

Cross Cutting Themes



Delivering activities which support the cross cutting themes. The following ESF funded projects have demonstrated their commitment and achieved some impressive outcomes

ermanent role in HR: agilenation2.

Achieve throu

eople aged



Recognising Opportunities and Raising Awareness



JobSense is a specialist employability service aimed at people who are deaf, or have hearing or sight loss, aged 25+ who are long term unemployed/economically inactive and want to enter/re-enter employment.

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People, (was Action on Hearing Loss Cymru), in partnership with Elite Supported Employment Agency and Centre of Sign-Sight-Sound (COS), provide a Specialist Sensory Employment Service Pan-Wales.

Specialist Employment Advisers, support the participants to overcome the challenges posed by their sensory loss, and improve their confidence and vocational skills, and support individual participants in employment.

Employer Engagement Coordinators liaise with businesses to identify and facilitate suitable vacancies, raising awareness and knowledge of the suitability of people with a sensory loss to be valuable employees





A specialist sensory loss employment service

Supporting people who are Deaf, blind or have a hearing or sight loss to achieve employment, work relevant training and volunteering opportunities.





Working across East Wales, experienced specialist staff support people to job search, create CVs and build confidence through introducing technology and interview practice.









Embedding Equality and Tackling Poverty

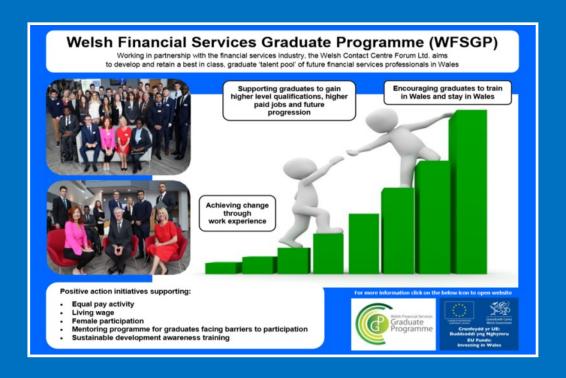


Welsh Financial Services Graduate Programme (WFSGP) is led by the Welsh Contact Centre Forum and involves up to 10 financial services companies in south east Wales. The project provides graduates with career progression from entry level roles, to higher paid, professional industry roles, through structured internal training and development programmes, combined with post graduate study.

The aim is to support the development of a talent pool of future professionals for the Welsh financial services sector, enabling Welsh graduates to compete for higher paid roles and promotion opportunities within the industry, which acts as an incentive for them to stay in Wales.

Particular attention is given to how equality and diversity can be embedded into activity and the programme works with a range of specialist organisations supporting women, disabled students and students from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

At least 45% of participants are female with an emphasis on supporting participants from areas of deprivation in Wales. Initiatives are in place to support inclusion, including a graduate mentoring programme and ensuring the programme salary is above the National Minimum Wage.



Work Experience and Securing Employment



GO Wales: Achieve Through Work Experience operates across Wales and is led by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW). The project is designed to reduce the risk of students in higher education becoming NEET, especially those who face additional barriers.

Providing a range of activities to enhance employability and increase their future ability to secure employment or move into further learning based on appropriate career paths, the project identifies suitable employers and work experience opportunities to support the participant to develop their skills and confidence, and better demonstrate work-readiness and increased employability following completion of their qualifications.

To date (June 2021) 1842 participants had been supported, of whom, approximately 60% (59.77%) identify as having a disability or Work-Limiting Health Condition (WLHC) including Autism Spectrum Disorder and mental health condition, 25% Black Asian or minority ethnic, 8% (7.54%) are from a migrant background, 8% (7.7%) with a caring responsibility and 3% (3.85%) care leavers.



Promoting Gender Equality



Agile Nation 2, led by Chwarae Teg, aims to promote gender equality and support career advancement through targeted support for employees and through working with employers on improvements in Equality and Diversity Strategies, including flexible working initiatives. Building on the progress made when funded through the 2007-2013 ESF programmes, the project delivers two strands of activity across Wales, to support:

- Over 3,500 individual female participants to pursue leadership qualifications and receive mentoring to improve their position in the workforce, with targets for 75% of participants to gain a qualification and 40% to exit the project with an improved labour market situation and;
- Over 700 employers to tackle gender disadvantage in the workforce and promote modern working practices fostering the promotion of diversity, with a target for 80% of employers to improve their equality systems.



Sustainable Development Training

Delivering Training to Meet the Needs of the Future the ESF programmes for both West Wales and the Valleys and for East Wales have a sustainable development indicator associated with training. Many of the projects will be delivering awareness raising, education or training modules and courses directly supporting this indicator. Below are some examples:



The Materials and Manufacturing Education Training and Learning (METaL2), is an industry demand led project led by Swansea University. It aims to up-skill over 1350 (950 WW&V and 400 EW) people (from over 30 different companies) in the field of Advanced Materials and Manufacturing.

Course content is adapted from Swansea University's undergraduate module catalogue and where existing courses are not able to fulfil industry need, new modules are co-developed with company partners to fill these knowledge gaps.

METaL2 has included sustainable development into its training modules, specifically environmental legislation and the influence industry has on the environment and has developed a training course on the circular economy, examining some of the most crucial, global, sustainability challenges and how the circular economy, offers a new path to overcome these.



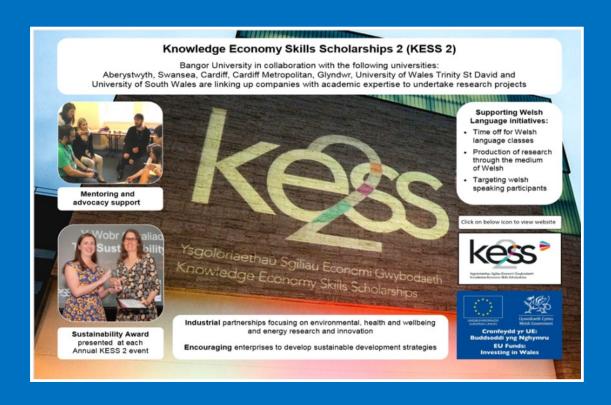
Sustainable Development Training



Ysgoloriaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships

Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships 2 (KESS 2), led by Bangor University in collaboration with a consortium of other universities across Wales. It aims to increase the number of individuals with higher-level skills in Research and Innovation (R&I) with a view to promoting and increasing R&I activity within businesses, including micro companies. It delivers a range of collaborative Research Masters and Doctoral level opportunities within Universities and companies in the WW&V area, focusing on the Grand Challenge areas: Life Sciences & Health; Advanced Engineering & Materials; Low Carbon, Energy & Environment and ICT & the Digital Economy.

KESS has delivered a number of activities directly contributing to the CCT sustainable development training indicator. 'Introduction to Sustainability' workshops and a new series of webinars, reflecting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG), are held each month where students are asked to demonstrate how their research will align with the goals. Annual Award celebrations, where students give a presentation on their research activities have introduced a specific award for 'Sustainability'. KESS 2 has reported that the number of female and male participants engaged across its curriculum is approximately 50%, with the Low Carbon, Energy & Environment area having 55% female participation.



Sustainable Development Training

Led by Pembrokeshire County Council, **Cam Nesa** operates across Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, working closely with further education colleges. It is a participant led programme of support, advice and training for young people (aged 16-24), identified as not being in education, employment or training. Providing access to a range of opportunities including mentoring, coaching, work experience, counselling and advocacy where appropriate, participants are encouraged to re-engage in education, training and / or employment.

A broad range of training is provided to equip the young people with a skill set that will allow them to be more flexible and adaptable in a fast changing labour market and to gain sustainable employment, encouraging links WEFO
Overbroades

12 August: International Youth Day. EU funded youth projects in Wales such as CAM NESA support young people who are NEET to overcome barriers and move into employment: cavs.org.uk/cam-nesa/#YouthDay #SafeSpaces4Youth @CAVSCarms @UN4Youth #ESF#EUfundsCymru

between career choices and longer-term labour market trends and tackling traditional gender stereotypes in employment. One of the training opportunities 'In a Nutshell' run by the Down to Earth Project, a social enterprise based in Swansea, is supporting people to bring about positive change in their lives through meaningful outdoor activity. The idea is that being outdoors and 'doing sustainability' is great for increasing quality of life and well-being but can also be the stepping stone for re-engaging in learning especially relating to sustainable development and global citizenship.

OPUS, led by Conwy County Borough Council, with joint beneficiaries Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd County Council and Denbighshire County Council in West Wales and Flintshire County Council in East Wales focussed on participants furthest from the labour market (aged 25 and over).

Using a range of interventions to increase employability and address the barriers to labour market participation, the operation provided support to both economically inactive and long term unemployed participants with multiple complex barriers to employment.



Awareness raising, education and training on sustainable development was integrated in a number of ways: Participants developed leaflets for local businesses to raise awareness of environmental issues e.g. 'Energy Saving Tips'. Team building courses were delivered at Wild Elements, an environmental project based in Bangor, where participants were involved with undertaking environmental works such as tree planting; reseeding; clearing and tidying up flowerbeds. This has encouraged some people to look for volunteering opportunities in this area. (Project ended Dec 2019).

Health and Wellbeing - Routes out of Poverty

Nuture Equip Thrive is led by Torfaen County Borough Council (CBC), with joint beneficiaries: Bridgend CBC; Caerphilly CBC; Groundwork Wales; Life Leisure Trust and Merthyr Tydfil CBC. It aims to alleviate some of the causes of poverty by reducing underemployment for employed individuals in part-time and non-permanent posts.

Through a series of interventions and supported by a team of key workers, participants are supported to stabilise and improve their employment within the local labour market. The project also works with disabled participants or those with a work limiting health condition (WHLC) who are either looking to return to work after a period of absence or who wish to improve their labour market situation.

Engagement with employers is also a key aspect of the project helping them to implement and improve equality and diversity in the workplace, support flexible working arrangements, and make sustainable changes to the health and wellbeing of staff by developing workplace health programmes. The photographs below show two of the walking groups established as part of the project.





Out of Work Service-Healthy Working Wales (16-24yr). This project is fully procured but managed by the Welsh Government Department for Health and Social Services (DHSS). Working with young people who are not in education or training and are affected by substance misuse and/or mental health issues.

The project aims to support them back into education, training or employment, as a means to reduce poverty and social exclusion.

Many will face additional barriers that can include having been involved in the justice system, in many cases low educational attainment, insecure housing, lack of childcare and transport, no access to financial support, lack of understanding of educational, training and employment options and opportunities.

A combination of peer mentoring, specialist employment support, and complementary support is provided to enable young participants to overcome complex barriers.

Preparing for Employment



Achieving Change through Employment (ACE) project, builds on the success of the 'Increasing Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Employment and Tackling Economic Inactivity' project in the 2007- 2013 programmes. The project aims to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and migrant individuals gain sustainable employment through the delivery of training and employment support.

Led by CGL Ltd, alongside a pool of volunteer mentors, activity is delivered at various locations across Wales and includes: 1-2-1 mentoring, help with confidence building, C.V writing, job searching, interview readiness, volunteering and work experience opportunities and an e-learning 'Rapid English' package to help those participants with low English language ability.

Understanding the complexities around engagement and the reservations some communities have with mainstream provision, the ACE project seeks to add value to statutory provision, supporting participants to overcome the often, complex barriers they experience



Specialist Provision



LIMITLESS is a Priority 2 project, led by Threshold DAS Limited (was Llanelli Women's Aid Ltd), which offers support to women aged 18+ years who are in employment across Carmarthenshire, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Pembrokeshire. The project is delivering three individually structured elements that offer tailored and individualised support to service users who are or have experienced domestic abuse. The three elements are:

Well Being Integrated Support Hub (WISH) Programme - individually tailored support packages to build confidence, self-esteem and address the many and diverse needs of women. It also offers a range of support to organisations relating to gender, equality and diversity.

WEB (Women Exploring Business) Programme - WEB course designed to inspire women who may wish to set up their own business but who face barriers in relation to gender. The support offered by WEB has been specifically written by 'Threshold DAS' for women and is underpinned by two Agored Cymru accredited qualifications.

W-DASVQ: Welsh Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Qualification - a qualification at level 2 and 3 aimed at volunteers working in the sector. The training is targeted at survivors, ex-service users and others working in the sector who are interested in support work as a career. The aim is to complement the plans of the Welsh Government Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Team to develop a National Survivor Engagement Framework.





Support for the Welsh Language

All projects across the Structural Fund portfolio are tasked with supporting speakers of the Welsh language. This can be through ensuring a bilingual service is available, or as with some projects, delivering activity which specifically promotes the Welsh Language, such as **Working Skills for Adults 2**, led by Torfaen County Borough Council and their entry level award 'Using Welsh in the Workplace'.

Other examples include: **Trac 11-24** led by Denbighshire County Council, provides opportunities through the medium of Welsh and as part of the procurement process held a specific meet the buyer event to encourage participation by providers able to deliver through the medium of Welsh. **Advanced Media Production,** led by Aberystwyth University, provides many of its modules via the Welsh medium. One participant stated 'as a first language Welsh speaker it was great to be able to study the majority of the modules through the medium of Welsh'.

Healthy Working Wales In-Work Support, led by WG -Department for Health and Social Services, provided a Welsh speaking participant with a Welsh speaking case co-ordinator to assist them through their 6 physiotherapy sessions. **North Wales Business Academy**, led by Grwp Llandrillo-Menai, offer their Welsh speakers the opportunity to complete their assignments and to receive learning materials in Welsh.



Challenging Occupational Segregation







Supporting Female Participation in STEM

The need to address gender equity in learner progression in STEM related subjects is necessary to increase the flow of STEM skills from schools into the Welsh economy. EU funding has been essential in supporting and facilitating a range of initiatives to bring about a step change in overcoming this sectoral gender gap.

ESF funds of over £8.63m have been awarded to STEM projects, which will help young women in secondary education to progress into engineering careers. This includes **STEM Gogledd**, **STEM Cymru 2**, **Technocamps 2** enabling pupils to take part in workshops to build on their existing knowledge and enthusiasm for IT and computing, and the **Trio Sci Cymru** project which encourages young people, especially girls, to study STEM subjects at school.

STEM Gogledd led by Cyngor Gwynedd Council works with 600 young people, 60% of whom will be female, to enrich and promote STEM studies at GCSE and beyond through a range of activities that complement the mainstream curriculum within schools across Gwynedd, Anglesey and Conwy.



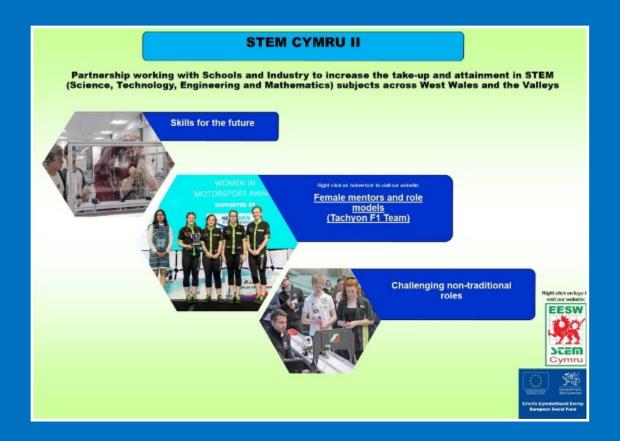


Challenging Occupational Segregation

Technocamps 2 led by Swansea University works with 3,120 young people across West Wales, North Wales and the South Wales Valleys, two-thirds of whom are female. It targets secondary schools that currently do not offer computer science as an option at GCSE or where the subject is only recently available. The project enables pupils in these schools to take part in workshops to build on their existing knowledge and enthusiasm for IT and computing. The project also holds WiST events, aimed at women in the technology sector (or with a keen interest in the industry) to learn from other inspirational women and network with like-minded people.

TrioSci Cymru led by the Welsh Government, engages young people (51% of whom are female) to take-up GCSE triple science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). The project provides intensive support to pupils aged 11-14 from up to 30 schools within West Wales, North West Wales, and the Valleys.

STEM Cymru 2 led by Engineering Education Scheme Wales (EESW), supports over 13,354 young people aged 11-19 to increase their participation and attainment in STEM subjects through a range of engineering themed extension activities. Working in project teams, young people address engineering problems and develop the key work skills demanded by employers. In the sixth form strand, teams work with industrial mentors to develop practical solutions to challenges faced by host companies in the key Advanced Manufacturing sector, with some solutions taken through to implementation by companies. Over the lifetime of the project, the aim is for around 56% of the participants to be female.



Overcoming Barriers to Participation

There are many reasons why an individual might face barriers in terms of completing education and/or securing employment. Specifically designed interventions, tailored to need, can be the key to overcoming those barriers. ESF projects are able to provide the level of support needed, to enable an individual to find a successful route to achieving their goals.



ADTRAC, led by Grwp Llandrilo Menai, provides a range of personalised wellbeing and employability support to help young people, many of whom have complex disabilities. Based throughout North Wales, ADTRAC teams offer a bespoke mentoring service helping young people to develop personalised action plans.

Welfare and wellbeing support (including the opportunity to access provision for mild/moderate mental health concerns from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board) is available, alongside access to qualifications and training plus support through ideas and suggestions on how to embed the Five Ways to Wellbeing into daily routines to build emotional resilience.

Between 2017 and 2021 (the project has now ended) ADTRAC supported 1194 young people, 318 gained a qualification, 158 entered either education or training and 239 went into employment over 16 hours. Over 300 young people improved their mental wellbeing and 478 improved their employability.



Overcoming Barriers to Participation

Active Inclusion Wales, led by the WCVA, aims to reduce the number of economically inactive and long term unemployed people aged 25 and over across Wales. The activity aims to support people with work limiting health conditions or a disability and those aged over 54 years.





Inspire 2 Achieve is a project led by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. It aims to support 10,952 young people aged 11-24, with Additional Learning Needs, reintegrate into mainstream education provision or alternative curriculum models.

Cynnydd, led by Powys Council in East Wales and Pembrokeshire Council in West Wales and the Valleys, is targeted at those young people aged 11-19 who are identified as being at the very greatest risk of becoming NEET.

The Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) or similar methodology for each county, is used to collect data on behaviour and attendance. The project identifies and tracks these young people, also taking account of other factors that may increase the risk of a young person becoming NEET, such as poor skills in English and/or Welsh and specific learning requirements and/or mental health issues. Individually designed interventions, specifically tailored to each participant aim to support young people to remain and succeed in education.

PaCE (Parents, Childcare & Employment), led by the Welsh Governments Department of Local Government and Communities Children, Young People and Families Division, aims to support people who don't traditionally engage with mainstream services and for whom childcare is a main barrier to work.

PaCE will support parents prepare for and move into employment by removing their childcare barriers and providing intensive job seeking guidance and procuring the appropriate training based on local labour market intelligence and the participant's capacity to enter employment.



Backed by £4.7m of EU funds, the GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience scheme empowers students with disabilities to improve their longer-term job prospects after graduation: gowales.co.uk/aboutus.html #idpwd2018 #EUfundsCymru



WEFO



permanent role in HR: agilenation2.org.uk/forwomen/succ #IWD2017 Q



Welsh European Funding Office

Thanks to @WorkwaysPlus, backed by £7.5m EU funds, caring mum returns to work after 14 years: les/default.aspx?p... #CarersV

#carersweek The PaCE project, backed by over £8.5m of EU funds, helps parents with caring responsibilities overcome barriers to work: gov.wales/newsroom/educa... #EUfundsCymru

WEFO



Combating racial discrimination @_businesswales 'Starting and Running a Business - Taking the Plunge' workshop, was delivered with the support of a translator at the Wrexham Enterprise Hub to support migrant workers and Polish businesses #IDERD #FightRacism #EUfundsCymru



WEFO

2:40 AM - 11 Jun 2018 3 Retweets 1 Like

EU funded projects such as Workways+ Powys provide tailored support to help people aged 54+ overcome barriers to employment or self-employment powys.gov.uk/en/communicati... #OlderPeoplesDay #Powys #EUfundsCymru @PRIMECymru @PowysCC #Workways+



#CarersWeek The EU-funded PaCE project is helping parents experiencing childcare as a barrier to work in

> Rhieni, Gofal Plant a Chyflogaeth Parents, Childcare and Employment



Welsh European Funding Office @wefowales - 21 Mar 2018 Today we are marking the **QUN** day for the elimination of racial ndsCymru and the @SovaAce project are helping black & minority ethnic people access training, volunteering & employment: #loinTosether



How EU funds can help young people with ALN. TRAC1124 supports 11-24 yr olds at risk of disengaging with education in N Wales #LDWeek201



9:55 am - 21 Jun 2017 - Hootsuite

2 Retweets 2 Likes





Welsh European Funding Office

Marking UN International Day for the Eliminat Racial Discrimination #IDERD with @SovaAce supporting BME and migrant communities in \ access training, volunteering and employment opportunities #FightRacism #EUfundsCymru



Marking #WorldRefugeeDay with @WCVA_AIF project

support for refugees to overcome social isolation, learn

©CCHACorporate which is providing whole family

new skills including #ESOL and meet new people

10:00 am - 20 Jun 2019 - Hootsuite Inc.

Welsh European Funding Office

through volunteering #EUfundsCymru

Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 12 Likes

Welsh European Funding Office @wefowales - 11 Feb 2020

nceDay! EU funded projects working in this area

including the @METaL_Project which is addressing skills gaps in the materials and manufacturing industry in Wales through STEM courses,

work-based learning & workforce upskilling

t7 12

Welsh European Funding Office





Backed by EU-funds @Healthywork_HWW project offers those with #mentalhealth conditions support to get back into work #WorldMentalHealthDay



£6.6m invested in the @SwanseaBJBF project which is boosting the skills of people in Swansea including underemployed women and also working with employers to challenge occupational segregation. Find out more: betterjobsbetterfutures.wales #IWD2020 2/4



Welsh European Funding Office

How EU funds in Wales are making a real difference to women's lives in the workplace #IWD2018 The Agile Nation 2 project is enabling women to overcome barriers to their career development



8:55 am - 8 Mar 2018 - Hootsuite

16 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 10 Likes



14 Likes



On #IDERD2021, highlighting @welshgrads proactive engagement with under-represented groups to break down barriers, leading to increased applications from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. Find out more here: buzzwales.com/finance-gradua... #FightRacism #EUfundsCymru





10:30 am - 21 Mar 2021 - Hootsuite Inc.

5 Retweets 8 Likes



£3.1m invested in @EESWSTEMCymru to challenge gender stereotyping and encourage female pupils to engage with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects and careers. Find out more about the STEM Cymru project at stemcymru.org.uk #IWD2020 4/4



Welsh European Funding Office @wefowales

.@JobsenseWales supports long-term unemployed and economically inactive people aged 25+ with sensory loss across Wales, providing specialist support to address barriers and enable them to find employment. Find out more: JobSense.org.uk #iwdeaf #EUfundsCymruEmployability



Hootsuite Inc.

Welsh European Funding Office

with work: growingspace.org.uk

EU funded @GSouthwales supports unemployed and

economically inactive people aged 25+ in East Wales

through hands-on outdoor environmental activities to

improve physical and mental wellbeing and re-engage

11:00 am - 8 Mar 2020 - Hootsuite Inc.

5 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 13 Likes

"I appreciate how Donna communicates now I am linked with Leonard Cheshire, Vision Support and the



Welsh European Funding Office

On #IWD2020, did you know how EU funds are supporting women to achieve their potential in Wales? £13.5m invested in @chwaraeteg to improve the position of women in the workforce through career development programmes that help close the gender pay gap: chwaraeteg.com 1/4





11:00 am - 8 Mar 2020 - Hootsuite Inc.



2/2 The @Technocamps and @SGogledd projects are also increasing the number of girls studying STEM subjects and computing at GCSE and A-Level, and promoting higher qualifications and STEM-based careers #WomenScienceDay #WomeninScience







5 Retweets 9 Likes

Celebrating #iwd2021 with @HEFCW Achieve through Work Experience programme supported by £6.8m EU funds, which aims to reduce the risk of NEET and has supported over 1000 women with work experience opportunities across Wales so far. More here:

ow.lv/5UPb50DP2Dp #EUfundsCymru



10:00 am - 8 Mar 2021 - Hootsuite Inc.

6 Retweets 7 Likes



EU funded @JobsenseWales supports long-term unemployed and economically inactive people aged 25+ with sensory loss, addressing barriers and providing specialist support to enable them to enter/reenter employment #DAW2021 Find out more here: ow.ly/6HLG50EEkdE #EUfundsCymru



10:00 am · 8 May 2021 · Hootsuite Inc.

5 Retweets 5 Likes

