



UNDEB EWROPEAIDD  
EUROPEAN UNION



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Cronfeydd Strwythurol a  
Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd**  
**European Structural  
and Investment Funds**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# EU Structural Funds in Wales 2000-2023



---

# Ministerial Foreword

---



**Vaughan Gething**  
Minister for Economy

At the end of 2023, EU Structural Funds programmes will close in Wales following over 20 years of activity that saw more than £5.3bn invested in strengthening our economy.

This funding has supported local initiatives, regional priorities and major strategic projects across every part of Wales.

From thousands of new jobs and businesses to critical infrastructure and world-class R&D, these programmes leave a hugely valuable economic legacy and have boosted our economy during periods of economic turbulence such as the global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Millions of EU funding has helped our universities build new facilities and support industry with cutting-edge R&D. Thousands of businesses have been backed with finance and specialist support to grow, create new products and develop new markets.

Our marine energy sector has benefited from the creation of a demonstration zone in North Wales as well as support to attract developers to Wales to test and deploy their technology and create jobs.

EU funding has supported the South Wales Metro, major upgrades to the A55 in North Wales and the A40 in West Wales, the roll-out of Superfast Broadband and enhancements to railway stations across Wales.

Many thousands of apprenticeships and traineeships have been financed with EU funding as well as postgraduate programmes, job schemes for young people and support for the most vulnerable people to learn new skills and get back into work.

Since 2007, this has resulted in 71,100 new jobs and 18,600 new businesses being created across Wales. Some 38,400 businesses have been assisted with funding or specialist support, while more than 115,200 people have been helped into employment and 401,300 new qualifications have been achieved.

Many EU-funded projects will continue to benefit people, businesses and communities across Wales in the years ahead. This brochure provides an important reflection of 20 years of sustained EU investment in Wales and the legacy it leaves.

---

## EU funds in Wales

---

Every part of Wales has benefited from the EU Structural Funds programmes, with more than £5.3 billion of EU funds invested since 2000.

### Across the economy, EU funding has:

- supported **Research, Development and Innovation** – ranging from major expansions of research facilities to collaborative R&D between universities and businesses in areas such as life sciences, decarbonisation, advanced engineering and emerging technologies.
- been invested in **boosting the competitiveness of small and medium sized businesses** – by providing specialist support and finance to support entrepreneurship, new start-ups and expanding businesses.
- helped **grow the renewable energy industry** by investing in businesses to develop technology and creating demonstration zones in North and West Wales for developers to test marine devices. EU funding has also been invested in improving energy efficiency in homes across Wales.
- supported **large-scale connectivity and infrastructure** projects – including the roll out of superfast broadband, major upgrades to transport infrastructure, tourism sites and urban spaces, as well as substantial investment in the South Wales Metro.
- boosted **skills for economic growth** across Wales by investing in apprenticeships, graduate and post-graduate programmes, industry skills, and gender equality in the workplace.
- helped **young people into employment**, training and to achieve new qualifications through schemes that create paid job opportunities, skills programmes and mentoring, traineeships and access routes to STEM careers.
- been invested in **tackling poverty** through community employability programmes, providing support packages and funding the cost of re-training for people affected by redundancy, and a range of opportunities for unemployed people to attain new qualifications.

### The investment of EU funds in Wales has enabled us to:

- create 71,100 new jobs;
- create 18,600 businesses;
- help 115,200 people into work;
- help people achieve 401,300 new qualifications;
- support 66,600 people into further learning (all figures for the 2007-13 and 2014-2020 EU Structural Funds programmes).

## Pan-Wales projects

**EU funding has supported national projects that have created jobs and driven economic growth across every part of Wales. Some examples include:**

**Business Wales** (£70.1m EU funds) and the **Development Bank of Wales** (£192m EU funds) have provided funding and support to businesses to create new start-ups and help existing businesses develop and expand, while the Welsh Government's **SMART schemes** have provided finance and specialist knowledge to support innovation at businesses across Wales.

More than 139,000 **Apprenticeships** (£300m EU funds) and 22,000 **Traineeships** (£70.5m EU funds) have been created to help young people gain skills and paid experience at employers across Wales. **Jobs Growth Wales** (£40m EU funds) and **Jobs Growth Wales II** (£18.6m EU funds) also helped finance job opportunities in a range of sectors for unemployed 16-24 year olds.

The roll-out of **Superfast Broadband** (£22.7m EU funds) enabled more than 647,000 homes and business premises in Wales to access high-speed broadband, while millions of EU funds have been spent on upgrading transport infrastructure across Wales including railway stations, the A40 and A55, walkways, cycle-paths, and the South Wales Metro.

Transformation investment has also been made at 12 of Wales' most iconic tourism sites and destinations through the Welsh Government's **Tourism Attractor Destinations** scheme (£26.7m EU funds) including Porthcawl Waterside, Rock UK Summit Centre in Treharris, the Museum of Land Speed in Pendine, Caernarfon Castle, the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and the Colwyn Bay Waterfront.

Unused buildings and land across Wales have been redeveloped and repurposed as part of the Welsh Government's **Building for the Future** programme (£17.8m EU funds) including Llandeilo Market Hall and Harbourside in Port Talbot.

Third sector organisations were supported through WCVA's **Active Inclusion Fund** (£31.4m EU funds) to deliver specialist community employability programmes across Wales offering disadvantaged people new skills, mentoring and one-to-one support to re-engage with training, education and employment.



*Building for the Future – Harbour Court*



*Tourism Attractor Destinations (TAD) – Caernarfon Waterfront*

## North Wales



*Llandudno Train Station*

Since 2007, EU-funded projects in North Wales: (Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham) have created more than 14,000 jobs and 3,800 new businesses. A further 9,100 businesses have been assisted with funding or specialist support. EU-funded projects in the region have also helped 15,400 people into employment and supported people achieve more than 76,000 new qualifications.

EU Structural Funds programmes have seen substantial town centre regeneration across Wales including improvements through the **North East Wales Town Centre Regeneration project** (£1.92m EU funds), improving buildings and public spaces in Wrexham and Flintshire.

As part of the national **Wales Station Improvement Programme** (£21.m EU funds), Llandudno Station saw improved passenger concourse with new seating, undercover access for the entrance, a new ticket hall and retail space, new car park, bus layby and additional cycle storage.



*Celtic Gateway Bridge*



*Rhyl Foryd Harbour*

Isle of Anglesey County Council's **Celtic Gateway bridge** (£2m EU funds) linked Holyhead's train station and ferry terminal with the town centre and **Rhyl Foryd Harbour** underwent a dramatic refurbishment with a new 65 metre launching slipway, pontoons and quay walls installed as part of the redevelopment.

## 4 EU funds celebration



*Minesto's Deep Green project*



*Parc Eirias, Colwyn Bay*

A key priority of EU funded investment has been low carbon energy projects, with the coastal geography of North Wales making it an ideal place for several initiatives to develop, build and test marine and wave energy devices in the area. Minesto's **Deep Green** (£28m EU funds) and Menter Môn's **Morlais Consent and Development** (£8.35m EU funds) and **Morlais Infrastructure** (£31.65m EU funds) projects are all complementing the Welsh Government's carbon emission reduction and renewable energy generation targets and ambitions.

**North Wales Business Academy** (£2.8m EU funds), led by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, developed the skills of the workforce across the region for increased commercial success.

North Wales also has a vibrant tourism sector which continues to be a key contributor to the economy in the region, generating billions of pounds per annum. EU funded investments in the adventure tourism sector include **Zipworld** in Bethesda and **Antur Stiniog** (£120k EU funds) in Blaenau Ffestiniog.

In Conwy, **Porth Eirias** (£7m EU funds) in Colwyn Bay reinvented its famous promenade, improving the public realm along with the creation of new facilities at **Porth Eirias Watersports Centre** and the sports venue, **Parc Eirias** (£1.5m EU funds), the home of Wales' under-20s rugby.

Situated on the southern coast of the Llŷn Peninsula, **Plas Heli, the Welsh National Sailing Academy** (£4.3m EU funds), provides a venue for sailing activities ranging from training to national and international championships and events.



*Porth Eirias, Colwyn Bay*



*The Welsh National Sailing Academy, Plas Heli*

## 5 EU funds celebration



*Hafod Eryri*



*Hafod Eryri*

Visitors to the summit of Yr Wyddfa/Snowdon can enjoy views across the mountain range from the “window on the world” wall of glass which makes up the front of **Hafod Eryri** (£4.2m EU funds), the highest building in Wales.

North Wales has a rich cultural and historic heritage, particularly with the region’s bilingualism and several UNESCO World Heritage Sites. One of these is the **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal** (£700,000 EU funds) in Wrexham. Originally built between 1795 and 1808 and restored by British Waterway, it now provides a major tourism and economic boost to the local area with more than 10,000 boats and many tens of thousands of visitors crossing it each year.

In 2018, the renovated quarry village of **Nant Gwrtheyrn** (£2.2m EU funds) won the EU’s prestigious **RegioStars Award** for ‘Investing in cultural heritage’. The awards identify and publicise the good regional innovative projects, across different categories and to promote the exchange of good practices across Europe. The Welsh Government’s **Tourism Attractor Destinations (TAD)** (£26.7m EU funds) programme has created 12 must-see destinations that drive interest in Wales as a holiday destination for new and repeat visitors.

As part of the TAD programme, **Caernarfon Waterfront project** (£3.4m EU funds) was supported to help develop Caernarfon into an iconic tourist destination, building on the area’s exceptional cultural and historical assets. The Waterfront project includes the enhancement to the **Galeri Creative Enterprise Centre**, the development of new station/terminus facilities for the **Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways** and investment in infrastructure to improve access and linkages between the main attractions.



*Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal*



*Nant Gwrtheyrn, National Welsh Language and Heritage Centre*



*Galeri Caernarfon, supported by the Caernarfon Waterfront project*

## 6 EU funds celebration

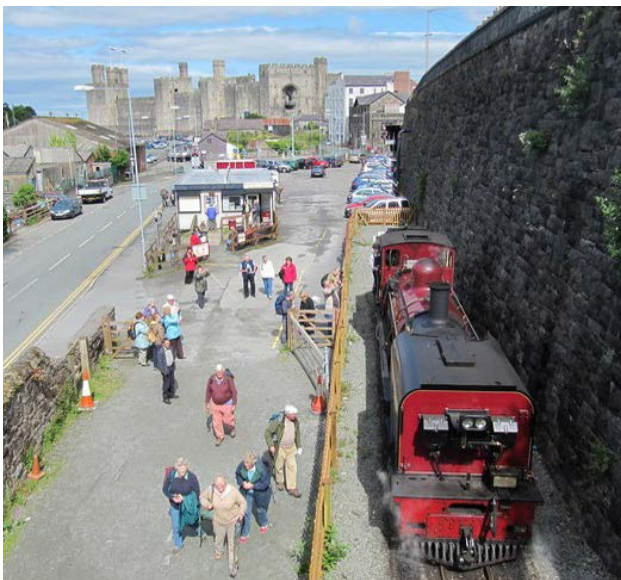
The **Caernarfon Castle King's Gate** (£1m EU funds) project has also been supported by the TAD programme for the restoration and conversion of a key historic asset involving significant enhancement to facilities for visitors while re-instating access to the fortified walls.

Higher and Further Education institutions have led many EU funded projects in North Wales. These institutions are driving a burgeoning digital sector due to the standard of its academia and continual improvements to its digital infrastructure.

The **Centre for Photonics Expertise** (£4.8m EU funds), led by Wrexham University has supported Welsh businesses through collaborative innovation, offering technological solutions to enterprises across Wales. The **OpTIC Centre** at the University supported young technology and start-up companies with a focus on taking new technologies to market. Computer technology has been developing exponentially with the speed of internet requirements getting ever faster. Technology and infrastructure that will ensure its sustainability has been developed by the **Digital Signal Processing (DSP) Centre of Excellence** (£4.2m EU funds) at Bangor University.

Positioning Wales at the forefront of a technological revolution to address the current climate crisis, the **Smart Efficient Energy Centre** (£4.6m EU funds) project worked to develop expertise in low carbon energy research and became a flagship development for the College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at Bangor University.

A cutting-edge facility and research division within the School of Natural Sciences at Bangor University, the **Centre for Environmental Biotechnology** (£5.8m EU funds) received wider, international recognition and publicity for its work to support monitoring of the coronavirus in wastewater during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting how the facility and its resources could be rapidly deployed to combat emerging health issues.



Caernarfon Castle



Tourism Attractor Destinations (TAD) – Galeri



## Mid Wales

Since 2007, EU-funded projects in Mid Wales (Ceredigion and Powys) have created nearly 6,000 jobs and 1,880 new businesses. A further 3,600 businesses have been assisted with funding or specialist support. EU-funded projects in the region have also helped 3,700 people into employment and supported people achieve more than 15,000 new qualifications.

With a largely rural economy and an outstanding natural environment, the region has benefited from significant EU funded investments in its infrastructure over the past decade, including the regeneration of Aberystwyth and other town centres.

The **Severn Valley Regeneration** (£2.8m EU funds) scheme in **Llanidloes, Newtown and Welshpool town** centres delivered improvements to commercial properties and the built environment, along with the creation of infrastructure for business premises at **Offa's Dyke and Abermule business parks**.

With support from EU funds, the **Princes Trust Enterprise Programme** successfully supported a large number of young people to start up their own businesses as a means to financial independence, while the work of the **Cynnydd East Wales** (£3.48m EU funds) project led by Powys County Council saw a 50% reduction in young people identified as being at the greatest risk of becoming not in employment, education or training.

Tourism is particularly important to the economy of Mid Wales and the site of the first Eisteddfod in 1176, **Cardigan Castle** (£4.27m EU funds) was reopened to the public in 2015 after a significant restoration project by Ceredigion County Council, transforming it into a significant heritage attraction, boosting tourism and bringing wider economic benefits to the area.



Cardigan Castle

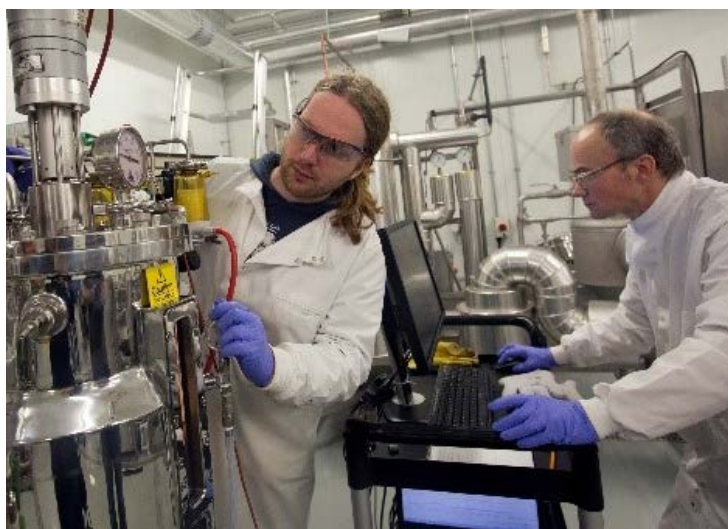
## 8 EU funds celebration

In Aberystwyth, as part of the **Tourism Attractor Destination (TAD)** programme, the **Vale of Rheidol Railway's "Wales to the World"** project (£1.6m EU funds) has seen the conversion of an existing engine shed into a new steam engine museum and a new platform, ticket office and café constructed and a new storage facility for the protection and conservation of the priceless collection of historic railway carriages.

**Canolfan Dulais Enterprise Centre** or **Creuddyn** (£1.2m EU funds) redeveloped an existing site in poor condition to provide high quality, modern business units for several small businesses and charities which all contributed to the local economy in Lampeter.

Mid Wales benefits from its further and higher educational institutions, with Aberystwyth University providing world class research in a wide variety of areas and leading many projects in the region.

The **AberInnovation Campus** (£23.1m EU funds) at the University has created a home to leading facilities which are helping address challenges including climate change mitigation, sustainability and food and energy security. The research and innovation available through these facilities has played a key role in supporting a sustainable knowledge-based bioeconomy in Wales.



*BEACON project*



*Creuddyn*

Winner of the EU's RegioStars 2014 award for 'Sustainable growth – Green growth and jobs through Bio-economy', the **BEACON** project (£30m EU funds) has developed new green products and services from natural sources, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, collaborating with hundreds of companies to develop new environmentally friendly products and services.

The bilingual postgraduate **Advanced Media Production** (£1.8m EU funds) scheme is ensuring that Wales has the high-level technical and practical skills to exploit new media and digital technologies in the creative, cultural, heritage and arts industries.

A partnership between Aberystwyth and Swansea Universities, **BioInnovation Wales** and **BioInnovation East Wales** (£4.1m EU funds), tackled skills shortages within the bio-based industry, providing online Postgraduate Training for the Food and Biotech Industries.

The refurbishment of modern, state-of-the-art laboratories enabled the **VetHub1** (£3m EU funds) project to work with industry to produce new products, tests and approaches to improve animal health and welfare.

**Future Foods** (£2.2m EU funds) was a 3-year project at Aberystwyth University, delivering expertise in food science, technology and nutrition to develop new and improved healthier products.

The University's **Geographical Data and Earth Observation for Monitoring (GEOM)** (£1.6m EU funds) project provided research and development activities in over 70 collaborative projects that businesses would otherwise be unable to undertake.

## South West Wales

Since 2007, EU-funded projects in South West Wales (Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire) have created more than 19,160 jobs and 4,530 new businesses. A further 10,200 businesses have been assisted with funding or specialist support. EU-funded projects in the region have also helped 32,415 people into employment and supported people achieve more than 101,000 new qualifications.

The region has benefited from significant investments in its infrastructure over the past decade, including the ongoing regeneration of **Swansea City Centre** and other town centres, a portfolio of incubation centres, and key transport links such as the **Harbour Way** project linking Port Talbot and the Docks to the M4.

Around £20m EU funds supported the comprehensive regeneration and creation of a vibrant, attractive and sustainable **Waterfront City Centre** in Swansea with the **National Waterfront Museum** (£3.7m EU funds) telling the story of industry and innovation in Wales over the last 300 years.



*Swansea Waterfront*

Transport infrastructure throughout the region has seen the benefits of EU funded investments with the **Port Talbot Transport Hub** (£2.3m EU funds) and the **Quadrant Transport Interchange** scheme (£5.8m EU funds) in Swansea providing modern high quality transport Interchanges.



*Quadrant Transport Interchange*



*Swansea Bus Station*

## 10 EU funds celebration

Another part of the Council's City Deal is the state of the art, self-powering **Swansea Bay Technology Centre** (£3.7m EU funds) building at Neath Port Talbot Council's **Baglan Energy Park**, providing office space for companies with a focus on the innovation and low carbon sectors to deliver low carbon, sustainable and inclusive economic growth for the region.

The **Advanced Engineering Materials Research Institute (AEMRI)** (£8.4m EU funds) based at TWI Wales in Port Talbot has developed a state-of-the-art engineering inspection and non-destructive testing facility for the aerospace, automotive, electronics, and nuclear and energy sectors.

**Tourism Attractor Destinations** (£26.7m EU funds), delivered through Visit Wales, has supported 12 individual projects to enhance visitor destinations across Wales.

One of these projects is the **Speeds of Sand Visitor Centre** in **Pendine**, creating a new sea front visitor attraction and museum, telling the story of Pendine Sands and the renowned land speed records set there in the 1920s. A special exhibition, designed with the students from University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) explores transport ideas of the future. The site also includes the "Caban" accommodation with restaurant catering, outdoor sports adventure market and an adventure playground.



*Museum of Land Speed, Pendine, supported by the Tourism Attractor Destinations programme*



*Llanelly House*

The TAD project at **Llys y Fran** constructed a new outdoor activity centre providing a base for water sports on the reservoir and a hub for cycling, walking and a safe year-round recreational and educational venue for the holiday visitors to Pembrokeshire.

The Grade 1 listed Georgian building **Llanelly House** (£2.7m EU funds) was restored to its early 18th Century condition and re-opened as a Community Heritage Centre in 2013.

Recognised both nationally and internationally for its features and its important role in the tourism economy of Pembrokeshire, **Stackpole Rediscovered** (£1.8m EU funds), a National Trust project, refurbished its Outdoor Learning Centre and accommodation facilities.

## 11 EU funds celebration



Stackpole bridge credit: Mike May



Swansea Bay Campus

EU funded projects at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) included **Industry 4.0 Upskilling for Industry** (£1.5m EU funds), which provided accredited qualifications to support manufacturing companies to keep pace with modern advanced manufacturing technologies, while **Advanced Design Engineering (ADE)** (£1.4m EU funds) provided SME support to increase small businesses' ability to innovate and remain competitive.

Swansea University benefited from £120m of EU funds for its **Innovation Hub** – a key element of the new **Swansea University Science and Innovation Campus**. The Innovation Hub is providing world-class facilities for industrial research and development focusing on advanced materials and manufacturing and an environment where industry can work with research teams to develop collaborative research projects and find technical solutions.

The University's **ASTUTE 2020+** project (£18m EU funds) collaborated with industry across Wales to promote sustainable growth through the development and adoption of advanced technologies. The project provided support to over 540 Welsh enterprises, created and safeguarded over 1,020 jobs, and contributed an economic impact of over £540 million across Wales since its inception in 2010.

Opened in September 2018, the **Computational Foundry** (£17m EU funds) is a state-of-the-art computer science facility at the heart of Swansea University's Bay Campus making Wales a global destination for computational scientists and industrial partners.

Situated in a new award-winning building, **IMPACT** (£17.8m EU funds) provided an innovative materials, processing and research base, while **AgorIP** (£7.4m EU funds) supported entrepreneurs and businesses in Wales to realise the commercial potential of their ideas, innovations and products.



Swansea University's Computational Foundry facility



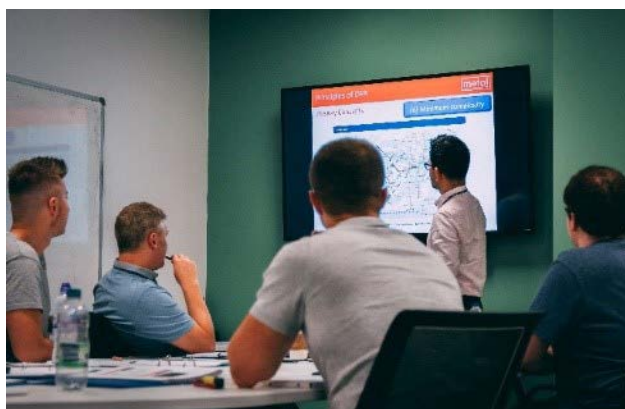
Swansea University's IMPACT building

## 12 EU funds celebration

In partnership with Bangor University, Swansea University's **ION Leadership** (£6m EU funds) dealt with the real issues faced by businesses in Wales, developing and enhancing the leadership skills of business owners, managers and key decision-makers.

Through accredited STEM courses developed with industry, the **METAL 2** and **METAL2** East Wales (£3.5m EU funds) projects increased the skills of people working in the field of advanced materials and manufacturing industry to tackle technical skills shortages.

**SPECIFIC 2** (£21.4m EU funds) developed and delivered the first examples of buildings as power stations which are able to generate, store and release their own energy both thermal and electrical.



*METaL seminar*



*SPECIFIC2*

**Technocamps 2** (£3.8m of EU funds) helped young people to continue STEM studies at GCSE and to pursue STEM-related careers, working with secondary schools with workshops for pupils to build on their existing knowledge and enthusiasm for IT and computing.

**Materials and Manufacturing Academy (M2A)** (£16.5m EU funds) supported postgraduate researchers in advanced materials and manufacturing to produce the enhanced technical, analytical and business skills needed by Welsh industry to compete on the global stage.

Building an internationally competitive research and innovation capacity in solar photovoltaic technology in Wales, **SPARC II** (£6.4m EU funds) brought together a consortium of partners to develop new areas for innovative technologies and applications in Wales.

The **Legal Innovation Lab Wales** (£3.3m EU funds) developed niche infrastructure in legal services and counterterrorism, including a "Legal AI" laboratory, a cyber threats research suite and Legal Innovation centre to support counterterrorism, defence, and security.

**Circular Economy Innovation Communities (CEIC)** (£1.9m EU funds) brought public and third sector organisations across South Wales together to create collaborative networks, working for a more sustainable future, enabling organisations to develop and implement circular economy and net zero solutions in their workplaces.

**Reduced Industrial Carbon Emissions (RICE)** (£7.5m EU funds) in partnership with University of South Wales, brought together expertise to create new methods for energy intensive industries to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## South East Wales

Since 2007, EU-funded projects in South East Wales (Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and Vale of Glamorgan) have created more than 31,300 jobs and 8,070 new businesses. A further 14,590 businesses have been assisted with funding or specialist support. EU-funded projects in the region have also helped 194,930 people into employment and supported people achieve more than 101,000 new qualifications.

The 2007-2013 programme saw major EU funds investment in the upgrading and regeneration of many town centres across Wales. Alongside the regeneration of Penuel Square in **Pontypridd town centre** (£3.68m EU funds), the restoration of the original 1920s Grade II listed **Ynysangharad Park Lido** (£3m EU funds) attracting thousands of visitors annually.



*Penuel Square, Pontypridd*



*Ponty Lido*



*Ponty Lido*

## 14 EU funds celebration

The former steelworks site, The Works in Ebbw Vale, was re-developed to house a variety of facilities including **Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone** (£8m EU funds), which opened in 2012 (a post 16 education facility), The General Offices and Visitor Attraction and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Hospital.



*Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone*



*Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone*

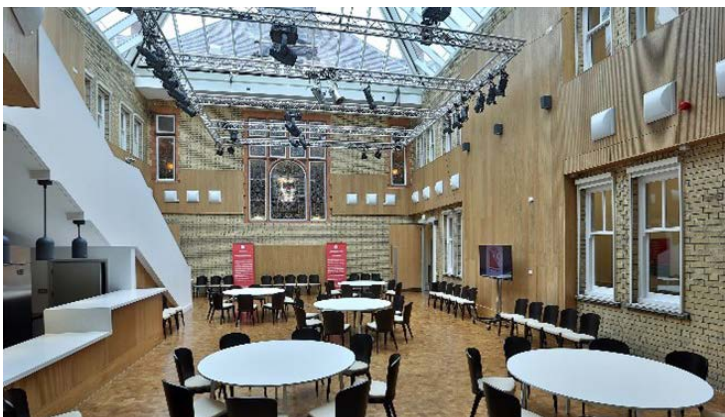
The refurbishment and redevelopment of a number of key buildings and sites in **Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre** (£7.16m EU funds) included the installation of **St Tydfil's Bridge**, a new link between the College area and the town and the restoration of the **Redhouse** as an arts centre.



*Merthyr Redhouse*



*St Tydfil's Bridge, Merthyr Tydfil*



*Interior of Redhouse Merthyr*



*Merthyr Redhouse*



## 15 EU funds celebration

Leisure activities in Merthyr have also received a boost from EU funding. With a network of over 45 trails, **BikePark Wales** has created the UK's biggest purpose-built mountain biking resort for novice to professional mountain bikers after receiving £2m EU funds.



*Bike Park Wales building*



*Bike Park Wales*

Opened in June 2018, the **Rock UK Summit Centre** (£2.3m EU funds) was the first project to be completed under the Welsh Government's EU funded Tourism Attractor Destinations programme. The former coalmine has been transformed into a unique venue offering an indoor climbing centre, café and fun outdoor children's play area, fitness suite and gym and over 20 instructed activities.



*Rock UK Summit Centre, supported by the Tourism Attractor Destinations programme*



*Participant of Women Adding Value to the Economy (WAVE)*

In the 2007-2013 programme, the University of Glamorgan's **Women Adding Value to the Economy (WAVE)** pilot project (£3.25m EU funds) worked with employers, employees and self-employed women in an innovative and ground-breaking approach, to tackle the multiple causes of gender pay gaps in Wales.

Run by Newport City Council in partnership with Cardiff Council and Monmouthshire County Council, **Skills@Work** (£1.9m EU funds) gave people in the workforce with no or low skills access to learning support with for literacy, numeracy, digital literacy and confidence building, advice on job searching, interview skills and one-to-one mentoring.

Torfaen Council's **Working Skills for Adults II** (£7m EU funds), supported people to gain new skills, leading to improved job security and career prospects. The project provided job-specific training in areas including construction, accounting and IT, as well as opportunities to develop key skills such as digital literacy.

## 16 EU funds celebration

Coleg Gwent's **Upskilling@Work** (£12.3m EU funds) offered over 70 courses across 6 colleges and supported more than 3,500 employees from over 800 companies with training, career guidance and developing their skills, providing access to lifelong learning for all ages in a variety of settings.

Through **JobSense** (£3.8m EU funds), long term unemployed and economically inactive people who are deaf or have hearing or sight loss were supported by specialist employment advisers to overcome challenges, improve their confidence and vocational skills, and find work.



*Valleys Regional Park project*

Spanning Carmarthenshire to Blaenavon, the **Valleys Regional Park** (£986k EU funds) has a network of uplands, woodlands, nature reserves, country parks, rivers, reservoirs, canals, heritage sites and attractions is connecting people with outdoor initiatives and community projects, creating recreational and skills-based learning opportunities.

The **South Wales Metro** (£165m EU funds) is creating an integrated public transport network that will provide faster, more frequent and joined-up services for people travelling across the region.



*Metro Cardiff Bay*

## 17 EU funds celebration

Renewable energy project **Generation Storage Consumption Supply (GSCS)** (£9.4m EU funds), led by Infinite Renewables Ltd, opened Wales' first multi technology energy centre at the Rassau industrial estate in June 2021, using a combination of wind turbines, solar photovoltaics and battery storage. The project is also part of a scheme to supply renewable power directly to the Royal Mint in Llantrisant.

The University of South Wales' **Centre of Excellence in Mobile and Emerging Technology (CEMET)** (£8.5m EU funds) worked in partnership with businesses in Wales turning research into emerging technologies into the development and commercialisation of new or improved products and services.

Many Cardiff University projects have been supported by EU funds including **CUBRIC** (£4.6m EU funds) one of Europe's top facilities for brain imaging which is playing a pivotal role in the global endeavour to better understand the causes of neurological and psychiatric conditions such as dementia, schizophrenia and multiple sclerosis.



*CUBRIC building*



*CUBRIC interior*

The **Translational Research Hub (TRH)** (£13.1m EU funds) is new home for two leading EU funded research projects at Cardiff University, the **Institute for Compound Semiconductors (ICS)** and **Cardiff Catalysis Institute (CCI)**, the hub is designed to foster collaboration to develop and test new cleaner, greener products and processes. The specialist fit out of the **Institute for Compound Semiconductor (ICS)** (£13.1m EU funds), provided a laboratory and cleanroom and equipment, delivering the research support for the development of new products, processes and services. **Cardiff Catalysis Institute** (£3.6m EU funds) is a world-class facility delivering large-scale research programmes in catalysis research to drive new research-led discoveries with a wide range of industrial low-carbon transition applications.



*Cardiff Catalysis Institute – Electron Microscopy Facility*



*Translational Research Hub opening event*

## 18 EU funds celebration

**FLEXIS** (£19.8m EU funds) created a world class energy systems research capability in Wales, while **FLEXISApp** (£2.9m EU funds), the commercial development arm of FLEXIS, brought together academia, local government and industry to develop innovative energy technologies to achieve net zero targets by 2050.



*Flexis project*



*IROHMS Virtual Lab, Cardiff University*

Working with over 100 partners in research projects, **Supercomputing Wales** (£19.6m EU funds) provided enhanced high performance computing services and expertise in new areas of research at a scale previously unavailable.

**Data Innovation Accelerator** (£1.8m EU funds) worked directly with Welsh SMEs to help them identify and fulfil opportunities to exploit data for intelligent economic development, with innovation focused on products and business operations.

**Magnetic Materials and Applications (MAGMA)** (£897k EU funds) established a world class research capability which builds on expertise to optimise the whole life-cycle and supply chain of electromagnetic applications.

The **Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Human-Machine Systems (IROHMS)** (£3.1m EU funds), a multidisciplinary technology centre located at Cardiff University, targeted new opportunities emerging within Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics and Human-Machine Systems (HMS) to create increased research capacity/capability and improved facilities, with state-of-the-art equipment and technologies, building relationships with UK and international research collaborators and funders.



This booklet has reflected on many years of exceptional achievements supported by EU Structural Funds. For some closing words, I would like to share some thoughts not just on what we did, but on the way that we did it.

By “we”, I mean everyone who had a hand in the whole end to end process of conceiving, planning, delivering and managing multi-billion pound programmes with hundreds of projects. As the Managing Authority, WEFO has been just one piece of the jigsaw. Other integral pieces include a number of teams in the European Commission, colleagues across the Welsh Government and our opposite numbers in Managing Authorities across the UK. But above all, they include all the delivery partners who have devoted huge amounts of their own resources to delivering the outputs we have agreed on. It is their ingenuity, dedication and resources that have really brought the programmes to life, particularly during the success environmental setbacks in the 2014-2020 funding period.

Collaboration is a fundamental principle of EU Funds management. It has not always been easy, but the delivery focused networks and the collective ways of working built up over many years will be a large part of the funds’ legacy in Wales. I am hugely grateful to everyone in that long list of people who made repeated successes of each programme period, and I am confident that the collaboration we have established will serve Wales well in the future.

I will save the last word for my own crew in WEFO, both past and present. I could not have asked to work with teams more dedicated to improving outcomes for Welsh people, communities and I have been very fortunate and am very grateful. There is much work still to be done close the current programmes and secure the funding we have drawn down against future scrutiny, and I have every confidence we can achieve that.

**Peter Ryland**  
Chief Executive, WEFO