



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Digital Wales Directory of Projects



www.wales.gov.uk/digitalwales



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Introduction

The *Digital Wales: Delivery Plan* (March 2011) sets out in detail how we, the Welsh Government, intend to achieve our vision of a truly digital Nation. It described what we are already doing, and what further actions we propose to take over the next few years, in the five key thematic areas of Digital Inclusion, eSkills, Competitiveness, Public Services Transformation and Digital Infrastructure.

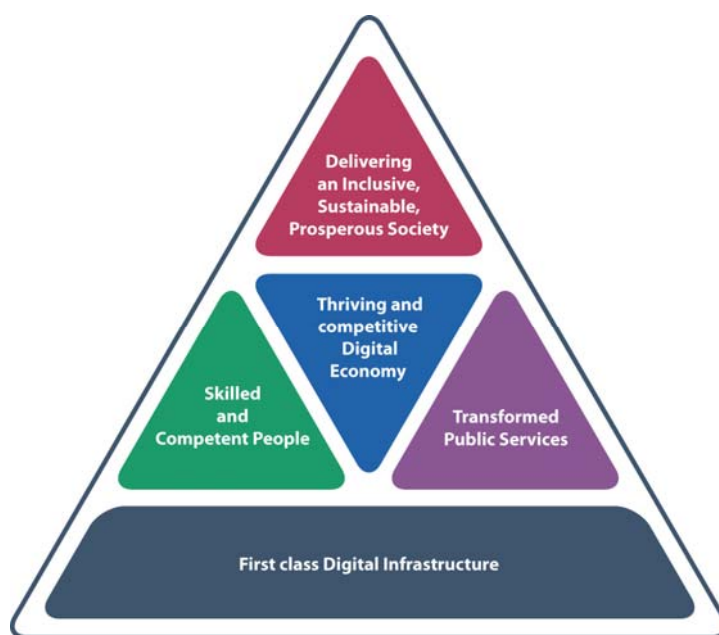


Figure 1: Delivering a Digital Wales

This *Directory of Projects* provides a single reference point on Digital projects, programmes and activities, referenced in the Digital Wales Delivery Plan, that are being delivered in Wales.

We recognise that delivering a truly digital Nation will require significant involvement and leadership from across the private sector and public sector in delivering many projects which directly support our ability to achieve our digital ambitions for Wales.

To ensure that we are able to provide some detailed background on the wide range of activities we have taken a loose definition of “projects” to mean: activities that are time-bound; and also activities and initiatives which will be or already are considered to be business-as-usual.

The directory is organised into the 5 Themes of Digital Wales: Digital Inclusion, eSkills, Competitiveness, Public Services Transformation and Digital Infrastructure.

Where possible we have provided contact details of people who are happy to discuss the project or initiative in more detail. This directory does not include details of every activity being developed or delivered across Wales. Where significant new initiatives are developed we will look to add them to this directory.

The original directory of projects was published in November 2011. This updated version includes 16 new projects as well as updates to existing projects where there have been developments. Expired projects have also been removed. We would welcome any suggestions and comments to feed into future iterations of the Digital Wales Directory of Projects.

Please e-mail digitalwales@wales.gsi.gov.uk



Communities 2.0 – helping people get online

In the internet age the Welsh Government wants to make sure that people aren't being left behind as more services and businesses move online.

Through the Communities 2.0 programme individuals, groups, community businesses and organisations are being given access to training, advice and financial support to help them overcome barriers and build confidence in the use of digital technology.

Latest research shows that around 1 in 4 people in Wales are digitally excluded, with those over 65 least likely to have used the internet.

Getting more people to use technology is important as it means they can keep in touch with friends and family, gain employment skills, access public services and search for best value products and services. It also gives Wales the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills needed to support our economy.

Communities 2.0 is a six year project, which began in 2009. Priority is given to older people, those living in social housing, the unemployed and economically inactive and disabled people. Delivery is managed through four partner organisations, the Wales Co-operative Centre, Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services, Carmarthenshire County Council and the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling at the University of Glamorgan. Communities 2.0 is funded by Welsh Government and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Communities 2.0 continues to develop a series of strategic alliances with national and regional organisations like Age Cymru, WJEC (Welsh Baccalaureate), Care and Repair Cymru and many more in order to reach greater numbers of digitally excluded people. The project has also successfully linked with other national campaigns and initiatives, like the BBC First Click campaign, BT's 'Get IT together', and 'Digital day' (which is part of Adult Learner's Week).

For more information please contact:

The Delivery Partnership via cathryn.marcus@walescooperative.org

The Welsh Government via andrew.jacobs@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit: www.communities2point0.org.uk



Communities
Cymunedau 2.0



Free access to computers and the internet in libraries

Public libraries in Wales give people from all social or economic backgrounds access (assisted or otherwise) to rich and varied resources, mostly free of charge. Now they are expanding to meet the online information needs of citizens.

As well as assisting customers in the use of ICT, public libraries also run informal courses such as First Click, Computers Don't Bite, ICT for beginners etc... Through 'Race Online' (a national campaign targeting beginners) Public Libraries in Wales helped over 100,000 customers in the past year (double the target set) to learn about computers and they're still counting.

The Libraries Inspire framework for 2012-16 was launched by the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage in November 2011 and an accompanying Delivery Plan for 2012-13 is published and available on the CyMAL website. The framework sets out that libraries will:

- Provide free use of the internet and computers with assisted access if required.
- Deliver free use of online information resources 24hrs a day.
- Provide access to high quality resources in a range of formats reflecting changing publication trends, e.g. e-books and music downloads.
- Maintain a searchable catalogue of Welsh library resources.
- Work in partnership to open up access to the resources of all Welsh libraries.
- Co-operate to create new digital content about Wales and its people.
- Stage a range of activities to support learning, enjoyment and enable users to obtain the maximum benefit from the available resources
- The core offer is underpinned by 'Maintaining a Valued Service', the Fourth Framework of Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) 2011-14 :
 - WPLS 1 Location of service points and access to them
 - WPLS 4 access to facilities and services based on ICT
 - Access to free introductory or basic support in the use of the facilities (defined as formal or informal assistance to users in the use of ICT facilities).

The annual Delivery Plan is a dynamic document and will be revised to reflect new priorities which arise during the duration of the Framework. It will also provide an opportunity to highlight the work carried out independently by the library sector as delivery partners of the Framework in partnership with the Welsh Government.

For more information, please contact: Ann Jones - Chair of the Society of Chief Librarians (Wales) via annjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk or Elspeth Morris – Vice Chair of the Society of Chief Librarians (Wales) via emorris@cardiff.gov.uk

Or visit: www.librarywales.org

Delivering a Digital Wales
Directory of Projects

librarywales.org



People's Collection Wales – The history of Wales in a website

Wales' unique and rich history is being brought to life through a ground-breaking bi-lingual website - People's Collection Wales. The website and supporting programme of activities represent an innovative approach to collecting, interpreting and discussing Wales' cultural heritage in an online environment. People's Collection Wales is a key channel for delivering the Welsh Government's commitment to develop the potential of digital media to promote culture, and supports other key strategic agendas.

The website and activity programme encourage and enable community groups and individuals to contribute and share their memories and material alongside national and local cultural heritage institutions. Users and partners have already contributed over 44,000 multimedia items to this digital collection. The website provides a bilingual publishing platform and access to software tools to assist users in discovering, contributing, and sharing multimedia items, memories, and information. Users can re-use the website's content in innovative ways, including creating digital stories, collections and trails, supporting learning and cultural tourism activities.

Since April 2011, delivery of the programme is led by the three national collections: Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales, the National Library of Wales, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. The programme's activities bring together a wide range of partners and stakeholders from different fields to share skills, resources and expertise.

Development is ongoing, including a technical refresh during early 2013 which will build on the experience of live operation, user feedback and changing technologies (including the increased popularity of mobile internet usage) since the website's initial launch in 2010. This refresh will improve the user experience, develop the core website and tools, and increase flexibility for working with external partners. During 2012-13, People's Collection Wales is collating information, including case studies from existing partnerships and pilot projects, to highlight the programme's achievements, developments and plans.

For more information please contact: Linda Tomos - Welsh Government via cymal@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit: www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk (English)



Theatre of Memory

Theatre of Memory is a long term proposal by the National Library of Wales to digitise and provide free online access to printed material about Wales and Welsh people.

The aim of the programme is to digitise as much as possible of the printed material published in Wales, about Wales and the Welsh people. This information will be made freely available and easily findable to anyone with an internet connection – giving Wales and the Welsh an enhanced online identity on a worldwide stage.

Key initiatives to date include:

Welsh Biography Online that holds approximately 5,000 biographies of eminent Welshmen/ women who died before 1 January 1971.

<http://wbo.llgc.org.uk/>

Welsh Journals Online which offers access to a selection of 50 modern periodicals and 300 historical titles in both Welsh and English.

<http://welshjournals.llgc.org.uk/>

Welsh Ballads Online that comprises of approximately 4,000 digitised ballads, mainly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, from the collections of the National Library of Wales and Cardiff University Library.

<http://www.llgc.org.uk/baledi>

Welsh Newspapers Online which is the National Library of Wales' entire holdings of pre-1910 Welsh newspapers: a magnificent resource of everyday knowledge estimated to contain over 1 million pages and 200 newspaper titles covering every corner of Wales. <http://www.llgc.org.uk/index>

The Welsh Experience of World War 1, 1914-18 is a project, part-funded by JISC and due for completion in 2013, to digitise newspapers, archives and graphic and audiovisual material about Wales during the years of World War I, drawn from the National Library and other archives in Wales. <http://cymruww1.llgc.org.uk/>

For more information please visit: www.llgc.org.uk/projectdocs



Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
The National Library of Wales
Aberystwyth



Welsh Information Literacy Project

The Welsh Information Literacy Project aims to promote the understanding and development of information literacy in education, the workplace, and the wider community in Wales. This includes digital literacy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills, being able to find and evaluate information through electronic sources of information (e.g. websites) and supporting the understanding of key e-safety issues such as cyber-bullying, identity theft and personal safety. With the implementation of the approved accredited units of learning in Information Literacy, citizens of Wales are now able to learn new skills and put them into practice in daily life.

Grant funding was provided from the Welsh Government from 2010-12 to employ a Project Officer to undertake 6 core objectives. These were:

- to establish an overarching statement on information literacy in Wales;
- to create a web presence for the project;
- to gather a collection of case studies demonstrating information literacy provision across Wales supporting a current practice report on information literacy provision in each library sector in Wales and
- to deliver a draft framework for information literacy in Wales that will provide notional levels of information literacy skills and competencies for all levels of learners.
- Create approved accredited units of learning in information literacy;
- Conduct a benefits analysis of information literacy in the workplace.

Phase 3 of the project (April 2012-March 2013) is focussing on the following objectives:

- Embedding information literacy in schools
- Embedding information literacy amongst public library staff and users

The project is now based at Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and is overseen by a cross-sectoral, all-Wales steering group.

For more information please contact the project team via wilp@gllm.ac.uk





Libraries Inspire - All-Wales access to online resources and services

Making it easier to access the services and information resources provided by libraries in Wales forms a key element of the *Libraries Inspire* strategic programme.

During 2011-16 work will focus on three core areas:

- Enhancement of the all-Wales library portal;
- Subscription to a range of online resources such as newspapers and family history; and
- Enhancement of a single library catalogue for Wales (Cat Cymru).

All three elements are led by a small team at the National Library of Wales on behalf of all libraries in Wales.

The library portal (www.librarywales.org) is the first port of call for someone wishing to find out about their local library and join online, access online reference material or find out what's going on in their area.

Over 350 national and local newspaper titles and similar reference material can be accessed without charge from their home computers or mobile devices or from libraries in Wales. People researching family histories can also use the Ancestry.com service for free in all public libraries. This service gives access to a complete online 1841-1911 census collection, complete Births, Marriages and Deaths Index between 1837-2005, as well as an extensive collection of parish, migration, military, and specialist records.

The all-Wales library catalogue (Cat Cymru) enables anyone to search over 50 library catalogues, including public, academic and the National Library of Wales, in one search, and request the desired item.

For more information please contact:

The National Library of Wales by e-mail librariesforlife@llgc.org.uk

Or visit: www.librarywales.org

librarywales.org



Cadw Interactive Website

Cadw is the Welsh Government's historic environment service working for an accessible and well-protected historic environment for Wales. The Cadw website is full of useful information. You can look up information on all upcoming Cadw events using the search tool, plus read all the latest news and updates.

There are also pages on the historic environment with information on conservation, regeneration and sustainability, as well as grants and support available. You can also sign up to the Cadw monthly e-newsletter to receive the latest Cadw news, events, offers and competitions. The Cadw shop can be accessed directly and via the main Cadw website.

Cadw has four social media channels: Facebook (bilingual), Twitter (separate Welsh and English channels), YouTube and Flickr which can be accessed from the website.

Explore 6,000 years of history across the country with the Cadw app. Among the many features, you can search for your nearest Cadw site by distance, find it on the handy built-in map or simply use the route planner to find out how to get to your favourite site from your current location. You can search by date or location to find exciting events taking place at Cadw sites, check opening times and admission prices or call the site direct from the app.

Cadw is also developing two new apps for the iPhone and iPad based on the historic towns of Denbigh and Conwy. The apps will be more than just a guide - they will help visitors to understand what it was like to live and work in these medieval towns. Unlike traditional walking trails, the apps will allow users to explore the castle and town walls in any order and take part in challenges at each location.

At Denbigh, visitors will be able to play the app as Huw the Guard, Eleanor de Lacy or Tom the Kitchen Boy and help solve their missions around the castle and town walls. They'll visit each location around the grounds and take part in challenges along the way. At Conwy, players will attempt to uncover the Legend of the Jackdaw as they explore the history of the town.

For more information please contact Cadw via cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Or visit: www.cadw.wales.gov.uk





Review of Digital Classroom Teaching

Children, parents and teachers increasingly expect to be able to find their teaching and organisational materials online. Teachers and schools have already embraced technology and invested in ways to use this in the classroom. However, examples of excellence are patchy and it is important that Welsh teachers and schools learn from the best examples.

In September 2011, the Minister for Education and Skills announced the establishment of a group to review the use of digital classroom teaching in Wales. The group's report was published on 29 March 2012 and recommends action to introduce, embed and promote the use of digital technologies in education. The group believes strongly that digital technologies, combined with sound pedagogy, can make a substantial difference to learning experiences and provider performance.

The Minister for Education and Skills published his response to the group's recommendations in a written statement to plenary on 21 June 2012. This outlined a number of key actions including:

- establishment of the National Digital Learning Council by September 2012;
- launch of the all Wales learning platform, Hwb, in December 2012;
- an iTunes U channel called Education Wales in December 2012;
- a centrally funded professional development programme for teachers and associate staff available from September 2013; and
- a national digital learning event in June 2013.

The task and finish report and the Minister's response can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at www.cymru.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills



National IT Data Platform for Education

The Structure of Education Services in Wales Review reported to the Minister for Education and Skills in March 2011. One of its recommendations was that:

'DCELLS [now DfES] takes the lead in developing a single national IT data platform. This platform should hold information about the performance of schools, FE colleges, local authorities, regional consortia and other providers. The information should be accessible and understandable, and available to all with an interest, including parents. This would complement the reports published by Estyn following periodic inspection. The platform should be in place not later than January 2013.'

In his response in June, the Minister accepted the recommendation and noted that it would be taken into account in developing its national education IT plans.

The Welsh Government recently began scoping opportunities to deliver an IT data platform with internal colleagues to test what the requirements are, what the benefits are, who it's for, what else exists that meets these needs and how it would be delivered. The costs and resources implications of various delivery options are also being explored.

For more information please contact: Glyn Jones – Welsh Government via educationdelivery.ict@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Or visit: Statistics for Wales via www.wales.gov.uk/statistics



Hwb - A Virtual Learning Environment for Wales

In December 2012, the Welsh Government launched Hwb, a virtual learning environment for Wales at <http://hwb.wales.gov.uk>. Hwb will host digital tools and content for learners aged 3 to 19, including content migrated from the teachers' website NGfL Cymru and resources from trusted partners, accessed through secure single sign on arrangements. In association with Hwb, we are also launching an iTunes U channel called Education Wales.

Through Hwb, every school in Wales will be given an individual learning platform that can be tailored to their own specific needs. This will be known as Hwb+ and will be provided for every school staff member, pupil, parent and governor free of charge. Hwb will provide tools for staff to manage their resources and diary, to store planning and policy documents and communicate with other members of staff, pupils, parents and other stakeholders in a safe and secure environment.

Hwb allows teachers to use blogs, wikis, discussion forums, surveys, podcasts and video. Hwb enables members of staff and pupils to have access to cloud based services such as Microsoft Office 365. This provides an online version of Microsoft Office Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote and Lync ensuring that all staff and pupils have access to the Microsoft Office suite regardless of whether they have it installed on their computer or not.

We are setting up a new DfES Digital Content Team to quality assure new content provided by users of the platform and identify additional content that can be hosted on Education Wales. Digital Leaders, supported by local authorities and consortia, will be providing training for all schools to support the use of Hwb. The Digital Leaders, local authority and consortia staff will receive expert training from Learning Possibilities' educational consultants in January 2013.

Hwb was piloted with 4 schools in Cardiff during 2012 and was launched in beta mode on 12 December 2012. From December 2012 to February 2013, we will be providing training and support for 27 "advanced pilot" schools that will be using the beta version of Hwb to support local literacy projects. Feedback from the advanced pilot schools will guide the further development of Hwb and the rollout of the service to all schools in Wales during February 2013 to June 2014.

The rollout will be coordinated by regional education consortia and we have asked them to engage with local authorities in order to decide which schools should be included in the different tranches. The rollout schedule means that, while all schools will have access to the national Hwb platform from December 2012, schools will gain access to Hwb+ services in stages from February 2013 through to June 2014. By June 2014 it is anticipated that all teachers and learners in Wales will have the necessary digital literacy skills to make effective use of Hwb to improve educational standards and prepare learners for life and careers. For further information, please contact: Hwb@wales.qsi.gov.uk



Pathways to Apprenticeships

The Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunications sectors have an increasing need for higher level technical and business skills. This has a specific effect on Apprenticeships in that IT employers have high standards when recruiting. In addition, IT is primarily a services oriented business which requires employees to have highly developed communication skills, as well as technical skills such as web development and software applications skills.

That's why 'Pathways to Apprenticeships' has been developed, focused on IT & Telecommunications Professional Apprenticeships. It provides one-year, high quality pre-Apprenticeship training that makes students better prepared to join a full Apprenticeship programme as an employee. In autumn 2011, recruitment started for the first time with 150 places allocated to colleges across Wales. A similar number has been allocated for autumn 2012.

Minimum entry requirements are 3 or more GCSE's Grade A* - C; 5 or more GCSE's (minimum Grade E or above); or Level 1 qualification in an appropriate skill base. All students must have a reasonable standard in English and Mathematics and be interviewed for suitability.

Students will have practical workshops for technical training and problem solving, but will also learn business and interpersonal skills. They will usually go on work placement for 20% of course time, giving them approximately ten weeks of direct exposure to working life with an employer,

For more information please contact:
Welsh Government via dfes-apprenticeshipunit@wales.gsi.gov.uk



Foundation Degrees in Information Technology Management for Business (ITMB)

The need to increase the supply of people who combine IT skills with business and 'people' skills is resulting in the development of a new qualification in Wales.

Two institutions, Swansea Metropolitan University and Cardiff Metropolitan University, were funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales to develop new Foundation Degrees during autumn 2011, with students being enrolled from January 2012. The Universities are partnering with local colleges as part of the development activity.

The Foundation Degree is a two year course for employed people. It will develop students' skills, enhancing their working performance but also making them eligible to join a range of full degree courses on completion.

The first full 'Information Technology Management for Business' Degree course is also being piloted in Wales at Glamorgan University. The first students were enrolled in September 2011 and nearly thirty applications have been received for the 2012 intake.

For more information please contact the relevant University.

Or visit:

Swansea Metropolitan University
www.smu.ac.uk

Cardiff Metropolitan University
www.uwic.ac.uk

Glamorgan Univeristy
www.glam.ac.uk



BICT2

The BICT2 (Business Information Communications Technology 2) project is an EU-backed scheme to raise IT skills amongst workers of small businesses in South East Wales to boost their career prospects and drive forward competitiveness of enterprises.

The BICT2 project, led by Computeraid Limited, is set to train around 1,000 individuals and support over 800 small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The project aims to help companies make better use of technology to reduce costs and improve business performance.

It will also enable employees to gain new skills so they can access a wider choice of jobs and improve their wage potential. The initiative will also raise awareness of the uses of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for remote working, particularly for improving the work-life balance of disadvantaged groups or those who have difficulty in participating in a traditionally-structured office-based working week.

BICT2 will also address the uses of ICT to minimise travel and reduce the pressure on the environment as well as encourage employers to develop a training culture where employers contribute to the training and development of their workforce.

Courses will run at The Jasmine Centre on Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, the Business Centre, Barry, and the Learn IT Centre in the centre of Monmouth.

For more information please contact:
Computeraid Limited via training@computeraidwales.com

Or visit: www.computeraidwales.com



Technocamps

Over 2,600 pupils from schools in West Wales and the Valley Regions will have the chance to take part in Technocamps, where they will get the chance to develop and apply computational thinking through a range of interactive and on-line workshops.

Schools, higher educations and academia will team up to deliver the Technocamps at Higher Education campuses. Aimed at pupils from 11 to 19 years, sessions will cover technical and scientific themes over and above core curriculum requirements and will be designed to hold appeal to particular audiences. The aim is to inspire young people and help them understand how computing science and technology can be practically applied in the 'real world'.

To encourage more girls to take up science and technology there will be a number of targeted workshops to break down barriers and provide practical information on potential careers in science and technology.

The project will give young people, particularly disadvantaged young people the opportunity to spend time in a Higher Education learning environment and meet academics and students and break down barriers. Schools will be encouraged and provided with the relevant support materials, to establish a "Technoclub" to continue the work of the Technocamps.

For more information, please contact:
Stuart Toomey - Swansea University via s.j.toomey@swansea.ac.uk

Or visit: www.technocamps.com





Essential Skills in the Workplace (ESIW) Project

The Essential Skills in the Workplace Project addresses the high proportion of adults without basic literacy, numeracy and ICT skills within the employed workforce in Wales. The project is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and led by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) at the Welsh Government.

Working in partnership with Training Providers and employers the project aims to raise awareness of the benefits of a skilled workforce. It will identify any essential skills needs and provide additional and enhanced support to individuals in order to increase levels of essential skills within the workplace. It will also provide increased training for over a thousand essential skills tutors and mentors to provide essential skills support in new and innovative ways.

Our definition of essential skills is the ability to read, write and speak in English or Welsh, and to use mathematics, at a level necessary to function and progress both in work and society. This definition equates to a robust level 1 in literacy (including ESOL) and numeracy. The Essential Skills in the Workplace programme focuses on those who are in employment but lack essential skills.

Programme targets

Between February 2012 and 31 December 2014 it is anticipated the programme will:

- Provide training to employed people in literacy, numeracy and ESOL up to and including level 2 with access to essential skills qualifications. Provision will be tailored to individual needs and contextualised to their workplace. Participants can gain one or more of the identified Essential Skills Wales qualifications in Communication, Application of Number, ICT and certificate in ESOL skills for life – speaking & listening); up to level 2
- Engage employers in the Employer Pledge programme to raise awareness of the need for a skilled workforce and to commit to supporting essential skills training for their workforce;
- Provide training for tutors, coaches and mentors to fill the current skills gap and deliver essential skills support in new and innovative ways.

For further information please contact: Business Skills Hotline on 0845 60 661 60
email: essentialskills@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or Visit:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/europeansocialfund/projects/basicskillsworkplace/?skip=1&lang=en>



DEHOV (Digital Economy Heads of the Valleys)

DEHOV is part of the Work Based Learning programme made possible by the European Union's Convergence European Social Fund (ESF) through the Welsh Government. DEHOV provides fully or partly-funded training to private sector employees who live and/or work in West Wales and the Valleys.

DEHOV provides the opportunity to maximise the opportunities the digital economy offers businesses. It does so by the provision of University short courses designed to reflect the needs of industry in the region. Encouraging professional development of staff at all levels, DEHOV assists in the creation of a better skilled workforce.

Offered through the Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute, DEHOV represents a partnership between the University of Wales, Newport and University of Glamorgan.

The wide-ranging term Digital Economy covers a variety of areas including:

- The use of computers in an office environment e.g. Office Applications, Databases, Spreadsheets, Web technologies and Design, Programming and PC troubleshooting
- eCommerce - Trading online
- The use of digital media in marketing
- Using and maintaining automated factory equipment
- The use of mobile devices such as bar code readers to acquire and manage company data.

For further information please visit - www.newport.ac.uk/dehov

Telephone 01495 356760 or email dehov@newport.ac.uk





Jisc

From 1 December 2012, the JISC Information Systems Committee has been established as a new company, Jisc, which is registered as a charity. Jisc is now owned by the community it serves, as represented by the Association of Colleges, Guild UK and Universities UK. Jisc services in Wales continue to be funded by the Welsh Government including the Janet network and the Jisc Regional Support Centre in Swansea.

The Jisc Regional Support Centres provide the gateway to Jisc services for learning providers. The Jisc RSC in Wales supports the development of e-learning and information learning technology in Further Education, Sixth Form, Adult and Community Learning, Work Based Learning and aspects of Higher Education.

The strategic aims of the RSC service are to support their clients:

- with the development of organisational strategies to maximise the benefits from technology
- with deploying and using technology to improve the quality of learning and curriculum delivery
- with improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their corporate and business systems
- by facilitating the sharing of innovation and practice and to foster peer support By acting as a two way channel between learning providers and expert advice, information and research outcomes; and
- by being a responsive, reflective and learning organisation that demonstrates value for money Contribute to the development of national and regional technology related strategies.

The Jisc RSC in Wales will also have a key role to play in supporting the Welsh Government's learning in digital Wales agenda.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.jiscrsc.ac.uk/wales> or <http://www.jisc.ac.uk>.

Twitter: [@rscwales](https://twitter.com/rscwales) and [@JISC](https://twitter.com/JISC)





The Digidol Project – Developing Digital Literacy at Cardiff University

The Digidol Project has been made possible through a £100K grant from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC). This two-year Cardiff University project is managed by Information Services (INSRV) and run in collaboration with Registry Services. It will build upon the already successful work achieved through INSRV's Information Literacy programme to identify effective and sustainable ways of developing the Digital Literacy of staff and students.

Digital Literacy is defined as “those capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society.” – JISC Developing Digital Literacies website (<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/developingdigitalliteracies>).

The Welsh Government's Delivering a Digital Wales Framework (Mar 2011) states that the "Widespread Digital Literacy and the development of a workforce which can offer a broad range of high quality "e-skills" is critical to the success of Digital Wales." There is a clear message that Digital Literacy is recognised at the highest level as being essential for employability.

Cardiff University recognises the fundamental importance that Digital Literacy will play in developing the future capability of its workforce and graduates. Such highly transferable knowledge and skills are essential if organisations and businesses are to become agile and adaptive in a rapidly changing world.

The Digidol project aims to enhance existing educational processes in the university concerned with designing and developing curricula and programmes of study for staff and students. As part of curriculum review and the production of new courses, teaching staff will be presented with opportunities to embed resources and learning activities specifically intended to promote the development of Digital Literacy.

Outputs from the project will include a change management approach for embedding Digital Literacy into all staff development courses and academic programmes of study for staff and students, and an organisational model for embedding Digital Literacy which can be adapted and delivered across to other higher education institutions.

For more information, visit the Digidol Project blog <http://digidol.cardiff.ac.uk/>





Enhancing Learning and Teaching through Technology: Gwella

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) published *Enhancing learning and teaching through technology: a strategy for higher education in Wales*, (ELTT) in April 2008, and refreshed it in September 2011.

Its objectives are:

- Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Assessment, and of Core Processes;
- An Enhanced Student Learning Experience, including increased flexibility and accessibility of provision; and
- Effective Collaboration and Sharing of Current and Good Practice Institutional engagement.

HEFCW has provided funding to support the implementation of the strategy. This has included an allocation to each HEFCW-funded institution and consultancy support, visits and feedback, arranged by the Higher Education Academy and funded separately by HEFCW.

Institutions which had not already participated in an e-Learning benchmarking exercise led by the Academy had to do so in order to participate. The programme of work funded through this initiative became known as Gwella, which is the Welsh word for improve. Gwella is scheduled to run until 30 April 2012.

To view the full Strategy and its refreshed circular please use the following links:

Full Strategy

http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/publications/circulars/circulars_2008/w08%2012he%20circ.pdf

Refreshed circular

http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/publications/circulars/circulars_2011/W11%2032HE%20Enhancing%20Learning%20and%20Teaching%20through%20Technology.pdf

For more information, please contact: Dr Cliona O'Neill via info@hefcw.ac.uk.

Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
Uwch Cymru
Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales

hefcw



The Knowledge Exchange Hub/ REACT

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Council, REACT (Research and Enterprise in Arts and Creative Technology) is one of Four UK Creative Economy Hubs and is a collaboration between the University of the West of England, Watershed (and ished), and the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter.

It reaches across two dynamic UK regions, and uniquely across three cultural areas and two languages and creative economies. Together we aim to generate a transformation in arts-driven economic and social impact, by combining demand from the Creative Economy with Arts and Humanities research excellence.

REACT is working with ished to deliver projects using the Sandbox process. We will run two Sandbox schemes a year with six projects in each scheme from 2011-2014. Each scheme will have a different theme. To qualify you must have a project that uses Arts and Humanities research with a creative Economy partner.

Heritage Sandbox, the first theme, will launch in December 2011 and will fund six projects exploring new experiences in heritage: Technology is changing the way people travel, work, communicate and spend their leisure time. For the culture and heritage sector to remain relevant and sustainable, it must make sure it remains at the forefront of this wave.

For more information please visit: www.react-hub.org.uk





Big Ambition Wales

Big Ambition Wales is a programme delivered by e-skills UK, which is a not-for-profit employer-led organisation, licensed by government as the Sector Skills Council for Business and Information Technology.

Welsh businesses need 17,000 new IT Professionals in the next five years. Yet fewer young people are studying IT, with just 355 young people in Wales sitting computing A-levels in 2011.

BigAmbition's goal is to reverse this trend by attracting teenagers to education and careers in the IT sector. The initiative focuses on giving 14-19 year olds the information they need to make clued-up decisions about technology-related careers, and signposting the qualifications they will need to succeed. It is informal, inspiring and accessible, and is designed to be female-friendly – particularly important given the gender imbalance in the IT sector.

The initiative is funded by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) and delivered by e-skills UK under the Employer Investment Fund (EIF) 1 and 2. It is also backed by major Welsh employers including General Dynamics, Draig Technology and HP Wales. The brand new Big Ambition Wales website was launched in November 2011.

The new website shows just how motivating and rewarding careers in technology can be. Featuring video interviews with IT professionals in a range of roles, as well as company profiles, games, competitions and quizzes, it is all designed to show young people the many exciting career options technology has to offer.

There's also information from Welsh colleges and universities to explain how young people can start their career in IT, from GCSEs and A Levels to apprenticeships and degrees. The site has had over 15,000 unique hits up until March 2012 and will continue to be promoted by Careers Wales, Job Centre Plus and HE careers services, etc over the next year.

For more information please contact: info@bigambition.co.uk

Or visit: www.bigambitionwales.co.uk





Computer Clubs for Girls

Computer Clubs for Girls (CC4G) is an out-of-the-box after-school club that has been specifically designed to encourage girls to stay engaged in IT. It helps girls aged 10-14 years old develop their skills in IT through a series of carefully-graded challenges, themed around their interests – like fashion, music, sport and celebrity. Running CC4G doesn't need any specialist IT expertise or software; it is fully curriculum-compliant, and benefits girls' confidence and self-esteem as well as their schoolwork.

Only 17% of the IT workforce is female, an issue that concerns employers greatly. Research has revealed that 10-14 is the age at which girls begin to see IT as a 'boys' subject'. CC4G shows girls of this age the fun and enjoyment of mastering technology's challenges, and motivates them to stay involved in the subject – ultimately allowing them to consider further education and careers in the sector.

Initially funded by Welsh Government in 2008, CC4G continues in Wales supported by self funded schools, employers and Universities. The UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) has included CC4G within the Employers Investment Fund (EIF) 2 funding, allowing e-skills UK to seek diverse sources of support for the programme.

To date there are 22 Welsh schools involved in Computer Clubs for Girls (CC4G).

For more information please visit: www.cc4g.net/

Or Contact: cc4ghelpdesk@e-skills.com





National Skills Academy for IT

The National Skills Academy for IT is a not-for-profit organisation run by e-skills UK. It is an employer-led partnership whose mission is to promote excellence in IT learning and development. It has been created by employers to enable IT professionals in all areas of the economy to access high quality, easily available learning and resources. This contributes to creating the technology capability the UK needs for innovation, global competitiveness and economic growth.

The National Skills Academy for IT works for the good of the whole sector, with unprecedented support from employers of all sizes. The NSA is working closely with the Software Alliance in Wales and Higher Education institutions to support businesses and IT professionals in Wales.

The National Skills Academy for IT focuses on:

- Identifying high quality learning and qualifications which are valued by the sector, and making it easy to access them and understand what they cover.
- Aggregating skills demand and generating new, employer-led, cost-effective learning options which reduce costs while encouraging greater overall investment in high quality training.
- Enabling the use of professional standards to link the skills needed for career progression and specific job roles to the most appropriate training.

For more information please visit: www.itskillsacademy.ac.uk/





IT Professional Apprenticeships

e-skills UK is funded by Welsh Government Sector priority funding to deliver 100 Level 3 apprenticeships in Wales from September 2012.

The programme, will be managed by e-skills UK in Wales until December 2014 and will bring together a collaboration of work-based learning providers, employers and colleges for the first time. Working together, providers will deliver an enhanced apprenticeship model for Wales.

Apprentices will follow a newly developed Level 3 framework, combining e-learning with a blended approach of classroom and work-based learning. This innovative approach to delivery and funding will help inform future.

Please contact mel.welch@e-skills.com

e-Crime Wales (Trust and Security)

e-Crime is currently estimated to cost the Welsh economy up to £974 million every year, through direct financial or intellectual property theft, disruption of communications or damage to business-critical data.

Historically, such crimes have been difficult to detect and punish, partly because of their technical complexity and partly because unseen attackers can strike at victims from hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

With support from the Welsh Government, e-Crime Wales is a partnership of organisations and agencies committed to equipping Welsh businesses with the knowledge and tools to be aware, vigilant, informed and ultimately safe from the destructive effects of e-Crime in all its forms.

By bringing together the four Welsh Police Forces, specialist public sector organisations and expert commercial businesses, e-Crime Wales shares and distributes the knowledge and intelligence vital for Welsh businesses to conduct business online both safely and securely.

e-Crime Wales wants every business in Wales to:

- Recognise e-Crime when they see it;
- Share their experiences of e-Crime;
- Understand the magnitude of e-Crime - that just like 'real crime' it has extremely serious implications to lives and livelihoods;
- Know the practical steps to take in order to avoid becoming a victim of e-Crime;
- Learn the correct process for reporting e-Crime instances to the relevant authorities;
- Have the available resources and support they need from police, government and private sector to achieve these aims; and
- Continue exploiting the benefits of ICT adoption without hindrance from the fear or obstacle of e-Crime.

For more information please contact: Iestyn Pugh - Welsh Government via lestyn.pugh@wales.qsi.gov.uk

Or visit: www.ecrimewales.com



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DE-LAN

Businesses in Wales and across Europe already know that they need to innovate, exploit the potential of new and emerging digital technologies and work together with others if they are to strengthen their position in the global economy, but they need support to achieve this.

To provide practical steps and tools to help businesses work together more effectively Welsh Government is leading a European funded project to address this need.

The DE-LAN (Digital Ecosystems-Learning Application Network) project will establish the practical implications of creating new types of digital networks amongst businesses. It will do this by sharing experiences and examples of this area of work across nine European regions, exploring both successes and failures to enable specific benefits to be identified.

These benefits will then be widely communicated to help change the way governments and businesses think and act. By the close of the project in December 2012 , governments will know how to create an environment through policy to enable sustainable digital networks, stimulating the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) supply sector and helping all businesses compete in today's dynamic global markets, allowing them to create wealth and increase the number of skilled jobs in their regions.

DE-LAN is an INTERREG IVC (Innovation and Environment Regions of Europe Sharing Solutions) European funded project led by the Welsh Government. It has been created to address a recognised need amongst businesses.

For more information please contact:

Wayne James - Welsh Government via wayne.james@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit: www.delanproject.eu



e-Business Services Support

Helping Welsh businesses make best use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and e-Business solutions by providing free advice and guidance is at the heart of the e-Business Services Support project.

Working in partnership with eSkills UK, the project has made available a Wales arm of the **Online Business IT Guide** (BITG). It provides objective, impartial and meaningful information and advice regarding ICT and the benefits different technologies can bring to businesses of all sizes.

Businesses can also take advantage of an ICT health check. The **ICT Diagnostic**, delivered in partnership with the private sector, assesses a businesses use of ICT and provides a roadmap to help businesses understand how they can exploit digital technologies.

Specific **e-Business support** works directly with businesses that recognise the need or benefits of increased exploitation of ICT. The project, in partnership with the private sector, works directly with businesses to provide the skills lacking in many businesses to ensure appropriate and successful ICT implementation. Supported by EU funds, the businesses themselves pay the balance of the support costs.

ICT CapEx Support is available solely for businesses availing themselves of the eBusiness Support. This is available on repayable terms over three years and is capped at £10k at a maximum of 50% of investment costs.

Digitally Networked Business Projects, (DNB), works with multiple stakeholders in the exploration of Digital Ecosystems. This activity works with clusters or sector supply chains to identify how shared exploitation of technologies can take place within a Digital Ecosystem. This is underpinned with toolkits, guidance and methodologies developed by the ICT Exploitation team in partnership with EC programmes in this field.

For more information please contact:

Michael Groves - Welsh Government via michael.groves@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit: <http://business.wales.gov.uk/>

Digital Wales Research Hub

It's now easier for leading multi-national and Welsh companies to access the research opportunities available in Wales.

Welsh Government has set up the Digital Wales Research Hub to forge sustainable links between industry, business and Welsh universities, which will develop the economy in Wales and help to create new jobs.

The Hub will promote effective and enduring collaborations between business and Welsh academic expertise, providing access to supply chain opportunities across Wales that could add further value to research projects.

Organised as a funding body, the Hub will be supported by an administrative function and will operate schemes through competitive, peer-review.

Four pilot projects, funded by Welsh Government, are demonstrating demand for activity in this area and cover:

- The evolution and future design of software and broadband networks to meet growing demand from consumers and business.
- Various optical network architectures to meet future network growth and ensure it is economically viable and sustainable.
- Production of six short films reflecting stories of homelessness and providing individuals with the opportunity to use digital media tell their own story.
- Research into how people in rural communities want to use the internet and access broadband services, to ensure they are properly included in the digital economy.

For more information please contact:

Chris Sweet, Welsh Government via chris.sweet@cymru.gsi.gov.uk



Digital Tourism – putting Wales on the map

Use of the internet has changed the way people plan and book holidays and short breaks at home and abroad, and access information when on holiday. Wales plans to boost the competitiveness of its tourism industry through a five-year Digital Tourism plan that will focus on raising the awareness and ability of business to take advantage of digital opportunities.

The programme has a number of work streams:

Digital tourism business environment

Provides opportunities for tourism businesses to share expert opinion and business opportunities online. Diagnostic assessments of their ICT supported by online case studies, 'how to' guides, training and seminars to ensure Wales' tourism has the ICT skill to support 21st century tourism.

Digital tourism communities and technology projects

Support is available for the creation of 'digital tourism communities', innovative technology projects and the implementation of new technology and supporting content.

Developing and exploiting the knowledge base.

Providing a new platform to support the sharing high quality web content about Wales that tourism business can also use to support their online activities.

Technology

Ensuring the right technical infrastructure is in place to support new tourism in Wales.

For more information please contact:

Welsh Government via digitaltourism@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The Graduate Entrepreneurship Scheme – Alacrity

The Graduate Entrepreneurship Scheme is designed to create a new generation of technology companies to enhance Britain’s competitive position as a user and producer of digital technology and creative content.

Its aim is to recruit the brightest and best engineering and business graduates from across UK universities, take them through an entrepreneur “boot-camp” and then create a new generation of Welsh-based technology companies, “newcos”.

The scheme is led by Wesley Clover www.wesleyclover.com in collaboration with the Waterloo Foundation www.waterloofoundation.org.uk and the Welsh Government.

The Programme will support 10 university graduates per year through a Boot Camp administered by a not-for-profit foundation, called Alacrity. During the Boot Camp stage Wesley Clover and experienced entrepreneurs will provide the students with intensive supervision, training and coaching to become an entrepreneur.

In parallel to the Boot Camp Wesley Clover will work with its strategic partners to identify ideas for new ICT products and services. Wesley Clover will additionally market test these ideas and in some instances obtain orders for the final product/services.

On “graduation” from the Boot Camp, groups of students will enter new companies (“newcos”) which are established by the Programme to realise the commercial opportunities around the new ICT product/solutions. At this stage, the private sector and the public sector will make an investment into the newcos, through a managed fund, in return for an equity stake.

For more information please contact:
Alex Bricknell - Welsh Government via alex.bricknell@wales.gsi.gov.uk

EADS Foundation Wales

EADS Foundation Wales, is a joint venture company between the Welsh Government, Cassidian and Cardiff University (representing academia in Wales). Launched by the First Minister in June 2011 following a successful pilot project. Welsh Government and EADS have each committed a minimum of £900,000 annually for the next four years to fund research projects from Academia and SMEs in Wales.

EADS Foundation Wales seeks to fund project proposals which generate research and technology in the fields of :

- Secure mobile and wireless communications
- Cyber Security
- Autonomous systems
- Renewable electricity innovations
- Advanced Materials (including composites)

There are five waves of research (and funding) that a project can go through :

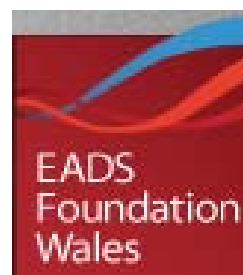
1. Initial idea
2. Building the idea into research
3. Preliminary Research
4. Main Research
5. Exploitation

After each wave of research is complete, the project must go through a Wave Review process if it is to progress to the next research phase for further funding.

The intention is to support R&D projects up to Technology Readiness Level 3, where exploitable benefits are generally long term.

For more information please contact:
Foundation Wales via enquiries@eadsfoundationwales.com

Or visit: www.eadsfoundation.com





Software Alliance Wales

Promoting Wales as a driving force in software development is a key aim for Software Alliance Wales. Software Alliance Wales helps Small to Medium Enterprises (SME's) in Wales realise the advantages of adopting new technologies, and specifically supports employers and practitioners in the software sector to identify and tackle skills gaps and requirements in order to further develop the knowledge economy.

Software Alliance Wales offers four key project strands to Welsh SMEs, offering them the opportunity to upskill their staff, improve their business processes or take advantage of cutting edge skills available from the University network.

CPD Training for ICT Professionals – Continuing Professional Development is available to ICT and Software Professionals throughout the Convergence area, providing the opportunity to acquire new skills, including those that are highly sought after or developing skills in new and emerging software technologies.

ICT Company Certification Scheme - The ICT Company Certification Scheme is a key service to help IT and software businesses help themselves using a business process improvement tool, and so actively contribute to this economic growth.

Student ICT Development Projects – The projects allow businesses to have the opportunity to conduct a substantial and rigorous project that is curiosity driven and innovative, while giving final year, MSc or MEng students the opportunity to put their learning into practice with a real life business project.

Business ICT Workshops – Business workshops are tailor made tasters to address specific issues identified within the SME community as requiring clarity. The sessions provide a bite sized learning opportunity, bringing about enhanced ICT performance within the participating organisations.

In addition to the four key strands, the project will develop a national network of software developers, encouraging development, inter-trading and continued growth of the knowledge economy of Wales.

The project is led by Swansea University in partnership with the Universities of Bangor, Glamorgan, Aberystwyth and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and is funded by the EU's Convergence European Social Fund through the Welsh Government.

For further information please contact Software info@softwarealliancewales.com; 01792 295881 or visit www.softwarealliancewales.com



Centre of Excellence in Mobile Applications and Services (CEMAS)

A centre of excellence where small businesses can design, develop and test new mobile phone services and applications has been set up at the University of Glamorgan. It is helping small and medium-sized businesses convert ideas into products.

Information and communication technology is one of the important sectors identified in Welsh Government's plan to develop our economy. The CEMAS project is working collaboratively with business to create, develop and test mobile applications.

CEMAS is also supporting the Welsh Mobile Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry by creating a network of leading industry contacts throughout the world. Activities range from local seminars to internationally recognised conferences combined with mobile apps showcasing events for Welsh SME to put their product in front of international audiences.

For more information please contact:
The CEMAS Team via cemas@glam.ac.uk

Or visit: www.cemas.mobi



A High Performance Computing Wales (HPC Wales)

High Performance Computing (HPC) Wales is Wales' national supercomputing service provider. In partnership with the Universities in Wales, Government and Fujitsu, HPC Wales provides integrated supercomputing services for businesses and researchers across Wales and beyond, often at fully discounted rates.

Host to the UK's largest distributed national supercomputing network, HPC Wales offers access to the most advanced computing technology in the world, along with the high level training and customised support to exploit it effectively.

High performance computing has the capacity to handle and analyse massive amounts of data at high speed. Tasks that can take months using normal computers can be done in days or even minutes. It can be used to model and solve highly complex problems across a range of high value sectors.

From improving cancer treatment and optimising offshore wind farms, to rendering computer-generated imagery (CGI) for movies, HPC Wales' services can benefit a wide variety of projects for which the technology may previously have been out of reach.

HPC Wales is expected to have huge social and economic benefits, helping Wales to remain globally competitive. Its development has been made possible with support of £24 million through the Welsh Government, including support from the European Regional Development Fund, £10m from the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), £5m from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and £4m matched funding from its University partners.

For more information please email: info@hpcwales.co.uk

Or visit: www.hpcwales.co.uk

You can also follow HPC Wales on Twitter [@HPCWales](https://twitter.com/HPCWales)



Skills for the Digital Economy (Creative Skillset Cymru)

Creative media industries across West Wales, the Valleys and North West Wales are being given a boost through a four and half year programme to improve skills in the sector.

The **Skills for the Digital Economy programme** develops and delivers flexible, industry-led training to meet the needs of creative media employers and freelancers working or living in West Wales, the Valleys and North West Wales.

Other key aims of the programme are to improve understanding of diversity issues facing the sector's workforce as well as specific environmental issues.

The programme is backed with funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) through the Welsh Government, with the rest of the funds provided by Welsh broadcaster S4C, the trade association for independent producers in film and television in Wales, Teledwyr Annibynnol Cymru (TAC) and Creative Skillset Cymru.

The creative economy in Wales has been identified by the Welsh Government as one of six priority sectors for business support. The project also seeks to significantly increase training opportunities for new entrants/junior professionals in these regions.

For more information please visit:

http://www.creativeskillset.org/uk/cymru/digital_economy/index_1.asp



S4/C TAC





Developing a Programming Pool (DaPP) Initiative

The DaPP initiative was established to help people develop the skills they need to secure jobs in the country's growing IT industry. The initiative took a group of learners through a programme of facilitated e-learning in computer programming - namely .NET and VB.

Welsh Government Officials worked in partnership with e-Skills to develop and deliver a pilot training programme using a customised package of support. The course was developed and delivered by the National Skills Academy for IT, in collaboration with local businesses and IT employers, Job Centre Plus, Careers Wales and Welsh Government, and delivered by Cardiff Metropolitan University. As part of the learning package students were provided with access to the latest learning from the IT Skills Academy, as well as 24/7 on-line and email support.

The 10-week programme provided participants with the opportunity to gain Microsoft accredited qualification and a guaranteed industry-led interview.

The outcomes of the programme were;

- 23 of the 27 candidates who took part in the course successfully gained employment.
- 17 of the 19 candidates who completed the entire course gained employment within a professional IT role.

For further information about the programme please contact e-Skills Manager for Wales, Mark Feeney: mark.feeney@e-skills.com



The DigiDo Project – Digital Content for Business

In February 2012, a £2.2m initiative to help businesses in the creative industries exploit a unique digital collection of cultural heritage to drive innovation and strengthen their competitiveness was launched.

Led by the National Library of Wales, the DigiDo project aims to provide companies across West Wales and the Valleys with a tailored service to help them access the largest repository of bilingual digital cultural heritage relating to Wales. The Library's collections include books, manuscripts, archives, maps, pictures and photographs as well as films, music and journals - much of which is being made available digitally, including over 2 million pages of nineteenth century newspapers.

Welsh businesses, particularly SMEs involved in TV, music, film and new media, will be coached by digitisation experts to harness this digital content in a bid to develop new products, services and technologies which, in turn, could help them win new contracts. There will also be support for companies involved in professional family history/genealogy and translation, as well as artists, and craft industries who may benefit from access to designs such as for pottery and textiles. The four-year scheme is backed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government, along with resources from the Library.

Through the DigiDo project, specialist advice and knowledge on a range of issues will be available from copyright and licensing, through to digital capture, digital storage and preservation to searching current resources. Information will be disseminated through training sessions and events. It is expected that through this activity a cluster of companies will be established who can collaborate on projects and share expertise to help secure further contracts.

Amongst the activities that could get underway through the project include the development of applications that will facilitate access to content such as historical newspapers and the exploitation of newly-digitised data by researchers and journalists to create television and radio productions.

Businesses interested in more information on the services that can be provided through the project can contact Mari Grug via mari.grug@llgc.org.uk, Ted Jones via edward.jones@llgc.org.uk or David Michael via david.michael@llgc.org.uk Or for more information please visit: www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=6021



Digital Development Fund (DDF)

The Digital Development Fund is a £2 million fund designed to assist in supporting creative industries businesses to exploit new markets in the global digital economy. We are seeking to fund projects utilising the breadth of digital devices, platforms and channels. The fund is a pilot and we welcome any feedback that can help us to improve our service. As the fund is rolled out, eligibility criteria and guidance may be amended where required.

The fund aims to support projects that can achieve significant commercial returns through international market opportunities. It can provide funding up to a maximum of £50,000 and up to 50% of the eligible costs of each project. Support given under this fund is not repayable.

The fund is not intended to be used for start up investment, early stage research & development only projects, or for the digitisation of non-commercial creative products. If you would like any help with the application process or you are not sure if your project is eligible for the Digital Development Fund, please read our FAQs and eligibility criteria.

<http://www.business.wales.gov.uk/digitaldevelopment>

If you would like to discuss your idea before applying please email the creative industries mailbox creative.industries@wales.gsi.gov.uk



Destination Local

Destination Local is a collaboration between the Welsh Government and Nesta (The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts), which seeks to identify technologies, business models, challenges and content opportunities to maximise the potential for a successful hyperlocal media sector in the UK.

The new £1million programme 'Destination Local' is led by Nesta and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) with successful ideas from Wales receiving match-funding from the Welsh Government. Nesta opened a call for applications for projects seeking seed funding of up to £50,000 to test the next generation of hyperlocal media services.

Eligibility Criteria

Applications had to be:

- For services located in the UK
- Using mobile technology to deliver a geographically-relevant service
- Engaging and interacting with local community
- Able to provide evidence of audience demand/local need
- Able to provide evidence of a potential sustainable revenue model

'Destination Local' will begin to address the challenges faced by the sector in a systematic way that begins to measure the potential impact of the sector and puts the UK at the forefront of research into this sector.

Further information and criteria can be found at

www.nesta.org.uk/destination_local



PSN Cymru – Delivered through PSBA – A secure private network for the public sector

Wales is the first UK home country to have a single, secure public service internet. Education, health, local government, police and emergency services are now sharing the same electronic highway, which has been designed by the public sector to meet its specific business needs.

Traditionally public services in Wales relied upon a number of disparate broadband services, purchased from different suppliers. In 2004, the Welsh Government saw a valuable opportunity to combine the demands of the different sectors and decided to put in place a far sighted agreement to provide one flexible, cost effective broadband for the public sector.

Over 100 organisations are now connected to the Wales PSN and benefitting from better, faster connections and collaborative cost savings. As the PSN uses a shared core network across Wales with direct connections to more than 2,500 individual sites, operational management is simplified delivering further cost savings.

PSN Cymru is delivered through the Public Sector Broadband Aggregation Programme (PSBA) and supports shared services, high volume data transfer, Voice over IP and video conferencing.

For more information please contact:

The Project Office - 029 2082 3190 or email - psba@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit: www.psba.org.uk





Data Centres

A 2011 survey identified at least 82 different Data Centres and 340 server rooms across Wales' public sector. Whilst some are relatively modern, others are nearing the end of their lifecycle or usability.

To improve efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint an initiative is under way to rationalise and consolidate this diverse local public sector Data Centre service capability into a single National capability. For reasons of resilience and security this will be delivered from a very small number of secure, high powered, high performance facilities, capable of serving the entire Welsh public sector.

A National Data Centre Technical Strategy sets out the route map for data centres that will support national applications and online public services. It also establishes a pathway for the introduction of web-based Cloud or hosted services, such as email, or office applications.

Consolidation of data centres is expected to deliver substantial savings in cost and energy consumption, and at the same time improve service standards and reduce risk.

As an transitional step, public sector collaboration in geographical areas is being encouraged through sharing and pooling of resources, and a move toward standardisation of technology and applications where possible and appropriate.

For more information please contact:

Stephen Harries - Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) via
stephen.harries@wales.gsi.gov.uk



Common address data set for Welsh public services

Wales' 22 local authorities are now using one source of address data - the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG), which is endorsed as the authoritative, national address list, providing unique identification of land and property in England and Wales.

This definitive data set is underpinning integration of operational systems such as council tax and non-domestic rates and is reducing error and duplication.

Digital Wales is supporting its use with other public sector bodies, including the police and fire services, which would benefit from access to a single source of address information that includes accurate recognition for landmarks and properties without a postal address.

In Gwent, Newport City Council, Gwent Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue are to pilot a new Direct Incident Transfer Hub, underpinned by the NLPG. This is the first of its type in the UK and if successful will be adopted throughout Wales and England.

The hub will automatically transfer information from 999 and 101 calls to the agencies that need to action the call. This will save time, money and resources and make emergency services more responsive. At the moment information is shared via telephone calls.

Digital Wales is also working alongside the Wales Accord for Sharing Personal Information (WASPI) team to finalise operational Information Sharing Protocols (ISP) between these public sector bodies.

For more information contact:

Jon Jones - Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) via
jonathanc.jones@wales.gsi.gov.uk



My Health Online – the patient’s website

My Health Online is a bilingual NHS Wales website that lets people order repeat prescriptions and book appointments to see their GP, wherever they are and at any time.

Funded by Welsh Government, it makes it easy for patients to update their general details, such as change of address, and has links to NHS Direct Wales for help on managing health conditions.

My Health Online was developed following a survey of over 1,000 people in Wales to find out how they wanted to use digital technology for healthcare. The majority said they wanted to use the internet to contact their GP practice online.

My Health Online makes it easier for patients to make contact with their GP, no hanging on the phone waiting to get through to the surgery and there is reduced administration for the GP practice.

The website is being delivered by the NHS Wales Informatics Service in partnership with the suppliers of GP Computer Systems to Wales, and to date is available for more than 300,000 patients at over 100 GP surgeries. It will become widely available across Wales over the next 12 months.

For more information please contact:
NHS Wales Informatics Service on 029 2050 0500

Or visit: www.wales.nhs.uk/nwis





Shared Resource Centre

The Shared Resource Centre at Blaenavon pools IT-related activity for Torfaen and Monmouthshire Councils, Gwent Police and acts as a data centre for the NHS Wales Informatics Service.

The project is expected to deliver millions of pounds in savings and address resource capacity gaps.

The centre was officially opened by the First Minister on the 14th February 2011.

For more information please contact:

Stephen Harries - Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) via
stephen.harries@wales.gsi.gov.uk



The ICT Strategy for the Public Sector in Wales

The ICT Strategy for the Public Sector in Wales sets out the technical approach, architecture, infrastructure and standards needed to deliver a Digital Wales.

The Strategy will allow Wales to robustly and safely ensure that new ICT systems support the move to online public services and that they meet the needs of the citizens of Wales. The Strategy also supports the delivery of the following core public sector goals:

- Improving public service delivery
- Improving access to public services
- Increasing the efficiency of public service delivery
- The promotion and facilitation of the use of Welsh.

One area is the use of email and electronic communications. Currently the NHS Wales uses the postal service to send out letters to patients and to communicate between secondary and primary care. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board alone sends approximately 120,000 letters to patients every month.

In the future, the aim is to become less reliant on printed communications, while allowing the citizen to receive communications in the medium of their choice.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer is working with public sector organisations to develop a printing strategy that will create opportunities for efficiencies and optimise print resources by:

- Improving processes – no longer having to deal with paper records.
- Improving the way print hardware is purchased to avoid various inefficient and non-standard devices distributed across organisations.
- Ensure print devices are set up to in the most efficient way, e.g. printing double sided
- Create opportunities for centralised print rooms and shared resources

First steps are to evaluate examples in Wales where organisations are collaborating on printing technologies. For example Caerphilly Council and Cardiff & Vale Health Board are implementing technology that will reduce ink usage and consequent consumable costs.

For more information please contact:
Wayne Turner - Print Strategy Manager Caerphilly Council via
turnew@caerphilly.gov.uk

Or visit: www.wales.gov.uk/ictstrategy



Blue Badge application/ renewal - Online in Wales

The Welsh Government published the Action Plan '*A Modern Blue Badge for Wales*' in January 2010 and is working in partnership with local authorities in Wales (who administer the scheme), various organisations and users of the scheme to deliver key priorities.

Work began with setting up a Steering Group of representatives from across the Public Sector and various other organisations and access groups. The Steering Group and the Welsh Government established working groups to deliver the priorities.

One of the working groups is looking at the best ways of **assessing eligibility**, and the possibility of extending eligibility for a blue badge. This requires close collaboration with local authorities, GP's and other medical professionals as well as social services. The group is looking at which disabilities should be included in the eligibility of the Blue Badge and preparing guidance for local authorities, public and other key stakeholders on eligibility.

Another group looked at data sharing and badge design and oversaw Wales part in the Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) which was introduced on 1st April 2012. The BBIS will help to prevent fraud and to reduce high levels of abuse. The BBIS will also allow applicants to apply for a Blue Badge on-line or direct to the local authority in the usual way. It will allow information to be shared between local authorities to reduce fraudulent use of the Badge, as well as a number of other administrative benefits, thereby improving the scheme for users in the long term.

Work is ongoing within the Welsh Government and in collaboration with the department for Transport on improving enforcement of the scheme and this has been assisted by the introduction of the BBIS. There is currently a UK Government Disabled Persons Parking Badges Bill which should bring together the improved enforcement capability of the new badge with new powers for enforcement officers to reduce fraud and mis-use.

For more information, please visit:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/integrated/bluebadgescheme/bbnewsletters/?lang=en>





xchange Wales – Welsh Government

The Welsh Government works with public services and social partners to transform public service efficiency and drive innovation. Part of the Value Wales division of the Welsh Government, the xchangewales programme aims to improve procurement efficiency, increase productivity and lower the cost of doing business for both the public sector buyer and their suppliers. The Programme does this by supporting the implementation of electronic tools and services.

Significant savings – currently over £63million (April 2012) delivered since programme inception in 2008 – are reinvested locally by the involved public sector organisations to deliver improved front-line services to benefit the citizens of Wales.

xchangewales aims to enable all public sector organisations in Wales and their suppliers to trade with each other electronically. It provides tools and services that allow:

- Buyers to source, tender, evaluate, order and pay for goods and services online; make full use of a business-to-business purchasing card scheme.
- Suppliers to tender for public sector contracts; market, supply and invoice their goods and services online; accept the Welsh Purchasing Card as payment.

The programme has been designed to ensure accessibility to all Welsh Public Sector bodies, regardless of size or eProcurement maturity, from large Local Authorities / NHS Health Boards to small FE Colleges / Housing Associations. In return, tools and services are accessible to the full range of suppliers from micro-businesses and SME's upwards.

For more information please visit www.xchangewales.co.uk



Broadband Support Scheme

People who live in areas of Wales where broadband is not available or is very slow can apply for a grant of up to £1,000 to help their household, business or voluntary organisation get online.

The Broadband Support Scheme assists people living in broadband 'notspots' or 'slowpots' across Wales. Where there is either no broadband access or a consistent download speed of less than 2Mbps. Eligible recipients have the freedom to choose the most appropriate broadband solution to meet their needs and together with their own Internet Service Provider (ISP).

Financial assistance is available to cover the capital costs associated with the set up and installation of a broadband service. Communities are encouraged to pool resources to purchase community wide solutions from the market and potentially leverage additional benefits and outcomes.

In February 2012, the project was extended to March 2013 to ensure the Welsh Government can respond to individuals with immediate broadband issues. The broadband support scheme will operate in parallel to the Next Generation Broadband for Wales (NGBW) Project.

For more information please contact:

Welsh Government via broadband@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit: www.wales.gov.uk/broadband

Next Generation Broadband for Wales

Fast broadband accessible across Wales is as important to economic growth as our road and rail networks. First class, globally competitive digital infrastructure is also a key theme within Delivering a Digital Wales and will provide the foundation for delivering a Digital Wales.

In July 2012, BT signed an agreement to deliver Next Generation Broadband for Wales (NGBW) Project. As a result of the project, the Welsh Government aims for 96% of businesses and homes in Wales to have access to a fibre-based broadband service by the end of 2015.

As a direct result of this agreement, BT will create 50 new skilled jobs and 100 new apprenticeships. 320 existing jobs will also be protected. In addition, BT will offer work experience to 900 young people in Wales.

The main technology being deployed to deliver access to next generation services will be a mix of fibre to street-side cabinets and fibre directly into premises.

Over the next three years, the project will target the 52% of premises in Wales where there is no planned commercial roll out. It will build on commercial investment already made or planned by the private sector.

A detailed roll-out plan is currently under development and further details will be made available in the autumn.

For more information please contact:

Welsh Government via nextgenerationbroadband@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit: www.wales.gov.uk/broadband