



## 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.

Applications for EU funds are still being developed and approved in line with objectives agreed by the European Commission. [The UK Treasury](#) will provide a full lifetime guarantee for projects approved before the end of December 2020.

The guarantee also includes investments to UK organisations through the European Territorial Co-operation programmes from which Wales benefits, including the Ireland Wales programme, and programmes directly managed by the European Commission, such as Horizon 2020.

## The 2018 Awards Competition has been launched! Do you have an EU-funded success story?

### EU Funds Awards 2018

Enter your EU-funded project today!

[www.gov.wales/eufundsawards](http://www.gov.wales/eufundsawards)

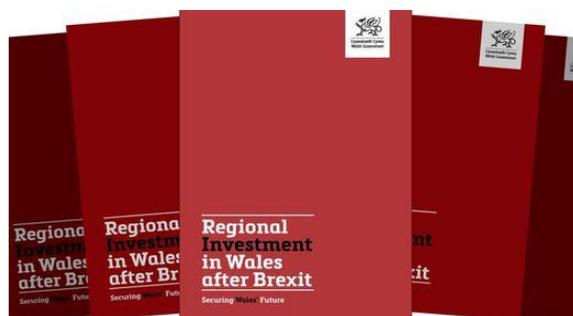
Closing date: 10 September 2018



For application forms and more information on this years categories, see the [competition webpage](#).

Closing date for entries is **10 September 2018**. Winners will be announced at the annual event later in the year.

## Brexit: Securing Wales' Future



Following the publication of [Regional Investment in Wales after Brexit](#) policy paper, a range of engagement activities with partners and stakeholders took place between December 2017 and March 2018 to seek views on the paper's ideas and proposals.

An [independently produced summary report](#) of findings was published on 2 July.

# Vote for Welsh finalists in the Regiostars Awards



It's your chance to vote for your favourite project from this year's Regiostars Awards shortlist! The project that gets the most votes will receive the 'Public Choice Award' during the Regiostars Awards ceremony on 9 October in Brussels.

Two Welsh projects are shortlisted this year: **ASTUTE 2020** and **Nant Gwrtheyrn**. Please click on the links below to give them your vote:

Deadline for voting: **7 October 2018**

**ASTUTE 2020 (Advanced Sustainable Manufacturing Technologies)**  
Category 1 - Supporting smart industrial transition  
[Vote for ASTUTE 2020 here](#)

**Nant Gwrtheyrn**  
Category 5 - Investing in cultural heritage  
[Vote for Nant Gwrtheyrn here](#)

## Regional Performance Data

The table below gives headline figures of the performance of ESI funded operations across the Swansea Bay Region.

You can find out more information on how Wales is benefiting from EU funds [here](#).

Performance Indicator	Figures for the South West Region
Enterprises Assisted <sup>1</sup>	1,197
Enterprises Created <sup>2</sup>	259
Jobs Created <sup>3</sup>	2,459
Participants Assisted	36,922
Participants Supported into Employment	2,709
Participants Gaining Qualifications	12,343
Participants in Education / Training	1,464

Source: WEFO, 31/07/2018

<sup>1</sup> Aggregate of the Enterprises receiving non-financial support indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

<sup>2</sup> Aggregate of the New enterprises supported indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

<sup>3</sup> Aggregate of the Employment increase in supported enterprises indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

## Swansea Bay City Deal



*Image of the £200m Wellness and Life Science Village planned for Llanelli*

A £1.3bn investment programme in 11 major projects across the Swansea Bay City Region has taken a major step forward.

Carmarthenshire Council, Neath Port Talbot Council, Pembrokeshire Council, Swansea Council, the UK Government and the Welsh Government have now approved the Swansea Bay City Deal's Joint Committee Agreement (JCA).

The approval of the JCA, which outlines principles of City Deal working, means the City Deal's governance structure can be formally established. This will include a Joint Committee overseeing all aspects of the City Deal, as well as an Economic Strategy Board with representation from the private sector. The Joint Committee will meet for the first time in late August, with Ed Tomp, the Vice-President and General Manager of Valero UK, having already been selected as the Economic Strategy Board's preferred chairman.

The Swansea Bay City Deal is being funded, subject to the approval of businesses cases, by the UK Government, the Welsh Government, the public sector and the private sector. It's being led by the four regional local authorities, 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.

Cllr Rob Stewart, Swansea Council Leader and Lead Leader for the Swansea Bay City Deal, said: "This is a landmark moment because it means we're now in a position to start delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal for the benefit of residents throughout the Swansea Bay City Region.

"The JCA is a vital foundation that has to be in place for the Swansea Bay City Deal to move forward, so its approval by all partners augurs well for a very exciting future. A formal governance structure for the City Deal will shortly be introduced for the very first time, which will lead, subject to the approval of businesses cases, to the securing of funding for all 11 transformational projects.

"Over the next 15 years, these projects will combine to give the City Region a £1.8bn boost, helping close the economic gap between South West Wales and far more affluent parts of the UK. The City Deal will also create close to 10,000 new, well-paid jobs in key sectors like life sciences, smart manufacturing, energy and the creative industries."

From September, the City Deal will feature as part of the enterprise and employability module of the Welsh Baccalaureate at schools across the county.

Following a trial in Carmarthenshire, the scheme could also be rolled out to schools in Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire in future.

A qualification for 14 to 19-year-olds in Wales, the Welsh Baccalaureate aims to help students develop knowledge and skills that universities and employers want them to have when they leave school.

The Carmarthenshire trial is part of the Skills and Talent initiative, being led by the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership South West and Mid Wales.

## GO WALES – Achieve through Work Experience



Cyflawni drwy  
Brofiad Gwaith  
Achieve through  
Work Experience



**The Achieve through Work Experience Programme creates tailored work experience opportunities for young students**

**Are you interested in helping students to develop skills for the workplace?**

**Would you like the opportunity to talent spot and benefit from new ideas?**

**We are looking for employers who can host tailored, flexible work experience for students, which includes:**

**Work shadowing** - Up to three days of unpaid work experience where the student observes someone in their role to understand how they do their job.

**Work taster** - Up to four weeks of unpaid work experience where the student has the opportunity to learn about work and the working environment by observing and undertaking some tasks.

**Work placement** - Four to six weeks of paid work experience where the student gets hands-on experience or works on a project.

You would be helping young students on higher education courses in Wales who face barriers in accessing work experience to develop and refine their employability skills through their work experience with you. These skills will help them become more employable.

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

To register your interest please contact your local university:

**Swansea University: [gowales@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:gowales@swansea.ac.uk)**

**University of Wales Trinity Saint David: [gowales@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:gowales@uwtsd.ac.uk)**

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*GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience is part-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the Welsh Government and operates pan-Wales. It is designed to support the employability of young students on higher education courses in Wales and is aimed at young students who have faced barriers in accessing higher education or work experience and are most at risk of not securing employment, education or training when leaving their higher education course.*



The BEACON Biorefining Centre of Excellence is a partnership between Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea Universities, working in the field of conversion of biomass into biobased products. Led by Aberystwyth University, the current operation is backed with nearly £8 million from the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.

BEACON helps Welsh businesses develop new ways of converting feedstocks (e.g. rye grass, oats, miscanthus) and waste streams into products which have applications in the pharmaceutical, chemicals, fuel and cosmetic industries.

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

This encompasses a huge range of businesses in areas as diverse as: agrochemicals, biofuels, coatings and adhesives, cosmetics and personal care, essential oils, lubricants, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, speciality polymers, surfactants, water and effluent treatment, for example.

The BEACON partners can help with:

Formulation of new biocomposites

Extrusion / bioplastics

Novel chemistries / applications

Metabolic engineering of yeasts

Protein modelling such as new enzymes, e.g. for food industry or bioprocessing

For more information see <http://beaconwales.org/>

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## Case Study

***Here's how a local company collaborated with the BEACON operation:***

NappiCycle, is a trading division of Natural UK, the largest washroom services and clinical waste collection company in Wales, dealing in hygiene and sanitary waste (e.g. nappies and incontinence pads from nursing and residential homes). BEACON initially contacted the Ammanford based company to learn more about their unique and innovative process and discuss potential opportunities for new markets and applications for the company's cellulose fibre waste stream.

Click [here](#) to find out more.

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Further information on BEACON's achievements can be found [here](#)

## **Creative Europe**

The Creative Europe programme aims to support the European audiovisual, cultural and creative sector.

The different funding schemes encourage the audiovisual, cultural and creative players to operate across Europe, to reach new audiences and to develop the skills needed in the digital age.

For more information and open calls click [here](#)

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## **Interreg North West Europe**

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 Europe – the next research and innovation framework programme**

On the 7 June 2018, the European Commission published its proposal for Horizon Europe, the successor to Horizon 2020. The document and further information on the new programme can be found [here](#).

### **Wales Advanced Manufacturing Horizon 2020 Information Session.**

**11 September, Cardiff.**

Information session and workshop bringing together potential partners for the upcoming Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing (NMBP) funding call. More information [here](#).

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## **ERASMUS+**

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport. It runs for seven years, from 2014 to 2020, with organisations invited to apply for funding each year to undertake creative and worthwhile activities.

Click [here](#) for the remaining application deadlines for 2018

Click [here](#) for the latest news from ERASMUS+

## 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

#### **Expression of Interest window now open until 6 September 2018**

This round 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.

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

### Rural Business Investment Scheme - Food

#### **Expression of Interest window now open until 19 September 2018**

The Rural Business Investment Scheme - FOOD (RBISF) is a capital investments scheme to support projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales. The scheme is open to existing and start up micro & small food and drink processor's and manufacturers throughout Wales.

This is a capital investment scheme for food and drink processing or manufacturing activities currently not eligible under the Food Business Investment Scheme.

**More information can be found [here](#)**

## Farm Business Grant

### Expression of Interest window now open until 05 October

The Farm Business Grant (FBG) helps farmers in Wales to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings.

The grant provides a financial contribution towards capital investments in equipment and machinery that have been pre-identified as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm enterprises.

**More information can be found [here](#)**

## Micro Small Business Fund (MSBF)

The Micro Small Business Fund (MSBF) is an investment fund for projects in the tourism sector in Wales. It can be used either to upgrade existing or create new high quality product.

**More information can be found [here](#)**

### Contact Us

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