

HEFCW Enhancing HE-FE Collaboration in Innovation and Engagement 2017-18 - project updates (due to complete March 2020)

South East Wales Region

Lead Institution – University of South Wales	
Partners	Description
<p>HEIs – Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Open University in Wales. FEIs – Coleg Gwent, Coleg y Cymoedd, Merthyr Tydfil College, Bridgend College, Cardiff and Vale College. Employers – Sgil Cymru, and Screen Alliance Wales.</p>	<p>Proposal is to establish a joint HE/FE network involving all south east Wales FE and HE institutions, which will meet regional industry and learner demands in three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative (USW led) • Design (CMU led) • Compound Semi-Conductors (CU led) <p>The OU has a role in each strand mapping part-time opportunities and gaps. All strands will have a cross-cutting theme of digital futures. Partners collaborate to highlight gaps in provision (and future curricula development), meet future skill needs, and establish research and development projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering groups have been established for the three strands, with delivery plans in place. • The overall project steering group has representatives from all HE and FE partners and meets quarterly. • The project has created joint HE-FE resource focused on specific strategy industry (routes for industry e.g. the CSC strand has engaged with CS Connect, and all FE colleges. • An introductory workshop was completed at Newport Wafer Fab to assess staff knowledge and awareness of sector and key companies in region. Within both Creative and Design strands curriculum mapping is complete. • The reinstatement of the Strategic Insight Programme (Business-Academia and vice versa placements) has been well received, particularly in the FECs who were previously not part of the pan-Wales HEFCW funded programme. • Masterclasses, workshops, and regional engagement events have taken place. • Report on progress presented to Cardiff Capital Regional Skills board in January 2019,

Mid and South West Wales Region

Lead Institution – Swansea University	
Partners	Description
<p>Gower College Swansea, Neath Port Talbot Group of Colleges, Pembrokeshire College</p>	<p>Swansea’s programme has 3 overall aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) use the College University Skills Partnership (CUSP) to build upon the dated Welsh Video Network, to create a new platform for collaborative working. Partners will source and install Collaborative Communication Platform (CCP) Suites across the institutions. The equipment within the suites will enable collaborative working with screen control, multiple apps, software platform, sharing content documents, 3D visualisations etc. It will facilitate innovation and technology transfer, commercialisation of concepts and innovation in processes and products. SMEs will decrease travel and have links to expertise and capabilities at HE and HE. ii) Training – the CCP suites will focus local access to training and CPD, and will be utilised to support Degree Apprenticeships and other higher skills delivery iii) the suites will be used to provide resource for L3 students to be aware of career opportunities resulting from Swansea Bay City Deal and Mid Wales Growth Deal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To date there is already agreement across the FE Colleges and Swansea University to utilise Microsoft <i>Teams</i> as the collaboration solution for the project. Utilising <i>Teams</i> as a communication collaboration platform is intended to enable staff and students to enhance their digital capabilities and provide first-hand experience of a tool used in industry, supporting preparation for employment and creating a future ready workforce. Key features include; live collaboration on shared documents, file sharing, whiteboard and screen sharing. This should enable students and staff to work collaboratively on projects and link teaching across institutions, with international potential. ➤ As a compliment to the use of MS Teams and to add value to the project, we are investigating the potential of trialling the use of HoloLens 2 for virtual collaboration. ➤ To assist in the cross institutional management of the project, a Swansea University Growing Communications FE Partners Team has been created. All FE Project Leads have guests access to the Team for the duration of the project ➤ In terms of locating the suites - NPTC Group of Colleges have identified two spaces for conversion, one at Newtown, Powys and one at Neath. Pembrokeshire College have requested a more mobile solution, with screens mounted on trolleys so the collaboration environment can be transferred into any room. Design and procurement are well underway.

Lead Institution – Aberystwyth University	
Partners	Description
Coleg Cambria, Farming Connect	<p>In order to be competitive, particularly post-Brexit, Welsh agriculture needs to incorporate ‘precision agriculture’ techniques. Although well used within intensive cropping systems, techniques need to be pushed through in the livestock production area. This project will develop platforms within FE campuses and their farms, alongside the farms at Aber to assess livestock technologies. The project also sees the development of best practice protocols. Researchers will evaluate the effectiveness of some current techniques; use IBERS technology eDNA to produce parasite risk maps; and develop a platform to implement precision technologies on Welsh commercial farms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As of March 201 a Partnership Board had been established involving all co-investigators from Llysfasi and Farming Connect. ➤ During 2019 the project will hold demonstration events for farmers, industry and students. ➤ Coleg Cambria will pursue an outreach event open to FE agriculture students from across Wales. ➤ The project has a strong focus on dissemination and intended to have a presence at the Royal Welsh showground, and hosting demonstrations at the British Science Week in Aberystwyth aimed at school age children. ➤ Most equipment now purchased to enable the research to commence across various sites. Research output will be used as an output for REF 2020.

Lead Institution – University of Wales Trinity Saint David	
Partners	Description
Coleg Sir Gar, Coleg Ceredigion	<p>The project bid is based around the lack of skilled engineers in Computer Numerically Controlled machining, which is central to Engineering and Manufacturing sectors L4-7. Availability of high spec, industrial standard equipment limited in South Wales. Skills level of tutors is below standards demanded, and employees have to be trained through bespoke courses, and are therefore often recruited from outside of Wales. UWTSD propose to develop an Advanced Engineering Skills Academy to provide this training in Wales. Industry Wales and Engineering Employers Federation are on board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This project encountered some delay as negotiations to purchase the equipment were under taken. However, by March 2019 the project was on course, with Steering Committee established and procurement and commissions of equipment complete. ➤ Equipment will be housed in SA1 and available to train and upskill those in the partner FE Colleges.

North Wales Region

Lead Institution – Bangor University	
Partners	Description
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, Tecnatom Ltd.	<p>Discussions between private and public sector bodies highlighted the potential need for a Welsh version of the National College for Nuclear (NCfN). Initially funding was provided to support developments at the Wylfa Newydd facility where Bangor would use the funding to pilot using Tecnatom state-of-the-art learning platform and techniques This would build upon existing collaborations to seed the development of an innovative, integrated, comprehensive training programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Welsh Nuclear Training and Education Cluster (WeNTEC) will pilot technologies and approaches aimed at being meeting the servicing and training / development needs of Horizon Nuclear Power. ➤ In January it was announced that developments at Wylfa were ‘on hold’ and HEFCW entered discussions with Bangor about this project. ➤ Bangor were able to clarify that the area remains the best available location in the UK for coastal nuclear power generation. They consider it likely another project will be delivered there in near future, and other on-going developments will also merit from the investment notably Trawsfynydd which is at the heart of plans for the Enterprise Zone. ➤ The investment in equipment and meeting skills will also be required by the National Thermal Hydraulic Test Facility based at MSparc. Additionally the North Wales Growth Deal is very much centred around the nuclear industry and will see an investment in a Nuclear Centre of Excellence to increase capacity and infrastructure – ensuring embedding of nuclear research groups at BU. ➤ Bangor has also noted that the Tecnatom platform is not limited to the nuclear industry and is employed in other areas such as pharma, medicine, broad engineering, automotive.

Lead Institution – Wrexham Glyndŵr University	
Partners	Description
HEIs – Bangor University. FEIs – Grŵp Llandrillo	<p>Wrexham Glyndŵr University is responsible for the ‘North Wales Knowledge Transfer Network’ in collaboration with Bangor, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, and Coleg Cambria. The network seeks to integrate with, and compliment, the planned North Wales Regional Business Growth Fund (in particular the North Wales</p>

Menai, and Coleg Cambria	<p>Mersey Dee Knowledge Transfer Network component) which is one of the 24 projects making up the North Wales Growth Deal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two hubs have been established to cover the North East and North West of Wales. ➤ Project board and delivery plans are now in place, although slightly delayed to due to recruitment. ➤ Marketing materials were under development, as was web information. ➤ A shared calendar of collaboration was under construction, although 15 events had been attended by March 2019. ➤ Employer engagement activities were now a focus of developments.
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Pan-Wales

Lead Institution – Open University in Wales	
Partners	Description
<p>Adult Learning Wales, Coleg Cambria, Neath Port Talbot Group of Colleges, Coleg Gwent.</p>	<p>The Department for Education had worked with the OU in England to develop Essential Skills flexible provision at L1 and 2 in English and Maths. HE-FE collaboration funding in Wales is being used to create equivalent modules based on the Essential Skills Wales Framework on the Qualifications in Wales database. The modules would upskill adults and fill gaps in their essential skills enabling them to progress through FE / WBL and HE routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The OU would provide the platform for the bilingual provision through OpenLearn Cymru. ➤ This funding will build capacity in online design with the FE sector with FE partners providing Essential Skills Wales assessments and quality IAG on entry and progression. ➤ At the end of the project the modules will be available online permanently, available to all FECs and independent learners across Wales. ➤ By March 2019 the Steering Group had met with project plan and governance arrangements in place. ➤ Masterclasses had been held with 27 attendees from FECs, and practitioner forum established. ➤ Accreditation had been established with partners and models of delivery agreed.