



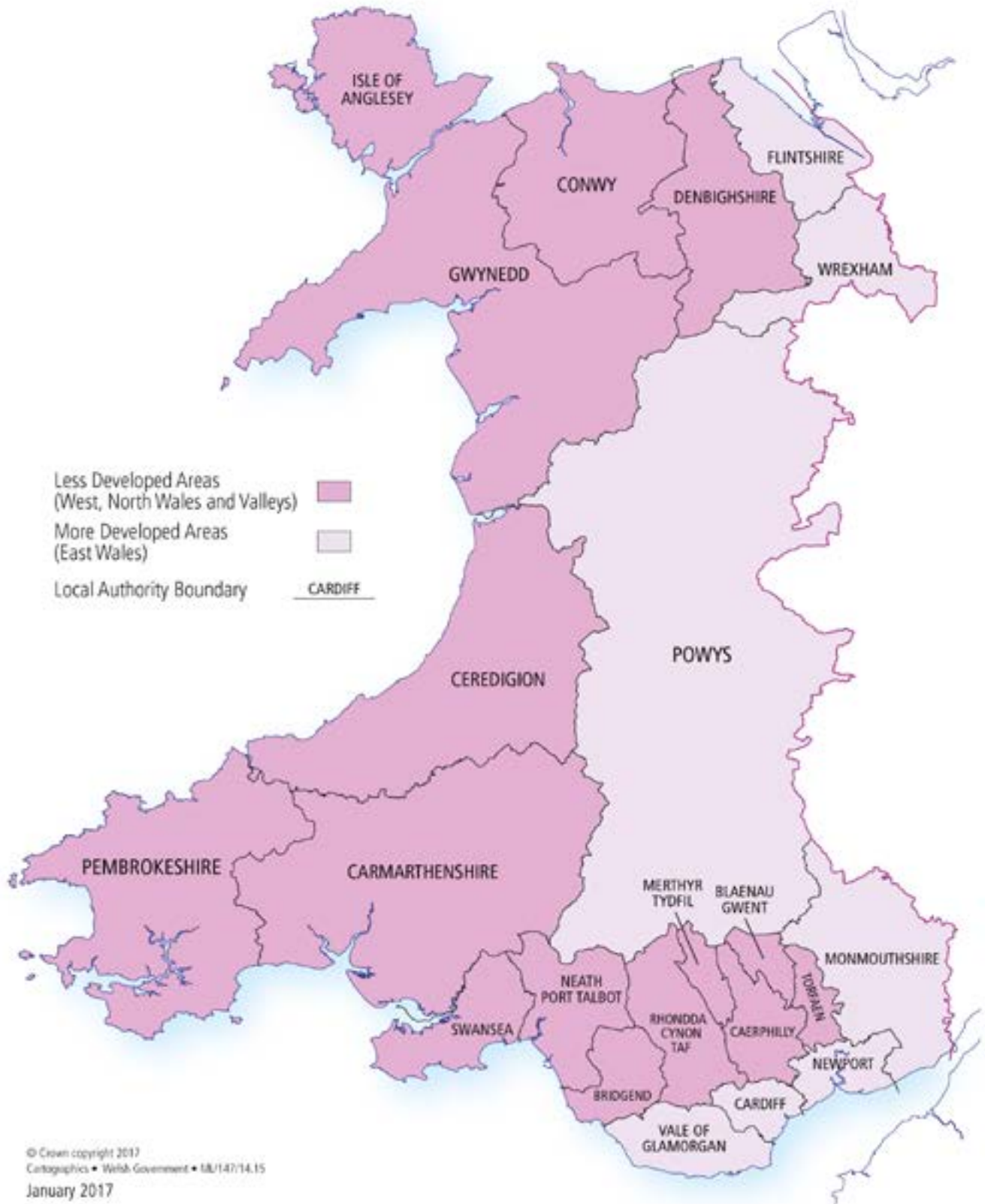
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# East Wales European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020

## 2019 Annual Implementation Report Summary



# European Structural Fund Programme Regions in Wales for 2014-2020



© Crown copyright 2017  
Cartographics • Welsh Government • 1&L/147/14.15  
January 2017

**OGL**

---

# Contents

Introduction	3	Skills for Growth	5
Programme progress	3	Youth Employment and Attainment	6
Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	4	Success story	7

## Introduction

Wales is benefiting from over €2bn of EU funds through four Structural Funds programmes covering the 2014-2020 period.

As part of this, €203m has been allocated to more developed areas through the East Wales European Social Fund programme, which aims to drive economic growth by investing in the following priority areas:

Priority	EU budget	Total Budget
Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	€32m	€64m
Skills for Growth	€86m	€178m
Youth Employment and Attainment	€66m	€132m
Public Services Reform and Regional Working	€4m	€8m
Technical Assistance	€15m	€31m
Total	€203m	€413m

## Programme progress

By the end of 2019, the Welsh Government had invested €170m of EU funds to 41 projects through the European Social Fund driving a total investment of €550m in East Wales. Key highlights include:

- Over 5,100 people helped into work.
- Over 22,700 new qualifications achieved.
- Over 1,600 people progressing into further learning or training.



# Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

EU funds are supporting projects that are increasing the skills and employability of economically inactive and long-term unemployed people, and helping reduce underemployment and absence rates of employed people with work-limiting health conditions and disabled people. Highlights from 2019 include:

- The Welsh Government secured £2.2m to extend its Communities for Work programme for over 25s in East Wales to 2022. Delivered in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions, local authorities and the third sector, the programme is boosting the skills and employability of economically inactive people in Wales' most deprived communities.
- Mental health charity, Growing Space, secured £700,000 to raise the skills of people in South East Wales who have complex barriers to employment compounded by mental ill-health.
- The Welsh Government's Parents Childcare and Employment (PaCE) scheme for over 25s was extended in East Wales to 2022 following a £940,000 EU funding boost. The scheme is supporting parents into training or employment where childcare is their main barrier.



Army veteran JC received tailored one to one mentoring support from Communities for Work to gain a qualification and find employment



PaCE is assisting parents where childcare is a barrier to work



Growing Space's Learning to Grow project is supporting people with mental health conditions in South East Wales

# Skills for Growth

EU funds are being invested in a range of initiatives that are improving basic, technical and high-level skills of working people across Wales. Highlights during 2019 include:

- Aberystwyth University secured £1.3m to help employers in East Wales address high-level skills shortages in Wales' agri-food and biotech sector by offering bespoke qualifications and industry accredited skills tailored to industry needs.
- Newport Council secured £1.9m to tackle in-work poverty and some of the challenges faced by lower-skilled workers in South East Wales through the Skills@Work scheme which offers a range of community-based learning opportunities to improve job security and earning potential.



Newport Council's Skills@Work project is providing community-based learning opportunities for lower-skilled workers in South East Wales



Aberystwyth University is delivering a bespoke skills and qualifications package for people working in the agri-food and biotech sector in East Wales

# Youth Employment and Attainment

Young people across Wales are benefiting from EU funded training and employment opportunities, including projects that support the take-up and attainment of STEM subjects. The EU funds are also being invested in increasing the skills of early years and childcare workers. Highlights in 2019 include:

- The Welsh Government secured £1.9m to extend its Communities for Work programme for 16-24 year olds in East Wales to 2022. Delivered in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions, local authorities and the third sector,

the programme is boosting the skills and employability of economically inactive young people in Wales' most deprived communities.

- The Welsh Government's Parents Childcare and Employment (PaCE) scheme for 16-24 year olds was extended in East Wales to 2022 following a £400,000 EU funding boost. The scheme is supporting parents into training or employment where childcare is their main barrier.



PaCE is assisting parents where childcare is a barrier to work



Kieran Davies received support through Communities for Work to gain a work placement at The Motorcycle Bunker



---

# Success stories

## Apprenticeships



Safyan Iqbal

Safyan Iqbal, from Cardiff, was selected from hundreds of applicants for a full-time apprenticeship role at ITV Cymru Wales' waterfront HQ in Cardiff Bay last summer, and since beginning his course, says his apprenticeship has been the best experience of his life.

Safyan was born with poor hearing, which worsened over time until he had surgery aged 11 to fit a cochlear implant which helped him to hear more clearly.

Safyan said: "Communication is the most difficult thing when you have hearing loss. I love talking with people – it's the best thing about the job. I've always wanted to work in TV and I was worried that being deaf might be a barrier to that – but I'm proving that it's not the case."

Safyan studied for a Level 3 BTEC Diploma in Creative Media Production before moving on to work at ITV Cymru Wales to undertake a Level 3 Apprenticeship in Creative and Digital Media.

He's now on his way to completing his apprenticeship, during which he's learnt a variety of skills including how to operate cameras and shoot and edit as part of his ambition to become a camera operator or filmmaker.

He continued: "I love being an apprentice because I'm learning from doing. An apprenticeship really works for me because I'm always hungry for learning – but this is totally different from school or college. Each day is different. I get to watch camera operators at work, go on cool locations, and create my own films. It's the best experience. I'm having so much fun and I wouldn't be on my way to having a successful media career without my apprenticeship."

Apprenticeships in Wales have been supported by £207m of EU funds through the 2014-2020 programmes.

## Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



Luke Prosser

Luke Prosser has been taking part in a research project through Bangor University's Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) 2 East scheme to develop a food hub model that promotes the use of local Welsh food and drink. The scheme, backed by £9.3m in East Wales, is creating a range of collaborative Research Masters and Doctoral level opportunities involving universities and businesses across Wales.

Luke's research project is exploring issues with the current food system which can see farmers underpaid, their produce undercut by cheaper and often lower quality imports and huge food miles. It is looking to bring about a fairer, healthier and more sustainable system for the benefit of the industry and consumers in Wales.

Throughout the project Luke has worked with Menter Môn, a not for profit organisation based in North Wales, which works on a range of issues facing North Wales' rural population. This has involved working with them on a Welsh Government funded pilot they are running called Môn Larder, aiming to promote the use of local food and drink in the region.

Luke Prosser said: "I have been lucky enough to attend a number of conferences during my KESS 2 East project so far, most notably I have presented at the Royal Geographical Society's Annual Conference in London. My company partner also invited me to present my early work at an expo they hosted for public procurement experts in the region, which was a great experience to present my work to a non-academic audience.

"The biggest highlight of my KESS 2 East participation so far however has to be the morning workshop we facilitated on behalf of Menter Môn at the Anglesey Show. We hosted our 'Business Breakfast Boost' for around 40 local business leaders in Menter Môn's tent at the County's agricultural show, with invited guest talks, networking and catered breakfast. This was a great opportunity for me to share the work our project is undertaking and how local businesses could get involved going forward.

"Like everyone, COVID-19 has thrown a spanner in the works but, once we are able to, I am looking forward to travelling to a number of locations across Europe to explore a range of examples from the continent of best practice that will form the basis for a series of case studies on which our findings will be based.

"I also continue to sit on the steering group for Môn Larder, who have mobilised during COVID-19 to develop a food delivery scheme for North Wales so I will continue to contribute to this, and provide research support to their process."