

International Strategy response

The three goals set out in the strategy are:

- to raise Wales' international profile
- increase exports and inward investment
- showcase Wales as a globally responsible nation.

These goals have been developed to bring coordinated outcomes to the international work being undertaken by the Welsh Government and its partners.

Do you agree with these goals?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Other

Are there any other goals that should be considered?

- Yes
- No
- Other

If you answered 'Yes', please write these goals in the box below.

'A globally responsible Wales' is one of the seven wellbeing goals. This is certainly a strong fit for the International Strategy. All the wellbeing goals are relevant to the Wales we want to showcase. Wales is recognised internationally as a leader in sustainable development, following the introduction of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. As a global leader in sustainable development, Wales can also showcase other achievements against the Wellbeing Goals, including its vibrant culture and welsh language and its aspiration for a low carbon economy. It would be useful to be clear how all aspects of the strategy align with the government's commitments to sustainable development.

We welcome the prominence of values in the draft strategy. We would like to see these strengthened further, particularly in the context of Brexit and the threat this poses to equality, human rights, environmental and employment rights and standards (see below).

We welcome the commitment to work together across sectors. The Draft Strategy notes that ‘two meetings a year’ are planned ‘to ensure we are coordinating our activities across Welsh Government, local government and civil society’. We welcome this commitment.

We would have liked to have seen more involvement of voluntary organisations in the development of the strategy. Effective delivery will now need active involvement across all sectors in Wales.

Question 2

People - the strategy highlights the important role that our people and cultural organisations, in Wales and overseas, can play in raising Wales’ international profile.

Do you agree with the ambitions set out in this chapter?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Other

If you answered ‘Partly’ or ‘No’, please tell us what would you add, and why, in the box below.

We would like to see Welsh Government highlight the important role of the country’s civil society organisations and its strong connections to European and global civil society networks.

The thousands of voluntary organisations active across our communities, running diverse activities from sports clubs to social enterprises to big cultural events are an essential part of the fabric of Welsh life. They also play an important part in our democracy.

We welcome recognition of the role that the Urdd, the National Eisteddfod and Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and the Hay Literary Festival play in our culture. As well as these internationally renowned arts events, run by some of our most prestigious voluntary organisations, Wales has a diversity of artistic, sporting and cultural activity coordinated by voluntary groups at community-level across Wales. This is part of the quality of life that Wales offers and we would like to see it celebrated in the document.

Do you think the ambition will deliver the key goal to raise Wales' international profile?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Other

At the time of writing, the Wales rugby team are putting on outstanding performances in the Rugby World Cup - highlighting the key role that sport can and should play in raising Wales' international profile. The draft Strategy references this, but there is no mention of the role played by community-based sports projects, often volunteer-led, that are the grassroots of sport in this country and without which Wales' would be less likely to achieve the international success it has. The strategy could commit to setting out a strategic framework for sport in Wales to ensure the country is able to continue to achieve on the world stage.

We are pleased to see the Strategy commit to pushing for Wales' continued participation in Erasmus+, Horizon 2020 and/or any successor programmes. There is strong support for this in the voluntary sector. We would like further details on this. The First Minister, in his previous role as Finance Minister, commented that Wales wouldn't pay into Erasmus+ unless the whole UK did, or if UK Government gave Wales additional funding to do so. We would like more clarification on Welsh Government thinking in this area.

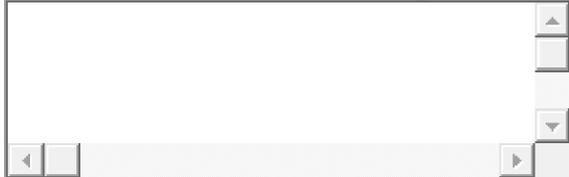
Question 3

Products - Wales has a strong global commercial relationship both in terms of exports and attracting inward investment. The strategy sets out plans to showcase Wales' expertise in cyber security, compound-semiconductors and film and television production to demonstrate we have a modern and vibrant economy. This, in turn, will enhance our wider export and inward investment offer to the rest of the world.

Do you agree showcasing these areas will demonstrate Wales has a modern, vibrant economy and skilled workforce?

- Yes
- Partly
- No

Please use the box below to give a reason for your answer:



The Strategy should state clearly that standards and rights on the level we have enjoyed within the European Union will be fundamental for Welsh Government in new trade arrangements post-Brexit. Post-Brexit, our safety net for rights and equalities will be absent and there need to be guarantees in place that any new trade agreements will not lower equality, human rights, environmental and labour standards This has been one of the top priorities for groups involved in the Wales Civil Society Forum on Brexit. The First Minister [has already committed to this](#), and it should be clearly stated in the Strategy.

There is little reference here to the voluntary sector workforce, who play an essential role in our economy. The [Third Sector Data Hub](#) shows that the third sector makes up 8% of employment in Wales. Welsh people give 61 million volunteering hours each year, with an economic value of £757 million. Charities registered in Wales have an annual income of over £1.25 billion.

Question 4

Place - Wales' culture and language have contributed to international tourism and increased recognition as a visitor destination. In this strategy, we have identified the need to promote sustainable tourism as a priority. Wales has also demonstrated a commitment to global responsibility, for example, through its Wales for Africa programme and our Health Boards.

Do you agree the ambitions set out in the strategy will promote Wales as a globally responsible nation and showcase our commitment to sustainability?

- Yes
- Partly
- No

Please use the box below to give a reason for your answer:

We are pleased to see the reiteration of commitments to sustainability and environmental responsibility within this document. Voluntary organisations and

volunteers play an important role both as a voice and in practical delivery, especially as local authority services are cut.

If Wales is to be a centre for 'sustainable tourism', the Strategy's action plan will need to support voluntary organisations that maintain the environment to be sustainable themselves.

Question 5

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Voluntary sector networks that we work with welcome the government's commitment to develop a strong international strategy.

There is concern that the final Strategy should have a clearer focus on setting out a path for reaching our ambitions over the coming ten to twenty years and how we move from where we are now to achieving those goals.

Organisations have expressed concern that the Future Generations Act, although mentioned in the draft, does not feel embedded through the document.

The Strategy would have benefited from deeper involvement of voluntary organisations in its development. For example, there were no consultation events, limited publicity about opportunities for input, and no cross-sector advisory group.

We are concerned that a commitment to publish the final strategy in November 2019, so soon after the consultation period, will give limited time to properly reflect the feedback. We would urge Welsh Government to give proper care and attention to these responses even if that meant a delay publication of the final Strategy.

The draft Strategy doesn't include any reference to philanthropy or social investment. We support the Community Foundation in Wales' call for the Strategy to embrace philanthropy. Widening some of the definitions in the document could make the Strategy more inclusive of action to encourage and enable philanthropy and social investment.

International relationships cut across the interests of a wide range of voluntary sector networks who would welcome opportunities to share their expertise and engage further with the Welsh Government in finalising and delivering the Strategy.