

## Agenda – Enterprise and Business Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

Meeting date: Wednesday, 21 October  
2015

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

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Committee Clerk

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### **Private pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)**

#### **1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions**

#### **2 Update session on Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+**

(09.30–10.15)

(Pages 1 – 49)

Professor Richard Davies, Vice Chancellor, Swansea University

Professor David Shepherd, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), Bangor University

Berwyn Davies, Head of Office, Welsh Higher Education Brussels

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.1) Evidence from Swansea University

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.2) Evidence from Bangor University

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.3) Evidence from WHEB

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.4) Evidence from Cardiff University

### **Break (10.15–10.30)**



### **3 Update session on Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+**

(10.30–11.00)

(Pages 50 – 56)

Iestyn Davies, Chief Executive, CollegesWales

Siân Holleran, International Coordinator, CollegesWales

Attached Documents:

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.5) Evidence from CollegesWales

### **4 Update session on Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+**

(11.00–11.30)

(Pages 57 – 70)

Jenny Scott, Director, British Council Wales

Ruth Sinclair-Jones, Director, Erasmus+ UK National Agency, British Council

Attached Documents:

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.6) Evidence from British Council

### **5 Update session on Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+**

(11.30–12.15)

(Pages 71 – 77)

Julie James AM, Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology

Andrew Clark, Deputy Director for Further Education and Apprenticeships  
Division, Welsh Government

Michaela Renkes, Senior Post-16 Education Planning and Funding Manager, Welsh  
Government

Attached Documents:

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.7) Evidence from the Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology

## **6 Papers to note**

### **6.1 Inquiry into the Potential of the Maritime Economy in Wales**

(Pages 78 – 79)

Attached Documents:

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.8) Letter from William Graham AM to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport

### **6.2 Inquiry into the Potential of the Maritime Economy in Wales**

(Pages 80 – 83)

Attached Documents:

EBC(4)–23–15 (p.9) Written evidence from Wales Environment Link to the inquiry

## **7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**

## **8 Employment Opportunities for People Over 50**

(12.15–12.20)

(Pages 84 – 85)

Attached Documents:

Letter on Employment Opportunities for People Over 50

**Private de-brief (12.20–12.30)**

# Agenda Item 2

Document is Restricted

## Enterprise and Business Committee, October 2015

### Written evidence from Swansea University

#### Horizon 2020

#### 1. An update on Swansea University's participation in the first calls under the Horizon 2020 calls.

The Horizon 2020 (H2020) programme is of strategic importance to Swansea University in continuing to grow its research capacity. To this end the Department of Research, Engagement and Innovation Services (REIS) at the University is supporting the Pro Vice-Chancellors in coordinating engagement on H2020 with Research Directors and academics to raise awareness of the new funding schemes and support researchers in making research applications, including:-

- High level scoping meetings and briefings – started Autumn 2013
- Research Director Meetings – Spring 2014
- College Research Committee briefings and programme updates – throughout 2014
- Researcher awareness raising via project team and one to one meetings - throughout 2014
- A range of expert workshops:-
  - January 2014 - Hyperion Ltd. - EU bid development consultants, workshop on How to Write a Competitive H2020 Application. Attended by academics and research administrators from all Colleges; researchers from across Wales; and representatives from industry, WHEB and the Welsh Government.
  - December 2014 – Prof Mike Blakemore University of Durham, Marie Sklodowska Curie (MSCA) expert evaluator, - training and bid evaluation workshops on MSCA & Erasmus+ funding schemes
  - March 2015 – UK Research Office (National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Research Council (ERC) and MSCA), training workshops on ERC & Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions
  - October 2015 - further Hyperion training and a bid evaluation workshop is scheduled via the Engineering NRN;
  - November 2015 – NCP led information day for Societal Challenge 6 (Economic and Social Sciences Research Council) to promote the 2016/17 work programmes for social sciences and humanities researchers.
- Grenoble Strategic Partnership - Collaborative links between Swansea and Grenoble academics are continuing to strengthen, with a number of Swansea academics using Score Cymru and an internal 'strategic partnership travel fund' to visit Grenoble to identify common links and shared research interests; make new connections; and enhance their research networks, with the aim of more collaborative research proposals under H2020.
- Emerging Strategic Partnerships – a number are under development and already include collaboration on H2020 proposals
- The University has a combination of dedicated expert staff complemented by external consultants and consideration is being given to enhance EU research development support.

### **SU H2020 Successes**

To date Swansea has achieved 6 grant successes in the first round of H2020 funding, totalling **€2.14m**, - 3 grants as Coordinator and 3 as Beneficiary. This includes a prestigious MSCA Innovative Training Network, the first time Swansea has led an Innovative Training Networks project.

SU H2020 Success by College:-

College of Arts & Humanities	1 - coordinator
College of Engineering	3 - Beneficiary
College of Science	2 - coordinator

The total number of proposals submitted which included participation of Swansea University is 95 to date (H2020 Participant Portal data) and a large number of applications are still undergoing evaluation.

Practical feedback on the application process:

- Upgrades to the H2020 Participant Portal have made it easier to use and find background information.
- Having a centralised resource repository for each call has made applying more straightforward.
- The introduction of two year work programmes have been positively received, providing academics with a longer bid lead time, ability to tactically establish their collaborations/and networks and focus on developing the scientific case.
- Other useful features of the Participant Portal have also been welcomed including the ability to download Evaluation Summary Reports (ESR), however the wiping of unsuccessful proposals without a prior notification has received negative comments.
- Researcher comments suggest evaluation reports continue to be of variable quality. Some offer helpful and focused feedback which enable researchers to address areas of project weakness, whereas others are vague – too generalised and lacking the detail for researchers to identify the areas of concern to the evaluator.
- ESR reports receive the greatest criticism where the feedback suggest only limited understanding of the project area (leading to questions about the fit between the evaluators and the panel area); where key sections of the application appear to have been overlooked; or where the comments appear to be inconsistent,
- Interestingly many researchers report they score well on Excellence, which researchers commonly regard as the primary focus of the action. However achieving the required standard and appropriate activities in Impact is proving particularly challenging to address. Further feedback from the commission/ NCPs in this area would be appreciated.
- Many researchers have embraced the new multidisciplinary approach and are tactically and proactively using the Score Cymru travel fund to enhance their networks.

- In addition network opportunities created via the WHEB Grand Challenge groups is also enabling researchers to meet prospective new collaborators.

## **2. Views on the role of WEFO Horizon 2020 unit in supporting Welsh engagement in the new programme, and views on the other support mechanisms available in Wales including Score Cymru**

The WEFO H2020 unit provides helpful policy and briefing information via email and circulars. Some of the communications duplicate correspondence from other areas of the EC, or have been received post deadlines/ events which have caused frustration amongst some academics.

At its inception the WEFO H2020 Unit suggested it would like to host training events to support sector upskilling, and encourage increased participation in H2020 – this remain outstanding.

Going forward a more targeted use of resources could be achieved if the remit of the WEFO H2020 Unit within the Welsh research sector could be clarified, to avoid duplication etc. WEFO H2020 Unit could undertake to:-

- Provide H2020 training opportunities
- Establish database:-
  - Welsh H2020 project successes – to share best practice
  - Welsh H2020 evaluators
- The Score Cymru initiative has provided useful funding to facilitate researcher and industrial partner travel to enhance networking, and establish future project collaborations. Swansea has received more than 15 travel awards, with at least 2 of these resulting in successful H2020 grant awards.
- Score Cymru’s bid development support has enabled to date 5 Swansea research teams to engage with EU experts, to develop and polish H2020 bids, which could be enhanced.
- Significant interest in both schemes has been expressed by Swansea researchers however the requirement for a 50% match funding contribution has limited engagement, as not all research teams have been able to identify a suitable match source.
- Going forward it would be helpful if WEFO could consider contributing a higher grant % for key H2020 calls/ project areas which are of strategic importance to the Welsh region.
- We value interaction with the National Contact Points, and welcome the H2020 Unit’s work in this area. To avoid duplication, examples are given below of interaction with the NCPs:

### **Overview of interaction with the National Contact Points:**

- REIS is actively engaging with NCPs including UKRO, ESRC, MRC etc. through Commission hosted meetings, training workshops and one to one briefings and queries. This support is highly beneficial in providing call specific guidance and responses to researcher queries.
- UKRO continues to provide professional and proactive support and guidance for the ERC and MSCA actions. In 2014 & 15 they have led tailored training and advice workshops for Swansea researchers, as well hosting national training seminars. Researchers and research managers are able to directly contact UKRO staff with call specific queries and receive efficient, timely responses. Due to resource limitations however UKRO is unable to offer draft bid evaluation or scientific feedback support. Support of this kind for the ERC and MSCA actions would be highly effective and resource efficient in such a competitive area of the H2020 programme. Swansea would welcome EC consideration of extending the role of the ERC & MSCA NCPs in this area.
- Very useful scientific and policy feedback has been received from the Health and Energy and Food Security NCPs, who have been particularly helpful in offering initial evaluation feedback on application drafts, to confirm an appropriate fit between a project and a specific call and for EU general policy feedback.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> November Swansea will be hosting an NCP led (ESRC) information day – for Societal Challenge 6 , targeted to promote the new 2016/17 Work Programmes to the social science and humanities research community, on Europe in a Changing World.

### **3. Views on the impact that the Science for Wales Strategy has had on Welsh participation in Horizon 2020**

The Science for Wales Strategy has provided a clear indication of priority research sectors for Wales, enabling Swansea researchers to target these key areas and channel resources effectively. In addition the Sêr Cymru chair and NRN initiatives alongside the WHEB groups have enabled Swansea to develop critical mass in Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, and focus on building capacity in Health and Low Carbon.

These initiatives complement Swansea's Research and Innovation Strategy and the opening of the Bay Campus. This investment, supported by the European Investment Bank, EC, Regional and national government and industry, will be the spring board to both facilitate Swansea's increased participation in H2020 – particularly in Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing and aspirations to capitalise on H2020 grant capture.

Swansea is very keen to engage with the COFUND initiative, with our research managers having been actively involved in the bid development. A database of Swansea experts



has been developed. Information on the scheme has been circulated to research Directors and leading academics, and sources of institutional match funding identified.

Swansea will apply for a number of fellowships. A database of Swansea experts has been forwarded to the CSAW as potential fellowship supervisors, and Colleges and leading researchers have been encouraged to contact their international networks to identify prospective fellows with the potential to be future leading researchers, to initiate an application.

Internal training events to clarify the COFUND scheme and application process are planned once call guidance documentation is released from CSAW.

Sêr Cymru Chairs and National Research Networks: The Sêr Cymru chairs and the NRN initiatives have enabled universities to develop critical mass in the three focus areas.

The Engineering NRN is organising a Hyperion Bid Consultancy session for researchers from across Wales at the Bay Campus in October.

#### **4. Views on the impact of the Welsh HE Brussels Office support to the participation of the sector in the programme, including the four thematic co-ordination groups it established in 2012**

Support from WHEB continues to be invaluable, through their policy guidance and in the establishment of 4 Pan Wales H2020 Expert Groups, focusing on the Grand Challenge areas.

- Health
- Low Carbon & BioSciences
- Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing
- Digital Economy

The Expert groups in the first three areas have met regularly throughout 2014/15 to identify and target potential call opportunities. In addition, WHEB hosted visits to Brussels have enabled Swansea researchers to meet with MEPs, Commission representatives and Brussels Directorate General on their research area. Positive feedback from this activity can be seen in the incorporation of Swansea topic suggestions into the 2016/17 work programmes for low carbon energy and advanced manufacturing.

Swansea University is in the process of developing institutional strategic H2020 targets on which to focus efforts, coupled with support to staff who are at advanced stage of the process in order to e.g. prepare for an ERC interview.

WHEB is also engaging in researcher awareness raising, through hosting a H2020 introductory briefing in Brussels for Welsh Crucible researchers, attended by 2 researchers from Swansea.

**5. Views on how Swansea University and Welsh HE more generally is working with Welsh businesses (and other businesses) to engage them in collaborative projects under Horizon 2020. The EU Funding Ambassadors in their session with the Committee on 23 September underlined the importance of specialist one-to-one support to businesses on engagement with Horizon 2020, arguing that this is currently not available in Wales. Do you agree with this view?**

Generally Welsh Universities including Swansea employ dedicated business engagement staff both centrally and at college or project/research centre level who are identifying additional appropriate companies for collaborative research and engagement activities including where appropriate initial or longer term H2020 activities. These companies will be helped to understand and develop their role and experience in an H2020 project through being a partner, rather than initially leading a H2020 bid. The universities internal support network for H2020 would then, through the academic in the project, help to develop the company's H2020 bid and project experience. We do not provide direct support to companies for H2020 bids unless they are involved in the bid as above.

Via Swansea University, we do provide through the Enterprise Europe Network project, direct support to companies to understand and access H2020 funding and to find international research partners.

There is a need for clear and accessible one to one support for businesses developing H2020 bids in Wales at the early stages after awareness raising and initial guidance.

EEN do promote H2020 opportunities but we only have one H2020 specialist spread across the whole of Wales, so the reach and depth of the support we can offer is limited. EEN has a specific role to help companies to access EU funding and finance and our partnering is designed to specifically help find international partners on defined projects.

The focus of any additional support should not be on general awareness raising, but on in-depth support.

There are other support networks and organisations which are springing up in Wales e.g. Vision 2020.

Wales does not make enough use out of sharing the experiences of its evaluators, and we note that other countries engage more effectively with their evaluators.

**6. Views on whether Wales – the Welsh Government and the Welsh HE sector including Swansea – is sufficiently ambitious with regard to how it is approaching Horizon 2020, particularly given Ireland has set a target of drawing down €1.25bn**

**from Horizon 2020 and has secured around €127m from the first calls under the new programme.**

The H2020 programme is of strategic importance to Swansea University and a series of awareness raising events took place in 2014 to promote the programme. The department of Research, Engagement, and Innovation Services has engaged extensively with academics and research directors via group and one to one meetings, to encourage research collaborations; and to identify and target key H2020 funding opportunities. REIS has coordinated a number of H2020 workshops led by EU experts including Hyperion Bid Consultancy, on competitive bid writing, with further training and bid evaluation sessions planned for October 2015; Professor Mike Blakemore a MSCA expert evaluator and UKRO .

EC and NCP feedback confirm the value of Registering as an Expert Evaluator for H2020. Evaluators gain useful insight into the workings of funding schemes; enabling them to understand success criteria; have excellent opportunity to make useful network contact at Brussels hosted evaluation meetings; and receive financial reimbursement.

We have a Research and Innovation Strategy. Linked to this, there are particular activities linked to H2020 e.g. an H2020 Evaluators Strategy, together with focused College support to encourage researchers to register as EU Evaluators, which could significantly influence the University's H2020 success rates.

## **7. Synergies between EU Structural Funds and Horizon 2020: views on the measures being taken under the Structural Funds in Wales 2014-2020 to support research and innovation and impact of this on Welsh competitiveness in Horizon 2020**

In the 2014-2020 EU Funding programmes, there will be much closer synergy between H2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds. As the ESIF Research and Innovation projects now clearly aim to increase research income for Wales, there is a direct link between the programmes. It is our intention that any projects in receipt of ERDF support from WEFO will also be applying to Horizon 2020 in order to leverage the maximum benefits from both programmes.

Investments made via ERDF and the NRNs will be a springboard to facilitate Swansea's increased participation in H2020 and aspiration to enhance H2020 grant capture.

**Erasmus+**

- 1. How they are responding to the UK Outward Mobility Strategy for Students, and whether they have or plan to follow Swansea University's lead and introduce a specific target for outward mobility of their students (Cardiff target is 17% of all graduating students in 2017 to have undertaken outward mobility action)**

(The initial reference above to Swansea presumably should be Cardiff.)

Swansea University has a comprehensive strategy for outward student mobility which is fully aligned with the UK Outward Mobility Strategy, indeed Swansea University staff were involved with the development of the UK strategy. Swansea University does have targets for outward student mobility, however these are currently expressed in actual student numbers as opposed to a percentage of the student population (see HEFCW Fee Plan). The University has met and exceeded its targets every year for the last 3 years and is on track to do so again in 2015/16. Although the targets are currently set as actual student numbers, the University also measures the total number of mobilities undertaken by a particular year of entry cohort over the course of their whole degree. This can only be done retrospectively as different students will undertake mobility at different points in their programme. Using this method, it has been possible to see that of the 2008 entry cohort, 6.5% undertook a mobility experience during their degree, however by the time the 2011 entry cohort (i.e. those graduating in 2014 or 2015) had graduated, this had increased 13%. This figure will grow considerably over the next few years. We aim to provide all students with the opportunity to follow part of their course overseas.

Apart from the student mobility application, a number of Erasmus + applications have been submitted to the 2014/15 calls including

- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree – College of Engineering, Sports Science
  - Strategic Partnerships x 4
  - Knowledge Alliances x 2
  - Sports Action, in conjunction with the Ospreys.
- 2. Whether they have seen any follow up to the following recommendations that the Committee made to the Welsh Government in the report from its EU Funding Opportunities inquiry, published in July 2014.**

No information currently available.

- 3. What contact Swansea University has had with the new EU Funding Ambassadors and the view of the University on the value this initiative provides to Welsh engagement with centrally-managed EU programme such as Erasmus+**

We have engaged with the EU Funding Ambassadors. Dr Hywel Ceri Jones visited Swansea University on Europe Day in 2015 to discuss collaborative opportunities, including those with Ireland. Our main contacts have been with Professor Graham Guilford (Research and Innovation) and Gaynor Griffiths (Poverty and Social care).

## Bangor University Submission to Enterprise and Business Committee 21st October 2015 Meeting

### The importance of recurrent research funding in maintaining the competitive edge in the Horizon 2020 arena.

Despite considerable success in FP7 (see table 3) and retention of staff with the expertise and experience to perform at the highest level of international research, Bangor University feels the challenge of lower overall success rates under H2020 (down to 14%). This means applicants need to join the 'top-teams' in order to be successful, which can be difficult to achieve due to the cost and time commitments required to raise research profiles and network abroad. For the same reasons, it is difficult for us to attract Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellows of competitive calibre.

Consequently, we have been examining the barriers to performing well under H2020. We believe, in part at least, these are influenced by levels of recurrent funding which are inadequate to leverage competitive external research funding (H2020 or Research Councils). Investment funding is needed to:

- Create institution visibility for expertise (attending conferences, meeting collaborators, lobbying Brussels etc.)
- maintain staff resource to support proposal writing and project management/ research
- provide in-house or pan-Wales training for research in general and H2020 or for staff to attend externally/ commercially available courses

Persistent underfunding of Welsh HEIs compared to English, NI and Scottish HEIs is damaging the research capacity in Welsh institutions.

Table 1 – Comparison of levels of recurrent funding across UK HEI sector (Data from HESA 2013/14)

	Recurrent Research Grant £k/staff fte	RCUK Income £k/staff fte	Non-RCUK Income £k/staff fte	Total RI £k/staff fte	PGR income £k/staff fte	% Staff T&R and RO	Total Research Income (£k) per £k Recurrent Research Grant
Wales	12.6	8.8	25.6	34.4	0.9	73.8%	2.7
Wales*	13.5	8.8	25.6	34.4	0.9	73.8%	2.5
Scotland	19.7	17.9	29.6	47.5	2.4	86.5%	2.4
NI	23.7	9.9	32.2	42.1	?	65.7%	1.8
England	14.6	12.5	26.1	38.6	2.2	82.1%	2.6

\*Incl PGR training grant for comparison – funding systems in other parts of the UK include PGR in recurrent funding

Table 1 shows that Welsh institutions receive considerably less recurrent research funding investment than their competitors:

- 45.6% less than Scottish institutions = £6200 per academic staff per year
- 8% less than English institutions = £1100 per academic staff per year

These are all-Wales figures, which are very much dominated by the largest institution, Cardiff. We suspect the difference for the smaller Welsh institutions is even more pronounced, since the best-performing and largest institution will draw down a higher proportion of these funds.

We recognise that WG is not as well funded as England and Scotland, however, the system by which a large proportion of HEI funding is directed at tuition fee grants aligned with the student, not the institution (and thus all students studying outside Wales take that funding away from the Welsh HEI sector) has been damaging the HEI sector in Wales.

Inadequate research funding can drive a focus on teaching in order to keep institutions financially viable (see table 1 – 10% lower proportion of research staff than in English and Scottish institutions). Anecdotal feedback from academic staff indicates that there is not enough time to (a) write proposals or attend networking or training events; (b) take on major roles in complex research projects, due to other time commitments.

### **Effect of Structural Funds in Wales**

The types of projects favoured by the programme have previously focused attention away from international research excellence. This instilled a culture of providing regionally relevant research among parts of the academic community, which, whilst important for economic development, is not always considered excellent in the highly competitive international research arena. The draw of Structural Funds still provides distraction – these proposals often need input from our most experienced staff who would otherwise focus on preparing research proposals. Anecdotal evidence indicates that some staff could not put in Marie Curie Grants this year because they were too busy writing structural funds bids.

### **Horizon 2020**

An update on Bangor University's participation in the first calls under the Horizon 2020 calls. (Note that Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance and Government Business in her written evidence to the Committee provided information on all Wales participation in these first calls (44 participants worth €17.7m in EU funding), without giving details on individual universities /organisations or types of projects.)

Bangor University's 2015 H2020 participation is very similar to 2014 – same number of applications, nearly same amount of funding applied for (however, we do not have all the results for 2015, yet). See table 2 and 3 below.

### **Support initiatives**

Recognising the importance of H2020, Bangor University has undertaken the following supportive actions during 2015 :

- Information services and events  
Internal mailbase for H2020 and other EU funding programmes – alerts several times per week, targeted by colleges (= faculties); New info web-site underdevelopment; Regular major talks and targeted seminars to specific Colleges and Schools; Joint collaborative sessions run in parallel with Aberystwyth University.
- Training  
Marie Curie (MSCA IF) workshop (Jointly with Aberystwyth University, sponsored by SCoRE Cymru); ERC interview training – Mock panels for 1 StG and 1 CoG applicant
- Continuous Proposal support  
Advice for individual projects, participant portal; application rules; proposal focus, policy background (mainly for Bangor coordinators); support/ control; participant portal content and contacts; budgeting, including control of financial viability.
- Management Infrastructure  
European strategy group, coordinating H2020 activities with strategic initiatives within Bangor University and external (Welsh) political developments; input to Wales-wide (such as COFUND) and European consultations and initiatives.

Table 2 – Bangor University details of all H2020 applications

Bangor University H2020 applications 2014 + 2015	total submitted		contracts		stage 2	pending	failed
	number of grants	EC contribution (£)	number of grants	EC contribution (£)	number of grants	number of grants	number of grants
<b>total</b>	61	29,285,489	4	932,112	6	12	39
<b>ERC</b>	8	10,647,503	0	-	2	1	5
<b>MSCA</b>	13	3,116,690	0	-	n/a	5	8
<b>RIA/IA</b>	39	15,500,221	3*	911,037	4	6	26
<b>CSA</b>	1	21,075	1	21,075	0	0	0
<b>A&amp;H</b>	3	1,714,346	0	-	0	1	2
<b>Business, Law, Edu., Soc Sci</b>	1	152,132	0	-	0	0	1
<b>Health and Behaviour</b>	13	8,609,664	0	-	2	3	8
<b>Natural Sciences</b>	27	10,266,735	2*	892,519	5	4	16
<b>Physical and Applied Sci</b>	18	8,542,612	2	39,594	1	4	11

\*Bangor University is coordinating Innovation Action (IA) **InMAre** - Industrial Applications of Marine Enzymes: Innovative screening and expression platforms to discover and use the functional protein diversity from the sea

[http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/193292\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/193292_en.html)

Table 3 - Comparison H2020 versus FP7

	Grants won				Proposals submitted			
	FP7		H2020		FP7		H2020	
	number	£	number	£	number	£	number	£
Year 1 (2007 / 2014)	9	3,393,365	3	681,947	30	10,289,032	30	13,838,603
Year 2 (2008 / 2015)	6	1,160,814	1*	21,075*	31	11,624,446	31	15,446,886
Year 3 (2009 / 2016)	9	1,702,002	0	0	14	9,263,527	0	0
Year 4 (2010 / 2017)	3	421,888	0	0	12	5,710,895	0	0
Year 5 (2011 / 2018)	7	1,330,475	0	0	22	10,189,833	0	0
Year 6 (2012 / 2019)	5	954,813	0	0	8	1,977,405	0	0
Year 7 (2013 / 2020)	7	1,805,532	0	0	18	5,230,977	0	0
<b>total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>10,768,889</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>703,022</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>54,286,116</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>29,285,489</b>

\*not final numbers – outcome of many 2015 proposals pending

Success rates	FP7		H2020	
	number	£	number	£
Year 1 (2007 / 2014)	30%	33%	10%	5%
Year 2 (2008 / 2015)	19%	10%	3%*	0%*
Year 3 (2009 / 2016)	64%	18%		
Year 4 (2010 / 2017)	25%	7%		
Year 5 (2011 / 2018)	32%	13%		
Year 6 (2012 / 2019)	63%	48%		
Year 7 (2013 / 2020)	39%	35%		
<b>total</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>

\*not final numbers – outcome of many 2015 proposals pending

**Effort:**

So far same number of proposals for FP7 and H2020 - currently barriers to upscale involvement



Views on the role of WEFO Horizon 2020 unit in supporting Welsh engagement in the new programme, and views on the other support mechanisms available in Wales including Score Cymru

WEFO provides useful information, but as HE has better suited information sources for research it appears that WEFO is rightly concentrating more on business support.

SCORE Cymru provides useful matched funding for our limited funds for networking. The SCORE team in Llandudno is very responsive and flexible and their support is much appreciated. They have co-funded a successful pilot training scheme for Marie Skłodowska Curie IF. In contrast our experience with the admin/finance team in the south has been less positive with disproportionate administrative demands for such small grants.

Views on the impact that the Science for Wales Strategy has had on Welsh participation in Horizon 2020

Implementation of many strategic initiatives took a while and they are too new to have had any obvious impact, yet. There are certainly many good ideas but at this early stage their implementation is less clear.

Views on the impact of the Welsh HE Brussels Office support to the participation of the sector in the programme, including the four thematic co-ordination groups it established in 2012.

The Office provide useful links and information and excellent support for events and meetings in Brussels – this is of real value when we are able to make it to Brussels but we do not have enough staff resource to really engage with WHEB and make use of the opportunities and services they offer. Thematic Groups are a good idea but information and actions often do not filter through to the wider research community.

Bangor University and Welsh HE more generally - work with Welsh businesses (and other businesses) to engage them in collaborative projects under Horizon 2020. The EU Funding Ambassadors in their session with the Committee on 23 September underlined the importance of specialist one-to-one support to businesses on engagement with Horizon 2020, arguing that this is currently not available in Wales. Do you agree with this view?

Structural Funds projects provide opportunities for HEI to:

- engage with businesses for the first time
- deepen relationships with businesses that have previously engaged with us but who want to collaborate in focused R&D projects and to commercialise the results of the research
- develop longer-term relationships with businesses that have the potential and the capacity to engage in Horizon 2020 projects.

Projects are currently being developed that involve engagement with businesses in the West Wales and the Valleys, Ireland-Wales, North West Europe and Atlantic Area Programmes which could potentially lead to H2020 projects in the future. There are good examples within the ERDF BEACON project of relationship building with organisations in Europe developing into FP7/H2020 submissions.

Most links in research work on a case-by-case or personal basis. We are encouraging secondment for MSC fellows in the non-academic sector and commercial partners in RIA/IA

Recent developments in the [Enterprise Europe Network in Wales](#) are relevant here:

- Whilst specialist support is essential, bid writers alone are not enough. Businesses would benefit from coaching support to maximise engagement opportunities. This is the approach of the new EEN Wales model to be delivered by Swansea University and BIC Innovation. There is also potential for coaching through the excellent SME links of the new ION Leadership programme.

- Innovate UK involvement and overall leadership of the EEN in the UK working with regional delivery partners together with its alignment with the Knowledge Transfer Networks is welcome.
- Work undertaken by Swansea University and BIC Innovation in the previous EEN Wales project provides a good basis to roll out activity across Wales. The challenge for the next round is to ensure greater engagement with Universities and businesses across Wales. This has been slowed due to the contract signature delays with the Commission.
- We understand that Welsh Government are investing in additional staff to their innovation specialists to support H2020 engagement. This would be a positive development and the new staff should be encouraged to coordinate with EEN Wales.

Views on whether Wales – the Welsh Government and the Welsh HE sector including Bangor – is sufficiently ambitious with regard to how it is approaching Horizon 2020, particularly given Ireland has set a target of drawing down €1.25bn from Horizon 2020 and has secured around €127m from the first calls under the new programme.

We take a cautious approach to target setting as the independent nature of university research means that it is not target focussed. Further, merely setting high targets is no guarantee of success - most institutions across Europe aim to double their winnings from FP7 to H2020 which is clearly not achievable for all. Welsh HEIs are aware of the importance of H2020 for Wales and for themselves and their research profiles, consequently H2020 is one of the highest priority funders for us. Staff are working as hard as they can and we are seeing lots of new applicants among our staff under H2020 – i.e. staff who have not been involved in earlier Framework programmes. The key problems remain lower overall success rates/higher oversubscription and raising our profile to be attractive to winning teams.

[Synergies between EU Structural Funds and Horizon 2020: views on the measures being taken under the Structural Funds in Wales 2014-2020 to support research and innovation and impact of this on Welsh competitiveness in Horizon 2020](#)

Applications for funding from the West Wales and the Valleys Programme are required to “Detail any planned or potential integration with Financial Instruments or other EU funding streams ....” All operations are therefore required to consider synergies with these programmes and will be expected to take forward applications to these programmes in the future.

On a practical level, however, the very detailed Business Planning process focusses beneficiaries primarily on the development of the operation in the context of its benefit to the West Wales and the Valleys area and developments that will impact on the economy of this area.

Finding a call within Horizon 2020 that aligns with Structural Funds activity is a challenge, although some of the broad lines of activities funded under the Societal Challenges strand of H2020 fit the Science for Wales Grand Challenge and Thematic areas that are the focus of the Structural Funds operations.

It is unfortunate that Wales as part of the UK cannot participate in the H2020 measures (Teaming, ERA Chairs and Twinning actions) that have been designed to help low performing research & innovation regions scale up investment in research & innovation.

The focus of Welsh structural funds is largely local and linked either directly or indirectly to regional economic development. This can draw staff away from targeting international level research. The regional requirements of the programme and the associated steer from WEFO can also result in Universities not being able to focus adequately on developing their research excellence.

The timescales of the two funds do not work well together, with capacity building taking several years and therefore not aligning with early bids into H2020. Previous structural fund programmes did not focus on developing research excellence and therefore the apparent synergies are not readily achievable and certainly could have no impact on H2020 bids so far. The new programme may have an effect on ‘FP9’.

## Erasmus+

Response to the UK Outward Mobility Strategy for Students, and Plans to follow Bangor University's lead and introduce a specific target for outward mobility of their students (Cardiff target is 17% of all graduating students in 2017 to have undertaken outward mobility action)

Bangor University's Internationalisation Strategy 2011-2015 set an institutional target for mobility of 150 outgoing students by 2015, which was exceeded by 15%. The Internationalisation Strategy for 2015-2020 (as yet unpublished) continues to emphasise the importance of internationalisation with expressed support for outward mobility as a priority.

Follow up to the following recommendations that the Committee made to the Welsh Government in the report from its EU Funding Opportunities inquiry, published in July 2014:

### *Recommendation to the Welsh Government*

**Recommendation 7.** Set clear objectives for all higher education institutions in Wales to engage more with the UK-wide strategy for outward student mobility including: a campaign to promote the benefits of studying and working abroad, providing language learning courses, assisting with short-term accommodation provision, internationalising curricula and providing commensurate capacity and funding.

Bangor University is aware that the International Unit at UUK is campaigning nationwide for mobility. There is no regional work in that field. As far as we are aware, WG was not included in many of the high-level discussions in setting-up of the new national agency for Erasmus+. In our experience British Council provide inadequate regional consideration, particularly for the additional language concerns we have as a Welsh HEI. Little of the documentation is provided bilingually, for example. Universities Wales has been very proactive in facilitating Welsh engagement with EAIE (a European-based international education conference) this year as part of their commitment to help globalise the awareness of Wales.

**Recommendation 8.** Explore with higher education institutions the creation of a Wales-wide alumni network for international students, including Erasmus students, who have studied in Wales and Welsh students who have studied abroad, to maximise the impact of their international contacts.

Bangor University has not been informed of plans for this development, but would be very interested in participating.

**Recommendation 9.** Bring together the further and higher education sectors and national agencies such as British Council, Ecorys and organisations such as ECTARC to develop synergies, share best practice, and build links to access separate strands of funding and engage with the centrally run programmes within the European Commission.

Bangor University has not been informed of plans for this development. There is a concern that this might duplicate the efforts of the UUK International Unit.

**Recommendation 10.** Monitor trends in student mobility, including British Council data on its Erasmus+ and youth programmes, and ensure the outcomes and impact of engagement and participation by the youth sector are systematically captured.

Bangor University has been reporting enhanced outward mobility data via HESA since 13/14. Any 'Welsh' statistical analysis will be based on data provided through our regular Erasmus and HESA reports. Bangor University has not been contacted separately (and as far as we are aware this is the case for other Welsh HEIs as well).

Bangor University contacts with the new EU Funding Ambassadors and the view of the University on the value this initiative provides to Welsh engagement with centrally-managed EU programme such as Erasmus+

We are not aware of the new EU Funding Ambassadors or any contact between them and the University. We are therefore not able to comment on the value of this initiative at the moment.

## **Written evidence in support of the Enterprise and Business Committee session with Welsh universities 21/10/15**

This paper outlines the engagement of Welsh universities in the first year (2014) of the Horizon2020 programme. A separate paper on engagement in the Erasmus+ programme will follow.

### Successful projects in Welsh universities

For the first year of Horizon2020 Welsh organisations were involved in 47 successful applications of which 36 involved Welsh universities. There were notable successes in applications to the European Research Council (ERC) at Cardiff University and three of the Welsh universities were awarded funding for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). There have also been successes in the Societal Challenge part of the programme in Energy, Blue Growth and Climate Action.

From the data released in July, Welsh universities have captured just under €18m of EU contributions for these 36 projects out of a total income to Wales of just over €20m. This represents an overall success rate of 15.9% of applications submitted by HE. The overall success rate across the EU for the first 100 projects was 14% which represents a significant decrease from the 20% overall success rate for FP7. Though it is too early to draw significant conclusions in making comparisons with FP7 at this stage, the amount awarded in 2014 (€18m) was approximately the average amount awarded annually to Welsh HE over the FP7 period. It should be noted that the budget available for this first year of Horizon2020 was lower than the annual budget for the final years of FP7. The statistics for Wales do not include the successful COFUND grant which will add another €10m to the overall figure. The COFUND grant aims to address the shortfall in the number of researchers in Wales as identified in the recent Leadership Foundation report<sup>1</sup>. This shortfall, which the report estimates at around 600 researchers, will have a bearing on the volume of competitive applications that can be submitted to Horizon2020.

The Commission has repeatedly stated that the programme is oversubscribed. The Commission has received over 65,000 proposals and are aware that they are turning down too many excellent proposals<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For a summary of the report: [http://www.lfhe.ac.uk/en/research-resources/published-research/research-by-theme/the-uk-he-system/the-case-for-growing-stemm-research-capacity-in-wales.cfm?utm\\_source=research&utm\\_campaign=halligan](http://www.lfhe.ac.uk/en/research-resources/published-research/research-by-theme/the-uk-he-system/the-case-for-growing-stemm-research-capacity-in-wales.cfm?utm_source=research&utm_campaign=halligan)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sciencebusiness.net/news/77206/Horizon-2020-low-success-rates-a-%E2%80%98very-sad-story%E2%80%99%2c-says-top-research-administrator>

## Novel features of the Horizon2020 programme

The Welsh Higher Education European Liaison Officers have provided WHEB with feedback on the experiences of participating in the application procedure for the first year. There were a number of new processes set up for the beginning of the programme, including a new participant portal and the introduction of a two year work programme. Though there were some glitches with the participant portal in the first year the application and submission system is very efficient, the guidance is clear and the help services well sign-posted. As a result the European Liaison officers have to deal with fewer basic procedural questions from the academics. However, it is still somewhat overwhelming for a new user to navigate through the volume of information. The two year work programme helps to plan activities and activate networks and enables the research and innovation services in the universities to better plan, alert and support the development of applications. In most cases Welsh academics are invited to join consortia as partners which are being coordinated from other countries and so are not responsible for the application process.

With the aim of reducing the time to grant, the Commission has eliminated the negotiation phase between the evaluation of the proposal and awarding of the grant. The main effect on the application process has been the need to provide more details of the financial aspects of the proposal as well as the central management arrangements. This additional responsibility at the pre-submission stage has been criticised by academics as time and resource wasteful when the success rates are very low. However, taking the negotiation phase out of the process has speeded up the time from notification of award to the grants being signed off and projects starting.

The evaluation reports continue to be of variable quality. Some offer helpful and focused feedback which enable researchers to address areas of project weaknesses, whereas others are too generalised and lacking in detail for researchers to identify the areas of concern to the evaluator. The lack of detailed feedback could be attributed in part to the huge over-subscription of bids to some calls e.g. in Health which has meant that the Commission has struggled at times to deal with the volume. The Evaluation Summary Reports receive the greatest criticism where the feedback suggest only limited understanding of the subject area or where key section of the application appears to have been overlooked or where the comments appear to be inconsistent.

With the exception of the European Research Council, most calls are evaluated according to the scientific excellence, implementation and impact criteria. Many researchers report that they score well on scientific excellence which researchers commonly regard as the primary focus of the action. However, under Horizon2020 the Impact criterion is equally important and provides the main focus for projects in the Societal Challenges pillar. Achieving the required standard and appropriate activities in Impact is proving challenging to address as the Commission expects projects to be on higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) and thus requires greater involvement from non-academic sectors.

This strong emphasis on innovation in the new programme and for a more multidisciplinary approach to the challenges identified in many of the calls requires academics to work with new partners, including from SME and industry, even though academics still prefer to work with known collaborators where they are able to build on the trust developed with colleagues over time. Although the new areas included in Horizon2020 allow a wider range of Welsh academics to participate, conflicting academic responsibilities including teaching, undertaking research already funded, bid development and administration continue to limit the time available to researchers for Horizon2020 engagement.

In recognising these major changes to calls in Horizon2020, Cardiff University has joined the Vision2020: The Horizon Network<sup>3</sup>, which is a pan-European network of universities, research organisations, large companies and SMEs. The network includes organisations, from universities and industry which have been very successful in Framework Programme funding in the past. Cardiff University leads the Energy Cluster within the network, organising a large two day event in July and securing industry participation from Wales in the network. Cardiff has also signed a strategic partnership with Leuven University which has a very strong track record in European research funding projects.

#### Support for engagement in the programme

- Institutional support

Most universities have well established European support departments providing policy and administration guidance to academics. In many cases they are part of the institution-wide research engagement and innovation departments. The European liaison officers are the main point of contact for researchers and conduct one to one and faculty wide meetings to encourage research collaborations and to identify and target key Horizon2020 funding opportunities. They coordinate the UK Research Office (UKRO) annual visits and have coordinated workshops led by EU experts such as the Hyperion Bid Consultancy seminars.

- National Contact Points (NCPs)

UKRO continues to provide professional and proactive support and guidance for the ERC and the MSCAs. They have led tailored training and advice workshops for researchers as well as hosting national training seminars. Researchers and research managers are able to directly contact UKRO staff with call specific queries and receive efficient, timely responses. Due to resource limitations however, UKRO is unable to offer draft bid evaluation or scientific feedback support.

Very useful scientific and policy feedback has been received from the Health and Energy NCPs who have been particularly helpful in offering initial evaluation feedback on application drafts, to confirm an appropriate fit between a project and a specific call and for EU general policy feedback. On 16 November Swansea University will be hosting an NCP-led information day on Societal Challenge 6 (Europe in a Changing World – Inclusive, Innovative and

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<sup>3</sup> For more information: <http://2020visionnetwork.eu/>

Reflective Societies). The NCP for Challenge 2 (Food, Agriculture, Aquaculture and the Bio economy) has attended the WHEB European Funding Coordinating group meeting in June and ran an information seminar at Bangor University in July. The NCP for Challenge 3 (Energy) attended the Vision2020 Energy information conference at Cardiff University in July as mentioned above.

Some universities have stated that the level of assistance from the NCPs has been mixed and there are instances where requests for guidance have not been answered. However, the general view from the European officers is that the NCPs are providing better support as they are now full-time appointments, contracted by InnovateUK.

- SCoRE Cymru Scheme

The SCoRE Cymru initiative has provided useful funding to facilitate research and industrial partner travel to enhance networking, and establish future project collaborations. Swansea University for example has received 15 travel awards, with at least two of these resulting in successful Horizon2020 grant awards. The team at WEFO has been able to respond fairly quickly to requests. However, limiting factors have been that funding cannot be claimed retrospectively and applications need to be submitted a number of weeks in advance before the planned travel. Some universities feel that the administration involved in requesting fairly small amounts of funding could be reduced.

- WEFO Horizon2020 unit

The WEFO Horizon2020 unit provides helpful policy and briefing information via email and circulars. Some of the communications duplicate correspondence from other support agencies or information has been forwarded on events that have already taken place. At its inception, the WEFO Horizon2020 unit suggested it would like to host training events to support sector upskilling, and encourage increased participation in Horizon2020. The unit provided support through the SCoRE Cymru scheme to hold joint MSCA fellowship two-day workshop for prospective fellows and supervisors at Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities.

Going forward, a more targeted use of resources could be achieved if the remit of the WEFO Horizon2020 unit within the Welsh research sector could be clarified, to avoid duplications. The unit could undertake to provide specific training opportunities for businesses in Wales. Cardiff University has been in discussion with the Unit regarding using its membership of the Vision2020 network to facilitate greater Welsh SME awareness and participation. It has also been suggested that the Unit should establish a database of Welsh Horizon2020 evaluators.

- WHEB

The WHEB office in Brussels has also been assisting the sector in engaging with the programme by organising study visits and promotional events. As part of its remit to support a wider pool of researchers in participating in European projects, WHEB recently organised an introduction to Horizon2020 and EU policy making visit for 15 researchers involved in the Welsh Crucible scheme from six Welsh universities. The researchers were briefed by their European officers in advance of the meeting and will be meeting with them to discuss their plans for participating in future calls. Initial feedback from the researchers was very positive

with 14 out of the 15 researchers stating that the visit provided valuable insight into EU policy and funding and which will inform their engagement with Horizon2020 over the coming years.

WHEB continues to play an active role in the ERRIN network in Brussels, co-chairing the Opening Science working group. The work programme for this group includes the integration of social sciences and humanities into the Horizon2020 proposals. This is a key objective of the Commission. The office is also supporting Welsh academics in participating in the Vanguard regions initiative. This new initiative, currently chaired by the Tampere region in Finland, aims to foster greater collaboration between regions which have advanced manufacturing as part of their Smart Specialisation Strategies and also aims to submit applications to Horizon2020 in future. One of the key priority areas is 3D printing which is also a priority area for Swansea University and WHEB was able to broker the participation of Swansea University at the most recent network meeting in Brussels.

The European Funding Coordinating groups set up by WHEB have most recently focused on the draft work programmes for the 2016-17 calls. In Advanced Manufacturing, for example, Prof Rossi Setchi (Cardiff University) and Prof Hefin Rowlands (University of South Wales) have been put forward to be part of the expert group to manage a project within the Factories of the Future call.

The last meeting of the Biosciences group welcomed Ian Holmes, the National Contact Point for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine and Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bio economy as well as WEFO. The group discussed draft work programme for the 2016-17 calls with academics interested in specific areas of Blue Growth and agriculture.

Similar meeting have been held for the Health and the Low Carbon groups with WHEB supporting the academics by providing updated information on EU policies which directly inform the calls, such as the development of the Strategic Energy and Technology Plan.

WHEB also enables the universities to raise their profile in Brussels. Over the last six months it assisted in organising the promotion of the Swansea Bay Campus and the Aberystwyth Enterprise and Innovation Campus, identifying the most appropriate officials and decision makers to invite to these events from the European institutions and other regions.

#### Impact of the Science for Wales strategy on Horizon2020 engagement

##### - COFUND

The Welsh universities are preparing to engage with the successful COFUND application led by Welsh Government. This scheme promises to address in part the shortfall in the number of researchers in Wales. There is already a steady stream of inquiries from staff and it has aroused interest within the institutions. A data base of experts at Swansea University has been developed and leading academics are engaging with their networks to identify expert researchers to encourage bids for fellowship positions. Cardiff University's recruitment will be strategically aligned with ongoing investments including the nine University Research Institutes. Growth in capacity in other key areas will also be prioritised for COFUND, e.g. in



relation to major operations which are currently in business planning with WEFO (FLEXIS, HPC Wales II). The sector is waiting for further information from Welsh Government on the timetable, call openings, deadlines and the marketing activities planned. Once this information is provided, the sector plans to organise initial training events. WHEB and Welsh Government are working together on a profile raising launch of the scheme in the European Parliament in November.

- Ser Cymru Chairs and National Research Networks

The Science for Wales strategy has provided a clear indication of priority research sector for Wales, enabling researchers to target these key areas and channel resources effectively. In addition, the Ser Cymru chairs and the NRN initiatives have enabled universities to develop critical mass in the three focus areas. At Cardiff University one of the new senior lecturers attracted as part of the Prof Yves Barde research chair support package made it through to the last stages of an ERC Starting Grant though this proposal was ultimately unsuccessful due to the intense competition for this funding stream. The appointment of Prof Diana Huffaker by Cardiff University aligns with other investments in compound semiconductor research and innovation (i.e. the new Compound Semiconductor Institute and Compound Semiconductor Centre JV Company). This significant collaborative activity with IQE, a global company with its headquarters in St Mellons, has already led to at least one major proposal submitted to the European Commission and Horizon 2020 bids are a future priority.

These initiatives complement major strategic developments within the universities such as the research institutes at Cardiff University and campus developments at Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea Universities. These key investments, supported by ESIF, EIB, government and industry will provide the infrastructure to facilitate increased participation in Horizon2020 and capitalise on grant capture.

The Life Sciences NRN organised a Hyperion Bid Consultancy session for researchers from across Wales at the Life Sciences Hub in May. The NRNs are also integrated in the WHEB European Funding Coordinating groups and the office is organising the first visit to Brussels in November of two of the Low Carbon Energy and Environment NRN - Plants and Architecture cluster (Cardiff, Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities) and the Quotient Marine Energy cluster (Swansea Cardiff and Bangor Universities). The aim of this visit is to discuss the alignment of the research agendas of the clusters with EU policy and funding priorities with a focus in particular on the 2017 work programme. As well as meetings with policy makers, the academics will meet with relevant European Technology Platforms and European associations, such as the Ocean Energy Forum, which provide input into the drafting of future calls. Participation in these platforms means that applicants can be better placed to secure funding.

The university sector looks forward to discussing these issues with members of the Enterprise and Business Committee.

## **Engagement in the Erasmus+ Programme in Welsh Universities 2014-15**

WHEB is grateful to the international offices in the universities for providing information for this paper which focuses on the Enterprise and Business Committee's recommendations to Welsh Government outlined in its report of July 2014 following its inquiry into EU funding opportunities 2014-2020.

### University participation in Erasmus+ programme in 2014-15

All Welsh universities have been involved in at least one Erasmus project during the first two years of the programme. All universities have received grants for the HE Students and Staff Mobility within the Programme Countries strand during the two years and were awarded a total of over €2.5m in 2014 and a further €2.4m for the same strand in 2015. In the first year there were 350 participants at Cardiff University as study placements, traineeships and teaching mobility for staff. In addition three universities were awarded a total of over €450,000 for the HE Students and Staff Mobility with Third Countries strand in 2015. Countries included Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Morocco, Macao, United States and New Zealand.

Furthermore in 2015 two universities were successful in Key Action 2 of the programme which involves strategic partnerships. A total of over €490,000 was awarded to USW for a project entitled '*Developing Entrepreneurial Women – Changing Horizons*' and to UWTSD for '*ECO-SystemApp*'.

There have been applications from Welsh universities to the Knowledge Alliances strand in Key Action 2 which focusses on university business partnerships. Unfortunately, none has yet been successful as this is a very competitive call with a success rate of around 3% of applications.

The total funds awarded to Welsh universities from the Erasmus+ programme has therefore increased from €2.5m in 2014 to over €3.35m in 2015.

### Engaging with UK strategy for outward student mobility

Many of the universities have their own internationalisation strategies which cover student mobility. Bangor University has had a strategy for the 2011-15 period where it has exceeded its target of outgoing students and will be starting to implement a new strategy for the 2015-20 period. Similarly, Swansea University has exceeded its targets every year for the past three years and the percentage of students undertaking a mobility element during their studies has doubled from 2008 to 2011.

Cardiff University is working towards its target of 17% of home students having studied abroad by 2017 with the Erasmus+ programme a key instrument for achieving this target.

Academic schools in the universities are allowing increased flexibility in their degree programmes to allow for periods of study abroad. Staff are also encouraged to promote the benefits of studying abroad to undergraduates and a wider range of departments and faculties are involved in the programme.

Mobility schemes are also being encouraged as part of the strategic partnerships being forged between Swansea University and Grenoble University in France and between Cardiff University and Leuven University in Belgium.

The universities are aware that the UUK International Unit is promoting student mobility on a UK level. For example, the IU is currently investigating the possibility of working with the UK Government's Science and Innovation Network to deliver an outbound mission for Directors of International and Pro-Vice Chancellors International to Poland and the Czech Republic in March 2016 and are interested in feedback from institutions on the usefulness of such a mission and the priority areas (teaming and twinning/student recruitment/teaching partnerships).

The IU is also organising the first European Higher Education Area workshops on Joint Degrees and Bologna tools with the Welsh event taking place in Cardiff on 4 November. The aim of these workshops is to help attendees gain a detailed understanding of how to develop high-quality applications under Erasmus+. The workshops will cover all the key elements of an integrated, successful joint programme and will have a very practical focus. They will include an in-depth review of the key components of a Joint Master or Doctorate, an overview of current relevant EU policy and recommendations as well as information on how to underpin Joint Masters or Doctorates with the Bologna Process tool. In addition there will be a seminar on Mobility and Employability in Cardiff on 3 December 2015.

The IU recently launched a website promoting the benefits of outward student mobility and has information for students on the support available in Wales:

<http://www.go.international.ac.uk/content/wales-201415>

There is no regional initiative in Wales for engagement with Erasmus+ mobility actions. Through the Global Wales initiative, universities through Universities Wales are working with British Council Wales, Welsh Government (including DfES, European and External Affairs Division, Trade and Invest) and HEFCW on a three year work plan to promote international activities in target markets including the US. There is potential for new partnership opportunities to emerge from this scheme which could lead to Erasmus+ programme applications with third countries.

Creating a Wales-wide alumni network for international students including Erasmus+ students to maximise international impact

Universities have not been aware of any initiatives to create a Wales-wide alumni network but would be interested in participating in such a scheme. Cardiff University has active alumni associations in Hong Kong, China, South Africa and India.

Universities Wales are in discussion with Welsh Government on plans to set up an Alumni network in the US and this could involve students who have links with Wales through Erasmus+

Develop synergies and share best practice with British Council, Ecorys and ECTARC and build links to access separate strands of funding and engage with the centrally run programmes within the European Commission

The Global Opportunity Centre at Cardiff University worked closely with ECTARC to publicise opportunities for recent graduates to take part in Erasmus+ Traineeships. Despite interest from students the university was advised that ECTARC were no longer able to offer Traineeships through the programme.

Due to the very low success rate for the Knowledge Alliances call WHEB, as Chair of the ERRIN Innovation Funding Group, organised a seminar on engaging with the Knowledge Alliances call in July. The event included the desk officer from the Commission and a representative from a successful project who outlined the key success factors which contributed towards the bid. This led to a discussion on recommendations for participants who wish to get involved in the programme which was circulated to the participants and to the Commission. Swansea University also attended this event as they are exploring submitting a proposal for the 2016 call.

The European Commission is organising an Information day on the Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills Alliances 2016 call on 23 November in Brussels. WHEB is promoting this to the sector and will be attending the sessions and feeding back relevant information to colleagues in Wales.

## Report on Cardiff University's Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ activities Enterprise and Business Committee of National Assembly for Wales

### Horizon 2020

#### **1: An update on Cardiff University's participation in the first calls under the Horizon 2020 calls.**

Cardiff's ambition towards Horizon 2020 is set out in its institutional strategy, *The Way Forward 2012-2017*, where the University has identified Horizon 2020 as a key research funding source, setting a target of increasing EU funding by 12.5% *pa* during this period, and in so doing contributing to the growth of overall research income of 10% *pa*.

Cardiff University's success rates in Horizon 2020 are in line with those elsewhere in the UK and in the wider European context. It has already been widely acknowledged and reported by the European Commission (EC) that success rates in the first year of Horizon 2020 have varied significantly from those in Framework Programme 7 (FP7), partly as a result of significant over subscription to some calls. The University has not viewed Horizon 2020 in the same light as FP7, recognising prior to the former's launch, that there were going to be key changes made in the way in which proposals would be evaluated, especially those for collaborative research projects, with a much stronger emphasis on impact and 'Technology Readiness Levels'.

To date, and mindful that a large number of applications to the 2015 calls are still under evaluation, the University has secured funding for 34 projects worth £14.6M since the start of Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), covering all three 'pillars' of the programme, i.e. Excellent Science, Leadership in Industrial and Enabling Technologies' and Societal Challenges.

Cardiff is the lead Beneficiary for 11 of the 34 projects *ie*:

- 6 European Research Council (ERC) awards made up of 4 Consolidator Grants (3 Physics and Astronomy and 1 Psychology), 1 Starting Grant (Computer Science and Informatics) and 1 Proof of Concept (Chemistry);
- 5 individual Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Fellowships made up of 3 Global (Biosciences to Brazil; Medicine to South Africa; Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies to the USA) and 2 European in Biosciences and Engineering.

The University's three Colleges have all prioritised Horizon 2020 and, working closely with colleagues in Professional Services, are encouraging more academic and research staff to submit high quality proposals to the large numbers of calls available at any one time. We have developed new internal support structures and development programmes e.g. for researchers targeting the ERC schemes and those looking to lead their first Horizon 2020 collaborative proposal.

Horizon 2020 is a key priority for our strategic collaboration with KU Leuven and our alliance with our GW4 partners Bath, Bristol and Exeter universities. This includes knowledge sharing and mapping of common areas of interest and we are looking to develop high-quality Horizon 2020 applications where we are a partner, or lead coordinator. Similarly, taking advantage of the international dimension of Horizon 2020, we are actively looking to expand our use of the programme to fund our research activities with partners in China, the USA, Africa and elsewhere worldwide.

#### **2: Views on the role of WEFO Horizon 2020 unit in supporting Welsh engagement in the new programme, and views on the other support mechanisms available in Wales including Score Cymru.**

The WEFO Horizon 2020 Unit is an important development for HE, business and other organizations in Wales, and one to be supported going forward. Competition for Horizon 2020 funding is very high and anything to give us 'an edge' when applying is to be welcomed. We have been in discussion with the Unit recently about

how we can help facilitate greater Welsh SME awareness/participation in Horizon 2020 using our membership of Vision2020: The Horizon Network: <http://2020visionnetwork.eu/>

SCoRE Cymru is an important and valuable initiative, and we in the University are delighted with support provided by this scheme. Funding for travel has allowed a number of our staff to travel to meet partners, develop bids and attend information events. The limited funding made available to employ specialists to help with bid writing (for collaborative proposals), which we have made of use with our early career researchers, is a very welcome addition and one to be encouraged, continued and grown.

Recognising that SCoRE Cymru is public funding, and as such due process and procedure need to be adhered to, in an effort to speed up the whole application/approval cycle could the scheme be run via an online system, which ultimately could prove cheaper and more effective to run? For Horizon 2020 two-stage proposals, the turn-around time for the preparation and submission of the full proposal at Stage 2 is very tight, meaning that our staff have a very short window in which to book travel, accommodation etc to attend proposal writing meetings. This makes it very difficult for them to benefit from the SCoRE Cymru funding at this crucial stage in the proposal development.

### **3: Views on the impact that the Science for Wales Strategy has had on Welsh participation in Horizon 2020.**

The Sêr Cymru Stars programme has attracted world-class researchers to Wales and built new research capacity which has the potential to effectively compete for Horizon 2020 funding. The results of this initiative are already being seen in the University where one of the new senior lecturers, attracted as part of Professor Yves Barde's research chair support package, made it through to the final stages of an ERC Starting Grant call. Unfortunately, this proposal was ultimately unsuccessful due to the intense competition for this particular funding stream, but the individual concerned will be a strong candidate for a re-submission to a later call.

The appointment of Professor Diana Huffaker by the University aligns with other investments in compound semiconductor research and innovation (*ie* the new Compound Semiconductor Institute and Compound Semiconductor Centre Joint Venture company). This significant collaborative activity with IQE, a global company with its headquarters in St Mellons, Cardiff, has already led to at least one major proposal submitted to the European Commission, and Horizon 2020 bids are a future priority.

Increasing engagement with Horizon 2020 is a key objective for the Sêr Cymru initiative. The three National Research Networks (NRNs) have organised a series of funding workshops across Wales aimed at increasing awareness of Horizon 2020 and providing practical advice for applicants. Delivery of the workshops was by external experts. The Networks are also working closely with the European Offices at the relevant universities to support other local initiatives aimed at increasing engagement with Horizon 2020.

Cardiff University is committed to recruiting new research staff in areas of acknowledged strength, as identified in REF 2014, including through the newly launched COFUND programme. The institution's recruitment will be strategically aligned with ongoing investments including the nine University Research Institutes: Cardiff Catalysis Institute; Crime and Security Research Institute; Data Innovation Research Institute; Energy Systems Research Institute; European Cancer Stem Cell Research Institute; Neuroscience & Mental Health Research Institute; Sustainable Places Research Institute; Systems Immunity Research Institute; and Water Research Institute. Growth in capacity in other key areas will also be prioritised for the COFUND scheme, *eg* in relation to major operations which are currently in business planning with WEFO (FLEXIS, HPC Wales II). The Cardiff University Executive Board has determined the strategy for attracting excellent researchers to apply to the COFUND scheme with Cardiff University as the host institution, whilst the resources for the required level of co-investment have also been considered.

### **4: Views on the impact of the Welsh HE Brussels Office support to the participation of the sector in the programme, including the four thematic co-ordination groups it established in 2012.**

Cardiff University gets very good 'value for money' from its membership of Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB) and we collectively have an excellent working relationship with Berywn Davies, Head of Office, and his team, and through them with the other offices co-located in Wales House in Brussels. We have a growing

number of academic and research staff using WHEB *e.g.* to organise meetings with key EC officials in Brussels and to host meetings with partners in Horizon 2020 bids/projects at Wales House. Academics across our institution have joined and actively contribute to the four WHEB sector-led European Research Groups in Advanced Materials & Manufacturing, Biosciences, Health and Low Carbon. WHEB also supports the sector by helping to organise the annual visit to Brussels for the participants on the Welsh Crucible programme.

**5: Views on how Cardiff University and Welsh HE more generally is working with Welsh businesses (and other businesses) to engage them in collaborative projects under Horizon 2020. The EU Funding Ambassadors in their session with the Committee on 23 September underlined the importance of specialist one-to-one support to businesses on engagement with Horizon 2020, arguing that this is currently not available in Wales. Do you agree with this view?**

The point made by the EU Funding Ambassadors in their session with the Committee on 23 September is a valid one. That said the question is who should be providing this specialist one-to-one support to businesses on engagement with Horizon 2020.

With the changes from FP7 to Horizon 2020 highlighted above, coupled with the EC stating that a minimum of 20% of the Horizon 2020 budget would go to SMEs, the University recognised the need to use its existing connections with universities, research organizations, companies, businesses and others, both in Wales and elsewhere, more effectively when applying to Horizon 2020. Joining Vision2020: The Horizon Network: <http://2020visionnetwork.eu/> in July 2013, and taking on the lead role for Energy in the Network, is helping us in that endeavour. Vision2020 is a pan-European network of universities, research organisations, large companies, SMEs (over 130 so far recruited) and others working in the field. The Network launched in April 2013 and Cardiff University joined in July 2013. The calibre of those universities/research organisations involved, *eg* University College London, KU Leuven, Helsinki University, CERN *et al*, plus all the companies joining, has put us in a strong position to work with some of the best and most successful ‘players’ on the European research and innovation scene. From an SME perspective, the network gives them access to a ready international network of research and innovation intensive organisations who ‘know Horizon 2020’. In a Wales context the University has been instrumental in getting IQE, Cultech, Alesi Medical Instruments and other Welsh companies to join this Network.

In January 2015 the University combined with Vision2020 to host an event through the Cardiff University Innovation Network titled ‘*Vision2020: The Horizon Network (for EU funding): What’s in it for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)?*’. This free event, which included a presentation by an EC representative, and was attended by a large number of local companies plus Welsh Government representatives, explained how the Vision2020 Network supports SMEs by providing a collaboration platform for companies and research organisations participating in the Horizon 2020 funding programme.

Cardiff University is seen as one of the founding members of Vision2020, leading the Energy Cluster within the network. Within that role, the University organised a very successful two-day event in Cardiff in July 2015 on the Horizon 2020 ‘Secure, clean and efficient energy’ Societal Challenge. The event attracted some 150 attendees, including representatives from 30 companies and 28 universities across Wales, the UK and 8 other European countries – amongst those attending were major companies such as GE Oil and Gas, Johnson Matthey, as well as a large number of SMEs, with many of those coming from Wales.

The overall UK approach to its NCP (National Contact Point) support would seem to be at variance with some of its EU partner countries. In the UK individuals operate at a national level, while in countries like Germany, there seem to be many more staff deployed on a regional basis across all the themes. This is not to criticise in any way those working as NCPs in the UK, many of whom are very knowledgeable and helpful individuals providing valuable support. In the summer we had excellent support and input from Helen Fairclough, the lead NCP for Energy in the UK, before and during our Vision2020 Energy Cluster event. Likewise, we get excellent advice and support from the UK Research Office (UKRO) in Brussels in its role as the UK NCP for both the European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).

In the Wales context the WEFO Horizon 2020 Unit is helping to raise the profile of Horizon 2020 from a

relatively low starting base, for those outside the university sector. Their work with companies and others working in Welsh Government *e.g.* Innovation, is starting to pay dividends. That said, as we in the University know, while it is one thing to encourage someone to apply to Horizon 2020, it is another to get a bid funded as borne out by the low success rates in the first calls.

Using consultants more widely to help companies in Wales engage in Horizon 2020, and actually help with bid development, is one possible path to be explored but of course the question is who would pay for that support – over and above the level of provision possible through SCoRE Cymru.

**5: Views on whether Wales – the Welsh Government and the Welsh HE sector including Cardiff – is sufficiently ambitious with regard to how it is approaching Horizon 2020, particularly given Ireland has set a target of drawing down €1.25bn from Horizon 2020 and has secured around €127m from the first calls under the new programme.**

The early success of Ireland in Horizon 2020 has to be considered against its investment of significant central resources over a sustained period of time to promote the various Framework Programmes *eg* FP6, FP7 and now Horizon 2020 to all sectors in its economy.

As outlined in the reply to question 1, Cardiff's ambition towards Horizon 2020 is clearly set out in its institutional strategy. Welsh universities as a whole clearly recognise the importance of Horizon 2020 in terms of their own research profiles, and collectively have a role to play in helping to promote the programme. The Welsh Government, through the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser Wales, the Horizon 2020 Unit in WEFO, and their colleagues in the various sector and innovation teams, are working hard to raise the profile of Horizon 2020 and its many funding strands across Wales, making it more visible and accessible. The success of the Welsh Government-led Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND proposal has clearly demonstrated ambition and the willingness of Welsh Government and Welsh universities to work together to build research capacity, and to help increase research funding into Wales.

**6: Synergies between EU Structural Funds and Horizon 2020: views on the measures being taken under the Structural Funds in Wales 2014-2020 to support research and innovation and impact of this on Welsh competitiveness in Horizon 2020.**

The 2014-2020 ERDF Structural Fund programmes include a direct 'Priority Axis' and 'Specific Objective' to "increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding". Individual Operations will be measured on their capture of research awards, including Horizon 2020 awards. This is directly aligned with this University's institutional objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), to grow research income by 10% year on year.

ERDF Structural Funds can now be targeted by HEIs for research capacity building activities – including investment in academic posts and research groups, *eg* FLEXIS, currently in Business Planning with WEFO, and in research infrastructures *eg* the new CUBRIC building, and in 'innovation-led' collaborations with industry *eg* the Institute for Compound Semiconductors, under discussion with WEFO. The Welsh Government Sêr Cymru II (ERDF) and COFUND (H2020) schemes are also intended to recruit academic talent into Welsh HEIs, alongside collaborations with industry that will drive up research and development, and innovation.

Over the medium to long term, this range of investment in growing research and innovation capacity in Wales should lead to a greater volume of high quality applications to and awards from Horizon 2020 to Welsh academics, industry and organisations. At an operation/project level, each project will adopt different approaches to encouraging and supporting engagement with Horizon 2020 through networking, liaison, influencing and grant-writing activity, as set out in their respective Business Plans.

**7: What contact Cardiff University has had with the new EU Funding Ambassadors and the view of the University on the value this initiative provides to Welsh engagement with centrally-managed EU programme such as Erasmus+.**

The University has had limited contact to date with the new EU Funding Ambassadors but is aware of their roles in helping to engage Wales in EU funding programmes, and is very keen to work with them more closely.



All three were introduced at the Wales Annual Horizon 2020 Conference in February 2015, and a meeting was then set up by our European Office with Dr Grahame Guilford to discuss health and life sciences opportunities in Horizon 2020. We would welcome further contact with Dr Guilford, and also with Dr Hywel Ceri Jones and Ms Gaynor Richards.

### **Erasmus+**

Cardiff University has been involved in the Erasmus programme since it was first established in 1987. As an institution we have 284 Inter-Institutional partnerships with universities across 28 countries throughout Europe. During the first year of the Erasmus+ programme, 2014-2015, a total of 350 participants have taken part, including Student Mobility for Study, Student Mobility for Traineeships and Staff Mobility for Teaching and Training.

The University's Global Opportunity Centre is committed to increasing our involvement in the Erasmus+ programme. Our involvement in the Erasmus+ programme contributes to the University's strategic vision to become a global Top 100 university as laid out in *The Way Forward*. The University has identified greater international engagement as crucial to this, with a target of ensuring that by 2017, 17% of our home students will have studied, worked or volunteered abroad for at least a month during their time at Cardiff.

### **Student and Staff Numbers**

330 Cardiff students have participated in the programme during 2014-2015.

- 233 students (from 14 academic Schools) took part in Study placements in 12 countries;
- 97 students (from 10 academic Schools) took part in Traineeships in 16 countries.

17 academic members of staff took part in Teaching mobility across 10 countries, while 3 staff took part in Traineeships in 3 countries.

### **Increased engagement with the programme**

#### *1) Cooperation with academic Schools*

During the first year of the Erasmus+ programme, we have engaged a great deal with academic Schools at the University. A number of Schools have reviewed their degree programmes, or set up new programmes, to allow for a period of mobility as an integral part of the degree. Staff have also been invaluable in promoting the benefits of student mobility to their undergraduate cohort. An outcome of this is that students from a far wider range of Schools are now involved in the programme.

#### *2) Short-term Traineeships*

From 2007 the number of students participating in Traineeships has leapt from 3 participants in 2007/8 to 97 in 2014/15. This is largely due to support from academic Schools, increased flexibility of degree programmes to allow for periods of mobility abroad, as well as engaging with shorter-term (8 week) traineeships over the summer holiday. These shorter-term placements are particularly beneficial for students studying in disciplines with a very structured timetable and fixed curriculum, such as Pharmacy.

### **Graduating Students**

During the first half of the year, the Global Opportunity Centre worked closely with ECTARC to help publicise the opportunities for recent graduates to take part in Erasmus+ Traineeships. Over the summer months we had a good number of students enquire about how they could take part in the programme as a Recent Graduate. Unfortunately by this time, we were advised that ECTARC were no longer able to offer Traineeships through the programme.

### **International Credit Mobility**

We have recently been successful in securing funds for student and staff mobility between Programme and Partner Countries (KA107 International Credit Mobility).

The planned mobility project to Brazil and Macao is crucial to establish strong teaching and research relationships with colleagues at partner institutions in these countries, and make arrangements for exchange

placements that will form part of a new degree programme in Portuguese.

This success demonstrates the University's commitment to both outward student and staff mobility and the internationalisation of the University community; as well as our continued commitment to take advantage of the opportunities that form part of the Erasmus+ programme.

### **Key Action 2 – ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership Project**

#### *Standardized Vocational Education and Training for BIM in EU (BIM4VET)*

The University is a partner in this new project led by Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, in which Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives is also a partner. Building Information Modelling (BIM) is rapidly changing the way construction projects are procured, designed, built and managed all along the life-cycle of a facility. New skills are required, and the project tackles an urgent need to 1) develop a transparent and harmonized competence matrix for BIM actors across Europe, 2) standardize BIM missions and processes on an EU scale, taking into account the international BIM developments already existing and 3) classify and harmonize BIM training curriculum and certification schemes.

### **Language Learning Courses – Languages for All Programme**

From 2014/15, all Cardiff University students can study a modern language for free in addition to their studies through the new Languages for All Programme. The main objective of this university-wide initiative is to support the international mobility of students and increase their employability prospects. The first year has been extremely successful with 2,800 students studying a language either on a weekly or an intensive course. The top languages were Spanish, French and German. Tailored courses for groups going abroad were also made available and intercultural awareness is embedded in curricula of Languages for All programmes.

### **Internationalising the curricula**

There has been progress towards encouraging academic Schools to internationalise the curriculum. As stated above, since the introduction of Cardiff University's institutional strategy, The Way Forward, many more degree programmes now allow for an integrated period spent abroad. Academic Schools were also offered funding to support further short term academically-led mobility opportunities over the summer months.

### **Provision of accommodation**

The Global Opportunity Centre provides a successful induction programme to ensure that Erasmus+ students coming to the university for just one semester are able to find private accommodation in the city. With regards to outgoing students, we ensure that opportunities are advertised early enough to ensure that students do not sign up for tenancy agreements for the next academic year so far in advance. We also assist students going abroad for one semester to find an incoming student who may be able to take over their room in a shared house.



## Follow up to Inquiry into EU Funding Opportunities 2014-2020

Submission to NAW Enterprise & Business Committee

October 2015

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## Introduction

1. ColegauCymru welcomes the opportunity to submit evidence to the Enterprise and Business Committee's follow-up inquiry into EU funding opportunities 2014-2020. ColegauCymru represents the 14<sup>1</sup> further education (FE) colleges and FE institutions in Wales.<sup>2</sup> In 2011/12, there were 167,715 individual students attending college and 217,815 enrolments.<sup>3</sup>
2. Colleges have been working to maximise the benefits Wales gains from EU funding programmes for two decades. Colleges have participated in a range of programmes designed to promote the upskilling of the labour force in Wales and to reduce social exclusion. It is part of colleges' core business to promote Wales' economic revival through an enhanced skills base and the transfer of innovation and technology to business and industry.
3. Wales' position on the western periphery of the EU has enabled it to participate in some of the constituent programmes of **INTERREG** in its previous phases. The opportunity to participate in the 2014-2020 period in the Ireland-Wales Cross Border programme, the Atlantic Area programme and the North West Europe Transnational programme present further opportunities for Wales to benefit from these important programmes.
4. ColegauCymru itself has taken a lead role in supporting colleges to engage with these programmes, particularly the EU lifelong learning programmes such as **Leonardo** (and from 2014, **Erasmus+**). Our ambition is that colleges will significantly extend their engagement with these programmes in the 2014-2020 programming period. We have begun to work with colleges and other agencies across the UK to plan potential collaborative projects.
5. To this end, colleges in Wales and ColegauCymru played an important role in the high level **Celtic Nations EU Funding Seminar** with representation from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland, which took place in Dundalk in Ireland in January 2014 and the follow-up event in March 2015. The seminar explored options for working together on cross-border projects relating to the Ireland-Wales Programme 2014-2020.
6. We are happy for this response to be placed in the public domain.

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<sup>1</sup> The 14 include 10 FE corporations including St David's Catholic College; an FE institution – WEA YMCA Community College Cymru; and The College Merthyr Tydfil, Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Ceredigion which are part of university groupings.

<sup>2</sup> In this paper the terms 'FE college' and 'college' are used to cover FE colleges and FE institutions.

<sup>3</sup> *Further Education, Work-Based Learning and Community Learning in Wales 2013/14 SDR 45/2015*, Welsh Government (March 2015).

## The FE sector's experiences

### Participation of the Welsh FE sector in the new EU Funding Programmes (Erasmus+, Ireland Wales Programme and Creative Europe)

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7. ColegauCymru employed an International Coordinator in November 2010 to provide strategic assistance to colleges in Wales when applying for European funding and to encourage the participation of vocational education and training (VET) learners and staff in European funded projects.
8. A key responsibility of the role was to submit a centralised **Leonardo da Vinci** (EU Lifelong Learning Programme 2007 – 2013) application on behalf of the FE colleges in Wales for apprentice and full time vocational learner mobility with participants undertaking 2-3 week work placements in Europe. This centralised application model succeeded in attracting over €450,000 to the FE sector in Wales between 2011 – 2013. In addition, a number of FE colleges submitted individual applications. Altogether, the total allocation of funding to the FE sector in Wales between 2011 – 2013 was just over €2.2m.
9. With the launch of Erasmus+ in 2014, ColegauCymru has continued to submit Wales-wide consortium applications for **Erasmus+** funding on behalf of the FE colleges in Wales. In addition, ColegauCymru provides guidance and support to colleges that wish to submit their own applications for funding, outside of the consortium bids.
10. In 2014, the first year of Erasmus+ (2014-2020), the FE sector in Wales secured total funding of €820,569.
11. In 2015, there was an increase in funding of 55% with a total project value of €1.2m with 11 out of the 14 FEIs taking part in either the ColegauCymru project or their own.
12. Appendix 1 shows details of the successful projects in Wales for Erasmus+ 2014 and 2015. The College Merthyr Tydfil was allocated over €600,000 for a Key Action 1 VET project that will enable over 270 vocational learners from construction, hair & beauty and business administration to undertake two week work placements in Germany. This was the third largest allocation of funding across the UK for a Key Action 1 VET project.
13. The **Ireland-Wales Programme 2014-2020** was officially launched in March 2015. FE colleges attended the event and projects are currently in the initial stages of development.

For example, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's (GLLM) Food Technology Centre is a partner in a project called **Food Chains for Competitive Advantage** aimed at fostering innovation in SMEs. GLLM is also at the stage of compiling logic

tables with the Institute of Technology in Carlow, Republic of Ireland exploring knowledge transfer partnerships. This cross border partnership was re-ignited following GLLM's participation in a Celtic Nations Contact Seminar in March 2015. The contact seminar was supported by ColegauCymru and the West of Scotland's Colleges' Partnership.

14. Past success under **INTERREG** for the FE sector in Wales have included the following projects:

The **mCommunity** project led by Pembrokeshire College (£1.8m) which focusses on delivering learning through mobile technology to hard- to-reach groups and those most at risk of not engaging in education, training or employment. Outcomes from the project have been notably positive.

The **Vision** project led by Grŵp Llandrillio Menai (£1m) with the Institute of Technology Tallaght in Dublin, works to provide direct and practical assistance to businesses in moving a product or service design concept forward from the initial idea stage through to market. The project sees eligible local businesses and entrepreneurs receiving up to a maximum of £30,000 worth of expert support.

The **Rising Tide** project is a partnership involving Pembrokeshire College and others (£2.1m) which delivers vocational training programmes to provide progression routes for marginalised members of the community. The project also delivers community regeneration programmes to develop local events, activities and projects with local stakeholders in the development of maritime tourism and the promotion of local enterprise.

15. ColegauCymru is aware of the sector specific funding stream **Creative Europe** and notes that this is a specialist area that can be highlighted to colleges to explore as additional to their work in developing ESF projects.

## Support & assistance from within Wales

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16. ColegauCymru ensures that there is liaison with the Welsh Government staff who represent Wales on the UK Programme Board of **Erasmus+**. In 2014, there was a record number of ineligible applications under Key Action 1 (VET). This was linked to a lack of clarity in the Programme Guide issued by the European Commission relating to 'intermediary organisations'. This resulted in a large amount of unallocated funding in 2014 and the UK National Agency opening a second call for applications in November 2014. ColegauCymru raised its concerns with Welsh Government staff to feed in at Programme Board level.
17. The UK National Agency for Erasmus+ is shared by British Council and Ecorys. Ecorys manages the VET funding and ColegauCymru has a positive relationship with senior members of the Erasmus+ VET team at Ecorys.

## Contact with the new EU Funding Ambassadors

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18. ColegauCymru is aware of the appointment of EU Funding Ambassadors and their role in exploring synergies and opportunities for collaboration across the EU funding streams.

## Maritime economy inquiry

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19. The FE colleges in Wales are aware of the sectoral training needs of the maritime economy. Ioan Jenkins, Development Director Wales for Tidal Lagoon Power was invited to address delegates at ColegauCymru's Annual Conference in May 2015.

## Responses to Recommendations

20. Below we address those specific recommendations contained in the Committee's report as requested by the Committee Clerk.

### Recommendation 3

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#### **Establish a central contact point for organisations within Wales and for those outside Wales looking for Welsh partners.**

21. ColegauCymru has been successful with Erasmus+ as it provides a central point of contact for the FE colleges in Wales for Erasmus+. It has a network of European contacts within mobility departments in regional governments (Catalunya, Basque Country, Balearics, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany) as well as with individual staff in vocational colleges in Europe. ColegauCymru also acts as a central point of contact for European partners looking for Welsh partners disseminating and acting on project ideas that are sent via the Wales Brussels office to Wales.

### Recommendation 4

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#### **Develop specialist, tailored support for the youth, education and transport sectors along the lines of the MEDIA Antenna model for the cultural sector.**

22. ColegauCymru provides support to the further education colleges in Wales through its centralised international function. CoelgauCymru has made an initial contact with MEDIA Antenna model to ensure that it continually improves the support that it offers to its members.

## Recommendation 5

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**Cultivate partnerships between stakeholders across the higher and further education sectors, business and the third sector to share expertise, resources and good practice.**

23. Following discussions with the UK national agency, ColegauCymru is prioritising the participation of apprentices and the engagement of SMEs as sending organisations in its 2016 application for Erasmus+ (VET) funding.
24. ColegauCymru acts for the Welsh Government as the National Contact Point (NCP) in Wales for the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET). ColegauCymru has hosted a series of events at colleges across Wales to introduce these EU qualifications tools to tutors and managers. We are also hosting a workshop in Cardiff for careers advisors from across Wales on 26 November 2015.
25. ColegauCymru set up a Wales Steering Group to advise the National Contact/Coordination Points for Wales on how the impact of the EU VET programmes can be maximised for the benefit of learners, employers, education providers and other bodies. This Group now includes the Qualifications and Careers Manager of The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB). Through this contact, we hope to be able to address the issue raised by the CITB in giving evidence to the Enterprise & Business Committee<sup>4</sup> on the accessibility of the programmes to SMEs.

## Recommendation 6

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**Review the representation in Wales House in Brussels to address current gaps, notably how its services can be accessed by businesses, further education, the third sector and the creative and cultural sectors.**

26. ColegauCymru has explored options for addressing gaps in representation in Wales House in Brussels. ColegauCymru has decided to build on its current relationship with the Head of Economic Development Policy as the immediate costs of basing an FE representative in Wales House cannot be funded.

## Recommendation 9

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**Bring together the further and higher education sectors and national agencies such as British Council, Ecorys and organisations such as**

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<sup>4</sup> See issue raised by CITB in para 46. of Enterprise & Business Committee report on *EU Funding opportunities 2014-2020* (July 2014)



**ECTARC to develop synergies, share best practice, and build links to access separate strands of funding and engage with the centrally run programmes within the European Commission.**

27. The UK national agency manages a Country Advisory Group (Wales) for Erasmus+. These meetings take place twice a year and the membership comprises ColegauCymru, Hefcw, Welsh Government, Disability Wales, TUC, Connect Cymru, Estyn, Cardiff City Council (international schools linking), Routes into Languages and Niace. There is scope, with assistance, to widen the remit of this group to explore other strands of funding other than Erasmus+.

**Recommendation 10**

**Monitor trends in student mobility, including British Council data on its Erasmus+ and youth programmes, and ensure the outcomes and impact of engagement and participation by the youth sector are systematically captured.**

28. ColegauCymru is currently focused on developing its work with vocational/work based learners.

**Appendix: Successful Erasmus+ projects 2014 and 2015**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>2014 €</b>	<b>2015 €</b>
The College Merthyr Tydfil		612,472
Coleg Cambria	174,444	322,810
Coleg Gwent	75,292	95,060
Gower College Swansea	235,938	
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (KA1)	12,250	
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (KA2)	298,795	
ColegauCymru (learner)		221,574
ColegauCymru (staff)	23,850	18,375
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>820,569</b>	<b>1,270,291</b>

## Erasmus+ in Wales

A report for the Enterprise and Business Committee of  
the National Assembly for Wales 21 October



## Erasmus+ in Wales

9 October 2015

This paper sets out the UK National Agency's response to questions on Erasmus+ asked by the Enterprise and Business Committee of the National Assembly for Wales.

The paper covers:

1. An overview of decentralised Erasmus+ projects in Wales
2. Information on UK participation in centralised Erasmus+ projects
3. National Agency marketing and communications activities to promote the programme
4. National Agency perspectives on Wales' participation in the programme.

We have structured each section around the specific request for information from the Committee in order to make sure we are addressing the topics raised.

### **UK National Agency**

The UK National Agency for Erasmus+ is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK. We manage the delivery of Erasmus+ in the UK including promoting the programme, offering advice to applicants, managing the assessment and selection of applications, and providing support to funded beneficiaries. Each partner in the UK National Agency manages specific parts of the programme, with the British Council responsible for schools and higher education, and Ecorys UK responsible for adult education and vocational education and training. Both organisations manage different aspects of youth funding.

This paper contains information about the Erasmus+ programme from the National Agency perspective and therefore represents the work of both organisations.

**1. An update on the first calls in Erasmus+ for the parts of the programme that British Council has responsibility for in the UK – i.e. the decentralised actions for which they are the national agency:**

- **Details UK wide – number of projects/types of activities supported**
- **Details of Welsh participation – with comparators for the other parts of the UK**

**1.1 Country Comparisons**

- In the UK Erasmus+ programme there are no quotas for the number of applications received, successful applications, value of funding requested, or value of funding awarded.
- While there are no country quotas, the UK National Agency does monitor application data to identify areas of the UK that may be under-represented in the programme. It uses this analysis to plan and implement Erasmus+ marketing and applicant support services.
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates are used to help assess under-representation in the programme. The current ONS population estimates are shown below.

*Table 1: ONS Mid-term UK population estimates by UK country (June 2013)*

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Population (millions)	53.9	1.8	5.3	3.1	<b>64.1</b>
Per cent	84.0	2.9	8.3	4.8	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ONS.<sup>1</sup>

**1.2 Erasmus+ Programme Statistics**

- The Erasmus+ National Agency publishes statistics on the applications submitted under the Decentralised Actions and the result of those applications. The latest reports are available on our website at: [www.erasmusplus.org.uk/statistics](http://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/statistics).
- This paper draws on the following statistics reports:
  - 2014 Call Rounds 1-3 Funded Projects Statistics (SR05-2014);
  - 2014 Call Rounds 1-3 Applications Received Statistics -version 3 (SR03-2014); and
  - 2015 Call Rounds 1-2 Application Result Statistics - provisional (SR07-2015).
- The 2015 Call is still in progress with some applications under assessment and others still subject to contracting. Therefore, 2015 data is indicative only and is based on project selections to date.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pop-estimate/population-estimates-for-uk--england-and-wales--scotland-and-northern-ireland/2013/sty-population-estimates.html> (checked 14 August 2015).

### 1.3 Projects by UK Country (No.)

- A total of 76 projects have been funded in Wales from the 2014 and 2015 Calls.

Table 2: Erasmus+ funded projects by UK country (No.)

Call Year	Number				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 projects funded	706	69	155	36	966
2015 projects approved to date (provisional)	606	49	151	40	846
Total	1,312	118	306	76	1,812

Sources: SR05-2014, table 4; SR07-2015, table 9.

### 1.4 Projects by UK Country (%)

- Overall, 4.2% of all projects funded from the 2014 and 2015 Calls were led by organisations based in Wales.

Table 3: Erasmus+ funded projects by UK country (%)

Call Year	Percent				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 projects funded	73.1	7.1	16.0	3.7	100.0
2015 projects approved to date (provisional)	71.6	5.8	17.8	4.7	100.0
Total	72.4	6.5	16.9	4.2	100.0

Sources: SR05-2014, table 5; SR07-2015, table 13.

## 1.5 Funding Awarded by UK Country (€)

- Organisations based in Wales have been awarded €11.6m in funding to date.

Table 4: Erasmus+ funding by UK country (€)

Call Year	Funding awarded (€m)				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 funding awarded	87,875,582	6,484,470	12,895,854	5,110,991	112,366,896
2015 funding approved to date (provisional)	87,404,025	5,809,678	12,933,893	6,483,970	112,631,566
Total	175,279,607	12,294,148	25,829,747	11,594,961	224,998,462

Sources: SR05-2014, table 7; SR07-2015, table 14.

## 1.6 Funding Awarded by UK Country (%)

- Overall, organisations based in Wales have received 5.2% of all funding awarded to date.

Table 5: Erasmus+ funding by UK country (%)

Call Year	Percent				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 funding awarded	78.2	5.8	11.5	4.5	100.0
2015 funding approved to date (provisional)	77.6	5.2	11.5	5.8	100.0
Total	77.9	5.5	11.5	5.2	100.0

Sources: SR05-2014, table 7; SR07-2015, table 15.

## 1.7 Application Success Rates by UK Country (%)

- Over the 2014 and 2015 Calls, almost half (48.7%) of applications from organisations based in Wales were successful.
- In the 2014 Call, 40% of applications from organisations based in Wales were successful compared to 60.6% in the 2015 Call to date.

Table 6: Erasmus+ application success rates by UK country (%)

Call Year	Percent				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 Call	50.1	49.6	53.1	40.0	50.0
2015 Call (to date)	50.9	47.6	56.6	60.6	52.0
Total	50.5	48.8	54.7	48.7	50.9

Sources: SR03-2014, table 4; SR05-2014, table 4; SR07-2015, table 11.

## 2. If you can, please provide details on UK participation to the centralised actions, including comparative data on how UK fares compared to other parts of EU, and then details of Welsh participation.

- The Centralised Actions of Erasmus+ are managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).
- Some information on the applications and their outcome are published on the EACEA website: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php).
- The UK Erasmus+ National Agency remit does not extend to the monitoring or analysis of Centralised Action data.
- Queries about Centralised Actions should be directed to the EACEA or the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), who are the designated National Authority for Erasmus+ in the UK.

### 3. How do you promote the programme and encourage participation by organisations across the UK and Wales? Do you have any details on events/activities in Wales (and compared to activities across the UK)?

Programme promotion is an ongoing activity for the UK National Agency and activities take place each year across the UK to encourage participation in the programme and to bring in organisations who are new to Erasmus+. Our starting point is to treat all parts of the UK equally, and as the programme develops, **additional** activities to encourage participation from under-represented countries or regions are beginning to be scheduled, based on the analysis of statistics.

For the 2016 Call, the UK National Agency has identified three priority areas where we would like to encourage more applications and projects. One of these identified priorities is for us to encourage more applications from Wales. Our National Agency position is that overall Wales has a good rate of applications and funding requested, and a good rate of successful projects and funding granted. Some gaps are however showing in KA1 schools and youth. We are therefore undertaking some additional activities in Wales to promote the programme and to encourage applications for schools and youth mobility, both via marketing and communications, but also via working directly with stakeholders in these sectors. The latter activity will be led by the sector leads for Key Action 1 youth and schools who are based within the British Council.

Our promotional work includes the following activities:

- Production of programme literature in both Welsh and English, including a general brochure and 5 sector brochures. These are used at events and are available to download from our website [www.erasmusplus.org.uk](http://www.erasmusplus.org.uk).
- Monthly email newsletter in Welsh and English to 3909 subscribers, including 67 subscribers to the Welsh language version.
- Information sessions aimed at newcomers to the programme. In autumn/winter 2015 we are holding 6 events around the UK, including an event in Wales on 23 November.
- Application support webinars – a programme of online sessions taking participants through the application process and offering advice on making high quality applications. Webinars are also posted online.
- Promotion via stakeholder networks and external events. Each year we attend a variety of events for all sectors to promote the programme, and we also have student ambassadors who have participated in Erasmus+ and who are available to attend events. We also use the British Council's School Ambassadors network to promote the programme. In October – December 2015 we are scheduled to attend, run a stand at or present at over 10 external events, both national and regional. This includes two events in North Wales:
  - 'What can the EU do for the Creative & Cultural Industries in Wales', Caernarfon, 12 November 2015
  - WCVA annual conference, Llandudno, 26 November 2015.

For Wales specifically in Q4 2015 we are already collaborating with the Welsh Government. We held a meeting on 1 September and have a list of action points to follow up including attendance at each others events and cross-promotion of activities. We will also be releasing targeted case studies and making links with national and regional press. Case studies from organisations in Wales can be found on our website and youtube channels via [www.erasmusplus.org.uk](http://www.erasmusplus.org.uk). We also have a National Agency Welsh Language Approach to support our work in Wales.



4. **Please can you give us a sense of engagement from organisations in Wales, including the Welsh Government but not just them – e.g. schools, youth organisations, universities, NGOs, businesses etc. – cross section of society. How does this compare to previous programmes – do you think it has increased, no difference, are people less engaged?**

We have good engagement from Wales and have established positive working relationships with stakeholders including the Welsh Government.

#### 4.1 Stakeholder engagement

We run a specific Country Advisory Group for Wales which meets twice a year to discuss the Erasmus+ from a country-specific perspective. This group is focused on making strategic links between national priorities and the programme, and ensuring effective promotion. The next meeting will be on 27 November 2015 in Cardiff and one of the Welsh EU funding Ambassadors Gaynor Richards has agreed to attend. Members cover all sectors of Erasmus+ and include the Welsh Government, HEFCW, Learning Disability Wales, International School Linking, Colleges Wales, Estyn, Routes into Languages Cymru, Connect Cymru, NIACE, TUC Wales, WEFO, ECTARC and Higher Education Wales.

We also run Sector Consultative Groups for the programme which are pan-UK; these also meet twice a year. We have good representation from Welsh organisations across the sectors including the Welsh Government, TUC Wales, Colleges Wales, Connect Cymru, Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services, Cardiff Council, Crickhowell High School, Cardiff University, Universities Wales and the University of Bangor.

#### 4.2 Engagement with projects

Again we have good participation from Welsh projects in our activities, including Start Up Seminars, our annual conference and our Learning networks initiative which is a peer-to-peer network built around themes of common interest across sectors. Our next Learning Networks event will be held in Cardiff on 3 December. A video case study of Taff Housing, based in Cardiff, can be found on our conference webpage at <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/annual-conference>.

#### 4.3 General engagement with the programme

Following almost two years of stakeholder consultation meetings, and the provisional 2014 and 2015 Erasmus+ results it should be noted that Wales performance in Erasmus+ is broadly comparable with their population relative to the UK population. Many projects can run over 2-3 years, so some organisations may apply for funding in one year and not apply again until their projects are complete. External factors and policy developments in the education, training and youth landscape can influence the capacity and appetite for organisations to apply for, manage and report on EU projects, such as the FE College Transformation agenda, local authority reorganisation, language learning strategies, the inclusion of internationalisation as part of the school inspection framework and targets for the drawdown of EU funding at Devolved Administration level.

## Erasmus+ in Wales

A report for the Enterprise and Business Committee of  
the National Assembly for Wales 21 October

Additional information



## 1. Please outline the activities within the programme.

### 1.1 What funding is available?

#### Funding for mobility (Key Action 1)

Erasmus+ provides funding for organisations to offer opportunities to young people and students, teachers and trainers, learners and providers, apprentices, volunteers, youth leaders and those working in grassroots sport – to study, teach, train or volunteer abroad. This activity is known as mobility and is Key Action 1 of the programme.

#### Funding for strategic partnerships (Key Action 2)

The programme will also support organisations from across the fields of education, training, youth and sport to develop partnerships, share best practice and work collaboratively to help improve provision, boost growth and create jobs. This strategic partnership activity is Key Action 2 of the programme.

#### Funding for policy development (Key Action 3)

Under Key Action 3 of the programme, organisations can get involved in policy development, including bringing young people and decision-makers together to improve youth policy.

#### Centralised actions

In addition, some funding opportunities are managed centrally by the EC and not devolved to National Agencies. The funding detailed in this additional information is for the ‘decentralised’ actions, i.e. the Key Actions outlined above for which the UK National Agency is responsible.

### 1.2 Erasmus+ decentralised Higher Education funding

#### Erasmus+ for Higher Education

Under Key Action 1 higher education institutions (HEIs) which hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) can apply for funding to offer their students the opportunity to study in a partner university or carry out a traineeship abroad and for staff to take part in teaching or training abroad.

Charter-holding institutions can also apply for funding for Strategic Partnerships through Key Action 2 to run collaborative projects which enable institutions to work together in order to improve their provision for learners and share innovative practices. HEIs can also apply for funding to run collaborative projects aimed at improving provision across more than one sector.

## 2. Please provide the funding breakdown across the sectors.

### 2.1 2015 Provisional statistics: Wales successful application results by sector and decentralised key action

Key Action (KA)	Sector	€ value of applications	No. successful applications
KA1 funding (mobility)	Higher education	2,892,608	11
	Vocational (VET)	1,544,576	8
	Schools	119,675	3
	Adult education	52,145	3
	Youth	197,750	8
KA2 funding (partnerships)	Higher education	491,612	2
	Vocational (VET)	0	0
	Schools	528,374	2
	Adult education	0	0
	Youth	607,640	2
KA3 funding (dialogue)	Youth	49,590	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,483,970</b>	<b>40</b>

### 2.2 2015 Provisional statistics: Value of successful applications by sector and UK country

Field	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Higher education <sup>3</sup>	40,399,871	2,265,392	9,197,586	3,384,220	<b>55,247,069</b>
Vocational education & training	24,372,162	1,936,932	2,150,942	1,544,576	<b>30,004,612</b>
Schools	12,456,214	566,604	804,698	648,049	<b>14,475,565</b>
Adult education	3,455,468	336,884	266,195	52,145	<b>4,110,692</b>
Youth	6,720,310	703,866	514,472	854,980	<b>8,793,628</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,404,025</b>	<b>5,809,678</b>	<b>12,933,893</b>	<b>6,483,970</b>	<b>112,631,566</b>

## 2.3 2015 Provisional statistics: Percentage of Erasmus+ funding awarded by UK country and sector

Field	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Higher education	73.1	4.1	16.6	6.1	100.0
Vocational education & training	81.2	6.5	7.2	5.1	100.0
Schools	86.0	3.9	5.6	4.5	100.0
Adult education	84.1	8.2	6.5	1.3	100.0
Youth	76.4	8.0	5.9	9.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3. Please provide detail on HEI outward mobility grants and the ECHE process.

#### 3.1 Higher Education background and the ECHE process

Erasmus+ provides a range of opportunities for students and staff from institutions of higher education (note that this includes those colleges of further/higher education which deliver courses at HND/HNC levels and above). The most significant of these opportunities, in terms of numbers and funding, are mobility (for study or training in the case of students, for teaching or training in the case of staff) and participation in joint projects. In the case of joint projects, some of the opportunities are managed by National Agencies (Strategic Partnerships in Key Action 2) and others centrally (Joint Masters Degrees in Key Action 1 and Capacity Building in Key Action 2).

In order to apply for funding through the programme, institutions must hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). The Charter represents the undertaking made by the institution to manage the programme according to the appropriate standards of quality, and requires commitment to these standards and evidence that the institution treats mobility as an integral part of its internationalisation strategy. There is an annual call for applications for the Charter, which is usually awarded for the lifetime of the programme (to 2020 for Erasmus+). The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) accreditation process is managed centrally by the EACEA. The 2015 list of ECHE holders is on the [EACEA website here](#).

Once awarded the Charter, institutions may apply on an annual basis to the National Agency for funding for mobility and for strategic partnerships. The funding for mobility is allocated to institutions on the basis of their level of demand, their past performance, and the total available budget. The funding for strategic partnerships is awarded competitively according to the results of an assessment of applications by external experts.

In 2015/16 a new opportunity became available for student and staff mobility to countries globally beyond the programme countries (the 34 countries already participating in the programme). Known

as International Credit Mobility, this makes possible the mobility of students and staff to and from other parts of the world..

Our role as a National Agency is to:

1. oversee the programme in the UK and ensure that institutions conform with the regulations
2. disburse the funding
3. promote the programme primarily to institutions, and through them, to the potential student and staff participants.

The National Agency also works closely with the UK HE International Unit in order to promote the programme, and utilises other promotional channels and outlets to encourage participation, such as the British Council's Study Work Create portal aimed at students and young people, and Third Year Abroad.

## 3.2 Higher Education project funding awarded to institutions in Wales 2015

### Key Action 103 Programme country mobility projects

Project reference no.	Organisation name	Organisation address	Amount awarded
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012676	Aberystwyth University	King Street, Old College, Aberystwyth SY23 2AX	€ 379,441.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012656	Bangor University	College Road Bangor LL57 2DG	€ 310,294.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012710	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Llandaff Campus Western Avenue Cardiff CF5 2YB	€ 101,626.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-013134	Cardiff University	Newport Road 30-36 Cardiff CF24 ODE	€ 892,401.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012658	Swansea University	Singleton Park Swansea SA2 8PP	€ 618,045.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012566	University Of South Wales Prifysgolde Cymru	Llantwit Road Treforest Pontypridd CF37 1DL	€ 99,006.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012841	University Of Wales Trinity Saint David Royal Charter	College Road Carmarthen SA31 3EP	€ 7,129.00

### Key Action 107 Partner country mobility projects - International Credit Mobility

Project reference no.	Organisation name	Organisation address	Partner Countries	Amount awarded
2015-1-UK01-KA107-013149	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Llandaff Campus, Western Avenue, Cardiff, CF5 2YB	Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Morocco	€252,240.00
2015-1-UK01-KA107-012991	Cardiff University	30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 ODE	Brazil, Macao	€23,380.00
2015-1-UK01-KA107-013127	Swansea University	Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP	China, New Zealand, United States	€175,984.90

## Higher Education Key Action 2 projects

- University of South Wales: Developing Entrepreneurial Women - Changing Horizons = €201,147.00
- University of Wales Trinity Saint Davids: ECO-SystemApp = € 290,465.00

## 3.3 HE mobility statistics from Erasmus 2006-2013 snapshot

Student	2007/08			2010/11			2013/14		
Region	Study	Work	Total	Study	Work	Total	Study	Work	Total
England	5,787	2,320	<b>8,107</b>	6,641	3,586	<b>10,227</b>	7,717	4,402	<b>12,119</b>
N. Ireland	159	132	<b>291</b>	215	146	<b>361</b>	273	220	<b>493</b>
Scotland	1,121	233	<b>1,354</b>	1,243	371	<b>1,614</b>	1,680	427	<b>2,107</b>
Wales	458	41	<b>499</b>	477	153	<b>630</b>	646	201	<b>847</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	7,525	2,726	<b>10,251</b>	8,576	4,256	<b>12,832</b>	10,316	5,250	<b>15,566</b>

Staff	2007/08			2010/11			2013/14		
Region	Teach	Train	Total	Teach	Train	Total	Teach	Train	Total
England	1,185	100	<b>1,285</b>	1,303	339	<b>1,642</b>	1,350	478	<b>1,828</b>
N. Ireland	28	0	<b>28</b>	37	2	<b>39</b>	37	3	<b>40</b>
Scotland	187	9	<b>196</b>	235	29	<b>264</b>	206	60	<b>266</b>
Wales	72	2	<b>74</b>	97	15	<b>112</b>	96	10	<b>106</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	1,472	111	<b>1,583</b>	1,672	385	<b>2,057</b>	1,689	551	<b>2,240</b>

Other legacy programme statistics from Erasmus, including statistics by institution, can be found on the Erasmus+ website here <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/erasmus-projects>

Julie James AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau a Thechnoleg  
Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology

William Graham AM  
Chair of the Enterprise and Business Committee  
National Assembly Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Eich cyf/Your  
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/JJ/2664/15

30 September 2015

Dear William,

I write with reference to your invitation to attend the Enterprise and Business Committee, on the 21 October 2015, to give evidence on Erasmus+ and the skills element of Horizon 2020.

I attach the written evidence requested by the committee for consideration.

I look forward to providing oral evidence to the Committee in due course.

Yours faithfully



**Julie James AC / AM**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau a Thechnoleg  
Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology



## **PAPER TO THE ENTERPRISE AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

### **Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 in WALES**

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this paper is to set out written evidence on Erasmus+ and the Skills aspects of the Horizon 2020 Programmes in Wales for the Enterprise and Business Committee.
2. We are focussed on helping organisations improve engagement with the Programmes and this report provides an update to the Committee's inquiry in July 2014 into EU Funding opportunities.
3. The Welsh Government is committed to ensure that Wales benefits from these programmes and boosts employability skills whilst supporting the modernisation of education, training and youth work.

#### **Background**

4. The Committee's report into EU Funding in July 2014 set out a number of recommendations on the Erasmus+ programme which were mainly accepted by the Welsh Government. The information below sets out in more detail the Erasmus+ programme and developments to date.
5. Horizon 2020 is the European Union's Framework Programme for research and innovation. It stems from the combination of Europe2020 and Innovation Union programmes. It is a successor to the 7th Framework Programme, providing investment support on research and innovation. The information below also sets out the early indication of the programmes development and how they may be able to influence the skills agenda.

#### **ERASMUS+ 2014-2020**

6. Erasmus+ 2014-2020 is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. Erasmus+ started on 1 January 2014, it replaced and simplified previous funding programmes run by the European Commission in the area of education, training, youth and the new area of sport, including the Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Comenius, Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal), Youth in Action and other international programmes including Jean Monnet and Erasmus Mundus.
7. Erasmus+ aims to boost skills and employability as well as modernise education, training, and youth work across Europe. It has a budget of approximately €14.7 billion (equivalent of approximately £10.6bn on current exchange rates) across Europe and will, during the next seven years, provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. It will also support transnational partnerships between education, training and youth organisations, as well as supporting grassroots sport projects. There are 33 participating countries from across Europe
8. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is the National Authority (NAU), responsible for monitoring and supervision of the delivery of the programme in the UK by the National Agency (NA). The British Council in partnership with Ecorys Ltd is the NA, responsible for overall project life-cycle

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management of the decentralised part of the programme and administration of the related funds, and the promotion of centralised actions, in the UK.

9. The partnership will provide continuous support to the UK Government in the day-to-day management, administration and monitoring of the programme. They also arrange half yearly country advisory groups for Erasmus+. A key purpose of these groups is to promote the programme to a broad audience.
10. Funded by the European Commission, informal indicative allocations suggest that Erasmus+ is worth an estimated £696 million (€940 million) to the UK. The annual budget (and the UK's share of that budget) will increase year on year until 2020.
11. In 2014 the UK was granted an estimated €112.7m from the Erasmus+ budget; € 4.4m from the centralised actions managed by the Commission and €108.3m from the UK run decentralised budget. Provisional results show that 5.85% of the total EU centralised budget was allocated to 22 UK projects, while the National Agency was able to allocate 96% of the total €115m UK decentralised budget to 975 projects
12. The three Key Actions of the programme focus on learning mobility, cooperation for innovation and good practices, and support for policy reform. The sports element of the programme supports collaborative partnerships and not-for-profit sports events, including the European Week of Sport. The Programme brings together sub-programmes from the previous EU framework (with increased funding) in the following areas: higher education (Erasmus), joint masters degrees and partnerships with institutions outside of Europe (Erasmus Mundus), schools (Comenius), adult education (Grundtvig), vocational education and training (Leonardo), youth, sports, and teaching and research in European Union studies (Jean Monnet).
13. Activities supported through the Erasmus+ programme are supported under several "Actions". Each of these "Actions" incorporate centralised actions that are managed at an European level by the Education, Audio - visual, Culture and Executive Agency (EACEA) and decentralised actions that are managed by National Agencies in each participating country. These are:
  - Key Action 1: Mobility of individuals.  
Mobility of learners and staff (decentralised action).  
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (centralised action).  
Erasmus+ Master Degree Loans (centralised action).
  - Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice.  
Strategic partnerships (decentralised action).  
Knowledge alliances (centralised action).  
Sector skills alliances (centralised action).  
Capacity building (centralised action).  
IT support platforms (centralised action).

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- Key Action 3: Support for policy reform.  
Structured dialogue meetings between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth (decentralised action).  
Jean Monnet activities (centralised actions).  
Sport.  
Collaborative partnerships (centralised action).  
Not-for-profit European sport events (centralised action)
14. The Erasmus+ programme is supported by all EU member states, including the UK. Erasmus+ contributes towards a strong, innovative economy. It supports education exports, strengthens links in education and research, and drives inward investment in educational, business and non-governmental organisations, which provide development opportunities for individuals. Erasmus+ provides essential funding to realise the March 2015 Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education. Without Erasmus+, overseas work and study opportunities, innovation and cooperation and policy reform in education within the EU would be significantly less.
15. UK wide research suggests that stakeholders see Erasmus+ as a sensible area for EU funding and a legitimate area of added value at European level. The funding is viewed as additional rather than displacing funding that would be provided nationally. Although stakeholders say that the administration of the programme is sometimes overly bureaucratic, they believe this is slowly improving and they do not see any value in departing from the current model of funding and administration.
16. Erasmus+ was established in EU Regulation 1288/2013. The Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union, article 165, states that the Union has a supporting competency in the fields of education, vocational training, youth and sport. It will increase opportunities for international study, teaching and volunteering in Europe and beyond.
17. During 2014 there were low number of applications from Wales and a relatively low success rate of Welsh applications. Although the latest statistical information<sup>1</sup> shows that the number of applications has increased in some areas.
18. Whilst the number of project applications from Wales for Erasmus+ was disappointing in 2015 at 66 or 4.1% of all UK applications against our population share of 4.8%, the percentage of successful applications was the highest of the home nations at 60.6%.
19. There is considerable variation within fields with applications from adult learning being the highest at 10.3% of all applications to schools at the lowest with 1.9%.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/statistics-0> Pack Page 74

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20. The first call of applications saw only 36 Wales based organisations being project funded which saw a value of €5,134,269 representing 4.7% of total grants awarded, although slight improvements have been made.

21. In terms of the value of the projects awarded we have fared better at nearly some €6.5m or 5.8% of the total funding; compared to a 4.8% share of the UK population. This range of funding share varied from a high of 9.7% in Youth to a low of 1.3% in adult education. This would suggest that whilst numbers are lower in some fields, the quality and value of the successful applications from Wales in the main is high.

22. Some examples of successful projects in 2015:-

- Cardiff City Council – Inspiring Outdoor Learning – A Vision for Schools in South Wales - €97,200
- Cardiff Metropolitan University – Partnership with Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon & Morocco - €252,240
- Swansea University in partnership with China, New Zealand & USA - €176,120
- Coleg Cambria – Mobility and Cultural Awareness for VET Learners - €322,810
- Colleges Wales – Pan Wales FE Staff & Vocational Learner Mobility (2 projects) - €239,949
- Welsh Football Trust (FAW) – Using Mobility to enhance Apprentice Success in Wales - €150,823

23. The highest number of successful applications was received from HE (13) with Adult (3) having the lowest successful applications. However the number and quality of applications for Welsh based organisation will need to continue to improve.

24. The British Council, Ecorys and the Welsh Government are arranging a series of events around Wales in the autumn to promote the opportunities available through Erasmus+ in advance of the next call for applications in 2016. This will range from conferences, briefing events and webinars to support applicants and raise awareness.

25. The British Council/Ecorys will also increase its marketing and support activities in Wales and will be focusing on Wales for the next round of calls due later this year.

26. Although not directly linked to Erasmus+ the Welsh Government is also working with Universities in Wales to develop a new programme entitled “Global Wales”. The programme aims to deliver a consistent message about the quality and diversity of the Welsh offer; support international activities; grow the sectors contribution to the Welsh economy through attracting inward investment and tourism; and facilitate business partnerships with key Welsh business sectors to further develop international links. The launch of Global Wales will take place on 11 November 2015.

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**Horizon 2020**

27. Horizon 2020 is the European Union's Framework Programme for research and innovation. It stems from the combination of Europe2020 and Innovation Union and is a successor to the 7th Framework Programme, providing investment support on research and innovation.
28. Europe2020 is the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade based on the principles of agility, sustainability and inclusivity set within the context of employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy.
29. Innovation Union is another strategic strand aimed at creating an innovation-friendly environment to facilitate the turning of great ideas into products and services bringing economy growth and jobs.
30. It is still early in the programme period to confirm statistical trends, but it is clear that Horizon 2020, as expected, is more competitive than its predecessor Framework Programme 7 (FP7). This reflects the fact that many areas of the programme are heavily oversubscribed, including new initiatives such as the SME Instrument.
31. Considering the level of competition, the performance of Welsh organisations has been encouraging in many areas. The latest available data (from 17 July 2015<sup>2</sup>) shows that 44 Welsh participants were selected for funding, involving EU funds of €17.6 million. This means that after the first year's calls, Welsh organisations have accessed 12% of the total amount achieved in the 7 years of FP7.
32. The success rate for Welsh applications is currently just under 14%, which is below the equivalent EU average of 16%. The emerging pattern of Welsh participation appears to be similar to FP7.
33. The challenge of such a competitive programme can be offset by the efforts of all stakeholders to build on lessons learned from the first year of Horizon 2020. There is a notable increase in enthusiasm among Welsh stakeholders to work together in order to access Horizon 2020, providing a promising environment for the Welsh Government's measures to facilitate more successful applications.
34. CM International's Horizon 2020 Scoping Study<sup>3</sup> examined how best to support Welsh organisations to access Horizon 2020. The Study endorsed the approach that the Welsh Government's Horizon 2020 Unit has taken in working closely with key stakeholders in Wales, the UK and Europe to co-ordinate and facilitate actions that will maximise the Horizon 2020 opportunities for Welsh organisations.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/horizon-2020-statistics>

<sup>3</sup> Horizon 2020 Scoping Study, CM International, May 2014

(<http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/publications/monitoringevaluation/programmevaluations/horizon2020scopingstudy/>)

**PAPER TO THE ENTERPRISE AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE**  
**Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 in WALES**

35. The Study's recommendations are being taken forward by the Unit under five key objectives:

- Build a 'stairway to excellence' (using European Structural & Investment Funds to build capacity for accessing Horizon 2020);
- Increase the engagement and success of businesses (targetted one-to-one support for businesses);
- Develop a Horizon 2020 culture and community in Wales (events and communication activity, including an annual Horizon 2020 event);
- Maximise the impact of existing and emerging support (best practice network and other engagement, including in Brussels); and
- Support and develop our experts and evaluators (establishing a community of practice for Welsh Horizon 2020 experts and evaluators).

36. The Horizon 2020 Unit continues to work closely with stakeholders including Welsh Government Departments, the higher education sector in Wales, Innovate UK and the Enterprise Europe Network, to co-ordinate and target support for Welsh organisations and share best practice. There is also a strong focus on promoting the expertise of Wales in Brussels, both through co-ordinating events and by building and encouraging links with the right networks.

Edwina Hart AM  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport

Date: 12 October 2015

Subject: Enterprise and Business Committee visit to Dublin – Potential of the Maritime Economy in Wales.

Dear Edwina

On 1 October, the Enterprise and Business Committee visited Dublin for a series of meetings as part of our inquiry in to the Potential of the Maritime Economy in Wales.

During our discussions we were struck by the willingness of Irish Ministers Paschal Donohoe (Transport, Tourism and Sport) and Simon Coveney (Agriculture and Defence) to engage with Wales on matters relating to the Blue Economy. In particular, Minister Donohoe was enthusiastic about opening a dialogue around the possibility of making a joint bid to the EU's Motorways of the Sea initiative, which could aid the removal of transport barriers around ports at either side of the Irish Sea. The chief Executive of the Port of Dublin, Eamonn O'Reilly, also appeared keen to engage on this point.

Pursuing this kind of cooperation is something the committee is likely to recommend in its report when we publish later this year. However, given the relatively narrow window of opportunity prior to elections both here and in Ireland, I wanted to write to you now to ensure that you and your cabinet



colleagues were aware of the positive reception we received, and the opportunities that we believe could exist for fruitful cooperation.

If we can be of assistance in passing on contact details, the clerking team will be happy to pass these on to your officials.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William". The letters are cursive and fluid.

William Graham

Chair, Enterprise and Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.







## Response to the Enterprise and Business Committee's Inquiry into the Potential of the Maritime Economy in Wales

October 2015

**Wales Environment Link (WEL)** is a network of environmental and countryside Non-Governmental Organisations in Wales, most of whom have an all-Wales remit. WEL is officially designated the intermediary body between the government and the environmental NGO sector in Wales. Its vision is to increase the effectiveness of the environmental sector in its ability to protect and improve the environment through facilitating and articulating the voice of the sector.

Wales Environment Link values the opportunity to submit information as part of this inquiry.

### Introduction

Wales Environment Link (WEL) Marine Working Group (MWG) is submitting this response to the inquiry in the interest of broadening the Committee's perspective; the maritime economy in Wales, and the potential therefore, encompasses a variety of industries not covered by the inquiry in its current form. These industries include, but are not limited to, aquaculture, tourism and recreation.

Due to the known competing demands on the marine environment, the development of the maritime economy must be done using an ecosystems-based approach – looking at the management of the environment as a whole, including the human relationship with the environment, whilst equally balancing the social, economic and environmental issues. This will encourage harmonious working of the historically competing sectors, allowing for the sustainable future of our marine environment in Wales.

Equally by enshrining the principles of Sustainable Development <sup>1</sup> in the development of the maritime economy, industry growth in all sectors can be achieved within environmental limits, securing the future sustainability of the marine environment and economy

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/the\\_principles.html](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/the_principles.html)

### **Example - Marine Tourism in Wales**

The Wales Tourism Alliance has reported that £2.7bn (5.8% of Wales' GDP) is directly contributed to the Welsh economy through tourism, this is a higher contribution than any other UK country. By 2020 this is projected to increase to provide a 6.9% contribution to Wales' GDP, supporting 188,000 jobs<sup>2</sup> (13.7% of total employment).

However, according to the Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch Report 2014<sup>3</sup> Wales also leads the UK in terms of marine litter found on beaches. Marine Litter can have a significant impact on the economy, as well as coastal and fishing communities.

Coastal tourism is vulnerable to the negative effects of marine litter and water quality; a report from the University of London shows potential costs of up to £16m per year, discounting larger economic losses that can arise from beach closures and the wider ecosystem services such as the value of wildlife<sup>4</sup>

For Wales, designation of the seven marine SACs already supports an annual recreational value of £68–122 million and generates a one-off non-use value of £66–129 million.

In terms of non-monetary assessment of cultural ecosystem services, results indicate that the most important benefits to divers and anglers of marine sites were engagement and interaction with nature (including feeling connected, getting to know nature, and appreciating its beauty), transformative values (including memorable experiences) and the sites' social bonding value. However, therapeutic, identity and spiritual values of nature were also important at sites across the UK<sup>5</sup>.

Research has also been undertaken into the recreational activity and one case study indicated revenue of £51.4m per annum which equates to £24.5m Gross Value Added<sup>6</sup>. The whole subject area of recreational benefits has been excluded from this inquiry and needs further investigation.

### **Marine Consenting Regime**

We understand that this inquiry has developed through concerns raised about the impact of the planning/marine consent regime, suggesting that this is causing delays and jeopardising investment/business development in ports.

Marine licensing is a relatively new requirement on the marine industry from the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA); with any new requirements there will be frustrations

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<sup>2</sup> Wales Tourism Alliance (2012). *Wales Tourism Definitive Value Report*.

[http://www.wta.org.uk/creo\\_files/upload/main/wta\\_definitive\\_value\\_report.pdf](http://www.wta.org.uk/creo_files/upload/main/wta_definitive_value_report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.mcsuk.org/downloads/pollution/beachwatch/latest2015/MCS\\_GBBC\\_2014\\_Report.pdf](http://www.mcsuk.org/downloads/pollution/beachwatch/latest2015/MCS_GBBC_2014_Report.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Lee, J (2014), *Economic valuation of marine litter and microplastic pollution in the marine environment: An initial assessment of the case of the*

*United Kingdom* [www.eftec.co.uk/keynotes/envecon-2015/lee-paper/download](http://www.eftec.co.uk/keynotes/envecon-2015/lee-paper/download)

<sup>5</sup> Kenter, J.O., Bryce, R., Davies, A., Jobstvogt, N., Watson, V., Ranger, S., Solandt, J.L., Duncan, C., Christie, M., Crump, H., Irvine, K.N., Pinard, M., Reed, M.S. (2013). The value of potential marine protected areas in the UK to divers and sea anglers. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

<http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Mb8nUAphh%2BY%3D&tabid=82>

<sup>6</sup> Wales Activity Mapping: Economic Evaluation of Wales Marine Recreational Activity

<http://www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Wales-Activity-Mapping-Economic-Valuation-of-Marine-Recreation-Activity-Non-Tech-Summary-Nov-2013.pdf>

within industry. However Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have developed a robust consenting regime within the requirements of the Act; further to this there is a plethora of ongoing work to streamline this process; this includes amendments to the marine licensing requirements within the proposed Environment (Wales) Bill 2015, and ongoing model and fees reviews through Welsh Government and NRW.

WEL MWG are actively involved in these areas of work and believe that the proposals, along with the ongoing development of Wales' National Marine Plan (WNMP) are focused on taking an ecosystem-based approach, balancing the environmental, social and economic requirements of the Wales marine area, and accounting for all users of the environment. We believe that this is the correct, fair and transparent way to plan for the sustainable and equitable use of a competitive environment, ensuring the future sustainability of our marine environment for generations.

### **Wales Bill**

It is currently understood that a draft Wales Bill will include powers for the Welsh Government to licence for and conserve past the current 12nm limit out to the median line with Ireland<sup>7</sup>. It is currently unclear however, whether there would be any extra resources within Welsh Government and NRW to fulfil these functions, this would be critical in ensuring the additional responsibilities in the offshore area are managed in a sustainable way.

### **Wales National Marine Plan**

As previously mentioned the Welsh Government is currently working on developing a Wales National Marine Plan (WNMP), due to be published 2016. The WNMP is taking an ecosystem-based approach so will allow the strategic importance of all planned activity in the marine environment be realised, assessing the environmental, economic and social impacts and outcomes of any plan or project.

The recently published Wales Marine Evidence Report suggests “that economic growth from taking a planned approach will most likely occur in the ports and shipping, marine renewable energy, tourism and leisure and aquaculture sectors. This does not preclude that other sectors will also experience growth from a planned approach<sup>8</sup>”.

### **Conclusions**

WEL MWG do not believe that the potential of the maritime economy in Wales can be assessed with regards to ports, shipping and energy in isolation. The marine environment is a complex, integrated and competitive environment and needs to be assessed as such. We consider the current remit of this enquiry to be too narrow to get a truly representative and holistic view of a resource that needs to be realised sustainably, now and in the future.

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<sup>7</sup> Powers for a Purpose: Towards a lasting devolution settlement for Wales

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/408587/47683\\_CM9020\\_ENGLISH.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408587/47683_CM9020_ENGLISH.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/151008-wales-marine-evidence-report-master-october-2015-en.pdf>

**Signed on behalf of WEL Marine Working Group:**

**Gill Bell**  
**Head of Conservation, Wales**  
**Marine Conservation Society**  
**WEL Marine Working Group Chair**

For further information please contact Lorna Scurlock at [lorna.scurlock@mcsuk.org](mailto:lorna.scurlock@mcsuk.org)

Wales Environment Link unites voluntary bodies whose primary aims include the conservation, protection or quiet enjoyment of landscape, wildlife or amenity in Wales  
Mae Cyswilt Amgylchedd Cymru yn uno cyrff gwirfoddol sydd â'u hamcanion pennaf yn cynnwys cadwraeth, gwarchodaeth neu fwynhad tawel o dirlun, bywyd gwylt ac amwynder yng Nghymru

**Reg. Charity No: 1022675 Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig: 1022675**

# Agenda Item 8

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