



## How can the Regional Engagement Team help you?

The Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team (SBRET) is one of four teams set up in Wales to help ensure EU funding proposals meet existing and future opportunities and investments at regional levels.

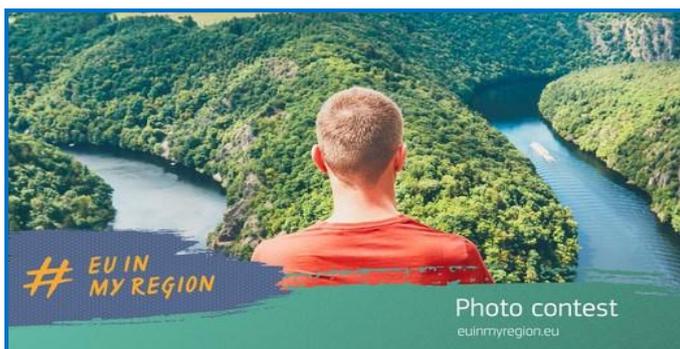
The SBRET work across the counties of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, and across all sectors in the region to ensure the effective participation and success of EU funded investments. SBRET supports the region in the delivery of its **economic regeneration strategy** to improve the prospects of our communities, businesses and economy.

If you are considering applying for EU funding, contact us for guidance on how your project can support regional priorities, to make links to other projects and benefit from case studies and examples of best practice.

If you are already delivering an EU funded project, we would be keen to hear about how your projects is progressing. We could also look to feature some of your good news stories in the next newsletter.

## EU in my Region

### Photo Contest



Are you inspired by an EU funded project in Wales? Use your photography skills and enter the European Commission's '**EU in my Region**' photo contest. The 30 winning photos will be compiled into an exhibition travelling around Europe.

Deadline: **31 August 2018** ([link](#)).

## Social Business Wales Awards and Conference 2018

### Applications for the Social Business Wales Awards 2018 are now open.

If you'd like to be recognized for your hard work, attend a glamorous, celebrity hosted ceremony, and take home £1000, apply now! There are **8 categories to enter** in this year's SBW awards, so whatever industry you're in, there's a category for you to showcase your hard-earned achievements. Visit [www.bit.ly/sbwawards18](http://www.bit.ly/sbwawards18) to find out more information and request your application pack.

You can now [book your place](#) for the Social Business Wales Awards & Conference 2018! The two-day event will take place on September 26 and 27 at the City Hall, Cardiff.

## Swansea Bay City Deal update

A JOINT Committee Agreement (JCA) that outlines principles of Swansea Bay City Deal working will be considered for approval by all four regional councils by the end of July.

If approved, the JCA will pave the way for the City Deal's governance to be formally established.

The governance will include a Joint Committee overseeing all aspects of the City Deal, as well as an Economic Strategy Board (ESB) with representation from the private sector.



Ed Tomp, Vice President and General Manager of Valero UK in Pembroke, has already been chosen as preferred candidate to become chairman of the ESB.

The ESB will engage businesses and the private sector, advise on strategic direction and project delivery, and make recommendations to the City Deal's Joint Committee on opportunities to further strengthen the City Deal's impact.

A Swansea Bay City Deal spokesperson said: "The JCA a vitally important document for the Swansea Bay City Deal.

"A huge amount of work has been taking place behind the scenes to reach a stage where the JCA is ready to go to all four regional councils for approval, so we hope we'll soon be in a position where the City Deal's governance can be officially established.

"Once that happens, we can start drawing down money from both governments, subject to business case approvals, for all 11 City Deal projects, which have the power to transform economic prosperity and improve people's lives throughout Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire."

The Swansea Bay City Deal is a £1.3bn investment across the Swansea Bay City Region, which is being funded, subject to the approval of business cases, by the UK Government, the Welsh Government, the public sector and the private sector. Over the next 15 years, the City Deal will boost the regional economy by £1.8bn and generate almost 10,000 new, high-quality jobs.

The City Deal is being led by the four regional local authorities - Carmarthenshire Council, Swansea Council, Neath Port Talbot Council and Pembrokeshire Council - together with the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Hywel Dda University Health Boards, Swansea University, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and private sector partners.

Eight of the 11 project business cases are now with both governments for assessment. Projects include Yr Egin - a creative digital cluster at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's campus in Carmarthen; a Wellness and Life Science Village at Delta Lakes in Llanelli; and the Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District that will feature a digital indoor arena and a digital village for tech businesses.

World class digital infrastructure will be introduced to support all City Deal projects, and a Skills and Talent Initiative will be put in place across the City Region to give local people a pathway to access the high-quality jobs that will be created in sectors including life sciences, energy, smart manufacturing and the creative industries.

Peter Austin has also now joined the City Deal's Regional Office from Ceredigion County Council as the City Deal's Business Engagement Manager. Peter's appointment follows Greg Jones, who joined the Regional Office as the City Deal's Communications and Marketing Officer in February.

## ESF & Employability: Working Together for Cohesive Regional Delivery



In May the Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team in collaboration with WCVA's Active Inclusion Team and 3-SET, hosted an 'ESF & Employability: Working Together for Cohesive Regional Delivery' event at Llandybie Memorial Hall. Attended by over 70 delegates the event was an excellent opportunity for all present to find out more about how ESF is supporting employability delivery in South West Wales.

To start the day, representatives from ESF funded Employability and Active Inclusion projects gave an overview of their project's delivery. This set the scene for lively discussion during the networking break where the projects had the opportunity to share experiences and explore joint working.

Presentations from Welsh Government's Employability and Skills department, Active Inclusion, and the Regional Skills and Learning Partnership ensured that by the end of the event the attendees had heard all about the wide range of support available in the region.



## The Xcel Project - Community Strikes Lucky with Community Run Bowling Alley



Social Business Wales is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Welsh Government. It is delivered by the Wales Co-operative Centre and is part of the Business Wales service. Social Business Wales aims to support social businesses with aspirations to grow. The Xcel project is one example of a project that has received assistance from Social Business Wales.

The Xcel Project is a social enterprise founded by Towy Community Church bringing investment, jobs and services to its local community in Carmarthen, Wales. The project aims to support local people in crisis by providing food, furniture and clothing through Carmarthen Foodbank, Xcel Furniture Recycling and Xcel Community Shop.

### **Paul is the Centre Manger for the Xcel project and this is his story:**

I'm a member of the Towy Community church in Carmarthen and my social business journey started when Mark Bennett, our Minister, put forward this idea of us running a bowling centre. Now a church running a bowling centre sounded like a crazy idea but when our Minister explained the goals of the project and the difference this business could make, I was excited and knew it would change lives.

I have a background in video work, so when we first applied for funding, I offered to put together the promo video of what the bowling centre project would look like. That was my initial involvement and when I got to know more about the detail of how the project would work, I offered my services in how to help develop those ideas.

At the time, I'd been self-employed for ten years doing video work and event management for different organisations. Working for myself, gave me flexibility to volunteer and I did this for the first 18 months of the project. For example, one of the first things I did was going out into the local community and finding out if there was a need and want for a bowling alley in the area.

It was project our funders, Big Lottery, that recommended I was employed on a full-time basis. It gave them confidence in their investment because they were working with someone they could trust, who had detailed knowledge and understanding of all areas of the business.

**Read more [here](#)**

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## **EU funds for health innovation to boost economy and create jobs**

Funding of £33m has been announced by the Welsh Government to develop new, innovative healthcare products and services, with the potential to boost the economy and create high quality jobs.

**For more information please click [here](#)**

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## **The latest call for new Interreg North West Europe project proposals is now open**

The eighth call for project proposals will run until the 22nd of November 2018

**For more information please click [here](#)**

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## **Horizon 2020**

The European Commission has published its proposal for Horizon Europe, the successor to Horizon 2020. The document and further information on the new programme can be found [here](#).

The Welsh Government wants the UK Government to retain full access to European programmes including Horizon 2020 after Brexit, given the benefits in terms of international co-operation, sharing best practise and promoting Wales to the world ([link](#)).

Ian Holmes, the UK National Contact Point for Horizon 2020's programme for **Societal Challenge 2**, will visit Aberystwyth University on 10 July, to present the upcoming funding opportunities in Horizon 2020 and other related UK funding opportunities including the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

**Register [here](#).**

## Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP)

This programme is funded by the European Union's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the Welsh Government.

The following RDP scheme windows for funding are now open:

### Sustainable Management Scheme

The Sustainable Management Scheme will provide financial support for a range of activities that will improve the management of our natural resources and in doing so contribute to the well-being of our rural communities.

The scheme is open to a wide range of collaborations made up of a variety of individual and organisations including:

- SME and large businesses, education or research establishments,
- farmers, foresters, other land managers
- community or voluntary groups (inclusive of all non-government organisations) associations of owners, community woodlands and trusts
- local authorities

For more information click [here](#)

### Contact Us

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