



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



East Wales

European Regional Development Fund Programme 2014-2020

2018 Annual Implementation Report - Summary



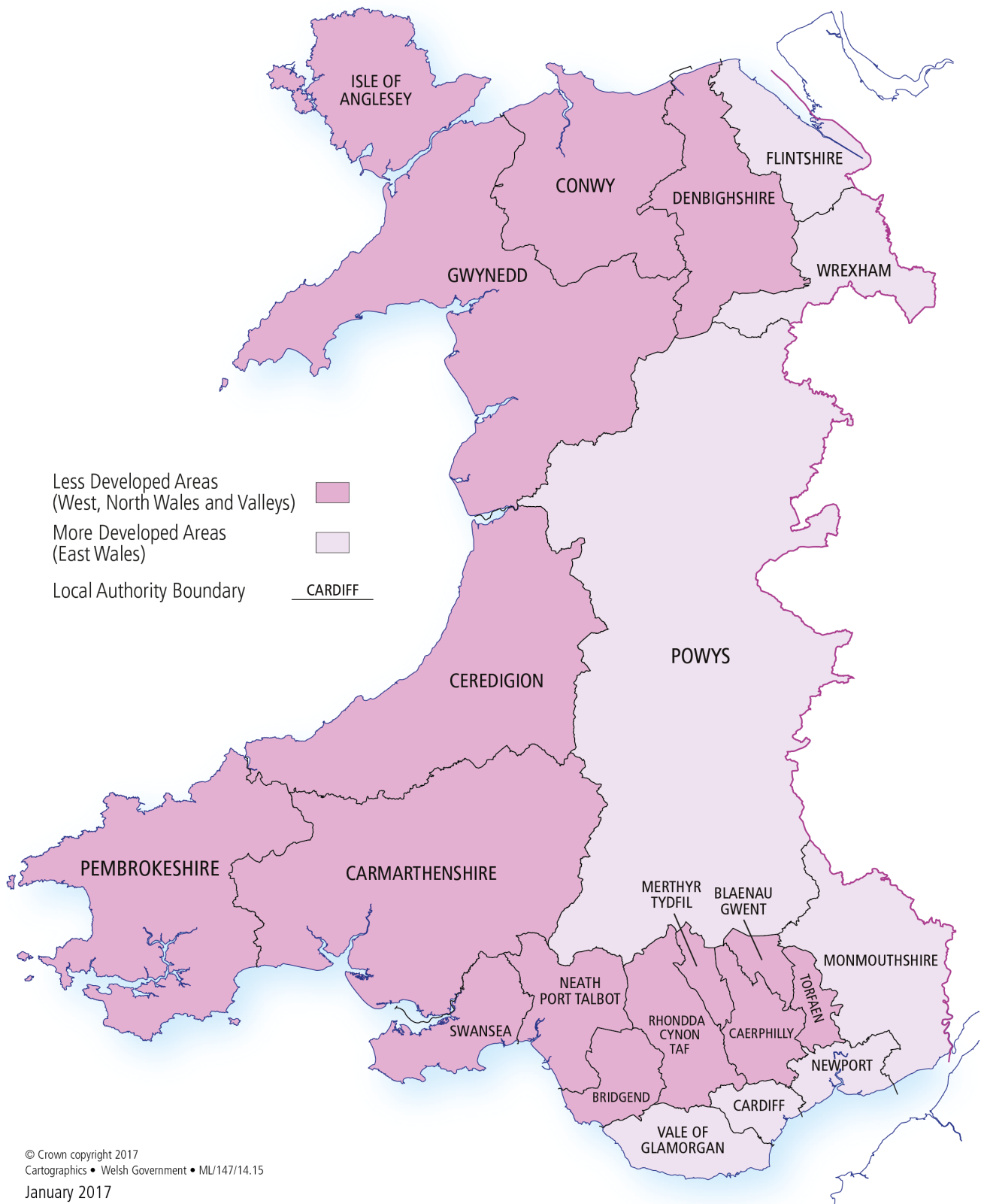
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**Cronfa Datblygu
Rhanbarthol Ewrop
European Regional
Development Fund**

European Structural Fund Programme Regions in Wales for 2014-2020



Introduction

Wales is benefiting from over €2bn of EU funds through four Structural Funds programmes covering the 2014-2020 period.

As part of this, €203m has been allocated to the East Wales region through the European Regional Development Fund, which aims to drive economic growth by investing in the following priority areas:

Priority	EU Budget	Total Budget ¹
Priority 1: Research and Innovation	€101m	€202m
Priority 2: SME Competitiveness	€46m	€91m
Priority 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	€5m	€10m
Priority 4: Connectivity and Urban Development	€48m	€96m
Priority 5: Technical Assistance	€4m	€8m
Total available under the Programme	€203m	€407m

¹ The amount from the EU Budget combined with match funding

Programme Progress

Overview

By the end of 2018, the Welsh Government had invested €188m of EU funds to 35 projects through the European Regional Development Fund driving a total investment of €401m in East Wales. Key highlights include:

3,600

Jobs created

480

Businesses created

2,500

Businesses supported

£32m

**research income
generated by
EU-funded projects**

Research and Innovation

EU funds are supporting world-class research programmes at Welsh universities, major R&D collaborations between academia and industry, and helping Welsh businesses develop new products and services across a range of sectors.

Highlights from 2018 include:

- Swansea University secured £4m to support major Research & Development collaborations between Welsh universities and manufacturing businesses through the ASTUTE East project.
- Cardiff University secured £1.9m to help Welsh businesses turn data science research and analytics into the products and processes of tomorrow as part of the Data Innovation Accelerator scheme.
- The University of Wales Trinity Saint David secured £450,000 for the Advanced Design Engineering operation to help Welsh manufacturing businesses maximise the use of advanced technology to create new and improved products and processes.



SME Competitiveness

Small and medium sized businesses, including start-ups and social enterprises, are benefiting from a range of funding and business support through a suite of EU-funded Business Wales initiatives and the Wales Business Fund.

Highlights from 2018 include:

- The Wales Business Fund invested £125m in SMEs across the East Wales region.
- EU-funded Business Wales services supported almost 1,800 businesses in the East Wales region.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

In East Wales, EU funds are supporting the Welsh Government's Arbed project to create energy efficiency improvements within households in fuel poverty. As part of the project, homes will be improved through a range of energy efficiency measures such as wall and loft insulation, draught-proofing, boiler and heating system upgrades and heat pumps.

In 2018 a number of schemes in East Wales were identified with work set to commence in 2019. By 2021, more than 700 homes in the East Wales region will have benefited from the project.



Connectivity and Urban Development

In East Wales, EU funds are supporting the Metro and the roll-out of superfast broadband, while specialist support to help businesses improve the way they work by maximising the benefits of superfast broadband and superfast enabled technologies is being provided through the SME Competitiveness priority.

Prior to the Superfast Cymru project ending in February, a further 8,000 premises in East Wales were provided with access to fast fibre broadband in 2018, while 471 businesses have been supported to maximise the benefits of superfast broadband.



Case Study

Sêr Cymru II



Supported by £8m of EU funds in East Wales, the Sêr Cymru II scheme is growing Wales' scientific research base by attracting leading scientists and researchers from around the world to Welsh universities.

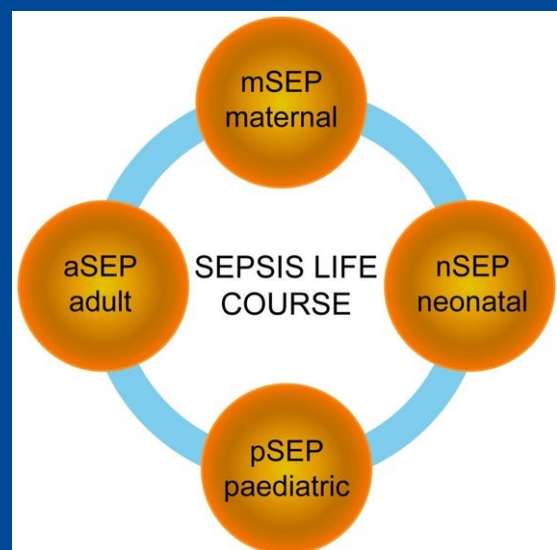
The scheme has supported Professor Peter Ghazal's appointment as the Sêr Cymru II Chair of Systems Medicine at Cardiff Medical School where he leads Project Sepsis – a research collaboration focused on the development of a test to rapidly diagnose sepsis in extremely vulnerable populations such as babies and elderly people.

The project uses computer-assisted genome, proteome, and metabolism approaches to decode the communication from the blood-immune system to more rapidly detect infection and identify innovative treatments.

Professor Ghazal said: "Just as a Twitter user can send a 140 character message, so our genomes produce short messages or signals which communicate with the immune and metabolic systems so that it can fight the infection."

The research has identified a 52-character DNA 'tweet' or message that is specific for bacterial but not viral infection.

Professor Ghazal explained: "With its strength in systems immunity and cross-disciplinary research, Cardiff University provides the perfect environment to join up science and clinical medicine to tackle sepsis. Project Sepsis aims to solve an intractable medical challenge through developing a team science approach for improving the outcome of critically ill individuals. Notably, this behavioural change in how we do science and directly connect to medicine has a further benefit of stimulating innovation and enterprise."



Case Study

Wales Business Fund



Cardiff-based Simply Do Ideas, an education technology firm that helps people build and test entrepreneurial ideas, secured £250,000 EU funds from the Development Bank of Wales as part of a £550,000 investment.

The company was founded in 2015 by Lee Sharmer after seeing the frustrations that start-ups and existing organisations faced in taking a raw idea through to execution. Since then it has developed cloud-based platforms that have been featured as best practice by the Huffington Post, Forbes and Business Insider.

Lee Sharma said: “We are now in a world where it is crucial to have a creative and innovative mindset. Our technology is unlocking the entrepreneurial behaviours of individuals, organisations and communities by digitally bringing people together. This opens up access to previously untapped resources, ideas and solutions while seamlessly bridging the gap between

industry and academia.

“With the support of these funds and the fantastic investor group behind us, we will continue to grow our market share and cement our position between industry and academia. Our plan is to become the de facto choice for organisations looking for a simpler way to support early-stage innovation.”





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