



European Structural and Investment Funds – The Third Sector

Parts of Wales benefit from European funds and collectively these are known as the **European Structural and Investment Funds**. The two funds most commonly accessed by the third sector are the:



European Social Fund (ESF)

ESF is about people. Its purpose is to raise skills and job prospects.



European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

ERDF is about business and infrastructure. Its purpose is to support research, strengthen businesses, promote renewable energy and improve infrastructure.

The two remaining funds are the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Fisheries Fund. As you've probably already guessed, these are to do with agriculture and fish!

European Structural and Investment Funds - The Facts

What Is It?

EU Development Aid



Who gets It?

28 Member States

When do we get It?

7 year funding cycles

Why do we get It?

To raise wealth, promote development and social cohesion

How do we receive It?

WEFO



How much of It do we receive?

£1.8 billion between 2014-2020

HOW IS THE MONEY ALLOCATED?



The majority of money goes to **West Wales and the Valleys** which is classed as a lesser developed region (highlighted in yellow). A smaller amount goes to East Wales which is classed as a more developed region. Projects are either delivered in East Wales or West Wales and the Valleys, they can't be mixed. For example, Active Inclusion has 3 soon to be 4 projects approved: Over 25s East Wales, Over 25s West Wales and the Valleys, Youth East Wales and Youth West Wales and the Valleys.

WHAT DOES THE ESF AND THE ERDF FUND?



Chwarae Teg's **Agile Nation2** project is funded through the European Social Fund. The aim of the project is to develop women's leadership skills to help them progress within the workplace. The project provides women working in non-traditional sectors, such as engineering, with accredited management training and one-to-one advice and guidance. It also supports organisations to become more equal, fair and flexible.



Wales Co-operative Centre's **Social Business Wales** project is funded through the European Regional Development Fund. It provides intensive one-to-one support to social businesses across Wales which are looking to expand or create jobs.

HOW DOES THE THIRD SECTOR GET INVOLVED?

The two projects mentioned above are hosted by relatively large, experienced third sector organisations. However, the majority of organisations in the third sector do not deliver projects on their own. Some go into partnerships with other organisations (WEFO refer to these as joint beneficiaries) but the majority tender through a procurement process or apply for grants to deliver services.