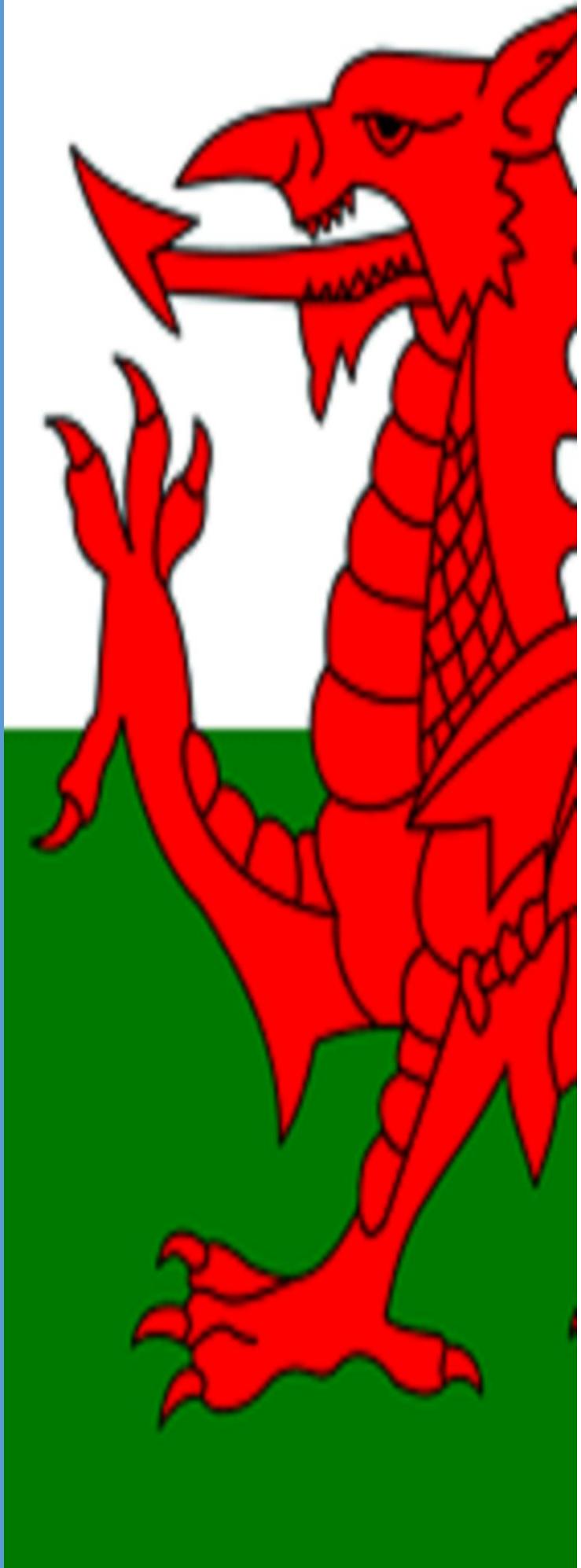


# THE EU AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALES

How the EU backs young people in Wales to  
Succeed



## Young People

£25 million of EU funding preserved the Jobs Growth Wales scheme that has provided 15,000 job opportunities for young people in Wales. Businesses have also been clear about leaving the EU would do to young people's jobs prospects with 80% of businesses saying they'd rather stay in the EU. Since 2007 EU funding has directly created almost 36,000 jobs in Wales as well as almost 12,000 enterprises. Just last year £73 million of EU funding was announced for 52,000 apprenticeships in West Wales and the Valleys.

**80%**

Of businesses think  
we're better off IN

The European Regional Development Fund also provides many **key opportunities** for young people in Wales, for instance there is the **Valleys Kids** project. This project, backed by European Structural Funds, works closely with children and young people across 4 valleys regions including the Rhondda, to try and give them the vital support that they need when they are perhaps not getting it from elsewhere.

They offer free IT classes, job support and advice including through developing job opportunities themselves at the Factory in Porth. Another example would be **Project Y**, the Swansea branch is based at the Swansea YMCA, this project helps young people who have fallen outside of mainstream education gain qualifications and training. This project also helps with finding jobs, work experience and training, providing the vital leg up that some young people in Swansea need.

When the Wales U20s team won the **Grand Slam** this year they won it at **Parc Eiras** in Colwyn Bay which was developed with **£1,500,000** of European funding. This has provided a proper place for age grade internationals in Wales, a proper stage for young Welsh talent, backed by the EU.



## Erasmus+

This is a major programme funded by the EU that provides opportunities for children and young people across the EU by offering apprenticeships, student exchanges and extra training for teachers and staff. In the UK over the 250,000 young people will travel abroad as part of this scheme and the UK will gain over £1 billion from this funding between 2014 and 2020.

**“Being part of Europe offers so much for students, from jobs and education to cultural and social opportunities.”** - Beth Button, President of NUS

Wales

Over 4,600 Higher Education institutions are members of Erasmus+, this presents an unprecedented chance to speak, and the average Erasmus student received a monthly grant of €272 from Erasmus to help with their studies. Almost 2400 different institutions have sent over 50,000 members of staff to other institutions through Erasmus +, this brings students and staff across Europe to new perspectives and experiences that they would not have received otherwise.

Through Erasmus+ UK students get the chance to study at other universities all over Europe, not only through student exchanges but scholarship programmes as well. Erasmus+ also provides support for developing athlete dual career programmes, as well as combatting doping to preserve the integrity of sport at age grade level. This helps to protect athletes in Wales and across Europe.

The EU also makes it easier for young people to travel abroad to see friends or to go on holiday. Instead of a cumbersome visa process you can just book a plane, flash a passport and be almost anywhere in the Europe by the evening.

## Investing in Our Universities

**“The EU offer big advantages for research... [after leaving] We wouldn’t be able to shape the priorities for science within the EU area and that would be **to the detriment of our universities”****

- Prof. Riordan, Chairman of Wales Universities

Universities in Wales are great, the European Union has helped them be great, and is providing the support to make them even better. Students in Wales have benefitted and are going to benefit massively from EU investment in Welsh Universities. Cardiff University is currently developing its **CURBIRC II** brain imaging centre, which will allow Cardiff to be a world leader in researching brain conditions and cures. Aberystwyth University is currently developing its Innovation and Enterprise Centre at the Gorgedgan Campus, this has received **£20,000,000** in EU funding. This centre will provide opportunities to both students and local businesses, develop business ideas for the benefit of the Welsh economy.

There is also the Menai science park being developed by Bangor University. This has been backed by **£10,215,504** of EU funding, this will help translate University research into a competitive advantage for our companies. This will help to overcome the so called “research gap”, where our researchers lead the way in developing an area, only for other countries to exploit its commercial potential. Finally, there is of course the largest project of them all, the Swansea Bay Campus, this was backed with an investment of **£95 million** from the European Investment bank. This provided a state-of-the-art campus for Science and Innovation, this will focus on a new engineering quarter, providing students in Swansea the opportunity to be part of even more ground breaking work.



*1 The Swansea Bay Science and Innovation Campus*

## It's more than Cash

But, being part of this grouping of **500 million** people and **28** countries is about more than the investment it brings to Wales, or the opportunities it brings to go abroad. It's about the connections we make between people, all over Europe. This meeting of the minds is brilliant for British Universities, as Professor Hawkins and **150** members of the Royal Society of Scientists, the finest minds in the field of science in the UK, said in an open letter to The Times. "**Being able to attract and fund the most talented Europeans assures the future of British science and also encourages the best scientists elsewhere to come here.**" By being in the EU we benefit from easy access to projects like Horizon 2020 that help research development in the EU. The EU is full of world beating universities and cutting edge research, by being a part of the EU we are linked directly linked to all of these, where we can easily exchange ideas and build joint bids for European funding. This makes Welsh Universities more important and improves both the quality of our degree courses, but also the esteem in which Welsh degrees are held across the world.

**I can't think a single persuasive reason for leaving the EU** – Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University