



7 March 2018

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to inform you of the publication of the Horizon 2020 in Wales Annual Report 2017.

At over €70 billion, Horizon 2020 is the largest ever European Union (EU) research and innovation programme and is providing real opportunities for Welsh organisations to be at the forefront of research and innovation. Both our White Paper '[Securing Wales' Future](#)' and our policy paper 'Regional Investment in Wales after Brexit' make it very clear how important it will be for us to continue to participate in Horizon 2020 and its successor programme after the UK leaves the EU.

The report, which is available at <http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/horizon2020/?lang=en>), sets out how Welsh organisations have performed so far in accessing Horizon 2020 funds, the progress made on our key objectives to achieve greater success and a forward look of activities in 2018. The report also includes several examples of organisations which have benefited from this important EU funding source.

Welsh organisations have now benefited from over €83m of Horizon 2020 funding through 189 participations. In just over a year, we have seen an increase of 77 participations and over €30m of funding, and with around 2,000 international partners to date. It is clear Horizon 2020 is supporting Wales as an outward-looking nation, collaborating with the best in Europe and the world.

This strong performance reflects an active and positive approach from Welsh organisations despite the uncertainty around Brexit and demonstrates the continuing need for this type of research and innovation funding to Wales.

The annual report also highlights other significant achievements including a high level of participation from Welsh businesses, a notable increase in the range of organisations accessing the programme, examples of cross-organisational working and the effective use

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

of Structural Funds to deliver the capacity needed to access competitive funding sources such as Horizon 2020.

These achievements will be celebrated at our annual Horizon 2020 event in Cardiff on 15 March and will provide opportunities for further discussion with our partners to help us maximise the remaining opportunities in Horizon 2020 and to prepare for its successor.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Mark". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mark Drakeford AM/AC

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance