



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# West Wales and the Valleys European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020

## 2018 Annual Implementation Report - Summary



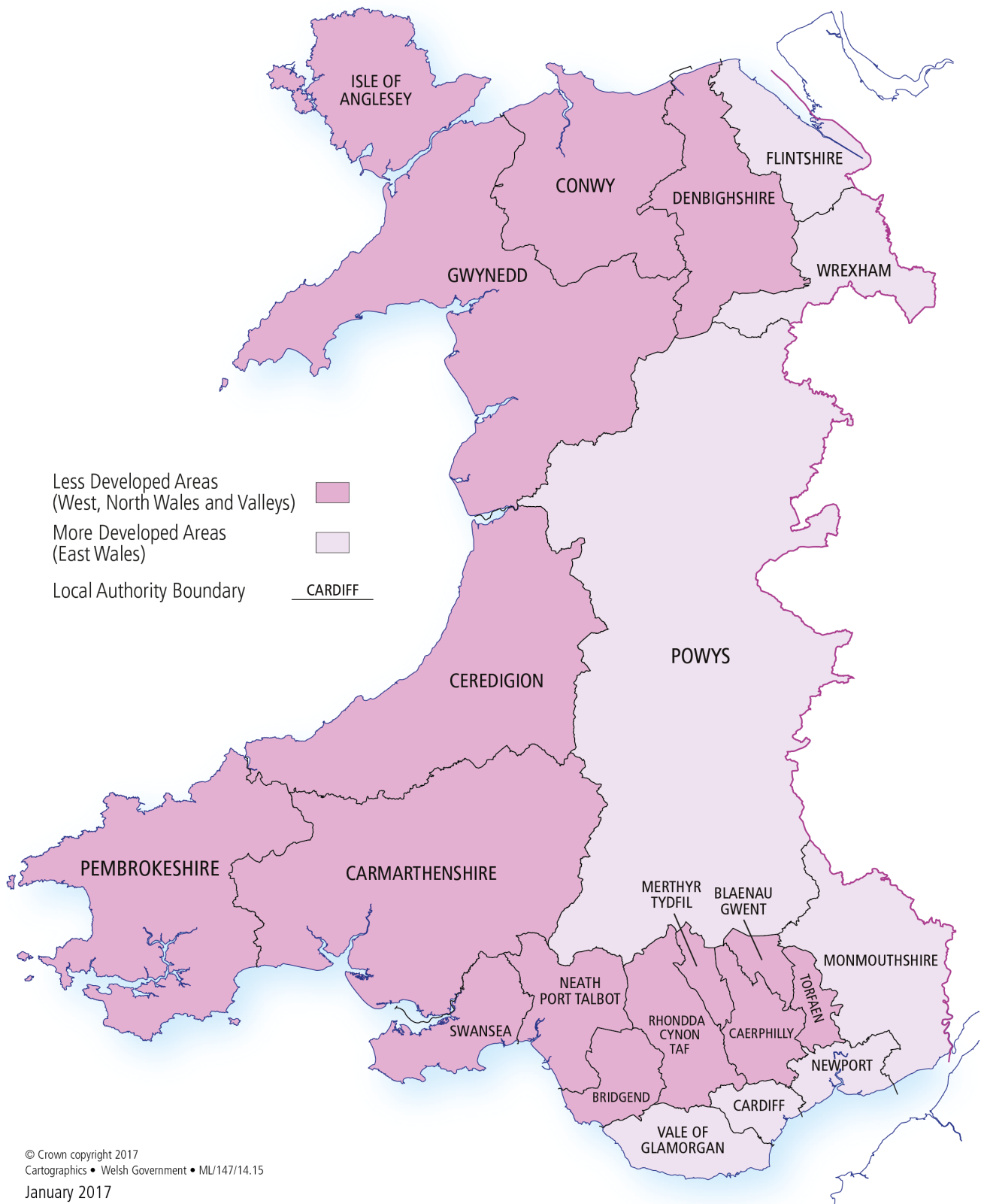
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**Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop  
European Social Fund**

# 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 €805m has been allocated to the West Wales and Valleys region through the European Social Fund, which aims to drive economic growth by investing in the following priority areas:

Priority	EU Budget	Total Budget <sup>1</sup>
Priority 1: Tacking Poverty through Sustainable Employment	€188m	€238m
Priority 2: Skills for Growth	€340m	€471m
Priority 3: Youth Employment and Attainment	€245m	€329m
Priority 4: Technical Assistance	€16m	€22m
Priority 5: Public Services Reform and Regional Working	€16m	€22m
<b>Total available under the Programme</b>	<b>€805m</b>	<b>€1,801m</b>

<sup>1</sup> The amount from the EU Budget combined with match funding

## Programme Progress

### Overview

By the end of 2018, the Welsh Government had invested €726m of EU funds to 59 projects through the European Social Fund driving a total investment of €1.1bn in West Wales and the Valleys. Key highlights include:

10,100

Helped into work

5,500

Into further learning

45,800

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:

- Torfaen Council secured £5.8m to provide mentoring and support to more than 2,000 under-employed people and people with work limiting health conditions and disabilities in the South Wales valleys through the Nurture, Equip, Thrive project.
- A further £5.6m was committed to extending the Bridges into Work project which is supporting long-term unemployed people in the South Wales valleys.



International Innovation Masters



Nurture, Equip, Thrive

## 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:

- Aberystwyth University secured £3.1m to help employers address high-level skills shortages in Wales' agri-food and biotech sector by offering bespoke qualifications and industry accredited skills tailored to industry needs.
- The University of Wales Trinity St David secured £3m to provide post-graduate training to around 390 employees from across Wales's manufacturing sector through the International Innovation Masters scheme.



# 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.

## Highlights during 2018 include:

- Swansea University and Gwynedd Council secured £5.2m for the Techocamps 2 and STEM Gogledd projects, which aim to encourage more than 4,000 young people, especially girls, to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects and pursue STEM-related careers.
- The Welsh Government's National Science Academy secured £5.7m to promote STEM subjects to more than 5,600 young people through innovative outreach activities outside the formal education system.



STEM Cymru

## Case Study

### PaCE



The Welsh Government's Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE) scheme is supporting unemployed parents into work or training by helping them with childcare costs.

Backed by EU funds, the scheme also provides one-to-one support with job applications, CV writing and advice on training and qualifications. In 2018, the project helped its 1,000th parent into work.

"I can't thank the programme enough, it has given me the confidence needed to reach my goals" - Firefighter, Adele.

"I can finally provide my children with a life they deserve" - Morgan, mum of two.

"I couldn't be prouder of what I've done for my daughter and I" - Chanelle, self-employed painter."

Welsh Government Minister, Eluned Morgan said: "This is a great achievement and I thank everyone for their hard work in supporting these 1,000 parents back into work. Our

Employability Plan outlines our commitment to removing the barriers which prevent people from working and ensuring individuals are trained, educated and prepared for the world of work.

"Adele, Morgan and Chanelle are examples of the PaCE scheme successfully delivering on that commitment through helping parents seek affordable childcare, find appropriate training opportunities and secure jobs with flexible working hours to help them into sustainable employment. I'm pleased to see this scheme is having such an impact."



## Case Study

### STEM Gogledd and Technocamps



In July, EU funding for two projects aimed at promoting STEM subjects and careers to young people was announced at an event organised by the Prince's Trust Cymru and attended by British astronaut, Tim Peake, who met with young people involved in STEM programmes.

At the event, Welsh Government Minister, Eluned Morgan, announced £5.2m of EU funding, for the STEM Gogledd and Technocamps 2 projects which will help ensure young people, particularly girls and young women, continue STEM studies at GCSE and beyond with the aim of pursuing STEM-related careers.

She said: "Wales must become a STEM nation if we are to build a modern, dynamic, open economy that benefits everyone. Both the pace and nature of technological change is increasing dramatically and, to have the skilled workforce to capitalise on it, it is vital we have more young people who choose to study STEM subjects to a sufficiently high standard. While this is quite a challenge to address for both boys and girls, the challenge

for girls is much greater.

"This is why I am grateful to organisations like The Prince's Trust for their pioneering programmes and to role models, like Tim, who are influential in promoting the study of STEM subjects. Tim's Principia mission inspired a generation and showed just how far, literally, science can take you.

"This is a great example of EU funds helping to enthuse and excite young people, particularly girls, about the opportunities available to them."





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