish Highlands and Islands.

## DP Aims and Objectives

The DP will test new models of supported learning and social enterprise development, as well as transferring good practice across DP partners and communities. New on-line tools and support will be developed, learning from good practice in other communities.

Hi Hopes' aim is to extend provision of lifelong learning opportunities in H&I, and improve equity of access to these opportunities, thereby assisting everyone living and working in the area to achieve their potential. Sparse population and difficult geography present significant barriers to lifelong learning provision and access, and this DP will test new models to overcome these obstacles, thus reducing discrimination and inequalities in the H&I labour market.

- The DP will work towards this aim by:  
Supporting the most vulnerable and socially-excluded members of the community, enabling them to progress their lives, skills, abilities and active citizenship through participation in the labour market;
- Recruiting and retaining people in target professions experiencing, or anticipating, shortages of skilled workers by the provision of adequate lifelong learning and Continued Professional Development (CPD).

## DP Outcomes

The DP has focused on the development of a broad range of lifelong learning programmes, tools and frameworks, aimed at improving equity of access, and assisting individuals living and working in the region to reach their full potential.

By working together within the Equal partners have been able to share new ideas, build capacity and access new areas of expertise, all of which have helped support a number of successful outcomes, which include; the development of 15 new post graduate CPD modules (continuing professional development); the completion of social enterprise associate tutor training, involving practitioners grounded in local networks; the establishment of 3 new social enterprises offering training opportunities within rural communities; the production of a range of new ESOL learning materials; the development of new cross partnership networks focusing on quality provision; the development of two transnational CPD modules utilizing comparative case studies

Working Groups have taken forward specific areas of responsibility, leading to a strong emphasis on developing new and innovative approaches and methodologies - use of ICT, VC,

and on-line learning as a means of combating barriers created by geographic location.

**Finance**

**Round 2**

<b>Total Eligible costs</b>	<b>2,225,070</b>
<b>Total ESF Award</b>	<b>1,112,535</b>