



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



East Wales European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020

2018 Annual Implementation Report - Summary



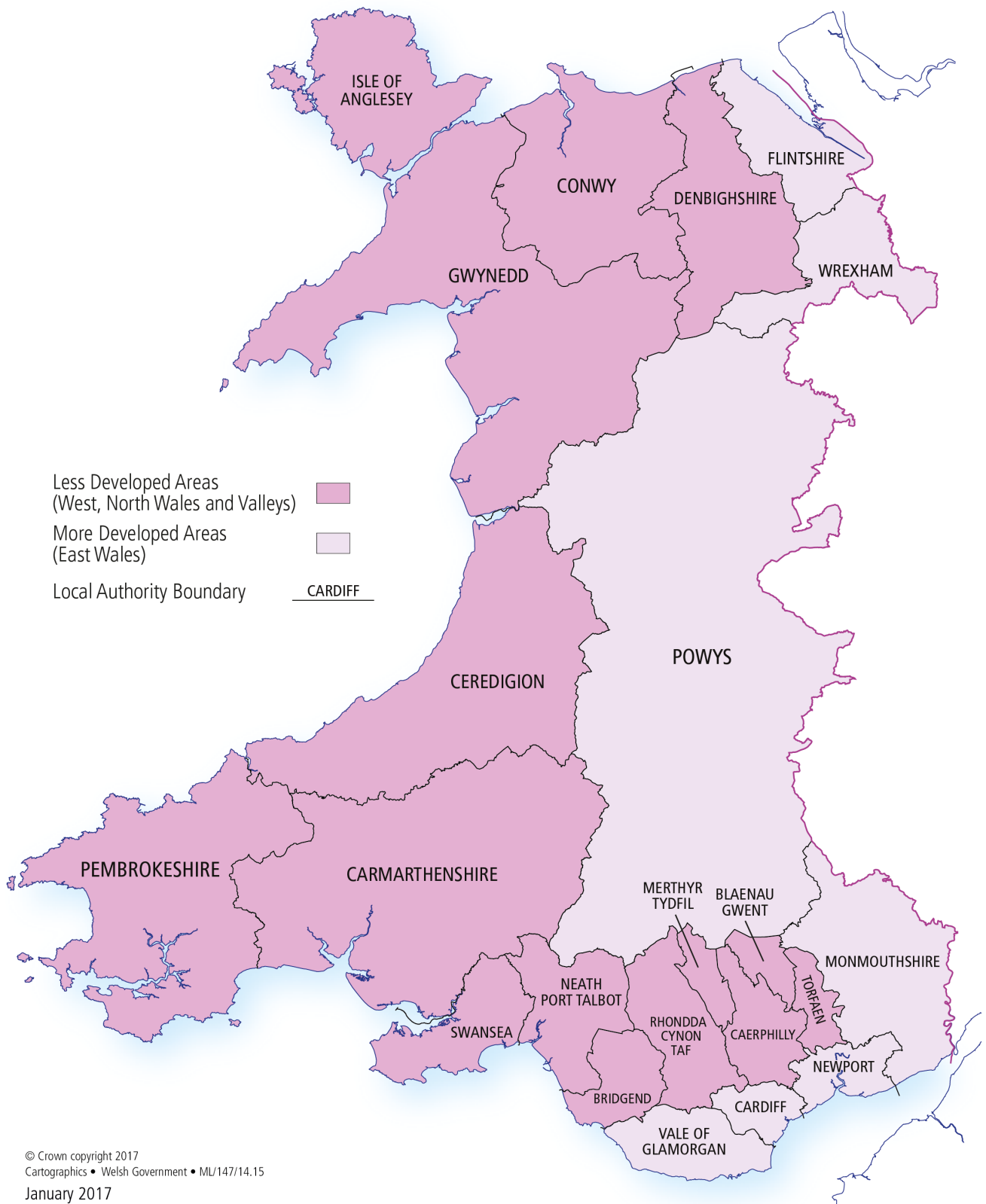
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**Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop
European Social Fund**

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, just under €203m has been allocated to the East Wales region through the European Social Fund, which aims to drive economic growth by investing in the following priority areas:

Priority	EU Budget	Total Budget ¹
Priority 1: Tacking Poverty through Sustainable Employment	€32m	€64m
Priority 2: Skills for Growth	€86m	€178m
Priority 3: Youth Employment and Attainment	€66m	€132m
Priority 4: Technical Assistance	€4m	€8m
Priority 5: Public Services Reform and Regional Working	€15m	€31m
Total available under the Programme	€203m	€413m

¹ The amount from the EU Budget combined with match funding

Programme Progress

Overview

By the end of 2018, the Welsh Government had invested €139m of EU funds to 35 projects through the European Social Fund driving a total investment of €434m in East Wales. Key highlights include:

3,600

People into work

1,300

Into further learning

20,000

New qualifications gained

Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

EU funds are supporting projects that are increasing the skills and employability of economically inactive and long-term unemployed people, and helping reduce underemployment and absence rates of employed people with work-limiting health conditions.

Highlights from 2018 include:

- Newport Council secured £1.3m for the Journey 2 Work scheme, which will provide specialist support to more than 800 long-term unemployed people over 25 in South East Wales.
- The Royal National Institute for Deaf People secured £1.8m to provide specialist employment and training services for almost 400 long-term unemployed people with hearing or sight problems as part of the Jobsense project.

Skills for Growth

EU funds are being invested in a range of initiatives that are improving basic, technical and high-level skills of working people across Wales.

Highlights during 2018 include:

- The University of South Wales Trinity St David secured £580,000 to provide accredited qualifications to employees in Welsh industry to help them understand and engage with global advances in innovation and technology through the Up-skilling for Industry 4.0 project.
- A further £2.3m extended the Wales Financial Services Graduate Programme which includes a pilot scheme in Data Science. The programme is creating career opportunities at some of Wales' leading financial services companies as part of a development programme that includes a Masters degree in Financial Services Management.

Youth Employment and Attainment

Young people across Wales are benefiting from EU funded training and employment opportunities, taking part in projects to increase the take-up and attainment of STEM subjects while EU funds are also being invested in increasing the skills of early years and childcare workers.

Backed by £4m in East Wales, the Welsh Government's Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE) scheme is supporting unemployed parents into work or training by helping them with childcare costs.

In 2018, the project helped its 1,000th parent in Wales into work.

Case Study

Active Inclusion Fund



Simon Naylor, from Cardiff, has benefited from a project led by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales as part of the EU-funded Active Inclusion scheme. Simon had undertaken a few jobs in the past but his situation had affected his confidence and motivation, and he needed a helping hand and training to help him get back on the path to employment.

As a first step, Simon undertook a programme that helped him develop new skills and enabled him to feel ready to re-enter employment. Key to this was an opportunity for Simon to learn about the work of the Subway restaurants and an opportunity to undertake a work taster at a restaurant.

Whilst developing new skills, Simon also gained a Sports Leaders UK work relevant qualification as well as a Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene qualification, which wouldn't have been possible without EU-funded Active Inclusion support.

Following his work-taster, Simon took part in a four-month work placement at the restaurant which then led to full-time employment.

Simon said: "I can't thank the guys at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales enough. They have given me so many opportunities and I am immensely grateful for all the support they have given me."

Cathryn Evans from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales added: "The change in Simon has been phenomenal and we are really keen to see that he has finally found employment. He is a great lad who just needed some support and someone to help motivate him."



Case Study

Welsh Data Science Graduate Programme



The EU-funded Welsh Data Science Graduate Programme is creating career opportunities at some of Wales' leading financial services companies as part of a development programme that includes a Masters degree.

Stacey Witchell, 23, is one of the first graduates to take part in the programme and is currently an Insight and Segmentation Analyst with Principality Building Society.

She said: "During the placement final years of my psychology degree I realised that I wanted to pursue a career in data analytics. I loved how data could be used to inform big decisions and produce meaningful recommendations.

"The fact that this programme was based in Cardiff was a big attraction as I knew that I wanted to continue living in Cardiff after graduation. However, what really appealed to me was the prospect that I could gain a Masters qualification alongside full-time employment.

"The programme is quite intensive in terms of the amount of learning, but it's all been so enjoyable and so rewarding! The best thing is how supportive everyone is. I feel lucky to be part of the first cohort of grads taking on this challenge!"





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