



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

East Wales European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020

2020 Annual Implementation Report Summary



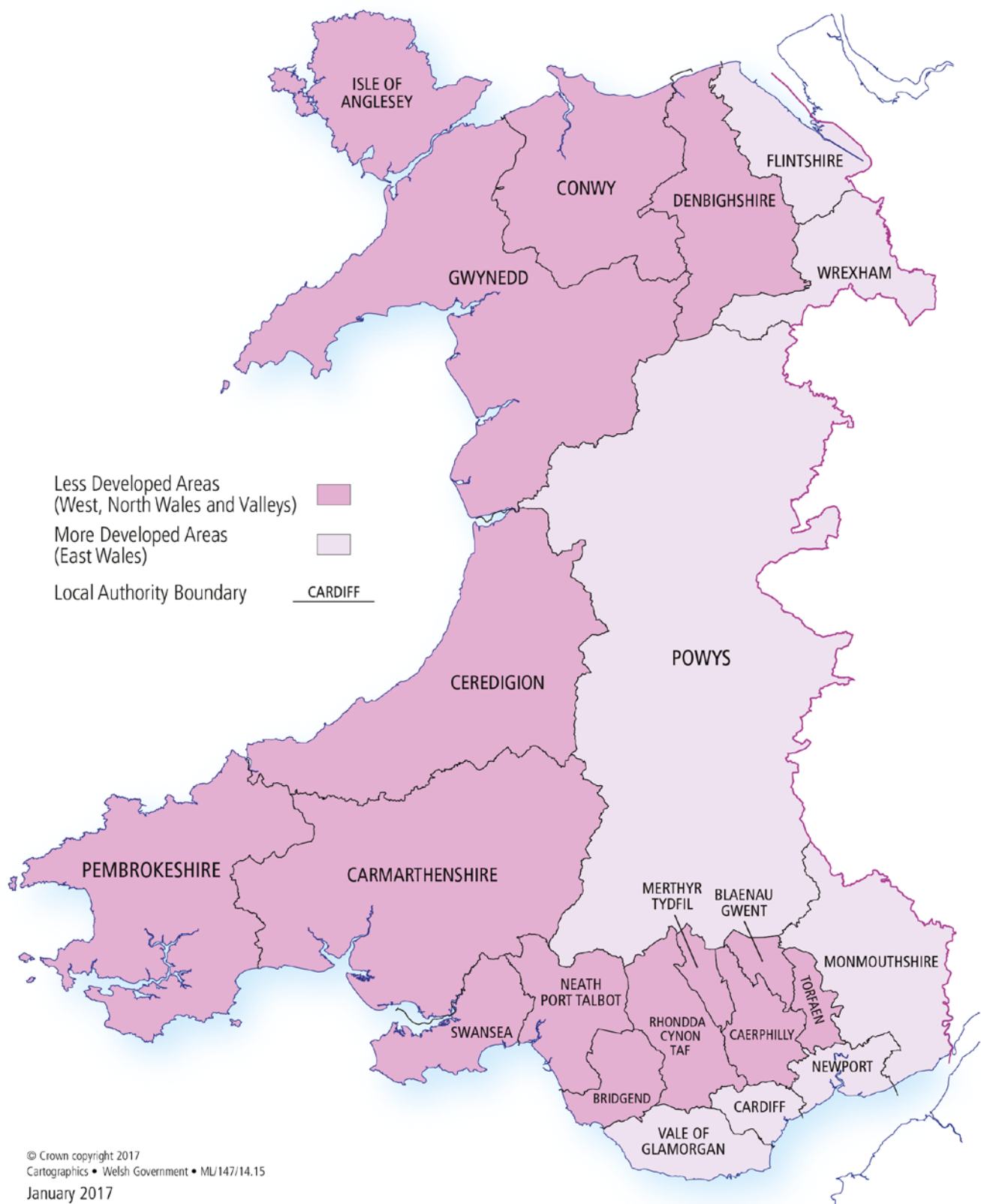
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop
European Social Fund

European Structural Fund Programme Regions in Wales for 2014-2020



OGL

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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 more developed areas through the East Wales European Social Fund, which aims to drive economic growth by investing in the following priority areas:

Priority	EU budget	Total Budget
Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	€25m	€50m
Skills for Growth	€74m	€154m
Youth Employment and Attainment	€54m	€108m
Public Services Reform and Regional Working	€5m	€11m
Containing COVID through Capacity	€41m	€82m
Technical Assistance	€4m	€8m
Total	€203m	€413m

Programme progress

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, implementation of this Programme continued to make progress and by the end of 2020, the Welsh Government had invested €172m of EU funds to 44 projects through the European Social Fund driving a total investment of €482m in East Wales. Key highlights include:

- Over 6,000 people helped into work.
- Over 32,000 new qualifications achieved.
- Over 2,000 people progressing into further learning or training.

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 2020 include:

- Newport City Council secured an additional £994,000 EU funds to extend the Journey2Work employment support project until January 2023, allowing over 900 more people to find the skills and confidence they need for work.



Journey2Work mentor providing 1-2-1 support

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 2020 include:

- £1.25 million additional EU funds awarded to the Materials and Manufacturing Education Training and Learning (METaL) project. Led by Swansea University, the project already covers West Wales and the Valleys working with employers, including Tata Steel, to develop targeted courses which fulfil industry demand. The additional funding creates high level skills training opportunities for another 400 Welsh industry employees across East Wales until 2022.
- The Welsh Government Apprenticeship programme successfully achieved its target of over 100,000 high quality apprenticeships. Of the 100,000 apprenticeship starts, 60% were undertaken by females, while 57% were learners aged 25 and over.



METaL seminar



Cameron, Apprentice at Wafer Fab

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 in 2020 include:

- Powys County Council secured additional £800,000 EU funds for the Cynnydd project to support a further 179 young people most at risk of disengaging from education, employment or training.



Cynnydd staff and pupils at Careers Fair

Public services reform and regional working

EU funds are supporting projects to stimulate new regional solutions, planning and service models, helping organisations to innovate and work together on a regional basis to find new ways to tackle some of the challenges they are facing and improve the delivery of public services. Highlights in 2020 include:

- £3.6m EU funds awarded to Monmouthshire County Council for the InFuSE project to support local authorities in the Cardiff Capital Region to build innovation capacity and tackle challenges in society, providing innovative public services for local communities.



InFuSe logo

Success stories

ADTRAC

ADTRAC, led by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and supported by £6.8m EU funds, provides intensive support to out-of-work 16-24 year olds in North Wales facing significant challenges in securing employment with a range of services including emotional and mental health support, mentoring, courses to improve core skills and IT literacy, and support with job applications. The project also offers opportunities to achieve vocational qualifications and take part in work experience.

One participant, Darren was referred into ADTRAC due to mental health issues and multiple barriers (including a learning disability, domestic abuse and lack of financial support) in order to support him to get back into education or employment. Due to a relationship breakdown within his family, he had also been in supported living for over twelve months.

He expressed an interest in art and photography, and through ADTRAC support, successfully gained a voluntary placement in an art gallery and a place on a film and photography foundation degree at Glyndwr University.

Due to his financial difficulties and family situation, ADTRAC supported discussions with the University about living in student accommodation on campus throughout the year. ADTRAC also funded basic household items for his accommodation and the camera equipment needed for the course, as well as supporting him to apply for further funding to purchase all the items he required.

His journey now serves as an inspiration for other young people in the area, who he talks to about the help and support he received, which have helped him achieve his goals.



ADTRAC project

Communities for Work

The Welsh Government's Communities for Work programme, backed by over £44m EU funds, aims to increase the employability of economically inactive and long-term unemployed people aged over 25 across Wales.

It provides a one-to-one advisory service delivered by specialist advisers and mentors, helping people who may be anxious about entering the labour market or struggling to get a job because of a lack of qualifications, childcare responsibilities or health problems.

One participant from East Wales, 'MK', who came from a Minority Ethnic background, was a carer for his disabled father and wanted to work part time as respite for himself. However, he struggled with lack of experience, confidence issues and social anxiety.

With his advisor's support, he was able to identify his skills, tailor his CV to particular roles and to start job searching. After being diagnosed with mild autism, he was also encouraged to disclose this to potential employers to ensure reasonable adjustments were taken around application forms and interviews or tests. He was further supported on confidence building, interview skills and applying for roles, as well as attending a jobs fayre and introductions to employers looking to recruit staff.



Communities for Work logo

Through perseverance, he successfully secured a job in an Italian Restaurant and was very grateful for his advisor's guidance, support and belief in him. The role has helped his confidence and given him a huge boost to his morale. It also allowed him to continue to support his father. He has managed his expectations and is now working towards a brighter future.