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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Cronfeydd Strythurol a
Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd
European Structural
and Investment Funds**



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Welsh Government

EU Structural Funds in Wales 2000-2023 – Infrastructure, Regeneration & Tourism



Introduction

EU funds have supported the improvement of public transport, including road and railway station improvements and more integrated public transport networks including major investment in the South Wales Metro. Supporting digital connectivity by helping to complete superfast digital networks in Wales. As well as investing in new strategic business sites, the development of major tourism destinations and transforming derelict buildings to help breathe new life into town centres and the surrounding areas, supporting local and wider regional economic opportunities to help boost private investment.

3 EU funds celebration

£18.5m EU funds supported the **WG Strategic Sites and Property schemes** bringing back land into use for employment purposes with an infrastructure funds created for companies to develop business premises across Wales.

The **Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site** is a £12.1 million infrastructure project led by Carmarthenshire County Council in partnership with the Welsh Government. Alongside other EU funded developments such as the Cross Hands Food Park and Cross Hands Business Park it is providing Carmarthenshire and the Western Valleys with the necessary infrastructure for the development of a competitive local economy and create jobs for local people.

The **Next Generation Broadband** programme continued the aim of the 2007-2013 **Superfast broadband** scheme and formed part of the delivery of Pan Wales activity saw an increase in take-up of superfast and ultrafast broadband by Welsh households and businesses, with over 126,000 premises and over 1,200 enterprises supported.



Next Generation Broadband Project

The site of the first Eisteddfod in Wales, held to celebrate its completion in 1176, **Cardigan Castle** is a scheduled ancient monument with five Grade 2 listed buildings within its walls. The Castle's decline saw it acquired by Ceredigion County Council in 2003 to secure the site and to restore the complex of buildings and gardens. Opened to the public in 2015, £4.3m EU funds has seen the once derelict Castle transformed into a significant and sustainable heritage attraction, attracting visitors, boosting tourism, creating jobs, and bringing wider economic benefits to Cardigan and the surrounding area.

The **Severn Valley Strategic Regeneration** saw £2.86m EU funds for the physical regeneration and infrastructure projects in and around the towns of Llanidloes, Newtown and Welshpool. This included site development and servicing at the Offa's Dyke Business Park in Welshpool) and the Abermule Business Park in Newtown; the renovation and bringing back into use of run down and derelict properties and investment in the three town centres to improve the physical environment.

4 EU funds celebration

Canolfan Dulais Enterprise Centre or **Creuddyn** as it is now known was an EU funded project led by Barcud to redevelop an existing site in poor condition but home to several charities and small businesses which all contributed to the local town's economy. The new facility now provides high quality, modern business units for these organisations and a popular conference / training room for hire.



Creuddyn building

The 2007-2013 Structural Funds programme saw substantial town centre regeneration across Wales including Holywell through the **North East Wales Town Centre Regeneration** project. As part of the national £21m Wales Station Improvement Programme, **Llandudno Station** saw improved passenger concourse with new seating, undercover access for the entrance, a new ticket hall and retail space, new car park, bus layby and additional cycle storage.



Llandudno Station

5 EU funds celebration

£2m EU funds supported Ynys Mon County Council's **Celtic Gateway** bridge linking Holyhead's train station and ferry terminal with the town centre and **Rhyl Foryd Harbour** underwent a dramatic refurbishment with a new 65 metre launching slipway, pontoons and quay walls installed as part of the redevelopment.



Celtic Gateway Bridge

The 2007-2013 programme saw major EU funds investment in the upgrading and regeneration of many town centres across Wales. Alongside the regeneration of Penuel Square in **Pontypridd town centre**, the restoration of the original 1920s Grade II listed **Ynysangharad Park Lido** into a regional visitor attraction, has provided an incredibly popular facility attracting thousands of visitors annually, revitalising and preserving an important part of the local heritage, transforming it into an economic asset of great importance to Pontypridd's prosperity.



Penuel Square, Pontypridd



Ponty Lido

6 EU funds celebration

Education in Blaenau Gwent has been transformed through the £33.5m state-of-the-art **Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone**, which opened in 2012 and was supported by £8m of EU funds. The Learning Zone is helping to improve educational outcomes for all learners – through A level subjects and vocational courses for a broad range of industries.



Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone

The refurbishment and redevelopment of a number of key buildings and sites in Merthyr Tydfil town centre included the installation of **St Tydfil's bridge**, a new link between the college area and the town and the restoration of the **Redhouse**. Originally the old Town Hall building, this has seen a new lease of life as an arts centre. Elsewhere in the borough, regeneration works in the villages of Treharris, Trelewis and Bedlinog saw over 150 local people and 10 community groups engaged in the development of the schemes and the aftercare, maintenance and management of local environment.

The **South Wales Metro** is creating an integrated public transport network that will make it easier for people to travel across the Cardiff Capital Region, transforming rail and bus services as well as cycling and walking. Backed by over £165m EU funds, the Metro will provide faster, more frequent and joined-up services using trains, buses and light rail.

Forming part of the Metro programme, a transformational initiative to help people access work and other services, improvements have been made at **Llandaf and Radyr stations** in Cardiff, with £1.3m EU funds invested to improve passenger experiences at Radyr and Llandaf stations by creating new paved areas, modern and comfortable waiting shelters, new ticket offices and toilet facilities, a 187-space park and ride facility, and better lighting and CCTV. Improvements were also made so facilities are more accessible, including the provision of better and safer parking for cars and cycles. These improvements will complement other South Wales Metro developments, reducing car use and traffic congestion on routes into the centre of Cardiff and helping to improve air quality.

7 EU funds celebration

Transport infrastructure throughout the region has seen the benefits of EU funded investments with the **Quadrant Transport Interchange** scheme in Swansea replacing the outdated and rundown bus station with a modern high quality Transport Interchange for both buses and coaches while also providing onsite retail units and office facilities.



Quadrant Transport Interchange



Swansea Bus Station

Delivering a much needed visual improvement, the 2007-2013 Programme saw £20m EU funds support the comprehensive regeneration and creation of a vibrant, attractive and sustainable **Waterfront City Centre** in Swansea with £3.7m of EU funds also supported the construction of the **National Waterfront Museum** in Swansea telling the story of industry and innovation in Wales over the last 300 years.



Swansea Waterfront

8 EU funds celebration

As part of the Swansea Bay City Deal, EU funds are contributing to the regeneration around the Kingsway area. The **Swansea Bay Technology Centre** backed by £3.7m EU funds through the Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme, at Neath Port Talbot Council's **Baglan Energy Park**, providing office space for companies with a focus on the innovation and low carbon sectors to deliver low carbon, sustainable and inclusive economic growth for the region.

A wide range of tourism and heritage sites across Wales have also benefitted from EU funding. In Conwy, more than £7m of EU funds have already helped to reinvent Porth Eirias in Colwyn Bay by modernising its famous promenade, improving the public realm and the creation of new facilities at **Porth Eirias Watersports Centre**. North Wales' regional sports venue, **Parc Eirias**, the home of Wales' under-20s rugby, was developed thanks to a £1.5m EU funding boost.

Visitors to the summit of Y Wyddfa/Snowdon can enjoy views across the mountain range from the “window on the world” wall of glass which makes up the front of **Hafod Eryri**. Backed by £4.2m of EU funds, the visitor centre and café is the highest building in Wales and England.



Hafod Eryri

9 EU funds celebration

Designated as a World Heritage Site in 2009, the **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal** in Wrexham, was restored by British Waterways with the support of £700k EU funds. Originally built between 1795 and 1808 by two major figures in the development of civil engineering, Thomas Telford and William Jessop and crossing two major river valleys, the canal is both the highest and longest aqueduct in Britain. It now provides a major tourism and economic boost to the local area with more than 10,000 boats and many tens of thousands of visitors crossing it each year.



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal

In 1982, a community group bought the remote, derelict quarry village of **Nant Gwtheyrn**, renovated the buildings and started their own Welsh language school. £3.3m EU funds enabled the construction of a new access road, dedicated teaching and function rooms, visitor accommodation, a café, a shop and a heritage centre about local history, along with the history of the Welsh language. This new accessibility has made the National Welsh Language and Heritage Centre a substantial attraction, with over 120,000 Welsh learners, tourists and event visitors each year, allowing the village to bring extra business into the remote area, become financially sustainable and create year-round employment. In 2018 Nant Gwtheyrn won the EU's prestigious RegioStars Award for 'Investing in Cultural Heritage'. The awards identify and publicise the good regional innovative projects, across different categories and to promote the exchange of good practices across Europe.



Nant Gwrtheyrn, National Welsh Language and Heritage Centre

10 EU funds celebration

The restoration of the Grade 1 listed Georgian building **Llanelly House** was backed by £2.5m of EU funds and opened to the public in 2013. The Carmarthenshire Heritage Regeneration Trust restored the building to its early 18th Century condition and re-opened it as a Community Heritage Centre providing a visitor attraction and a range of jobs, community heritage and other facilities for visitors and the local community.



Llanelly House



Stackpole bridge credit: Mike May

Stackpole Rediscovered, a National Trust project, received £1.6m EU funds support to transform the South Pembrokeshire site, with the refurbishment of the Outdoor Learning Centre and accommodation facilities. Attracting substantial interest by schools and university groups for field trips, the Outdoor Learning Centre also offers a wide range of courses, from landscape & underwater photography through to astronomy, bushcraft, Shakespearean outdoor theatre and wildlife. The estate is recognised both nationally and internationally for the importance of its features and it plays an important role in the regional tourism economy of Pembrokeshire.

Spanning Carmarthenshire to Blaenavon and connecting people with outdoor initiatives, activities and community projects and creating recreational and skills-based learning opportunities, the **Valleys Regional Park** has a network of uplands, woodlands, nature reserves, country parks, rivers, reservoirs, canals, heritage sites and attractions, making the valleys an attractive place to work, live and visit.

As part of enhancing 250 miles (410km) of existing cycling routes, the **Valleys Cycle Network**, led by Sustrans created 25 miles forming a network of walking and cycling routes across the former South Wales Coalfield. The scheme included areas around Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd, Llantrisant, and Pontypool as well as routes connecting communities throughout the Swansea, Llynfi, Taff, Ely and Ebbw Valleys. The sustainable transport routes also provided new physical links with other transport services, including bus and rail, and provided links to workplaces, education establishments and other key trip generators. As part of the project Sustrans engaged with workplaces, promoting active travel and encouraging employees to walk and cycle to work as a sustainable and healthier alternative to commuting by car, promoting the new and improved walking and cycling routes.

Over £30m EU funds have also supported the Welsh Government's Tourism Attractor Destinations (TAD) programme to create 12 must-see destinations that drive interest in Wales as a holiday destination for new and repeat visitors and grow the tourism sector in Wales.

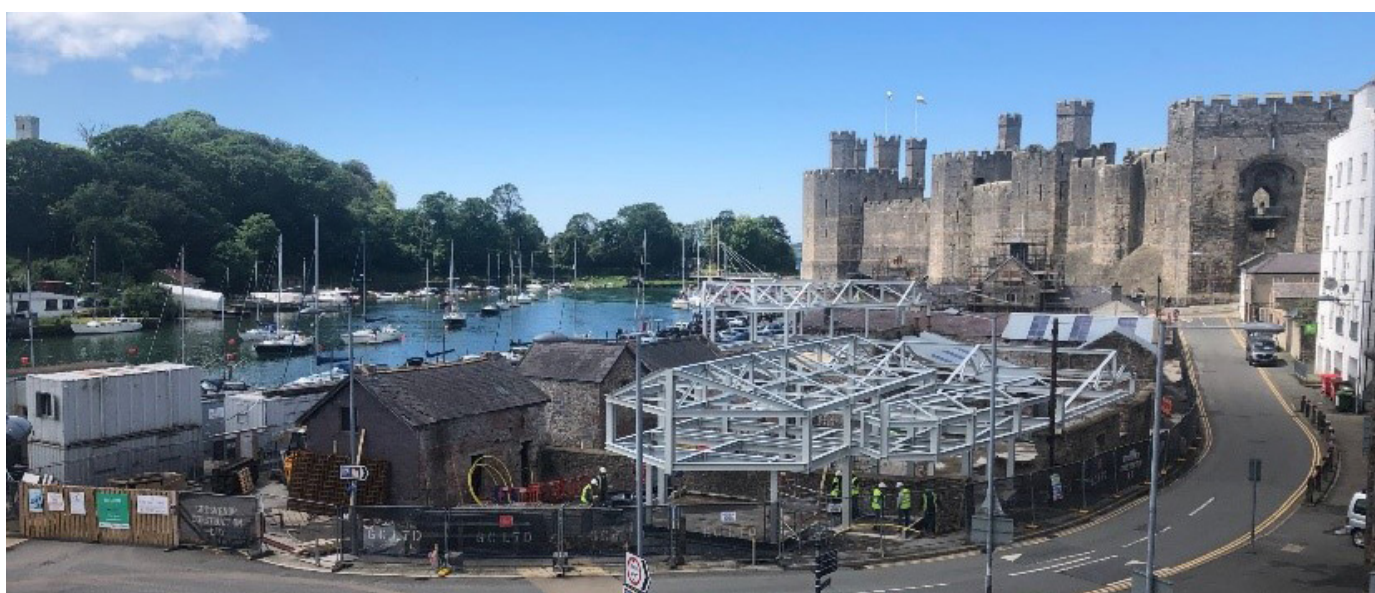
11 EU funds celebration

Opened in June 2018, the **Rock UK Summit Centre** in Trelewis, Merthyr Tydfil was the first project to be completed under the Welsh Government's EU funded Tourism Attractor Destinations programme. The former coalmine has been turned into a unique venue which offers fully catered, en-suite accommodation, meeting rooms, an indoor climbing centre, café and fun outdoor children's play area, fitness suite and gym. The Summit Centre, which was supported with £2.3m of EU funds, offers over 20 instructed activities while its rural location benefits from numerous off-site activities including climbing on local crags, gorge walking through natural waterfalls, caving, canoeing, kayaking and eco warrior activities.



Rock UK Summit Centre, supported by the Tourism Attractor Destinations programme

As part of the TAD programme, **Caernarfon Waterfront** project was supported with £2.4m, to help transform Caernarfon into an iconic tourist destination, building on the area's exceptional cultural and historical assets. The Waterfront project includes the enhancement to the Galeri Creative Enterprise Centre, Welsh Highland Railway Terminus Development of new station/terminus facilities for the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways within the Slate Quay area and to invest in the development of infrastructure to improve access and linkages between the main attractions.



Tourism Attractor Destinations (TAD) – Caernarfon Waterfront

12 EU funds celebration

The Caernarfon Castle King's Gate project has also been supported by the TAD programme with £1m EU funds for the restoration and conversion of a key historic asset involving significant enhancement to facilities for visitors while re-instating access to the impressive, fortified walls.

Opened in 2022, **Llys y Frân** in Pembrokeshire is an outdoor activity centre to provide a base for water sports on the reservoir and as a hub for cycling around the reservoir. Llys y Frân Country Park and trout fishery, expanding and refurbishing the visitors centre to include an indoor education and exhibition space, and an attractive, good quality restaurant that will celebrate local produce. A new outdoor activity centre has been constructed providing a base for water sports on the reservoir and as a hub for cycling around the reservoir. An emphasis placed on family involvement; a sport for all ethos will be encouraged and supported by a team of expert and motivated staff. Land based activities will include a continued and enhanced focus on cycling, walking and providing a safe year-round recreational and educational venue for the holiday visitors to Pembrokeshire, the outdoor activity seeker and schools.



Caernarfon Castle