

European Funding For Health in Wales

Part 2

European Regional
Funds

2016-17



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales



International Health Coordination Centre
Canolfan Ryngwladol Cydlynu Iechyd



EuroHealthNet

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Abbreviations

Cohesion Fund	CF
Common Agricultural Policy	CAP
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	EAFRD
European Agriculture Guarantee Fund	EAGF
European Commission	EC
European Regional Development Fund	ERDF
European Structural and Investment Fund	ESIF
European Social Fund	ESF
European Territorial Cooperation	ETC
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	EMFF
European Union	EU
Higher Education Institute	HEI
International Health Coordination Centre	IHCC
Links between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy	LEADER
Local Action Group	LAG
Monitoring Committee	MC
National Health Service	NHS
Rural Community Development Fund	RCDF
Welsh European Funding Office	WEFO
Welsh Government	WG
West, North Wales and Valleys	WNW&V
World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe	WHO EURO
United Kingdom	UK

Introduction

This funding catalogue is the second in a series of information resources linking key European Union (EU) funding opportunities to Wales' health and well-being priorities.

The [first catalogue](#) covered Horizon 2020 and the Third Health Programme. This catalogue explores European Regional funding such as Structural Funds and Territorial Cooperation Funds (Interreg).

Despite the outcome of the recent [EU referendum](#), European engagement, collaboration and funding opportunities continue to be important areas for the Welsh Government (WG) and NHS Wales. This was highlighted in the recently published [final report](#) and recommendations of the [EU Funding Ambassadors](#), a panel appointed by the WG to promote and maximise opportunities offered by European funding programmes directly managed by the EU for 2014-2020.

Wales' international activities are driven by the key principles of enabling individuals and communities to enhance their health and well-being; improving the quality, efficiency and sustainability of social and health services and creating opportunities for economic growth. Developing appropriate organisational capacity and staff capabilities is fundamental to delivering on these principles.

The coherence of European and Welsh strategies, policy objectives, goals and priorities offers the potential to exploit a range of relevant funding and collaborative opportunities to support and enhance the impact of national policies in all fields, but especially health, research and innovation.

Welsh health and care organisations continue to build and strengthen partnerships with other organisations, regions and countries. Sustainable collaborative relations, platforms and projects enhance the sharing of experience, knowledge and skills; support faster identification and adoption of technology and service innovation; and help to address common challenges and goals.

The development of this series of information resources forms part of the International Health Coordination Centre's (IHCC) work to improve awareness and understanding, and to support capacity and capability building across the NHS in Wales.

Context

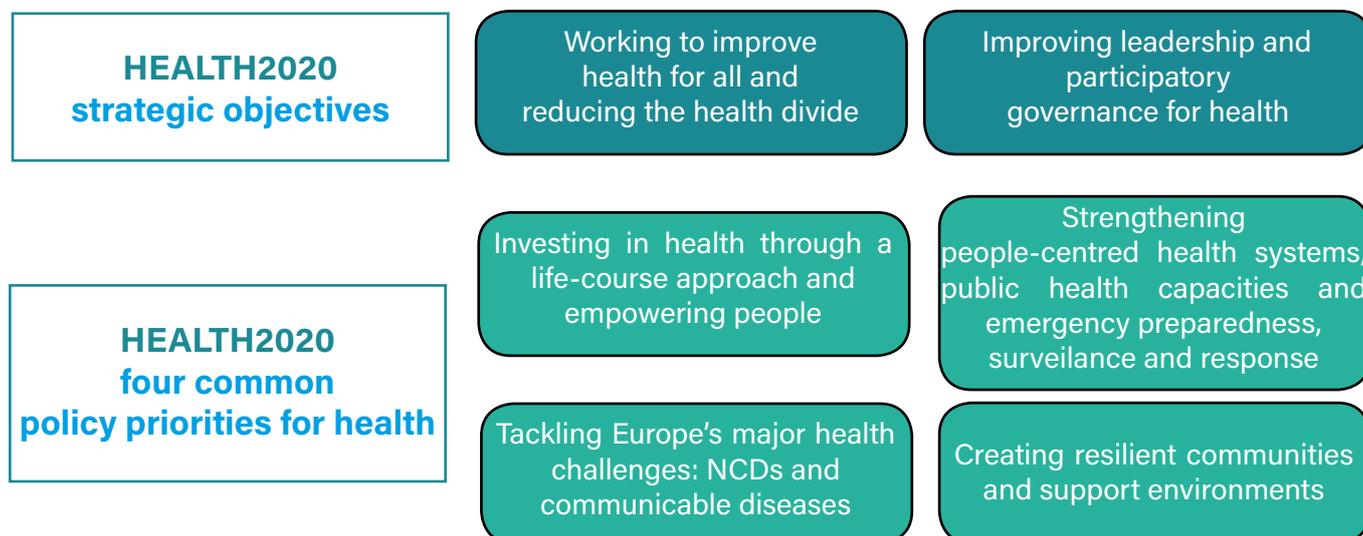
Health in European Policy

Wales is one of the four devolved nations of the United Kingdom (UK) with responsibility for health and well-being. As a region of the [European Union](#) (EU) and the [World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe](#) (WHO EURO), Wales is also working with other UK and European countries and regions to fulfill common policy objectives across a wide range of areas.

The EU and WHO EURO cover slightly different geographical areas and have distinct responsibilities regarding health. That said, recognising synergies that exist between the respective roles and objectives, the European Commission (EC) and WHO EURO Secretariat have agreed various [cooperation and collaboration frameworks](#) on key topics of common interest. For 2015-2019 these include: innovation and health, health security, public health information systems, chronic diseases, health inequalities and health system strengtheningⁱ.

The WHO EURO strategy, [Health 2020](#), (Fig. 1) provides an overarching policy framework for its 53 Member Statesⁱⁱ. The framework aims to address the main health challenges faced by WHO EURO, such as communicable and non-communicable diseases, health inequalities, health system strengthening and responding to health emergencies.

Figure 1: Health 2020 prioritiesⁱⁱ



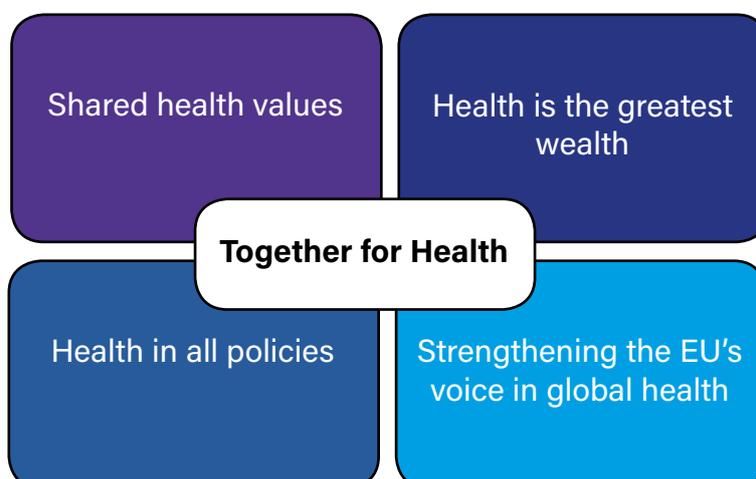
[Europe 2020](#) is the EU's 10-year strategy (Fig. 2) promoting smart, inclusive and sustainable growth across its 28 Member States. While health is not identified as a priority under Europe 2020, it is recognised by the EC as a key contributor to the success of the strategy. To support the implementation of Europe 2020 and to aid Member States and Regions to promote a healthier Europe, the EU has adopted the health strategy "[Together for Health](#)" based on 4 core principlesⁱⁱⁱ (Fig. 3).

Although Health 2020 and Together for Health are independent strategies, the EU and WHO EURO regularly issue joint declarations explaining their collaborative work and areas of cooperation as defined in their [cooperation and collaboration frameworks](#)ⁱ.

Figure 2: The core principles and targets of Europe 2020^{iv}

Employment	75% of 20-64 year olds to be employed
Research and Development	3% of the EU's GCP to be invested in research and development
Climate Change and Energy Sustainability	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20-30% by 2020 Collect 20% of energy from renewable sources Increase energy efficiency by 20%
Education	Reduce the rate of early school leavers to below 10%
Poverty and Social Exclusion	At least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion

Figure 3: The core principles the EU health strategy "Together for Health" ⁱⁱⁱ



European Regional Policy and Funding

In order to allow EU strategies to be evenly implemented and to reduce disparities across Europe, the EU has adopted a [Regional Policy](#) that covers all the regions and cities of the 28 Member States. Also known as the Cohesion Policy, this is the EU's main investment framework to meet the goals of [Europe 2020](#) through regional development^{vii}.

To address the challenges that the different regions of the EU face, the Regional Policy is delivered through five funds, which form the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, including the:

1. [European Regional Development Fund](#) (ERDF - see pg. 12) which promotes economic and social cohesion in the EU by addressing imbalances between its regions and supporting regional cooperation. It also finances [European Territorial Cooperation Programmes](#) (Interreg), which funds cross-border, interregional and transnational cooperation projects (see pg. 28).
2. [European Social Fund](#) (ESF - see pg. 12), which promotes employment and education opportunities across the EU, with a specific focus on vulnerable populations.
3. [Cohesion Fund](#) (CF), which only applies to Member States with the lowest gross national income and is therefore **not** available in the UK.
4. [European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development](#) (EAFRD - see pg. 21), which aims at helping rural communities to address the range of economic, environmental and social challenges specific to these areas.
5. [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#) (EMFF), which is the fund supporting the transition to sustainable fishing under the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. As funding opportunities for health under this fund are limited, it is **not** covered in this catalogue.

The Regional Policy also includes other fund either targeted at specific countries, such as those that are undergoing the accession process to the EU, or at specific issues, such as conflict settlement in Cyprus. For example, the [EU Solidarity Fund](#) provides emergency funds to Member States affected by major natural disasters and is **only** available for that purpose.

In order to allow the Regional Policy to meet its [11 thematic objectives](#) (Fig. 4)^{vii}, it has a budget of €351.8 billion (£278 billion). This is to be allocated across the 5 funding streams between 2014-2020, and is almost a third of the total EU budget.

To help identify relevant funding streams, the EC has created a [checklist](#) where it is possible to search for funding by theme, EU priority and type of applicant such as private businesses vs. public bodies.

While [health](#) is not directly identified as a priority for 2014-2020, the Regional Policy acknowledges that it is a **key asset for regional development and to address economic and social disparities across Europe**.

To help guide countries and potential beneficiaries in using ESI funding for health-related projects, the EC has issued [various documents](#).

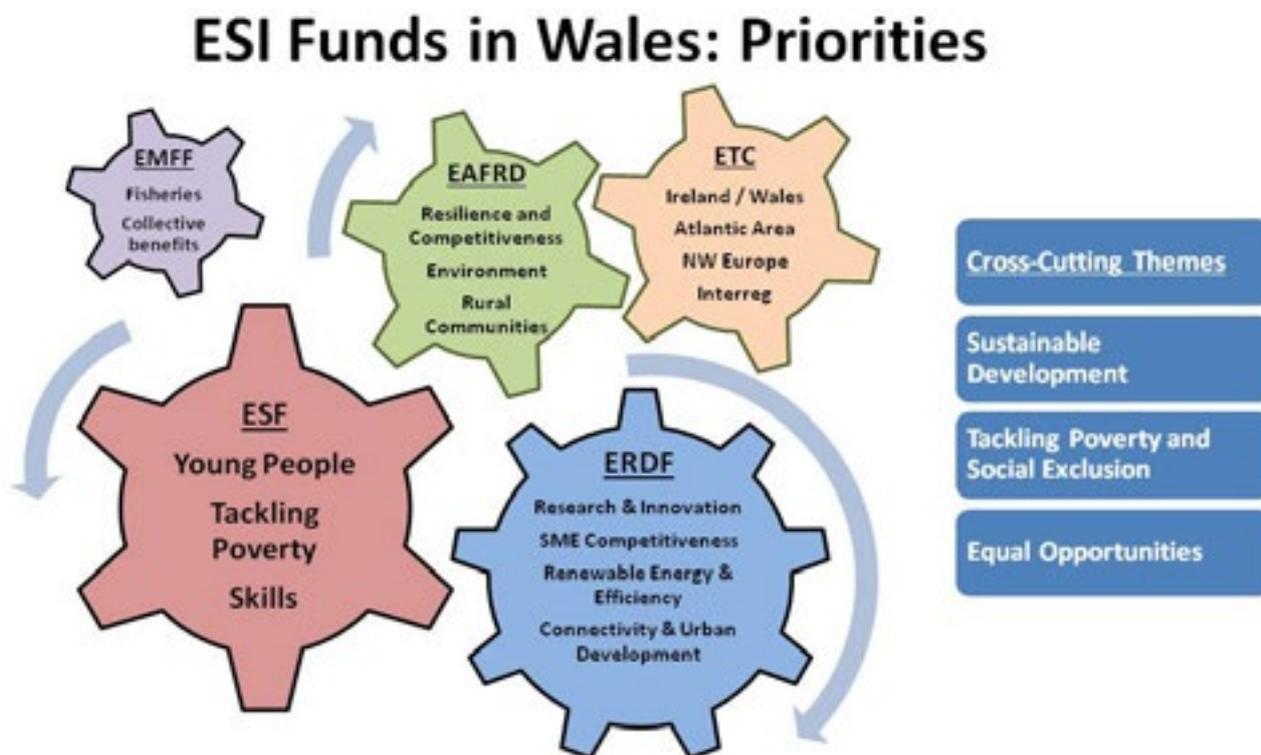
Figure 4. Europe 2020 priorities and the EU Regional Policy thematic objectives for 2014-2020

Europe 2020 Priorities		
Smart Growth	Sustainable Growth	Inclusive Growth
EU Regional Policy Thematic Objectives		
 <p>1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</p>	 <p>5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management</p>	 <p>8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility</p>
 <p>2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies</p>	 <p>6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</p>	 <p>9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination</p>
 <p>3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs</p>	 <p>7. Promoting sustainable transport and improving network infrastructures</p>	 <p>10. Investing in education, training and lifelong learning</p>
 <p>4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy</p>		 <p>11. Improving the efficiency of public administration</p>

Based on the overarching framework provided by the EU Regional Policy Priorities for 2014-2020 and considering national specifics, each Member State or Region defines its own priorities for the individual funds in collaboration with the EC. The priorities for Wales are presented in Figure 5.

There are opportunities for health, care and third sector organisations in Wales to access significant EU and other international funding to support policy development and implementation, research and innovation, leading to better health and well-being and enhanced service sustainability.

Figure 5. Overview of EU regional funding opportunities available in Wales and their respective priorities^{xi}



The EU Referendum

The result of the recent EU referendum opened the way for the UK to leave the EU, through the coined term “Brexit”.

There remains scope for Wales to retain, strengthen and even increase its involvement in European networks, partnerships or funding programmes due to the coherence between policies, goals and priority areas, providing a clear opportunity to exploit EU funding streams to add value in Wales.

Access to some EU funding programmes after exiting the EU, such as [European Territorial Cooperation Programmes](#), [Horizon 2020](#) or [Erasmus +](#), may be negotiated by the UK Government. Further information on Brexit and its impact on European funding streams is available in Annex 1.

The UK will remain a full member of the EU, subjected to the same rights and obligations as any other Member State, until the UK Government and the EU institutions negotiate and adopt a withdrawal agreement ^{ix}.

The WG issues regular updates and guidelines on the [future of EU funds](#) on its website.^{viii}

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European Structural Funds

European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund

Keywords

employment, research and development, climate change and sustainability, education, poverty and social exclusion

Key sources of information

For full information on the European Structural Funds in Wales, please go to the programme [website](#) and [guidance documents](#).

Key contacts for the European Structural Funds

Tel: 0845 010 3355

Email: enquiries-wefo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

European Structural Funds

European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund

What are European Structural Funds?

European Structural Funds include both the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#) and the [European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#). The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion across Europe by addressing imbalances between regions while the ESF focuses on human capital through the improvement of employment and education opportunities.

Worth over £1.8 billion for the period 2014-2020, the funds are managed by the Welsh Government (WG) through the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), according to the priorities and plan agreed with the European Commission (Fig. 6)ⁱ.

Aside from the priorities covered by each fund, every project funded under European Structural Funds in Wales should address [3 cross-cutting themes](#):

1. Equal opportunities
2. Sustainable development
3. Tackling poverty and social exclusion

To ensure cohesion between European and national investment, WG has developed an [Economic Prioritisation Framework for Welsh European Funds](#), which details priority investment for a specific area of Wales and/or a specific sector.

The European Structural Funds aim to reduce the economic, social and territorial disparities between regions; they are distributed according to the level of development required in an area. Wales is divided into two areas: East Wales, which receives lower funding and is covered under the priorities of each fund applicable on an all-Wales basis, and West, North Wales and Valleys (WNW&V), which receives higher funding and has dedicated additional objectives under each fund in addition to those applicable to all-Wales (Fig. 6 and 7).



Figure 6. ERDF and ESF funding allocation and priorities for Wales (2014-2020)ⁱⁱ

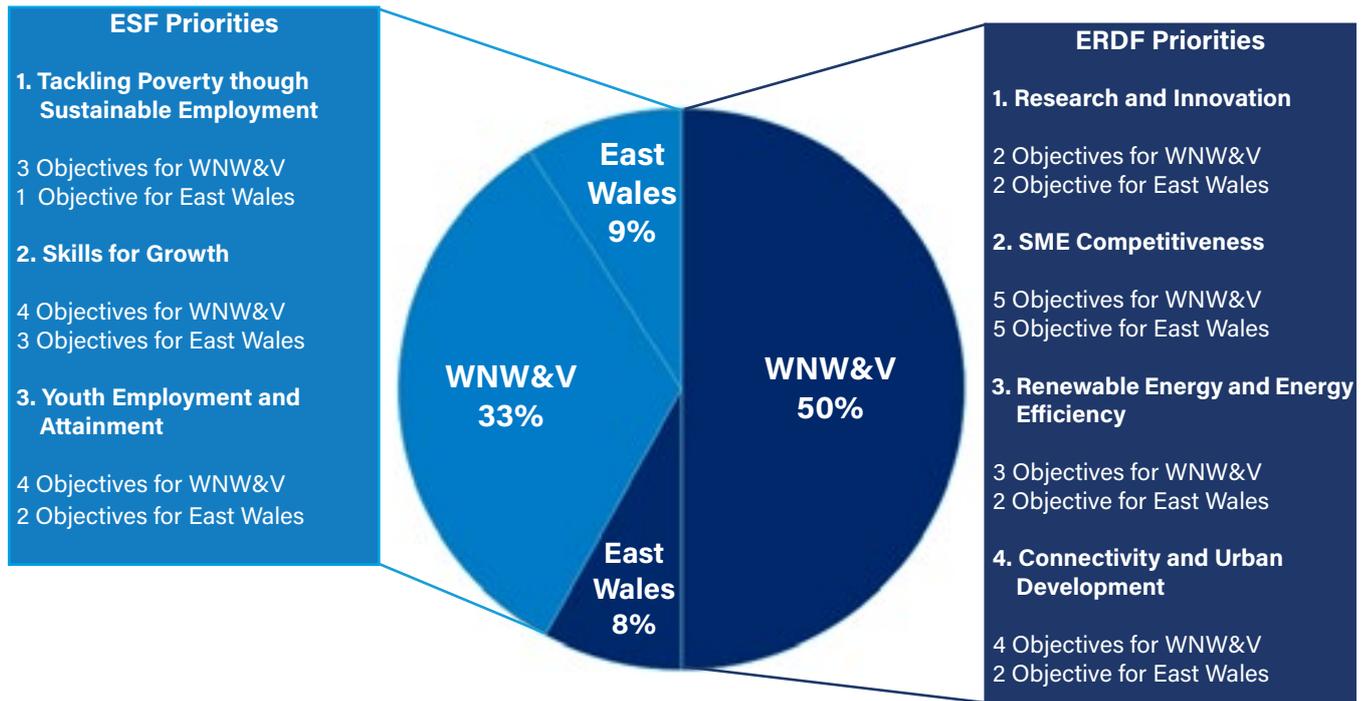
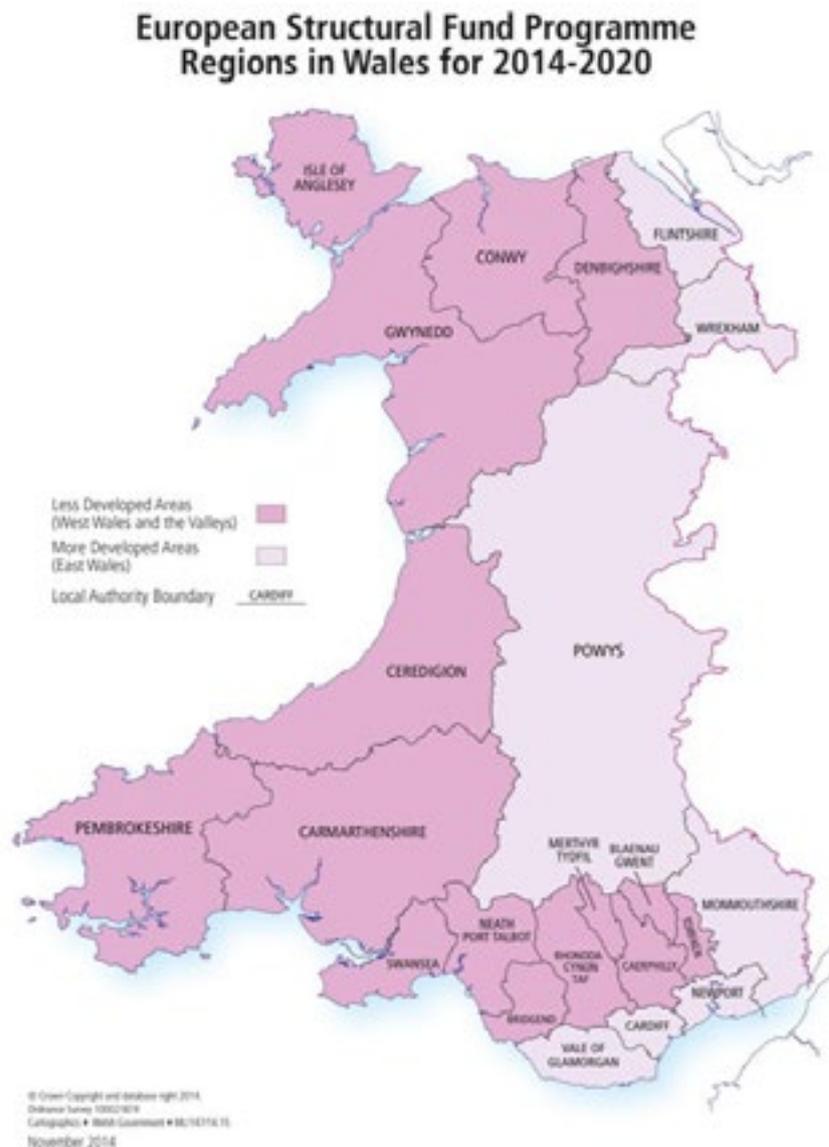


Figure 7. Definition of priority areas in Wales for European Structural Fundsⁱⁱ



How could accessing these funds improve the health of Welsh citizens?

Under these funds, health is primarily addressed through ERDF Priority 1 on 'Research and Innovation' and ESF Priority 1 on 'Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment'. Some of the specific objectives for the WNW&V area listed under other priorities may also be relevant (Table 1).

While the other priorities may not directly involve health-related activities, they may contribute to improving health and well-being in Wales by impacting social, economic and environmental factorsⁱⁱ. For example:

- Developing healthier cities through urban development under ERDF Priority 4 "Connectivity and Urban Development"
- Improving environmental health under ERDF Priority 3 "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency"
- Tackling poverty and addressing socio-economic determinants of health under ESF (all priorities).

Table 1. Priorities relevant to health under the European Structural Funds

	Relevant Priorities	Relevant Specific Objectives	Example of interventions ^{v,vi}
ERDF	1) Research and innovation	To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding.	£4.6m awarded to Cardiff University for the building of the CUBRIC Brain Imaging centre ^{vii}
		To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from higher education institutions	£39m for the Ser Cymru 2 research programme for star researchers ^{viii}
			£133m SMART suite of innovation support projects ^{ix}

	Relevant Priorities	Relevant Specific Objectives	Example of interventions ^{v,vi}
ESF	1) Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	To increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment (such as long-term illness, disability, and substance and alcohol misuse).	£8.1m (to date) to fund <u>Healthy Working Wales</u> , the Welsh Government programme to support working-age people in Wales to stay fit and healthy or return to employment after a health problem.
		To reduce under-employment or absence rates for employed individuals with work-limiting health conditions and / or other barriers to sustainable engagement with the labour market. (WNW&V only)	£11.5m to fund the <u>Active Inclusion Fund</u> . Run by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action to reduce the number of economically inactive and long term unemployed people across West Wales and the Valleys, including people with disability or limiting health conditions.
		To increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level.	£40.7m in WNW&V and £5.7m in East Wales to fund the Welsh Government's <u>Apprenticeship</u> scheme in all sectors, including healthcare.
		To increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprise (WNW&V only)	
	To improve the position of women in the workforce.		
	2) Skills for Growth		
	3) Youth Employment and Attainment	To increase the skills of the Early Years and Childcare workforce. (WNW&V only)	<u>Progress for Success (PfS)</u> programme. Run by the Department for Education and Public Services, this £4.1m programme aims to increase the skills of the early years and childcare workforce across Wales, in line with the Welsh Early Years and Childcare Plan

Funding available and the application process^{vii}

Business, higher and further education, third and public sector organisations can apply to lead on a project funded by European Structural Funding.

The application process is based on two phases:

Phase 1 (Pre-planning stage)

This stage consists of an initial structured dialogue between WEFO and potential applicants. WEFO will provide an Operation Logic Table and invite an applicant to complete the document providing the proposed operation has the potential to contribute towards the [Operational Programme](#) (see also WEFO's [guidance document](#)).

With this tool, potential applicants must describe their project, what it aims to achieve and how it fits within the funding programmes and Welsh investment priorities as well as potential barriers. Applicants should focus on one specific objective of the Operational Programme. The information provided in the Operation Logic Table should be concise and realistic. It should highlight the clear links between the aims, activities, indicators and end results of the proposal. The Operation Logic Table is the basis of WEFO's decision to invite applicants to move to the next phase. Another key factor in this decision is how the proposal fits with the current and planned portfolio within the priority area, as described in the Operational Programme documents for [WNW&V](#) and [East Wales](#), the [Economic Prioritisation Framework for Welsh European Funds](#) and the list of [approved projects and ideas under development](#).

Phase 2 (Business Planning Stage)

WEFO invites selected applicants to formally apply for funding. The business plan of the proposed project is submitted on-line in stages according to a defined template provided directly by WEFO. During the first stage, applicants must demonstrate how their project addresses 3 core principles (Strategic Fit, Delivery and Financial and Compliance).

Once WEFO's initial assessment or "Gateway Stage" is successfully completed, applicants will be invited to provide information regarding 6 further principles (Management of Operation, Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Long Term Sustainability, Cross Cutting Themes and Suitability of Investment) to allow WEFO to explore the proposal in detail. Responses to each criterion are rated according to a scale going from "Inadequate" to "High" (Fig. 8). Applicants need at least a "Low" rating for each criterion in order to proceed to the next stage of the process as an "Inadequate" rating would lead to an exit to the appraisal process.

A description of Phase 2 and the assessment principle is available in WEFO's [guidance document](#).^{viii}

Figure 8. Rating scale of WEFO assessment criteria in Phase 2^{viii}

INADEQUATE	The applicant has provided incomplete or insufficient responses against many of the listed evidence requirements thereby demonstrating an unacceptable level of risk.
LOW	The applicant has provided potentially incomplete or insufficient responses against one or more of the evidence requirements but demonstrates a potentially significant yet acceptable level of risk,
MEDIUM	The applicant has provided satisfactory and detailed responses against most of the evidence requirements and demonstrates a low level of risk.
HIGH	The applicants has provided robust and detailed responses against all of the evidence requirements and demonstrates minimal risk

Good to know

- Further to the EU referendum, the UK Government will be issuing a new decision in the autumn of 2016 on how structural and investment fund projects will be guaranteed in the coming years. Funding for any projects signed before the UK leaves the EU has been fully guaranteed. Regular information on this issue is available on the WG website on EU funds in Wales.^{xii, xiii}
- Unlike most other European funding, European Structural Funding does not necessarily require a partnership to apply. However, partnerships are supported with the [monthly publication of projects](#) that have been adopted or are under development.ⁱⁱ
- Certain schemes funded by European Structural Funding such as [Business Wales](#) or [Jobs for Growth](#) are open to private individuals.
- The end result and impact of a project are the most important elements of a proposal. Applicants should demonstrate how they will achieve the proposed result and why the plan of action is appropriate according to context, groups targeted, and the programme objective(s) the project falls under.
- The WEFO team maintains regular contact with applicants throughout Phase 2 of the process to request core or additional information for each criterion, update them on the progress of the application, agree on deadlines for each stage and assess the evidence submitted.
- Further to the 2014-2020 programme, the WG has identified three principles that guide its strategy regarding European Funding:
 - Strategic investment: concentration and targeting of a small number of investments to maximise opportunities
 - Integration: coherence between European Funds with national investments
 - Simplification and harmonisation of the process to ensure a fair and effective distribution of funds where they will be most impactful.^{ii, ix}

Examples of Welsh success stories^x

Workways+: Neath Port Talbot Council received £7.5m under the previous EU Structural Fund Programme to support 4,000 long-term unemployed people, including people with disabilities or work limiting health conditions to re-engage or enter into the labour market.

BEACON: Aberystwyth University's Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Science, Bangor and Swansea Universities received £9.3m under the previous EU Structural Fund Programme to support the development of expertise and the development of innovative products, including pharmaceutical components derived from plants.

Institute for Life Sciences^{xi}: Swansea University was awarded £12.9m to expand their Institute for Life Sciences in 2009. The new building hosts a clinical research centre, incubator grow-on space and a technology transfer and business support team.



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European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

Rural Community Development Fund

Keywords

poverty, social exclusion, rural communities

Key sources of information

For full information on the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2014-2020 in Wales please go to the programme [website](#) and [documents](#).

For general information, please go to the fund [website](#) and [guidance documents](#).

Key contacts for European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

Email: RCDF@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Contact points for Local Action Groups (LAGs) can be found on the Welsh Government [website](#).

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

Rural Community Development Fund

What is the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development?

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is a Structural Fund which finances the EU's contributions to rural development programmes. In conjunction with the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF), it finances the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).ⁱ In Wales, this programme is implemented through the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which was agreed by the WG and the EC in May 2015.

Worth EUR 1.3 billion for 7 years, the Welsh Rural Development Programme follows the same 6 priorities as the EAFRD, each of them being developed in focus areas, measures and sub-measures (Fig. 9). All projects funded by this programme must integrate two of the European Structural Funds' [cross cutting themes](#): Equal Opportunities and Gender Mainstreaming, and Sustainable Development.ⁱⁱ

In Wales, EAFRD priorities and measures are implemented through 9 different schemes and frameworks:

1. Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Scheme
2. Sustainable Production Grant Scheme
3. Food Business Investment Scheme
4. Timber Business Investment Scheme
5. Cooperation and Supply Chain Development Scheme
6. Rural Community Development Fund
7. LEADER (the "Links between the rural economy and development actions" (see Box 1)
8. Sustainable Management Scheme
9. Glastir, the sustainable land management scheme.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Rural Community Development Fund will be expanded upon in this section as this fund is the most relevant to health.

Figure 9. The EAFRD in Wales: the Welsh Rural Development Programme



How could accessing this fund improve the health of Welsh citizens?

For 2014-2020, health-related funding is available under one of the Rural Development schemes called the [Rural Community Development Fund](#) (RCDF). This fund finances projects and activities addressing the issues listed under Measure 7 of the EAFRD (Fig. 8). Of the sub-measures included under Measure 7, number 4 on access to local services and number 5 on tourism and recreational infrastructure are the most relevant to health. As an example, the RCDF guidance notes mention investment in medical services outreach as well as leisure or cultural activities and infrastructure that aim to improve health, especially in the most vulnerable populations, or reduce social exclusion among eligible activities under RCDF.

Funding available and the application process

Most Rural Development Programme schemes, including RCDF, only accept applications when calls are open. RCDF has at least 2 call periods per year of 3 to 4 months each. The opening and closing dates for each call can be found on the WG [website](#).

The total amount available for projects is defined for every call. For example, in the last 2016 call, a total amount of £4 million was made available for an indicative number of 66 projects supported. The minimum and maximum limits for grants depend on the type of activity financed and the sub-measure it covers. Further details are available in the RCDF [guidance](#) notes. [Local Action Groups](#) (LAG - see Box 1), local community groups, including charities and trusts, co-operatives, social enterprises, mutuals, local authorities, the WG, and under certain conditions companies can apply for funding under the RCDF as long as they are located in the rural areas covered by the [LEADER](#) partnership.^{iv, v}

Box 1 : LEADER and LAG

The LEADER partnership is a European-funded framework to support rural development and the implementation of national Rural Development Programmes under EAFRD. LEADER is a French acronym, which translates to 'Links between the rural economy and development actions.' Under this framework, decision-making and rural strategies are led locally by Local Action Groups (LAG), which represent the local community. LAGs include public and private partners from each rural territory covered and have to include representatives from different socio-economic sectors of the area. The territory covered by each LAG and the total number of LAG is defined by the Welsh government under its Rural Development programme. For each LAG, a contact point is identified. To find out whether your area is covered and who your contact point is, visit the Welsh Government [website](#).

The Application Process

Applications for the RCDF follow a 2-stage process. Opening and closing dates for each phase are detailed on the call's [calendar](#).

Before submitting a proposal, applicants must contact and discuss their project with their LAG to make sure that it is in line with the local development strategy. Support from LAGs and fitting with local priorities are essential components of a proposal, which will be assessed and scored during the application process.^{vii}

Phase 1

The first phase consists of the submission of an 'Expression of Interest', which must be submitted to WEFO within the three or four-month period when the RCDF calls are open. The template and guidelines are available on the programme's [webpage](#).

The expression of interest includes a description of the project, its budget, how it fits within the RCDF, budget and grant request, and how the proposal addresses the programme's five priority criteria. Each criterion is scored from 0 to 5 and weighed according to various factors; this is known as the weighting factor.

The decision to proceed on to the next stage is based on the overall score achieved by a proposal. Therefore an individual proposal does not have to address every single priority area^{viii}. However, to move on to the next stage, a proposal must achieve a score of at least 25 points. Applicants should be informed of the outcome of their proposal within 2 months after the submission deadline^{ix}. The priority areas include:

1. Effective community engagement during the development of the proposal (weighting factor 5)
2. Additional and strategic compliance with the programme and local development strategies (weighting factor 4)
3. Improving access to services (weighting factor 3)
4. Needs and support of those living in fuel poverty (weighting factor 3)
5. Needs and support of those facing in-work poverty (weighting factor 3)
6. Needs and support of those facing digital inclusion (weighting factor 3).

Phase 2

If successful in the first phase, applicants will be invited by WEFO to submit a 'Full Scheme Application' via the online portal. This application will include further details about the project, the associated business plan and, if required, other supporting information such as accounts and financial information. WEFO evaluates applications against RCDF [eligibility rules and guidance](#).^x

The full application has to be submitted within six months after the invitation. The outcome of the application is usually provided to the applicant within three months after submission.^x

Good to know^{xii}

- RCDF is an investment fund that primarily aims to support activities such as the construction or acquisition of property, or the purchase of equipment that will support the objectives listed in individual sub-measures. It **does not** usually cover operational costs.
- RCDF requires at least a 20% co-funding of projects. However, this share can be covered in cash or in kind by a third party from the public, private or third sector.
- In most cases, RCDF projects cannot exceed three years. Further to the EU referendum, the WG has issued new guidance on the duration of projects under EAFRD. Further information should be provided in the UK Government's Autumn Statement.^{xv}
- RCDF aims to provide strategic investment. Therefore, applicants have to show that their project would not be able to proceed without a grant. As a result, the project cannot have started before the grant decision.
- While RCDF does not require a minimum number of partners for a proposal to be funded. Linking with targeted communities, relevant LAGs and other stakeholders is essential as this element will be evaluated as part of the expression of interest assessment.

Examples of Welsh success stories

GwarchodNi Project: funded via a LEADER call for proposals under the last Rural Development Plan for Wales, this 2.5-year project brought together three rural areas (Tregaron and the Uplands, Penllyn and Bro Ddyfi) to provide funding to local actors to explore and develop innovative sustainable childcare solutions that meet the specific needs of rural areas. 11 different projects were supported for a total of £45,000 grant funding.^{xiii}

Bwcabus: funded under the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, granted to the local authorities of Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, Traveline Cymru (the public transport information service) and the University of South Wales developed an on-demand, affordable and accessible local bus service. The Service aimed to improve access to local services and employment, and reduce social isolation in the rural areas it covers.^{xiv}



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European Territorial Co-operation (ETC)

Keywords

Cooperation, cohesion, joint actions, policy, innovation, regional development

Key sources of information

For full information on Interreg, please go to the individual programme websites:

Ireland-Wales website	/	programme manual
Atlantic Area website	/	programme manual
North West Europe website	/	programme manual
Interreg V Europe website	/	programme manual
URBACT III website	/	programme manual

Key contacts for European Territorial Co-operation

Ireland- Wales	IrelandWalesCrossBorderProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Atlantic Area	Guillaume Le Palud 07825 645 583 guillaume.le-palud@communities.gsi.gov.uk
North-West Europe	Emily Shephard; Vanessa Pilley 078 25 60 92 01; 075 84 55 64 65 emily.shephard@communities.gsi.gov.uk vanessa.pilley@communities.gsi.gov.uk
Interreg (V) Europe	territorialcooperation@wales.gsi.gov.uk
URBACT III	territorialcooperation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

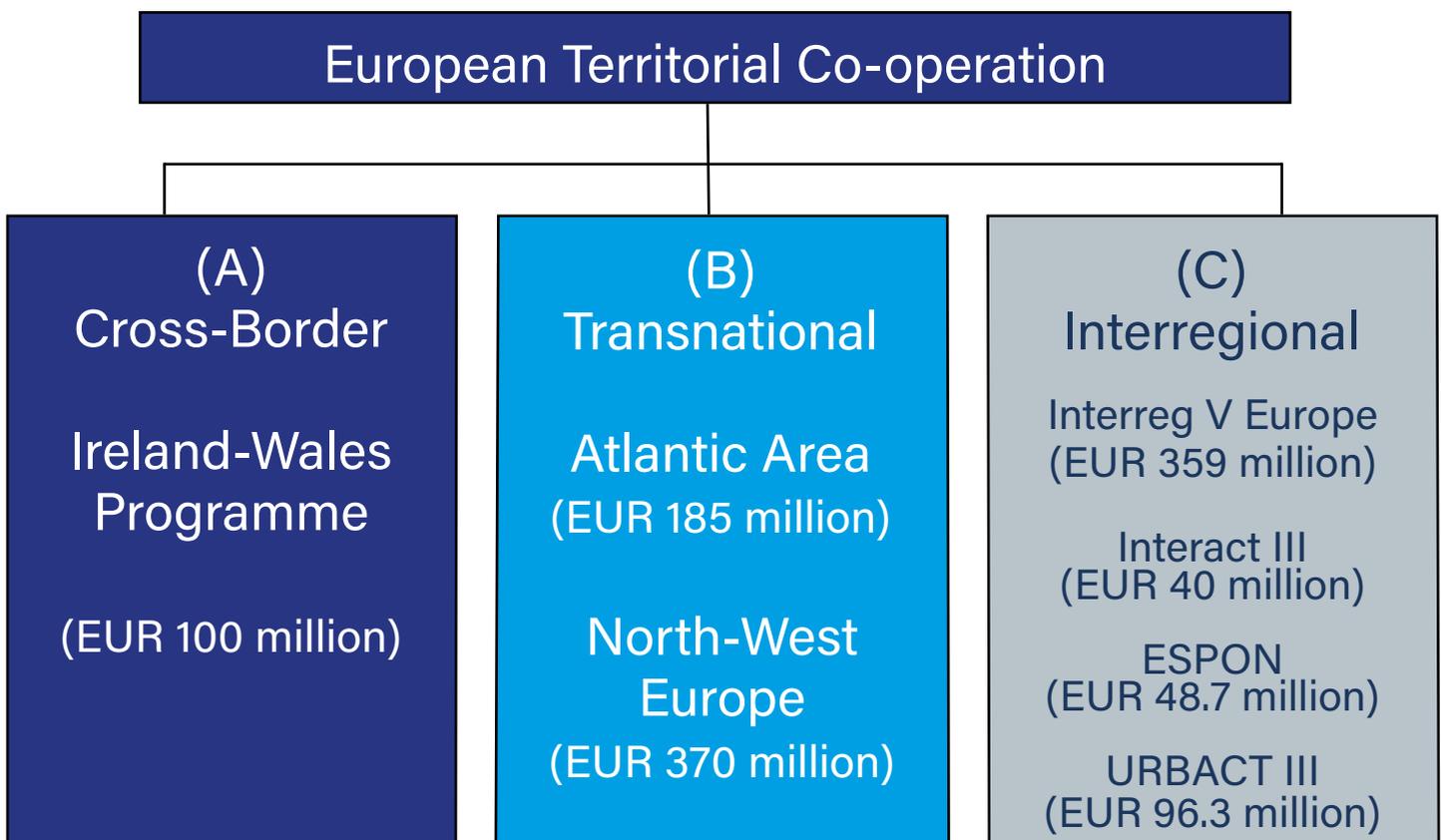
European Territorial Co-operation (ETC)

What is the European Territorial Co-operation (ETC)?

The [European Territorial Co-operation](#) (ETC) programme, also known as Interreg, provides a framework for national, regional and local actors in the EU to work together to address common social, economic and environmental challenges. Funded under the ERDF, the ETC programme for 2014-2020 has a total budget of €10 billion financing over 100 programmes across the EU according to three types of cooperation: Cross border, Transnational and Interregional (Fig. 10). As part of the EU Regional Policy, each ETC programme has to cover at least 4 of the 11 priorities identified in the [Regional Policy](#) for 2014-2020 (Fig. 4 pg. 9).

For this period, Wales and its regions are taking part in 7 ETC programmesⁱ (Fig. 10).

Figure 10. ETC programmes open to Walesⁱ



The content and objectives of individual programmes are agreed between participating countries or regions and the EC.

Each ETC programme is led by a Monitoring Committee (MC), which is the programmes' main decision-making body. The MC includes a range of representatives from each region, local authority or Member State involved, in addition to the bodies running the

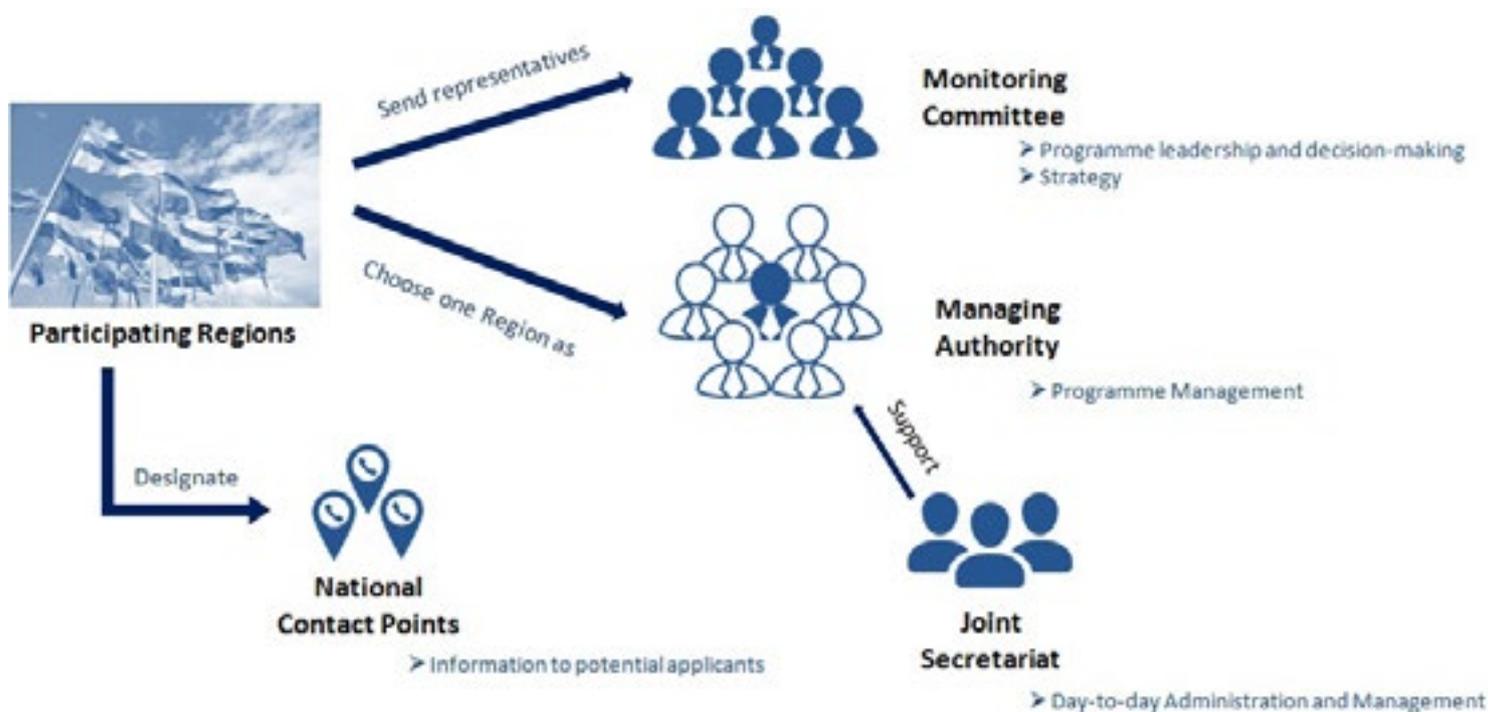
implementation of the programme, the EC (under an advisory role), and in certain cases, other relevant stakeholders.

The daily management of the programme is delegated from the MC to one of the participating regions or Member States, which becomes the Managing Authority. For example, the Atlantic Area Programme is managed by Portugal’s North Regional Coordination and Development Commission while France’s Nord-Pas de Calais region is the Managing authority for both the NW Europe and Interreg Europe programmes.

The work of the Managing Authority is supported by a Joint Secretariat, which is one of the main points of contact for applicants and beneficiaries of the programme.^{iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii}

To provide relevant information about the programme to potential applicants and advise them before application, ETC programmes have national contact points (see the ‘Key contacts for ETC’ Section).

Figure 11. ETC Programme Management Structure



Credit icons: Piana DM, Carlson&Pottor; TypoDesign; Igc; Kiri Ustin from Noun Project; Ramakrishna Venkatesan

How Could Accessing these Funds Improve the Health of Welsh Citizens?

Of the seven ETC programmes Wales participates in, five have priorities relevant to health (Fig. 12), which mainly fall under innovation and research.

Other priority areas that address environmental or socio-economic factors and the determinants of health may provide funding opportunities for health-related projects.

Figure 12. Wales' ETC programme areas and priorities (part 1)

Ireland-Wales Programme

IRELAND/WALES CROSS BORDER PROGRAMME (2014-2020)



Innovation

Adaptation to Climate Change

Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage

Atlantic Area



Innovation

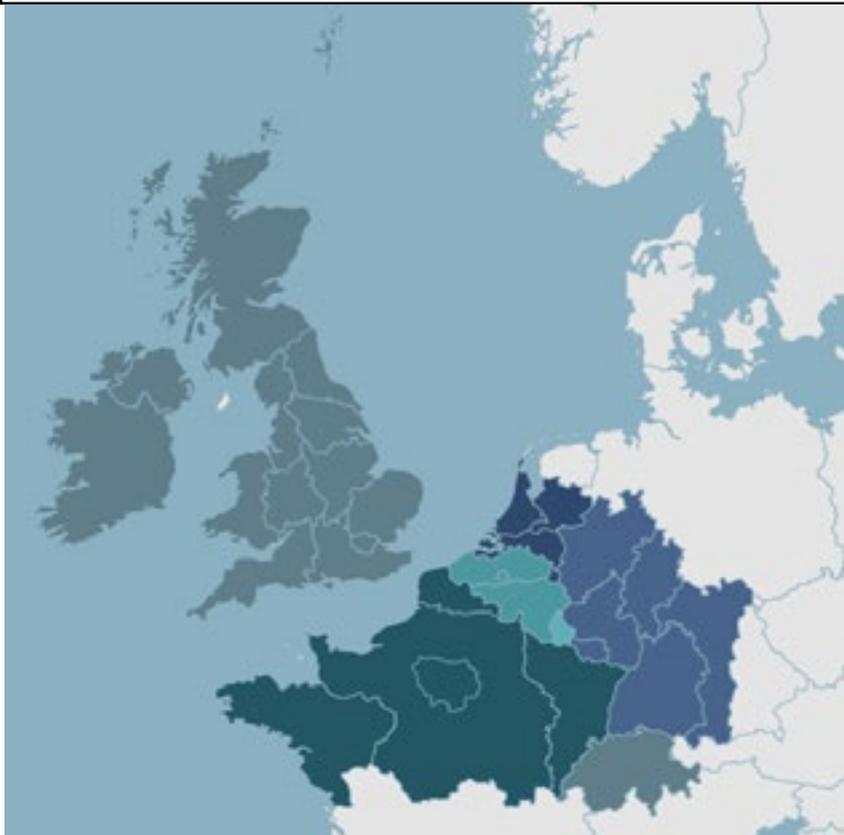
Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage

Resource Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Building Resilience to Man-made or Natural Risks

Figure 12. Wales' ETC programme areas and priorities (part 2)

North West Europe



Innovation

**Low Carbon Economy
and
Sustainable Transport**

**Resource and Material
Efficiency**

Interreg V Europe



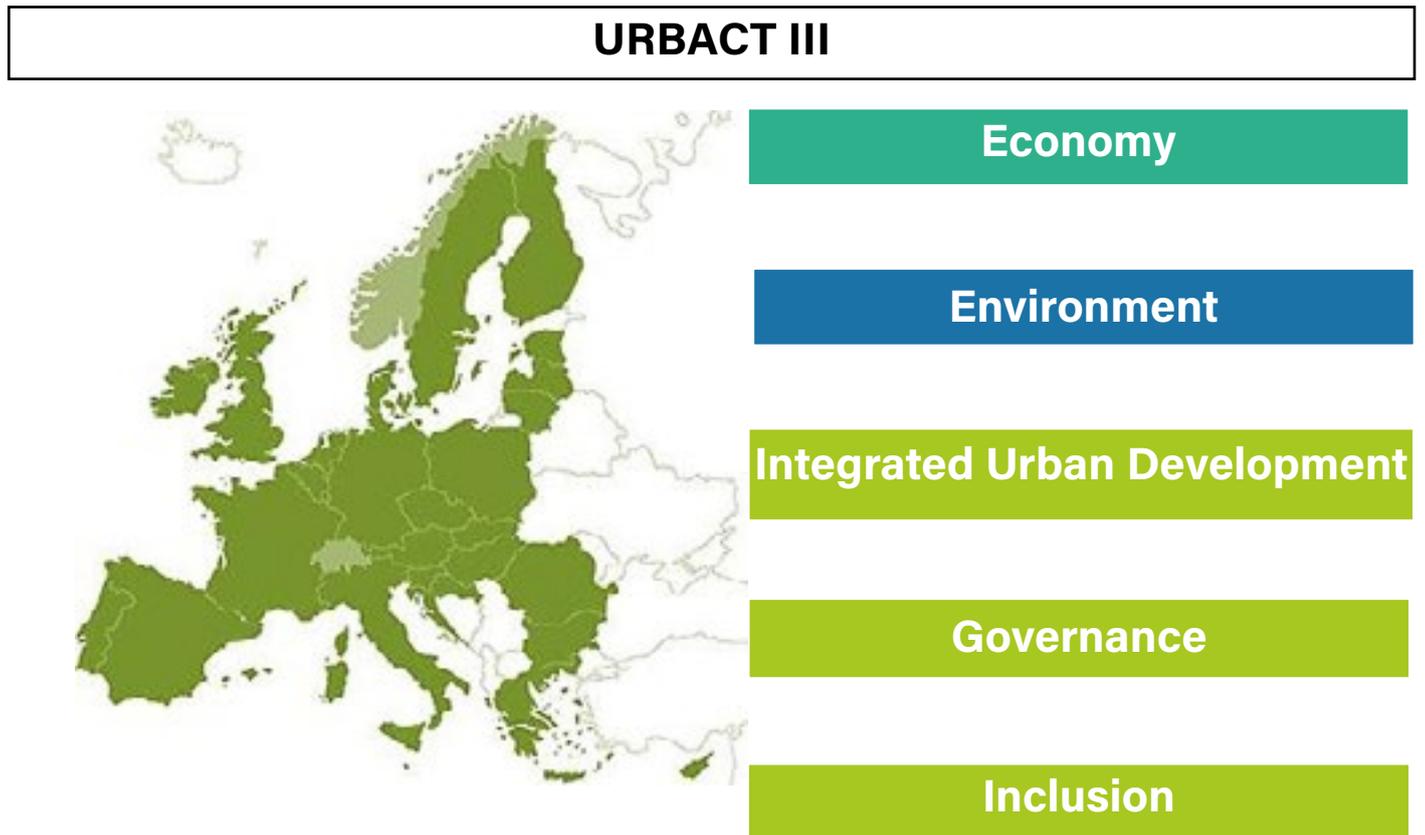
SME Competitiveness

Research and Innovation

**Environment and Resource
Efficiency**

Low Carbon Economy

Figure 12. Wales' ETC programme areas and priorities (part 3)



Funding available and the application process

Each programme has its own application process and rules.

Ireland- Wales^{ix}

<p>Who can apply?</p> <p>Application process</p>	<p>Organisations from the public, private and third sector</p> <p>Open call, 2-step process</p> <p><u>Pre-Planning Stage</u>: Initial discussion with the Programme's Joint Secretariat, leading to the formal submission of a Operation Logic Table</p> <p><u>Business Planning Stage</u>: By invitation only, submission of a business plan demonstrating how your proposal addresses: Strategic Fit, Delivery, Financial and Compliance, Management of Operation, Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Long Term Sustainability, Suitability of Investment, Cross Cutting Themes (Equal Opportunities and non discrimination, Sustainable development, Equality between women and men)</p>
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Decision-making

The Programme Steering Committee - 18 members that represent the key stakeholder groups in both Ireland and Wales, jointly chaired by senior officials of the Welsh Government and the Irish Southern Regional Assembly makes the final decision.

Each of the 9 criteria in the business plan is rated from Inadequate to High. The final decision is made on the overall rating of the proposal

Key Documents

[Guidance on Indicator Definitions, Data and Evidence Requirements](#)

[Applying for EU Funding – Part 1: The Pre Planning Stage](#)

[Applying for EU Funding – Part 2: The Business Planning Stage](#)

Atlantic Area^x

Who can apply?

As Lead or Partner: any public or not-for-profit private organisation under national law.

As partners only (with restrictions): for-profit businesses.

Application process

Call for projects every one or two years, two-step process

Phase one: Register and submit an Expression of Interest demonstrating why the project matters to the programme area and indicating the measurable result it intends to achieve. Using the on-line template, the Expression of interest should identify the project's rationale, the need it responds to, its main objectives and planned results.

Phase two: Upon invitation, submit a full application

Decision-making

The process calendar is published at the opening of each call. The joint Secretariat assesses whether the proposal is complete, meets all the eligibility criteria, and scores its quality according to the criteria listed in the Call for Proposal's Manual. Based on this assessment, the Monitoring Committee makes decision at each stage

Key Documents

Key documents are specific to each call. The 2016 call is now closed. You may review the 2016 [key documents](#) for information.

Who can apply?

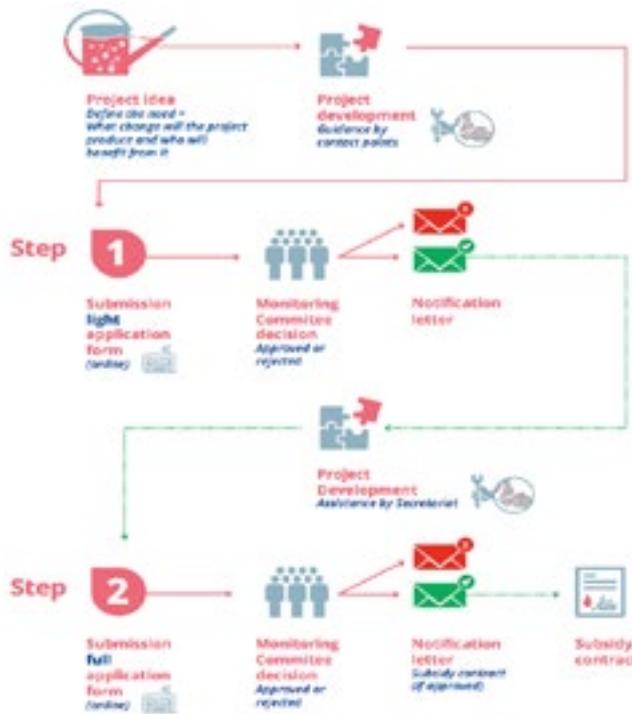
Application process

Decision-making

Key Documents

As Lead or Partner: any public or not-for-profit private organisation under national law.
As partners only (with restrictions): for-profit organisations.

Bi-annual calls for proposal (May and November)
 Two Step process:



Light application:

Applicant must demonstrate why the project matters to the programme area and indicate the result it aims to achieve. Applications should include the project's rationale, the need it responds to, its main objective and planned results.

Full Application:

Applicant will discuss their project with a programme officer before submitting a full application.

 The project summary must be available in all 4 official languages of the North West programme.

At the end of each phase, proposals are rated from 1 to 5 according to the list of eligibility and quality criteria listed in the programme Manual.

 Quality criteria are weighted differently.

The final decision is taken by the Monitoring Committee.

Chapter 3 and 4 of the [Programme Manual](#)
[Template application](#) forms for Phase 1 and 2 (for reference only)

Who can apply?

As Lead or Partner: any public body or body governed by public law from the EU or Norway (including 'advisory partners' taking on an advisory role in the project) .
As partners only (with restrictions): private non-profit organisations or any organisations from Switzerland.

Application process

Annual call for proposal
Single submission online including:
Application form: detailing the project, its results & outcomes, budget and management structure

A partner declaration: to be filled by every partner including lead partner in the project, it details the partner's responsibility and compliance with the programme's rule

Letters of support: shows the acknowledgement and support of the project by all relevant bodies which are not directly involved as partners but which role as an organisation is necessary to the success of the project e.g. the local, regional or national body or agency responsible for a policy instrument relevant to but not directly affected by the project. In Wales, partners in need of such a letter should contact the [WG ETC Unit](#), which facilitates this process.

All these documents have to be completed in full by the call's deadline. No change or addition can be brought during any of the assessment phases

Decision-making

Two-step assessment carried out by the Joint Secretariat

Step 1: Compliance with eligibility criteria

Step 2: Quality criteria covering the strategic fit and operational feature of the proposal are scored from 1 to 5. Proposals should achieve an overall score of at least 3 to be recommended for approval.

The Monitoring Committee makes a decision at the end of each phase based on the Joint Secretariat's recommendations.

Key Documents

Programme Manual
Key documents are specific to each call. The 2016 call is now closed. You may review [key documents](#) from the last calls for information.

URBACT III

Who can apply?

Cities, municipalities, towns (without limit of size), infra-municipal tiers of government, metropolitan authorities and organized agglomerations.

Application process

Three calls for proposal between 2015 and 2020.

Funding is granted in 2 phases (6 and 24 months respectively), with an application procedure at the beginning of each phase.

For each funding phase application, the lead partner must fill the on-line application form detailing the project, its results and outcomes, budget, partners & networks, work plan and management structure (plus the results of Phase 1 for Phase 2 application)

Decision-making

3-step-process at each phase

- 1) Secretariat assess whether the project matches eligibility criteria
- 2) An external panel assesses the eligibility of a project based on its relevance, coherence and quality, and provide recommendations
- 3) Based on recommendations, the Managing Authority submits a given number of proposals for approval to the Monitoring Committee.

Key Documents

[Programme Manual](#)

Key documents are specific to each call. The 2016 call is now closed. You may review [key documents](#) from previous calls for information.



Finding partners

All of these programmes require European partnerships. The Ireland-Wales programme requires at least one partner from each country. The other ETC programmes highlighted above require at least 3 partners from 3 or more eligible countries. While each partner will be responsible for the implementation of the project, the legal and financial responsibility for the programme is usually on the Lead partner only.

Many of these programmes have an established database or search tools to help applicants find partners:

- Atlantic Area: [Partner database](#)
- North West Europe: LinkedIn groups to find partners in each priority theme ([Innovation](#), [Low carbon](#), [Resource and materials efficiency](#))
- Interreg Europe: [Project and partner search](#)
- URBACT III website: [Partner Marketplace](#) (call specific)

Good to know

- When developing their project idea, potential applicants **must** contact their national contact points before starting the application process.
- Most of the programmes require 15-25% co-funding either from the partners or a third party relevant to the project.
- Organisations from non-EU countries like Switzerland or Norway can participate in some of these programmes, such as North-West Europe or Interreg Europe, however specific eligibility rules apply to these countries.
- While some ETC programmes allow partners from outside the programme area, in most cases these participants cannot be lead partners or be counted in the minimum number of partners/participating countries required in the programme. They may also face different financial eligibility rules.
- Every ETC programme includes tools to support prospective applicants either on their websites (e.g. Applicant resources) or via events and workshops (information days, application workshops). Visit the programme websites for further information. National contact points and the Joint Secretariat also provide information and support to applicants.
- While most programmes accept applications in English, some of them like the North-West Europe Programme, require certain parts of the proposal to be submitted in more than one language.
- Calls for proposal are open for only a short period of time (from 6 to 12 weeks in 2016). However, relevant resources and databases remain available outside of the call period to allow enough time to develop project proposals and build partnerships.
- Once published, review your project ideas against the call for proposal and updated manual. Selection criteria and assessment mechanisms are detailed in these documents.

Examples of Welsh success stories

Ireland Wales Programme 2007-2013

[NeuroSKILL](#) (EUR 1.7m)

Partners: School of Medicine in Trinity College Dublin (lead), the School of Medicine and Medical Science in University College Dublin, and the School of Psychology in Bangor University

New training courses and technologies to increase the skills of the health care sector when dealing with patients suffering from dementia.

Atlantic Area

[ARCOPOL](#) (EUR 3m)

Partners: CETMAR (led), includes Pembrokeshire County Council. Other Member States include France, Ireland and Portugal.

ARCOPOL is a project that focused on the prevention, response to and mitigation of oil spills. Based on the experience acquired through EROCIPS, ARCOPOL aims to improve prevention, response and mitigation capabilities against oil, hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) and inert spills and to establish the basis for a sustainable Atlantic network of experts supported by adequate information, data exchange and management tools.

North West Europe 2013-2015

Supporting Public Service Innovation using Design in European Regions ([SPIDER](#)) (EUR 2.2m)

Partners: Cardiff Metropolitan University (lead), County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Cornwall Council. Other Member States include France, Ireland, Belgium

SPIDER aims to deliver innovation in public services by putting citizens at the heart of the development process using service design. By engaging both service users and service providers in developing and testing solutions, the new services are citizen-focused, desirable to use and inclusive.



Interreg IVC

Regional Action Plans for Innovation Development and Enterprise ([RAPIDE](#)) (EUR 1.8m)

Partners: South West of England Regional Development Agency (lead) and includes the Welsh Assembly Government. Other Member States include, Spain, Poland, Greece, Germany, Estonia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Finland and Hungary.

RAPIDE is a proposal for a capitalisation network involving 13 partners from 11 Member States. Its aim is to implement good practice relating to the role of the public sector in stimulating innovation in partner regions, in particular helping businesses (primarily SMEs) to bring innovative products and services to market more quickly.

URBACT 2014-2020

[AGRI-URBAN](#) (n.d.)

Partners: Baena - Spain (lead), includes Monmouthshire County Council. Other network members are located in Portugal, Sweden, Belgium, Latvia, Croatia, Greece, Italy, France, and Spain.

AGRI-URBAN is about Rethinking Agrifood Production in Small and Medium-sized Cities. It will tackle initiatives related to short circuits of production and consumption, access to land and employment for youth in agriculture, training policies and support for the inclusion of new producers, urban agriculture, organic products or planning regulations related to agricultural land. A new link between urban and rural spaces, through an integrated urban focus and putting the target in employment creation is our main purpose.



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Help and Advice

Key National Contacts	
Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO)	<p>For information and advice to applicants, visit the Welsh Government's website or contact WEFO at:</p> <p>Welsh European Funding Office Merthyr Tydfil Office Rhydycar Business Park Rhydycar Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1UZ</p> <p>Phone: 0845 010 3355 Email: enquiries-wefo@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p>
National Contact Points for ETC programmes	<p>A full list is available at each programme's website.</p> <p>Ireland-Wales Atlantic Area North-West Europe Interreg V Europe URBACT III</p>
Other useful sources of information and advice	
Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)	<p>For help and advice in finding European partners, visit EEN's website.</p>
Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)	<p>Visit the WCVA's website for advice and guidance on how to access EU funding.</p>



What can the IHCC do?

Inform: The IHCC can provide relevant general and tailored information on current calls and application processes in line with an organisation's priorities.

Network: As a member of EuroHealthNet and WHO Regions for Health Network, the IHCC can introduce Welsh organisations to relevant potential partners as well as other networks across Europe.

Refer to experts: The IHCC is developing a network of individuals and institutions that would be able to provide expert advice and support on EU funding and grant proposals.

For further information contact us at:

Email: International.health@wales.nhs.uk

Telephone: 029 2010 4459

Glossary

For further information and definitions, visit the European Commission's [glossary](#) on Regional Policy.

Key word	Description
Accession process	The process by which a country joins the EU.
Annual Work Programmes	Documents that identify the grants that are planned to be awarded during the year, specifically through calls for proposals. They specify the legislation, the objectives and schedule each call for proposal with an indicative budget and the expected outcomes.
Call for Proposals	Procedure to invite applicants to submit project proposals with the objective of receiving funds from the EU.
EU Funding Ambassadors	Appointed by the Minister for Finance and Business in December 2014 to help promote and maximise the opportunities presented by the EU directly managed programmes.
Together for Health	<p>"Together for Health" is the main health strategy for the EU and supports the wider objectives of Europe 2020. It aims to respond to common challenges through cooperation and coordination across the EU and complement national health policies in selected areas. The EU Health Strategy is currently implemented through the Third Health Programme.</p> <p>More information about this strategy can be found on the European Commission's website.</p>
Europe 2020	<p>Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year growth strategy. It aims to create smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and economies in Europe.</p> <p>More information about Europe 2020 can be found on the European Commission's website.</p>

<p>European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG-REGION)</p>	<p>European Commission's Directorate in charge of the European Regional Policy. It works with the Member states, regions and other stakeholders to assess needs, finance investments, monitor regional funding spending and evaluate results from regional and structural programmes.</p>
<p>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</p>	<p>As part of the European cohesion policy, the ERDF is one of the main source of European Structural Funding. It aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. It also finances European Territorial Cooperation Programmes.</p>
<p>Cohesion Fund (CF)</p>	<p>Aims to reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development. The CF applies to Members States with the lowest gross national income and is therefore not available in the UK.</p>
<p>European Social Fund (ESF)</p>	<p>Part of the European Structural Funds, the ESF focuses on improving employment and education opportunities across the European Union. It also aims to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people at risk of poverty.</p>
<p>European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)</p>	<p>EAFRD finances the EU's contribution to rural development programmes under the Common Agricultural Policy.</p>
<p>European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)</p>	<p>Part of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, the EMFF is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. It aims to help fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing ; support coastal communities in diversifying their economies; finance projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts and make it easier for applicants to access financing.</p>
<p>European Solidarity Fund</p>	<p>Created in 2002, the European Solidarity Fund provides emergency funds for Member States affected by major natural disasters and would only be available to the UK under such circumstances.</p>
<p>European Union (EU)</p>	<p>Political and economic union of 28 countries located in Europe, which operates through supranational institutions and intergovernmental-negotiated decisions by its Member States.</p> <p>More information about the European Union can be found on the European Commission's website.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>The act of providing financial resources to finance programmes and projects, usually by an organisation or government.</p>

<p>Health 2020</p>	<p>European Health Policy strategy devised and adopted by the World Health Organisation, which aims to support actions across government and society that improve health and well-being, contribute to the reduction of health inequalities, strengthen public health and improve health systems.</p> <p>More information about Health 2020 can be found on the World Health Organization's website.</p>
<p>Health in All Policies</p>	<p>Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a policy strategy, which targets the key social determinants of health by addressing the impact of all policies on health. The HiAP approach is thus closely related to concepts such as 'inter-sectoral action for health', 'healthy public policy' and 'whole-of-government approach'.</p> <p>All EU policies have to follow the HiAP approach, as required by EU Treaty.</p> <p>More information about HiAP can be found on the European Commission's website.</p>
<p>Innovation Union</p>	<p>The Innovation Union is one of the seven flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It aims to create better conditions that facilitate innovation in the EU. Find out more in the Innovation Union's Pocket Guide.</p> <p>More information about the Innovation Union can be found on the European Commission's website.</p>
<p>LEADER</p>	<p>The LEADER partnership is a European funded framework to support rural development and the implementation of national Rural Development Programmes under EARDF. LEADER is a French acronym that stands for meaning 'Links between the rural economy and development actions.'</p>
<p>Local Action Groups (LAG)</p>	<p>LAGs include public and private partners from each rural territory covered by the LEADER framework and have to include representatives from different socio-economic sectors of the area. The territory covered by each LAG and the total number of LAG is defined by the Welsh government in its Rural Development programme under EARDF. For each LAG, a contact point is identified.</p>
<p>National Contact Points or National Focal Points</p>	<p>Main structure to provide guidance, assistance and practical information on all aspects of participation for programmes such as Horizon 2020 and the Third Health Programme.</p>

<p>Project</p>	<p>A collaborative effort between different organisations with the intent of achieving specified results.</p>
<p>Public Procurement</p>	<p>The public purchase of works, goods or services. Public procurement for EU programmes are provided through calls for tender notices published by the European Commission or one of its entities when seeking applicants who can deliver specific services, goods or work in exchange for payment. Calls for tender are one phase of the procurement procedures which lead to the conclusion of public contracts.</p>
<p>Regional Policy (Cohesion Policy)</p>	<p>Is the EU's main investment framework to meet the goals of Europe 2020 through regional development. The Regional Policy supports the even implementation of European policy and aims to reduce economic and social disparities across all regions of the 28 Member States.</p>
<p>Rural Community Development Fund</p>	<p>One of the funding schemes under EAFRDs Welsh Rural Development Programme. The Rural Community Development Fund provides investment funding for activities and projects aiming to prevent poverty and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities, improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth.</p>
<p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>	<p>A piece of legislation that sets out to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales through the implementation of seven Well-Being Goals.</p> <p>More information on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 can be found on the Welsh Government's website and presentation.</p>
<p>World Health Organization European Region (WHO EURO)</p>	<p>The WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) is one of WHO's six regional offices around the world. It serves the WHO European Region, which comprises 53 countries.</p> <p>More information on the WHO/Europe can be found on the WHO website.</p>



Annex 1

European Funding After the Referendum

Background

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union currently including 28 Member States.ⁱ The UK joined the EU in 1973 after a referendum.

On the 23rd of June 2016, the UK held a referendum asking the British people if they wanted to remain or leave the EU. The referendum had a turnout of 72.2% with 51.9% of voters (over 17.4 million people) choosing to leave the EU.ⁱⁱ

Both the UK Government and the main political parties have acknowledged the result. Further to the vote, a new Prime Minister, Theresa May, was appointed along with a new government that would be charged with leading the withdrawal process. Mrs May announced that the UK Government would not trigger this process until a cohesive UK-wide exit strategy and approach had been agreed, later suggesting that the government would need until March 2017 to prepare.^{iii,iv,v}

Following the referendum, EU leaders met in Brussels on the 29th of June. A statement announced that the EU would respect the will of the British people. EU leaders clarified that the UK would remain a full Member State with all rights and obligations reserved until its withdrawal was finalised.^{vi}

EU funding

Unlike the UK as a whole, Wales is currently a net beneficiary of EU funding. In 2014 the Welsh public sector received over £245 million more in EU funding than Wales' total contribution to the EU. For example, Wales has been awarded over £2 billion in Structural Funds for 2014-2020 and EUR 655 (£550) million under the Rural Development Programme on top of the £250 million of Common Agricultural Policy fund. These estimates do not include EU funding distributed directly from the EC to Welsh organisations such as Horizon 2020 funding, which attracted over EUR 35 million (£29.5 million) to Wales in 2014-2015.^{vii, viii}

While the UK remains a member of the EU, funding will remain available to Wales and Welsh organisations.^{ix} WG is issuing regular information updates on the guarantees of EU funding and guidelines on the [future of EU funds](#) on its website.^{xv} A more immediate challenge may be a lack of willingness from other EU organisations to include UK/Welsh partners in grant applications and potential detrimental impact on European links in research.

Once the withdrawal from the EU comes into effect, the participation of the UK, including Wales, to specific individual EU funding programmes, such as Horizon 2020, European Research Council funding, Erasmus + and certain Interreg programmes, may be negotiated with the EC by the UK Government. The future conditions of participation in such programmes will depend on the agreement signed between the UK and the EU.^{ix} For example, while non-EU member states may be allowed to join a partnership as part of a Horizon 2020 project, their eligibility to receive European funding under this project may be more restricted than that of their EU partners. As a result, they may have to rely on alternative funding streams in order to support their work under such a project.^x Based on the example from other non-EU European countries, such participation also implies a contribution to the EU budget or specific programme.^{xi} As funding programmes are aligned with European priorities and policies, the UK's capacity to influence these funding priorities would be limited.

Funding programmes such as the Common Agricultural Policy and most of the European Structural Funds are not currently available to non-EU members. The WG has already demanded that the UK government provides some additional funding to Wales to replace the European funding lost as a result of Brexit.^{xii, xiii} However, whether the UK Government will fully cover the financial loss triggered by withdrawal from the EU has yet to be confirmed.^{xiv}



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