



Impact of the European Union in Scotland – some examples

Supporting international student exchanges

Since 2014 more than 15,000 people have been involved in Erasmus+ projects across Scotland. These support skills development and collaboration across the EU through student and other exchanges. From 2014-2018 a total of €90.7 million was awarded to Scotland across 844 projects involving 13,957 participants. Proportionally more European Erasmus students come to Scotland than to any other country in the UK, and proportionally more Scottish students study abroad on Erasmus than from any other country in the UK. The current Erasmus+ programme runs from 2014 to 2020 with a total budget of €14.7 billion, a 40% increase on the previous programme. It aspires to provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain experience and volunteer abroad. Read more here: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Supporting international research collaboration

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme with nearly €80 billion funding available over 7 years. It recognises the value of research as an investment in our future and is at the heart of the EU's blueprint for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs. Scotland is an active and valued member of Horizon 2020. Since the programme launched, almost €600 million of funding has been secured by Scottish organisations to date. Horizon 2020 is particularly important to Scotland as we achieve a higher level of income per capita than all of the other nations in the UK (€55 per capita compared with a UK average of €40). On average, around 10% of Scottish universities' research income comes from Horizon 2020. Importantly, the ensuing collaboration with other European experts is what keeps our research at the cutting edge. Read more about Horizon 2020 here: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/what-horizon-2020>

Supporting healthy lives

The EU invests in many projects across Scotland which support people and communities directly. One example: through Interreg funding, the €8.7 million mPower project helps people live well, safely and independently in their own homes. This is achieved through personal wellbeing plans which include the use of digital tools like apps and mobile monitoring as well as modernised infrastructure for healthy aging. In cooperation with partners in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, this project is focused on assisting older people with long term conditions living in isolated rural communities. Read more about mpower here: <https://mpowerhealth.eu/> and more about Interreg funding here: <https://interreg.eu/about-interreg/>





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Connecting across the seas

EU funded projects offer opportunities to work across the sea basins we border, to share our knowledge and to learn from what works elsewhere. Scotland's participation in the SIMCelt project (Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Celtic Seas) has enabled us to work with colleagues in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and France on marine planning and transboundary issues. We managed the MUSES initiative, looking at multiple uses of European sea basins, while our on-going involvement in the NorthSEE project ensures a Scottish view within a North Sea perspective on Shipping, Energy and Environmental Aspects. They look at where competition for marine resources lies, but also where synergies can be achieved. EU funding has brought shared challenges into the open, working together in innovative ways to find sustainable solutions. Read more here: <http://www.simcelt.eu/>, <https://muses-project.com> and <http://www.northsee.eu>

Protecting and enhancing rights

The EU has had a key role in protecting and promoting standards and rights. The European parliament has made a particular impact in recent years on employment issues such as health and safety provisions, agency workers' rights, pregnant workers' rights, parental leave and paid annual leave. It played a pivotal part in resisting the controversial anti-counterfeiting trade agreement. (ACTA) which many saw as infringing fundamental rights including freedom of expression and privacy.

Judicial Cooperation

As EU citizens, we all might need to take legal action against a person, a trader or a company in another EU country, for example if a product was purchased online but never arrived. EU provisions enable people and businesses in Scotland and across Europe to resolve disputes that cross borders, from commercial disputes to more personal matters such as divorces. EU measures have provided clarity on issues such as which courts have jurisdiction and on mutual recognition of judgments across the EU, ensuring that individual citizens' interests are protected as they exercise their rights across the EU. Although the EU has not impacted on the substance of family law in Scotland, children and families benefit from EU measures which ensure that family disputes can be resolved when they cross EU borders.





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Making our urban environment greener

Since 2014, around £15 million of EU funding is being invested in improving the quality, accessibility and quantity of green infrastructure in Scotland's major towns and cities. Vacant and derelict land is being repurposed so that more and more people in urban environments can access greenspace. The funding has supported projects like Canal & North Gateway in Glasgow, which will transform former claypits into a local nature reserve, including a new mountain bike trail, disabled access fishing pegs, and a feature canal pedestrian bridge. The Greater Easterhouse project will transform over 29 hectares of land within one of Scotland's most deprived areas, creating wildflower, wetland, woodland and grassland habitats by transforming vacant and derelict sites. The funding supports capital projects and community engagement activities, so people have more opportunities to take a lead in improving their greenspace. Read more here: <https://www.greeninfrastructurescotland.scot/>

Reducing poverty and boosting social inclusion

Thanks to £22 million from the European Social Fund, people from Scotland's most deprived communities benefit from support to reduce their levels of poverty and social exclusion. Local authorities, third sector organisations and the Scottish Government are delivering projects to address the barriers that prevent disadvantaged people from being included in society. The participants in these projects include people from workless, lone parent and low income households, and those with disabilities, health and other care responsibilities. People from the most fragile and deprived communities can benefit from advice and guidance on food and fuel poverty, enhanced child and social care solutions, business and financial management training, and seeking employment or education. Read more here: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/european-structural-funds/tackling-poverty/>

Investing in our workforce

Since 2014, EU funding has supported work-based learning for thousands of Scots. Foundation Apprenticeships help young people gain valuable real-world work experience while they're still at school. Graduate Apprenticeships combine academic knowledge with skills development so participants become more effective and productive in the workplace. The programme, supported by the European Social Fund, focuses on key sectors in line with employer demand, and enables individuals to move from education to employment more quickly. Overall, it improves the employability of our workforce and supports businesses in targeting them with the resources they require. Read more here: <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/apprenticeships/>





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Rural Scotland

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) invests in Scotland's rural economy with around £700 million a year supporting farmers and investing in communities and enterprise, creating thousands of jobs and training opportunities in the process. EU funding has invested in entrepreneurship, enabling organisations such as Growbiz to invest in peer to peer and mentoring activities for micro and social enterprises in rural Perthshire. More than 700 rural businesses have benefitted from Growbiz in the last 2 years alone. Generational renewal is also vital to the resilience of Scotland's rural communities with EU investment playing a vital role. Last year, with EU funding, The Rural Youth Ideas Festival brought together 100 young people from rural parts of Scotland, UK, EU and beyond, to share ideas, skills and be inspired to participate actively in their local communities, influence rural policy and improve their own opportunities. Read more here: <https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/> and <https://www.gov.scot/policies/agriculture-payments/scottish-rural-development-programme-srdp/>

Cultural collaboration and exchange

Between 2007 and 2016 at least £59 million of EU funding was awarded to Scottish cultural organisations. This supported around 650 projects and developed links between Scotland and every EU country. The EU's Creative Europe programme is an innovative and important source of support for Europe's culture and creative sectors. Scottish organisations have had significant success in accessing the programme. "Follow the Vikings" is a Creative Europe-supported project, led the Shetland Amenity Trust. The project celebrates the shared Viking history of Europe, aiming to increase access to this transnational heritage and raise awareness of it with a world-wide audience including via digital resources, visitor experiences, performances and workshops. Through exploring shared and diverse European cultures and heritage, Creative Europe helps organisations to enhance their businesses, develop new audiences and learn through sharing their knowledge and experience with counterparts in other countries. It has cultural, economic and social impacts, supports skills development and innovation in business models. Read more here: <http://www.creativeeuropeuk.eu/>

