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Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future



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Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes in Scotland

2022 case studies booklet

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2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes: a summary

Background

European Structural and Investment Funds are forms of financial assistance provided by the European Commission to Member States.

The key aim of the funds is to strengthen economic and social cohesion by correcting imbalances between regions.

European Structural and Investment Funds are made up of two distinct strands:

- the European Social Fund (ESF)
- the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The ESF was established in 1958 to help people improve their lives by learning new skills, finding better jobs and lifting them out of poverty.

The ERDF was established in 1975 to support business growth, investment and infrastructure.

The ESF and ERDF programmes operate in multi-year cycles and fund a variety of projects in terms of length, scale and beneficiaries.

Current 2014-2020 Programmes in Scotland

In Scotland, we have used ESF and ERDF support to help achieve our aims of Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth:

- Smart Growth – supporting Scotland's businesses and workforce
- Sustainable Growth – making Scotland a greener, cleaner place to live and work
- Inclusive Growth – removing barriers from disadvantaged communities and lifting people out of poverty

The Scottish Government is the Managing Authority of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Programmes.

We allocate funding to Lead Partners who then bring their own match funding to increase the total amount available for operations.

Lead Partners then distribute funding between individual projects and organisations and/or deliver projects themselves.

Our Lead Partners are made up of:

- Scotland's 32 local authorities
- Scottish Enterprise
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Transport Scotland
- NatureScot
- Zero Waste Scotland
- Skills Development Scotland
- Scottish Funding Council
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Other Scottish Government Directorates

European Regional Development Fund Case Studies

SMART GROWTH

The Advancing Manufacturing Challenge Fund (AMCF) is a partnership between Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The overall aim of the AMCF is for projects to have a significant impact on advancing the manufacturing capabilities of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) within Scotland and lead to long-term transformational change. It is supported with approximately £8.3 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

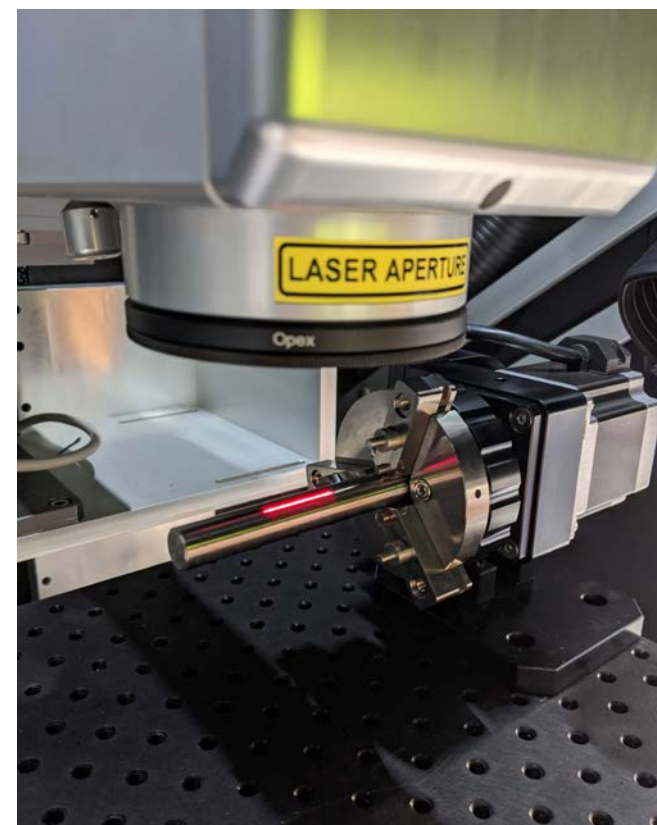


Manufacturing medical devices in Edinburgh

The Medical Device Manufacturing Centre (MDMC) is one of twelve AMCF projects which forms part of the Scottish Programme for Research, Innovation and Technology Ecosystem (SPRITE) programme being delivered by Scottish Enterprise and provides a free of charge range of services to Scottish SMEs.

The MDMC project is made up of a team of engineers, scientists and clinicians from across four Universities (Heriot Watt University, The University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow and Robert Gordon University), who provide medical device developers and manufacturers with advice, access to manufacturing facilities, engineering and technical expertise, and regulatory advice for companies seeking to translate device concepts into commercial products. They have a comprehensive suite of manufacturing equipment installed in dedicated labs at Heriot Watt University ranging from laser based manufacturing equipment to medical device packaging and environmental testing equipment.

MDMC has delivered 11 Knowledge Transfer webinars since 2020, delivered two 4-day courses focussing on Medical Device Regulations, engaged with approximately 107 SMEs through events and supported 28 SMEs to date.



European Regional Development Fund Case Studies (continued)

“The comprehensive manufacturing services provided by MDMC are normally out of reach for early-stage businesses – in the case of See Vac Ltd, we have been able to proceed to injection moulding of our novel multifunctional dental suction device, ready for large-scale manufacture. We have also benefited from expert advice on medical device regulatory approval, all of which helps to de-risk our pathway to commercialisation.”

Louise Kennedy, founder of See Vac Ltd, a medical device company



- ERDF contribution to the project: £1.6million
- Total project expenditure: £3.2million
- Lead Partner: Scottish Enterprise
- Project Lead: Heriot-Watt University



European Regional Development Fund Case Studies (continued)

Providing SMEs with access to new technologies in the West Highlands

The Advancing Manufacturing in the West Highlands project is one of twelve Advancing Manufacturing Challenge Fund (AMCF) projects which forms part of the Scottish Programme for Research, Innovation and Technology Ecosystem (SPRITE) programme being delivered by Scottish Enterprise and provides a free of charge range of services to Scottish SMEs.

The project is designed to provide SMEs within the West Highlands and wider Highlands and Islands area access to advanced manufacturing technology and expertise. The support available for SMEs includes 3D Printing and Scanning, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Machining, Industry 4.0, Project Engineering and Project Management. A new specialist Advancing Manufacturing Centre (AMC) located in Fort William provides opportunities for industry-led knowledge exchange and collaboration amongst businesses, and serves as a local point of contact for industry and academia which wasn't available in the West Highlands prior to the project and ERDF support.

The AMC offers support to SMEs who want to explore how to design a product, make a prototype or run an assembly line or operation which could be improved with free manufacturing and design technology and access to specialist expertise. To date the project has held four events, engaged with 11 SMEs and supported eight projects with SMEs.

"Having the use of the specialist equipment and knowledgeable engineers helped us develop this product in a much shorter timescale, and more accurately than we could have ourselves."

Cioch Ltd, Isle of Skye-based designer and manufacturer of outdoor clothes

- ERDF contribution to project: £965,000
- Total project expenditure: £1.4million
- Lead Partner: Scottish Enterprise
- Project Lead: West Highland College UHI



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Constructing a 'Smart Canal' in Glasgow

Historically, a significant area of north Glasgow has been at risk of surface water flooding, which has limited the development potential and created substantial amounts of derelict land. With local sewer systems at capacity, no natural watercourse in the area and climate change likely to bring more adverse weather events, a different approach to removing excess surface water was required.

After many years of planning, the solution has been the Glasgow 'Smart Canal' scheme, relying on sensors and predictive weather technology to dynamically manage water levels, enabling the canal to become a drainage route for excess surface water when rainfall is high. With early warning of wet weather, the canal water level can be lowered by up to 100mm, isolating the north Glasgow section and moving excess water into the nearby River Kelvin.

Officially named the North Glasgow Integrated Water Management System (NGIWMS), it is a sustainable solution that has received capital funds from Glasgow City Region City Deal as well as ERDF grants via the Green Infrastructure Fund and 'Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City' programme.

Crucially, it has begun to unlock 110 hectares of previously unusable land at five sites across north Glasgow for development and regeneration. Around 3,000 new energy-efficient homes, a school, and other developments are being built in communities close to the canal. The area includes many neighbourhoods within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 10% most deprived datazones.

The Smart Canal is also boosting biodiversity along its length, improving green connections to surrounding areas and opening up green and blue spaces for recreation. Importantly, it is creating a new pedestrian-friendly community and, with the inclusion of active travel routes, it improves the area's connectivity to the city centre.

The Smart Canal has won six major awards for engineering and innovation and has attracted interest from other local authorities and international visitors who are rethinking how they use their reservoirs and canal networks.

- ERDF contribution to project: £336,000
- Total project budget (Smart Canal): £839,000



European Regional Development Fund Case Studies (continued)

Improving data literacy in Perth & Kinross

Data literacy can be defined as the ability to work with data – to capture and maintain it correctly, to analyse it, to use it to gain insight and to communicate with it effectively.

Data literacy is important for any organisation seeking to make better use of data. In recognition of this, Perth & Kinross Council's (PKC) Data & Analytics project incorporates high-level objectives to improve data literacy across the organisation, as part of 'Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City' programme.

PKC undertook research and consulted with other councils to understand approaches being taken to data literacy improvement, finding that while it is an emerging area of interest, there is little in the way of fully-fledged best practice examples. This meant that development of the data literacy improvement plan has been an opportunity for innovation, adopting new approaches to awareness-raising, learning and staff development.

Taking inspiration from the festive season, and from a campaign facilitated by the Scottish Local Government Digital Office in 2020, the '12 Days of Data' campaign has taken an innovative approach to teach staff about data, using non-technical language and Microsoft Teams based channels that users were already comfortable with. The key takeaway for users has been that data and analytics is relevant to everyone and is not just for the specialist.

The campaign has managed to build a community of data users that will continue to participate in future data literacy improvement activities. This will include the development of targeted data literacy learning pathways, training modules, and further awareness raising communications.

Thanks to ERDF support, Perth and Kinross Council has been able to upskill its employees in data literacy, creating efficiencies and opportunities to modernise across the whole council area.

- ERDF contribution to project: £263,000
- Total project expenditure: £657,000



INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Moving people into work in Moray

Thanks to European Social Fund (ESF) support, a consortium of third sector organisations is delivering 'All in Moray', an employability project to help people with barriers move into and towards employment in Moray. The consortium is led by Enable and includes Barnardo's and Apex, and they were awarded up to £413,000 of ESF support through Moray Council's Challenge Fund.

'All In Moray' began in April 2022 with the aim of working with 195 out-of-work people in Moray. The project provides a learning plan for each participant based on each person's own unique needs and circumstances. The participants are then helped to achieve the aims of their learning plan by key workers in the consortium.

So far, the consortium has registered 17 participants and is working towards registering at least another 25 clients to date. Two clients have already successfully moved into paid employment after being part of the 'All in Moray' project.

Client testimonial

"Before we met, I was doing 'nothing'. I hardly left my house, and I didn't have any vision for my future.

I started working with Enable Works in April 2022. I felt after meeting you that I had a lot of options for the future. Since then, you have helped me create my CV and covering letter and worked on interview skills.

You arranged a visit to Loch Park centre for disabled adults near Dufftown, and an informal interview. I started a volunteer job there on 12/8/22. This will give me an idea if I want to work in a paid job supporting vulnerable adults or children. You have helped to build my confidence and belief in myself and helped me to make steps forward!

I now feel more comfortable getting out of the house and have a lot more confidence in myself.

I have something to look forward to in the future!"

-Robert



European Social Fund Case Studies (continued)

Progressing parents out of poverty in Stirling

'Thrive to Maximise' is a project delivered by Stirling Council since October 2022 with £230,000 of allocated ESF support. It assists parents who are out of work as well as those who experience levels of in-work poverty, seeking to improve their employability and their finances via advice and support.

The team continues to provide holistic support to current participants, many of whom remain fairly removed from work or education outcomes due to issues and barriers in their lives. For example, one client was a mother who came to Scotland from Ukraine with her two children and used to work as a graphic designer. The team helped her to write a new CV, apply for college for a qualification and receive the correct amount of benefits and bursaries.

The 'Thrive to Maximise' team have seen an increase in referrals from drop-in sessions for Ukrainian refugees and their sponsors, and have appointed a member of the team to provide dedicated support to refugees in rural areas.

Nevertheless, the team provide support to all parents in the local area who experience poverty. 93 participants have registered with this operation and 39 have achieved a result of employment, qualifications, education/training or improved labour market situation.

Thanks to ESF support, parents in the Stirling Council area who experience poverty are able to massively improve their employment and financial prospects.

Client testimonial

"I came to Scotland with two children from Ukraine – my husband is still in Ukraine. I am a graphic designer and I'm looking for work in Scotland.

I receive support from Katy from the Learning and Employability Team. I'm very grateful to Katy for her help and support. She has helped me rewrite my CV, supported me to gain a Paediatric First Aid Qualification.

I am going to college in Autumn and Katy also helped me apply for college. This is a huge support for me – thank you very much."

-Anonymous

- ESF contribution to project: £574,000
- Total project expenditure: £230,000
- Lead Partner: Stirling Council



European Social Fund Case Studies (continued)

Upskilling young people in Angus

The Prince's Trust receives ESF support as part of the National Third Sector Fund (NTSF), which is managed by Skills Development Scotland. NTSF is a £50.3m employability operation made up of third sector organisations delivering support to unemployed and inactive participants, and has been allocated £22.5m of ESF support.

The Prince's Trust helps people like Demi, a woman in her early twenties who lives in Arbroath with her five-year-old daughter. Demi had been unemployed for just over two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, which had also affected her mental health and wellbeing. As a result, leaving the house was a source of anxiety.

Demi's confidence was low due to being out of work for so long. When discussing a plan of action with the team at the Prince's Trust, Demi explained that she wanted to explore her options, build her skills back up again and get back into employment, preferably in the field of social care.

Demi was supported to take part in the 'Explore' course at the Prince's Trust in Dundee, a three-day course that aims for young people to push themselves out of their comfort zone and engage with others. She received positive feedback and was subsequently awarded a 'Development' award to help pay for driving lessons, as in most cases community care jobs require a driving license.

Demi was keen to look at the next stage of her journey and was due to take part in a Health and Social care course in Dundee. However, before she was able to start, she was unexpectedly successful in applying for a community care post, which she had been looking at for a while. She now feels prepared to play her part in the world of work and has been given her confidence back.

Thanks to ESF support, people like Demi are supported back into employment, which not only helps the individual beneficiary's mental health and finances, but fills vital vacancies and in doing so helps the broader economy.

Client testimonial

"If it wasn't for the Prince's Trust I don't think I would have been offered the job and I don't think I would be confident enough to apply myself and put myself out there."

-Demi



European Social Fund Case Studies (continued)

Getting lives back on track in West Lothian

Next Steps is a programme delivered by Venture Trust as part of the ESF-supported National Third Sector Fund. It provides support to women whose backgrounds have led to their involvement in the criminal justice system and other difficult circumstances such as homelessness, domestic abuse, problem substance use and mental health issues. Women on the Next Steps programme attend a five-day wilderness journey in the Scottish Highlands to experience the full benefits of spending time outdoors.

Jinty was introduced to Venture Trust through involvement in the criminal justice system. She describes her life at that point as rock bottom – a survivor of domestic abuse and sexual violence, Jinty experienced suicidal thoughts and turned to substances to help her cope with everyday life.

As part of the Next Steps course, women have an open space to reflect on their environment back home and share their experiences with the group. The course supports women to identify areas causing harm in their lives as well as identify steps to make positive change. Jinty says she appreciated the time in nature to focus on herself, away from any distractions and external influences. Many outdoor activities were out of her comfort zone, but she gave it her all.

Jinty felt ready to change her life, and thanks to ESF support, Venture Trust was there to give her the tools she needed to make that happen.



Client testimonial

"It was so rewarding to go on a course like that. It opens your eyes up to where you are and where you're going. I had nothing to focus on before. I didn't know what I was living for. I had no academics or job prospects. I never thought I was going to work.

"I'm working at West Lothian college as Student President then I'm going to further my studies. I want to work within mental health and the prison service, or to work with young people that haven't had a good start in life. I'm going to start mentoring young people involved in criminal justice through college as well. We have to show young people it's not the right road."

-Jinty



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