

Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team

Newsletter

Issue 02



Working on behalf of the Swansea Bay City Region Board to maximise the impact of EU funding.

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How the Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team can help:

- Information and guidance on how European Structural and Investment Fund (ESI) operations fit with the strategic priorities of the region
- Promote contacts between partners in proposed operations to develop effective genuine cooperation
- Ensure regional benefit and input from national strategic operations
- Identify opportunities for co-operation or added value and risk of duplication by promoting integration across European funds
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes regionally, as well as lessons learnt/good practice
- Keep you up to date with regional developments and priorities

Swansea Bay City Deal

Swansea Bay City Region secures over £1.3billion worth of investment by signing 'Internet Coast' City Deal with UK and Welsh Governments.

The ground-breaking 'Internet Coast' City Deal will harness the transformational power of digital connectivity to accelerate economic growth and prosperity within the Swansea Bay City Region.

City Deals are models of economic growth which provide regions with the opportunity to take responsibility of decisions that affect their area, do what they think is best to help businesses grow, identify priorities for economic growth in the region and decide how funding should be spent to meet those priorities.

The City Deal will deliver nearly 10,000 new jobs and increase the value of goods and services produced in the region by £1.8billion, re-balancing the prosperity gap between Swansea Bay City Region and the rest of Wales and the UK.

Read more [here](#)

South West Wales Energy Workshop

As a result of collaboration between Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team, Local Partnerships, Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) and the Welsh Government a 'Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency' Workshop was held. Attended by over 30 people, the workshop provided an opportunity to further explore what funding is available to address the future of energy supply, energy use and management and energy efficiency across Wales.

The workshop brought together a wide range of Energy sector enthusiasts, stakeholders and employers from the region. As well as exploring funding opportunities it gave delegates an insight into the projects that are currently being developed and the opportunity to discuss emerging ideas that could be taken forward as part of a pipeline of projects for the current programme of EU funds, and relevant UK funds.

Key speakers brought a wealth of knowledge to the session. Jane Forshaw, Local Partnerships Manager introduced the work of Green Growth Wales, which is funded by the Welsh Government to support the public sector in Wales in delivering energy generation projects and energy efficiency. Guillaume Le Palud, from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Atlantic Area UK contact point presented on the detail of programmes under European Territorial Cooperation. While Baudewijin Morgan from WEFO provided information on the Welsh European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Portfolio and Horizon 2020 for Energy.

The event was a great success and inspired thought-provoking discussions and allowed attendees to learn what support is available to them as well as making connections within the sector.

For information on similar information sessions hosted by the Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team please contact: SwanseabayRET@cardiffshire.gov.uk

WaveSub Hits Substantial Milestone

An innovative wave power device; WaveSub led by Swansea-based Marine Power Systems (MPS) has reached a momentous stage of its development with its construction significantly underway.

The WaveSub device off the Pembrokeshire Coast will provide a reliable renewable energy source through harnessing the energy from ocean waves. The technology being developed by MPS has huge potential to contribute to energy security targets and will reduce reliance on unpredictable and non-renewable energy supplies.

MPS' WaveSub project has been part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government, with MPS receiving a £2 million grant in October 2015.

Earlier this year MPS awarded the tender for the manufacture of its WaveSub device to Ledwood Mechanical Engineering, a leading engineering company based in Pembroke Dock.

The project will help create a Welsh marine energy supply chain, with many of the suppliers for this operation being based in Wales and so supporting Welsh jobs.

Erasmus+ 2017 and Deadline Dates

The EU referendum result does not affect UK organisations applying for Erasmus+ funding in 2017. Applications that are successful under the 2017 call will be awarded funding for the duration of the project. There are a number of different funding opportunities available under Erasmus+ for higher education, vocational education, schools, adult education, and youth.

To find out more on how to apply click [here](#)

For funding deadlines click [here](#)

Employers from across South West Wales are being urged to engage with the Regional Learning & Skills Partnership



Regional Learning and Skills Partnership
Partneriaeth Dysgu a Sgiliau Rhanbarthol
South West & Mid Wales
De-Orllewin a Canolbarth Cymru

Join similar businesses to yourselves and have your say on skills development in the region. To complete the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership's short survey click [here](#) and be a part of the solution.

Urban Innovative Actions - 2nd call open

The UIA 2nd Call for Proposals is now open until 2pm, 14 April 2017.

The UIA initiative invites applicants to develop and submit projects under three topics: circular economy, urban mobility and integration of migrants and refugees. An overall budget of 50 million euros of ERDF is allocated to this Call.

To find out more on 'What Urban Innovative Actions' is click [here](#)

Horizon 2020 in Wales Annual Event

The Annual event will take place at the Future Inn, Cardiff Bay, 30 March 2017.

The event will address how maximising EU research and innovation funding opportunities will help Welsh organisations thrive now and well into the future.

For further information and to book your place click [here](#)

Beacon+

Led by Aberystwyth University's Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Science (IBERS), in collaboration with its partners at Bangor and Swansea Universities, the BEACON+ initiative integrates expertise and facilities to assist companies in developing new products and processes or to upgrade existing processes, using low carbon technologies including biomass where possible. Backed with £8 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), BEACON+ aims to establish Wales as a Biorefining Centre of Excellence and make a vital contribution to mitigating climate change and growing the Welsh bioeconomy.

The main aim of BEACON+ is to use the concept of biorefining to work with end user companies, in order to identify a wide range of products from plant material which are tailored to their requirements.

The biorefinery concept uses non-food crop feedstocks in much the same way that oil refineries use crude oil to produce a broad spectrum of commodity products. It seeks to give manufacturing companies a commercial advantage in the marketing of these renewable products as well in the future environmental and economic sustainability of their businesses through application of these developing technologies.

How can BEACON+ help you?

BEACON+ offers businesses with interests in the biorefining sector access to the research, expertise and knowledge base of universities in Wales.

Interreg Europe Third Call Now Open

Third call for project proposals now open applications will be accepted until 30 June 2017.

To find out more click [here](#)

SPARC II

Almost £5m of EU funds is being invested in putting Wales at the forefront of next generation solar energy technology.

The funding will support a five-year research programme at Welsh Universities aimed at addressing the key challenges of developing next generation solar photovoltaic technology.

SPARC II (the Solar Photovoltaic Academic Research Consortium) will be led by Swansea University in partnership with Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities.



Read
more [here](#)

The research will focus on new applications for next generation solar technology including mobile products, aircraft and the space industry.

The programme is expected to unlock a further £10m of inward investment to Wales through additional large-scale research and development with multinational companies and specialist manufacturers.

Welsh businesses in the solar energy industry will also benefit from manufacturing opportunities and access to the world-class research and expertise being developed at universities in Wales.

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