

### WHEB Subscription Renewal

Funding is requested for the WHEB office to retain three members of staff to deliver a new orientation for the operation, based on the contacts and experience gained in 2006-2009. It is proposed to maintain the current scale and funding levels per annum (commencing 1 January 2009 for three years), making an adjustment for inflation of 5.92%. This takes account of the Aberystwyth University pay scales foreseen for the period, plus the Belgian inflation rate for goods and services.

In its next phase, WHEB plans in particular to:

- Deepen the sectors' new relationships with those behind European HE policy into sustained and visible collaboration, which enhances the international reputation of Welsh HE.
- Create opportunities for Welsh HEIs to build new strategic partnerships with high-level representatives of other European HEIs and governments, with spin-offs in terms of joint degrees/research.

Recent key outcomes, for information:

- The European Commission has offered the sector a funded place at its European University-Business Forum on Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning on 30 June. This was an invitation-only workshop to develop policy. The draft European Lifelong Learning Charter for universities was also presented, which EU Ministers will sign as a commitment to the value of higher level skills.
- Two Industrial Liaison Officers presented at a seminar in Paris on Enterprise-University Partnership in Doctoral Education organised by the UNICA network of universities in European capital cities. The European Centre for the Strategic Management of Universities (ESMU) has also asked WHEB to present on knowledge transfer to a group of Vice-Rectors visiting Brussels from a Russian HEI in Nizhni Novgorod (the country's third city).
- A study visit organised for the University of Wales Newport EQUINEX project team led to an invitation from the European Commission to present to EU Member State officials on access and social inclusion in lifelong learning.
- At each of the WHEB seminars in Brussels on eLearning and innovation, a participant from a Welsh HEI gained an additional European partner with whom a funding application was later submitted.

Paul Harris

WHEB

12 June 2008