

Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team



Newsletter

Issue 04 (September 2017)

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How can Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team help you?

The RET are here to support projects in the region and to work with project leads to share good practice between projects.

Why not tell us about some of your good news stories – email us and we can feature your project in the next newsletter.

We are always keen to organise workshops in the region to share new information. If you have any specific areas of interest which you would like us to organise a workshop on please email us – smnicholls@sirgar.gov.uk

The RET team are delighted to introduce a new team member, Beth Walters who will take on the role as the RET Co-ordinator for the Swansea Bay Region. Look out for the 'Meet the Team' feature in the next edition.

Interreg North-West Europe - Call for Proposals

Interreg North-West Europe is a European Territorial Cooperation programme with the ambition to make the North-West Europe area a key economic player and an attractive place to work and live, with high levels of innovation, sustainability and cohesion.

The programme is looking for transnational cooperation initiatives and the next call for project proposals will be open from Monday 16th October 2017 and will close Friday 17th November 2017.

For everything you need to know from programme background to top tips on how to apply, download the [Programme Manual](#).

Emerging Technology Workshops



On the morning of the 4th of October CEMET will be at the Bridge Innovation Centre, Pembroke Dock for an Emerging Technology Workshop. The Research and Development team will share their knowledge with you along with the opportunity to learn more about the CEMET project.

CEMET supports businesses that are seeking to create new products, solutions and services, through bespoke funded collaborative research projects. The programme is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government.

To book your place today, click [here](#)

Food Producers Event GOING for GROWTH

Following the successful event held in West Wales, Food Centre Wales is holding an event in collaboration with Cywain, PLANED and the local Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire LEADER teams. The event will focus on developing your food business to reach new markets.

Welsh Government will present the latest industry research data, and Morrison's buyers will talk about how to get your product on to their shelves.

There will also be the opportunity to book 1-2-1 private discussion slots with industry experts and have a tour of the food technology development and processing areas.

Date: Tuesday 10th October 2017
Time: 09:30am
Location: Food Centre Wales, Horeb, Llandysul, Ceredigion

If you have any questions please email [Mared Pemberton - MEPemberton@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:MEPemberton@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

EU Investment for Port Talbot

EU funds of £3.5m will be invested in the first stage of a major development to create a new business hub in Port Talbot's former docks, in a Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council project.

The funding will support a full redevelopment of three hectares of brownfield land; the construction of a new access road and the upgrade of an existing road in what will become strategic employment site for the area.

The two-year project will prepare the site for business investment and the development of more than 200,000 square feet of industrial and office space, which could accommodate around 1,600 jobs.

For more information click [here](#)

CASE STUDY



David Cooper, 46 from Port Talbot had previously worked as a civil servant but had to finish to care for his aging parents. David cared for his parents for 15 years and when the time came to return to work David wasn't quite sure where to begin. He had lost a lot of confidence over the years and technology had advanced in this time. David suffers with Spina Bifida Occulta and arthritis of the spine and legs which restricts the jobs he is able to do.

David contacted Workways+ in August 2016 after seeing a news story on the internet promoting the project. David was assigned a mentor, who listened and took time to understand the factors that were preventing him from finding work. David's mentor placed him on courses which helped him rebuild some of the skills and confidence he felt he had lost over the years. One of these courses was an accredited administration course which gave David something up-to-date to put on his CV. His mentor also helped him find a work experience placement which gave David the opportunity to practice some of the skills he had learned on the administration course and gave him a taste of being back in work.

At the end of the work placement, David was keen to develop his skills and keep up the routine he had established. David and his mentor discussed volunteering opportunities and the options available to him to help him to improve and update his skills. After considering a couple of options David began volunteering at The Bulldogs, a charity that delivers community based activities focusing on boxing as a sport. David has been volunteering now for four weeks and is enjoying the experience.

David said "It is helping my confidence and giving me the opportunity to meet people. I think doing this will give me the confidence to apply for jobs in the future. The staff here at The Bulldogs have really welcomed me into the team, I am enjoying being back in an office environment and enjoying the work and learning new IT skills."

David continues to work with his mentor at Workways+ with the longer term aim of progressing into paid employment.

Workways+ is backed by £7.5m of EU funds through the Welsh Government. The project is led by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in collaboration with Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion Councils.

To celebrate 60 years of the European Social Fund (ESF), the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) are launching a competition to recognise the success of individuals whose lives have been transformed thanks to EU Funding in Wales.

They want to hear about the success stories of individuals who have seized opportunities presented by the European Social Fund, going above and beyond to develop new skills, secure a job or find a new career path.

To take part, sponsors should complete the application form: <http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/170905-esf-form-en.pdf> nominating an individual from their European Social Fund project, outlining their achievements and the difference it has made to their lives.

WEFO also have a category for all EU projects (ESF and ERDF) to apply. They would like to hear from projects that have successfully embedded sustainability, equality and/or tackling poverty agendas (the cross-cutting themes) into their activities. This is an opportunity for all sponsors to demonstrate their achievements in this important aspect of project delivery.

#EUFundsCymru Competition 2017

Celebrating 60 years of the European Social Fund

Enter your EU funded project today!

www.gov.wales/eufundscompetition

Closing date: Friday 20 October

#ESF60



Investing in People
European Social Fund



Winners will be announced by Mark Drakeford, Finance Secretary at the EU Funds Information Event on 30 November.

For more information: <http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/eu-funds-comp/?lang=en>

ION Leadership Hits Substantial Milestone

More than 1,000 business owners, directors and managers have already benefited from the ION leadership programme and its predecessor Lead Wales, which have generated an average of 26% increase in their business turnover and added in excess of £52m to the Welsh economy. Established seven years ago, and led by Swansea University in partnership with Bangor University, the Lead Wales project's current evolution – ION leadership – is backed with £2.7m from the European Social Fund to raise skills and drive business growth in companies throughout Wales.

Find out more about the ION Leadership programme [here](#)

£4.9 million of EU funds to Welsh organisations

50 delighted organisations across Wales have benefitted from the most recent round of the Active Inclusion Fund. The fund is supported by the European Social Fund (ESF) and run by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action on behalf of the Welsh European Funding Office. The organisations will receive a share of £4.9 million to improve the employability of disadvantaged people furthest from the labour market. The funding will support a number of alternative upskilling projects including woodland activities and learning through the medium of music.

For more information on the Active Inclusion Fund click [here](#)

UK Atlantic Strategy Workshop

“Marine Energy: A Driver of the Atlantic Economy”

Join Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs for a workshop designed to help UK organisations in the fisheries, tourism and marine renewables sector discover more about funding and collaboration opportunities in the Atlantic area. The event will showcase flagship developments and highlight the potential of the marine energy sector in invigorating coastal economies on the Atlantic seaboard by creating skilled jobs and growth. It will provide a forum for exchanging experiences, ideas and best practice, and to promote cross-border and transnational co-operation.

To book your place click [here](#)

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