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Ms Christina McKelvie MSP  
Convener  
European and External Relations Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP



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Dear Christina

As Cabinet Secretary for Investment, Infrastructure and Cities, I would like to make the European and External Relations Committee aware of a recently published digital booklet about European Structural and Investment Funds in Scotland.

[European Structural Funds: A Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Scotland in Europe](#) is designed to raise awareness of the benefits that the various projects supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) deliver to people and communities across Scotland. The booklet also provides an overview of the new 2014 – 2020 ERDF and ESF programmes, highlighting the aims of Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth to stimulate economic growth and create jobs in Scotland and in other European regions so that the area is a more attractive place to invest, live and work in.

The booklet contains a selection of case studies from over 800 projects receiving funding through the 2007 – 2013 programmes in Scotland. The diversity and scope of each project varies considerably, from the building of windfarms in rural areas and restoring mountain pathways, to projects transforming transport hubs in deprived city environments or increasing skills and training levels to help more people into employment.

Each case study provides an insight into the lives and the communities affected, demonstrating the positive impact of European funding in a very tangible and immediate way. The case studies also demonstrate the progressive impact of European funding on small businesses and local communities, where they contribute towards increased job opportunities and targeting social exclusion.



[European Structural Funds: A Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Scotland in Europe](#) is one of a number of ways the Scottish Government is proactively communicating about European Structural and Investment Fund activities, both domestically and in Europe. As the 2014-2020 programmes move forward and the €985 million funding allocation is administered, we will update and expand the booklet to include new projects being delivered.

We are also reviewing and updating the Scottish Government's web pages to ensure stakeholders and interested parties can easily access accurate and up to date information, and we have established a new Twitter account @scotgovESIF.

I look forward to providing the Committee with a comprehensive update on European Structural and Investment Funds on 25 June 2015.

Kind regards



**KEITH BROWN**