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**A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND**

<b>Project Title</b>	Social Economy Scotland Development Partnership
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations

**Background**

Social Economy Scotland is a Scottish Development Partnership under the Theme D of the Equal Programme, '*Strengthening the social economy*'

The DP operated both in Round 1(2002 – 2005) and in Round 2 (2004 – 2007) of the Equal Programme with 7 partners in the first Round and 12 partners in the second Round, drawn from Voluntary, Public and Private sectors.

**DP Aims and Objectives**

In the first Round of the Equal Programme the DP aimed to:

- Establish a framework to foster the development of an 'entrepreneurial and enterprise culture' within the social economy.
- Provide the capacity for future growth and sustainability, leading to improvements in job quality in the sector.
- Significantly enhancing the cohesion, visibility and credibility of the social economy at local, national and transnational levels.

Building on the lessons learned in the first Round of Equal in the second Round the DP aims to support the social economy to increase its role in the delivery of innovative, high quality services, thereby enhancing its contribution to community regeneration, sustainable economic development and labour market integration in Scotland, towards a greater participation of the social economy in the delivery of the Scottish Executive's priorities as outlined in Partnership for a Better Scotland. Five priority themes have been selected in the second Round; **Partnership and Procurement, Access to Finance, Quality and Impact, Skills and Professionalism, Raising the Profile.**

**DP Outcomes**

The DP has been very successful in both Round 1 and Round 2. Outcomes from Round 1 include;

Local Social Economy Partnerships (LSEPs) emerged during Action 3 based on the success of Social Economy Zones piloted in Action 2. Communities Scotland supported the pilot Zones and is now charged with establishing LSEPs across the country. LSEPs have been rolled out across the country as part of the Futurebuilders Scotland Support Programme which sets the context for the Scottish Executive's commitment to supporting and promoting the social economy.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise Zone (HISEZ) - a pilot project supported by the DP with key contributions from Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Communities Scotland. HISEZ continues to be developed under Equal Round 2 with the new legal form of a Community Interest Company (CIC), the first example in Scotland.

In the second Round of Equal the DP piloted several innovative projects. Among these the Public Social Partnership model, a consortium involving local authorities and social enterprises to identify a need for a service and then deliver it at high quality level. Three PSPs have been created during Equal in the following areas; developing services for older people in Renfrewshire. A community-

based recycling service in North Lanarkshire and creating jobs for homeless in Edinburgh. The PSPs together with other outcomes and lessons learned from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Equal have been embedded in the Better Business, the Social Economy Strategy launched on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 by the Scottish Executive.

**Finance**

	<b>Round 1</b>	<b>Round 2</b>
<b>Total Eligible costs</b>	<b>2,082,730</b>	<b>3,011,548</b>
<b>Total ESF Award</b>	<b>1,041,365</b>	<b>1,505,774</b>