

## Supporting Local Growth 2017



**England European Regional Development Fund Programme 2014 - 2020** 



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Since March 2015 the current European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme in England has been supporting projects across the country which boost business development and innovation and support local growth. Working closely with a broad range of partners, including Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Authorities, Universities, other Government departments and the private sector, hundreds of projects have been awarded funding.

Within this second edition of the annual 'Supporting Local Growth' booklet we showcase some of these new projects to offer a snapshot of the wide ranging business support activity the programme funds. Once again we have translated a number of these projects into French and these can be found towards the back of the booklet. A full list of projects funded can be found on the 'useful resources' page of the programme website - <a href="https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding">www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding</a>

By September 2017 £1,204 million of the fund had been allocated to a total of 450 projects. A further £621 million worth of funding was either about to be allocated or under consideration at that point. These projects will:

- create and safeguard local jobs
- support and improve the performance of small and medium sized businesses (SMEs)
- create new businesses, often exploiting new technology and innovation
- support a shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors
- support local economic growth

Calls for projects can be found on the above website within the interactive and fully searchable 'funding finder' tool.

ERDF is used alongside complementary domestic growth programmes such as the Local Growth Fund, Enterprise Zones and wider growth development enablers such as devolution deals. Given the requirement for ERDF monies to be match funded, it is able to lever local and national investment from both the public and private sectors.

Cover photo - Steps Rehabilitation, Sheffield, who have secured a £250,000 loan from the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund

SMART Cheshire Innovation Programme will enable innovation in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) from the development of a new product or process and embed innovation in the workplace.



Provides innovation support for micro and small businesses across Cheshire and Warrington. The £1.5 million project (£750,000 ERDF) offers leaders of small firms seeking to innovate a combination of expert workshops and individual coaching, whilst promoting peer-to-peer support through Innovation Growth Groups and individual coaching sessions.

www2.mmu.ac.uk/business-school/business/sme-support/smart-cheshire-innovation-programme

**SoLSTICE** (Smart life sciences technology & innovation commercialisation enabler) is a £1 million project (£500,000 ERDF) that is delivering a range of activities to create a culture of innovation within the clinical technologies and life sciences sector across Leicestershire.

The main project strand focuses on delivering high quality innovation support to businesses already in, or transitioning into, the clinical technologies and life sciences sector. This will be achieved through the delivery of high quality innovation support, grants and the provision of networking activity. Supporting this will be the delivery of special interest group events to create an environment for innovation, enable the exchange of ideas, and stimulate the engagement of SMEs in smart specialisation.

The project's initial success will be measured by achievement of the overall economic objectives of growing established businesses, creation and establishment of new businesses and the creation of jobs, particularly those that are highly skilled. However, its long term success will ultimately be measured by the degree to which innovation is embedded in businesses. It is being delivered by Medilink East Midlands Ltd.

www.medilinkem.com/projects/leicester-leicestershire-funding

The Emerging Electronics Manufacturing Centre (EEMaC) project in he North East of England involves investment in state-of-the-art research infrastructure and the establishment of a core team of scientific experts to support the design, development, testing and commercialisation of interactive (smart), industrial and consumer products in innovative local companies.

The £4.55 million (£2.6 million ERDF) project will build upon the strong links with SMEs established through the Centre for Process and Innovation's successful National Printable Electronics



Centre. CPI will engage with innovative companies, entrepreneurs, and new start-ups, supporting new product development and commercialisation opportunities.

www.uk-cpi.com/projects/emerging-electronics

**Health Innovation Exchange** is a £3.5 million collaborative programme (£1.75 million ERDF) connecting Liverpool City Region businesses with world-class health, care, technology and commercial resources. By coming together it is uniting regional expertise in helping ambitious businesses develop and market innovative products and services, nationally and globally.

Activities undertaken to bring the needs of health/social care practitioners and citizens (including patients and service users) with SMEs, will include the use of "Living Labs" to analyse the problems associated with specific ailments or gaps in the market. These will enable SMEs to have input from experts in each field, assisting in identifying products or services that will benefit both care providers and citizens. The project will focus on tackling market failures by delivering support to SMEs across the innovation cycle through the invention, co-creation, market-testing and route to market phases. www.healthenterprisehub.org/

£1.79 million ERDF support towards the £3.58 million Biovale project boosting Yorkshire and Humber's bioeconomy



Led by the University of York, this project focuses on building the region's bioeconomy in order to create jobs and stimulate sustainable economic growth through activities delivered by the Biorenewables Development Centre and Biovale.

www.biovale.org

The Digital Business Acceleration Hubs project will establish a network of business acceleration hubs in the key growth towns of Guildford, Basingstoke, Woking and Farnborough, targeting digital SMEs with high innovation and high growth potential.

Hubs will provide business support and knowledge exchange from universities and large companies to SMEs to increase the amount of research and innovation activities conducted to bring new products to market. They will use the SETsquared model, a partnership of Surrey, Southampton, Bath, Bristol and Exeter Universities, which combines (real or virtual) incubation, regular business reviews panels by expert entrepreneurs, training, mentoring, access to investor networks, open innovation networks and access to discounted online software tools. The project will provide support for high innovation enterprises, increase the number of new products brought to market and increase the number of start-up digital SMEs whilst also indirectly creating jobs in the Enterprise M3 area.

The project is being delivered by the University of Surrey and is worth £2.4 million (including £1.2 million ERDF).

www.setsguared.co.uk/start-support/digital-business-acceleration-hubs

**Innovate to Succeed (I2S)** is providing tailored support to SMEs in Hertfordshire, Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough to help them enhance their innovation management capability.

Beneficiaries of this £1.94 million project (£972,000 ERDF) undergo an in-depth diagnostic assessment of their business and a bespoke package of support designed and delivered to embed innovation management capability within the company.

An in depth and tailored package of support of up to 7 days is provided to equip 300 targeted SMEs with the tools needed to improve their capability to manage the innovation process and the ability to translate their knowledge into new market products. The project is being delivered by Exemplas Ltd. <a href="https://www.exemplas.com/innovate2succeed">www.exemplas.com/innovate2succeed</a>

Manchester Fuel Cell The Innovation Centre (MFCIC) will house the latest equipment for SMEs to develop hydrogen fuel cells to create green and emission-free energy, powering everything from our homes to our cars. The centre will speed up the research and development of carbon-neutral hydrogen fuel cells.

The £3.3 million project (£1.65 million ERDF) will help the UK to become a world-leading innovation and commercialisation leader in the fuel cell economy by developing a space where industry and academic research can come together.

The project will provide cutting-edge research facilities on an open-access basis to SMEs, give technical support for firms to exploit these facilities, establish academic partnerships to drive commercial growth and develop and test key commercial fuel cell designs.

<u>www2.mmu.ac.uk/science-</u> <u>engineering/consultancy/manchester-</u> <u>fuel-cell-innovation-centre</u>



Cumbria Innovations Platform is a new £4.17 million (£2.5 million ERDF) initiative helping SMEs to access technical and management expertise from Lancaster University and the University of Cumbria to accelerate innovation in new products and services.

It offers a flexible support, dependent on SME needs, delivering a range of solutions including access to facilities and technical support, help with leadership and management issues, prototyping and testing of new products and services.

Using the University of Cumbria's infrastructure based at Ambleside, Barrow in Furness, Carlisle, and Workington, the project will assist eligible SMEs to identify and define their innovation challenges and then work with them to support development and commercialisation of new products, processes or services. It will provide access to leading academics, graduate talent and specialist facilities in computer science, physical sciences, management science, open innovation, digital technology adoption and technology translations. www.cumbriainnovations.org

The ambitious **Newcastle Laboratory** project (£22.97 million including £5.17 million ERDF) will further develop the Newcastle Science Central site by developing a Life Science and Knowledge Cluster.

The project involves three pieces of work - the design and build of a 7,100m² facility incorporating commercial laboratory space and high quality office space for businesses primarily in the healthcare and life sciences sectors; associated public realm works including a courtyard, entrance area and shared area; a specialist business support programme tailored to the needs of the sectors offering a programme of support to accelerate innovation capability in the life science sector. It will support businesses to bring products/services nearer to commercialisation.

www.newcastlesciencecentral.com/develop/commercial/newcastle-laboratory

Sheffield City Region's ambition to develop its Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District as the UKs centre of excellence for research, technology transfer, production and industrial collaboration will be enhanced through the £2 million ERDF investment in the £6.78 million Integrated Civil and Infrastructure Research Centre (iCAIR).

This investment will create an integrated research centre that will help the civil infrastructure and construction sectors develop world class strengths through transformational research facilities, providing unrivalled connections between industry and research led innovation. The centre will provide unique automation and robotics

test and simulation platforms enabling the transfer of advanced manufacturing materials research into practical industry applications.

The Sheffield University managed project will target and attract SMEs to solve complex infrastructure and civil engineering challenges by enabling access to iCAIR and its facilities, thus creating supply chain opportunities for regional SMEs which in turn will deliver an increase in value added jobs.



£5 million ERDF for £11.46 million Thames Valley Science Park project – helping establish the area as one of Europe's strongest knowledge economies

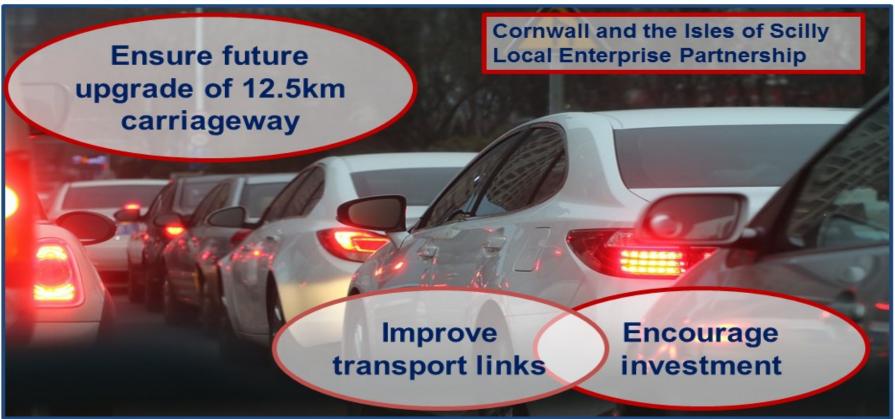


Led by the University of Reading, the Park will support the provision of critical research infrastructure and laboratories, which will help aspirational companies in the life and health sciences sectors in Berkshire emerge and grow.

www.tvsp.co.uk

### Sustainable Transport

# £8 million ERDF to carry out initial work to improve the A30 Carland Cross to Chiverton Cross



This project is delivering initial works to develop a larger construction project to upgrade 12.5km of the existing carriageway to benefit local businesses and communities by reducing congestion, improving transport links and connectivity, encouraging investment and supporting development.

roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a30-carland-cross-to-chiverton

The £930,000 BRILLIaNCE project (£560,000 ERDF) seeks to make physical improvements to the conservation status of the river habitats of the River Darwen and the River Roddlesworth



The Blackburn's Rivers Important to Lancashire's Landscape Investment and Natural Capital economy (BRILLIaNCE) project will create a close to nature river channel, installing fixed boulders to develop a wide range of habitats from pools and riffles, maximising opportunities for a wider range of biodiversity and creating a visually appealing asset.

ribbletrust.org.uk/brilliance

# £1.4 million ERDF to deliver geothermal heat to Jubilee Pool, Penzance



A geothermal well will be drilled next to the pool to supply heat to part of the pool all year round to increase visitor numbers, promote the pool as a destination and promote the development of the geothermal resource in Cornwall.

www.jubileepool.co.uk/news/geothermal-at-jubilee-pool

£2.19 million (including £1.58 million ERDF) to restore fish habitats in two iconic Cornish rivers benefiting wildlife, people and businesses



The Water for Growth project is being led by Westcountry Rivers Trust and will restore aquatic natural assets in Rivers Camel and Fowey, supporting sustainable economic growth in the fisheries and angling sectors as well as tourism businesses. Eight enterprises will be supported through the new mobile app to sustainably grow the angling market.

www.cornwallislesofscillygrowthprogramme.org.uk/growth-story/water-for-growth

# £2.8 million ERDF for £4.76 million River Hull+ project reducing flood risk to businesses



The River Hull + project will improve flood defences and facilitate the regeneration of 3.1 hectares of land helping safeguard businesses, commercial properties and jobs in Hull's old town and city centre.

www.humberlep.org/project/river-hull

**Growth Hubs** operate across the country with local and national, public and private sector partners co-ordinating local business support and connecting businesses to the right help for their needs. ERDF is a significant contributor to Growth Hub funding in England, helping to ensure that the network provides good levels of coverage across the country. There is a live, locally owned and locally driven hub in each of the 38 Local Enterprise Partnership areas, covering 100% of England's business population. 27 of these have received £66.2 million worth of ERDF support between them.

**AIM Black Country** provides support to local SMEs through diagnostics, one-to-one support, referrals, specialist workshops and advice to enable SME growth. The project (which is worth £3.76 million, including £1.82 million ERDF) will help to strengthen the local economy. One example is Steve Wright at Plastic Bottle Supplies Limited in Wolverhampton. Steve has worked with advisors from AIM Black Country to submit a funding application for a grant to help buy bespoke machinery that will improve the quality and volume of his existing product range. It will also help to improve his environmental performance also enable the creation of at least 10 more local jobs and to look towards entering the export market.



www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk/chamber-membership/aim-for-the-black-country

**Get Growing** is providing comprehensive support to mid-sized SMEs in Hertfordshire that are currently insufficiently growth-oriented, but have the potential to create wealth and jobs for the Hertfordshire economy. The programme consists of business advice, delivered by a team of specialist advisers, and integrated with a series of business workshops. Specialisms covered include sales & marketing, inward investment, finance, productivity and business planning, with advisers working as a team to implement SME growth plans.

The project, delivered by Exemplas, has a total value of £1.364 million (including £682,000 ERDF) and aims to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs and support their capacity to grow in regional, national and international markets.

www.hertsgrowthhub.com/get-growing



Tees Valley Business Compass is a £1.66 million project (£998,000 ERDF), operating in the Tees Valley area, providing support to individuals who are actively considering setting a business. Employing segmented approach, it marries an service with intensive open to all support targeted at potential businesses which have a realistic capacity to create jobs and/or to trade in an industry sector which is highlighted as a priority within the Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan. It will employ a mixture of one to many and one to one interventions.

The project is being led by the North East Enterprise Agency Ltd, with the support of a consortium of local delivery partners.

www.teesbusinesscompass.co.uk

# Global Growth: £7 million (including £3.5million ERDF) to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs



Newable Ltd's Global Growth project targets high growth and innovative businesses in London from the technology, digital, creative and medical technology sectors. It will support them to export with confidence, resulting in £36 million of new sales.

Launched in February 2017, the £400 million **Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (NPIF)** lends to and invests in SMEs in the North West, Yorkshire, the Humber and Tees Valley to boost economic growth and productivity. It is a key part of the government's 'Northern Powerhouse' vision, which aims to end the historic North/South divide and create economic prosperity in the North of England on par with London and the South East.

By September 2017 over £10 million had been invested through appointed fund managers who have already provided funding and support to over 90 businesses. Among those securing support is Sheffield-based outside broadcasting company Televideo (pictured below) through a £150,000 loan that will be used to invest in equipment and upgrade an additional outside broadcast unit to use 4K or Ultra HD.

Jake Berry, Northern Powerhouse Minister, said: "It's fantastic to see that so soon after we launched the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund it's already provided £10 million to support Northern businesses. NPIF is a great example of what can be achieved when the Government and

businesses work together and is all part of our plan to boost the northern economy, creating more jobs and attracting investment in the region."

Funding is drawn from several sources including the UK Government, the European Investment Bank, the British Business Bank and the European Regional Development Fund and is allocated through three types of product funds: microfinance, debt finance and equity finance.

www.npif.co.uk



In August 2017, the first £120 million tranche of the Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF) officially launched. The money, part of the wider £250m Fund, is available for debt finance and small business loans - further equity funds will be released in due course. MEIF is providing over £250m of investment to boost SME growth in the Midlands.

The Fund is the result of close collaboration between the British Business Bank, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Business. Energy and Industrial Strategy and 10 Local Enterprise Partnerships in the East and South-East Midlands and West Midlands. It brings together and existing funding new from Central Government. European Regional the Development Fund, the British Business Bank and European Investment Bank.

meif.co.uk

Network for Creative Enterprise is a £1 million project (including £500,000 ERDF) offering a tailored programme of SME enterprise incubation and support in the West of England LEP area. Led by the University of the West of England, Bristol and supported by a consortium ensuring coverage across Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, the project is focussed on creating additional business growth and jobs within the creative and digital sector.

Creative entrepreneurs require tailored support because they operate at a smaller scale than many other sectors, often using a variety of skills to conduct their business, ranging from administrative, creative, production to fund-raising.

The aim is to generate economic growth within the creative sector, a sector with a high proportion of micro-businesses. It is doing this by spotting new entrepreneurial talent through specific targeted outreach and developing and nurturing this talent through a programme of mentoring and residencies at incubation hubs based at existing cultural organisations, as well as micro-grants and surgery sessions.

<u>www.watershed.co.uk/studio/projects/network-creative-enterprise</u>

Future Business – Ideation, Innovation and Incubation is a £1.7 million project (£854,000 ERDF) operating in the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP area. It is driving social venture and environmental business start-up, survival and growth by maximising the use of existing innovation and incubation spaces.

Through a series of targeted interventions it is stimulating entrepreneurial activity, supporting business start-ups, accelerating early stage businesses to improve survival and success rates and incubating those with potential to scale and create both economic and social impact. It will also deliver an Innovation Lab – a test, prototype and demonstration facility for SMEs developing hardware.

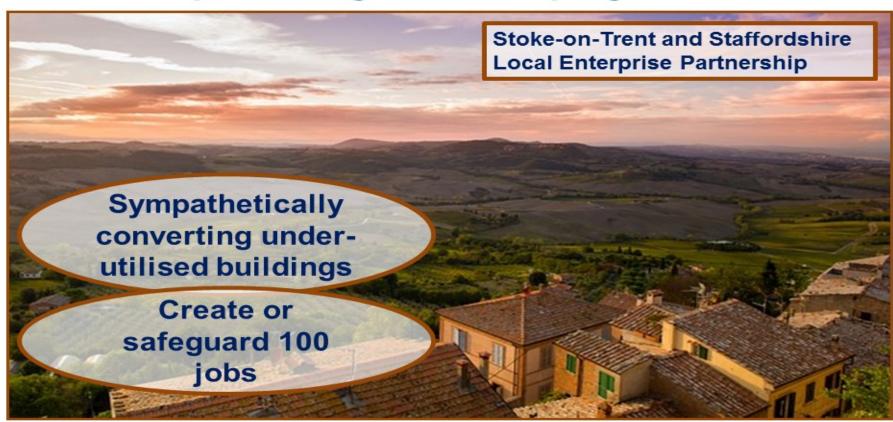
The D2N2 Digital Business Growth Programme is a £7.25 million project (£3.63 million ERDF) delivering a bespoke, structured business support programme, intensively supporting businesses and helping develop new businesses with real growth aspirations.

The project, which has a particular focus on rural, will help businesses to explore and introduce new and emerging ICT products to their business to improve business competitiveness, driving economic growth across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

It will do this by delivering interactive seminars, demonstrators, 'action-planning' workshops (aimed at businesses that already have a strong knowledge of ICT applications), digital business advice, conferences and one to one technical advice / skills sessions with a grants scheme enabling growth plan implementation.

www.ebusinessclub.biz/D2N2-Digital-Growth-Programme

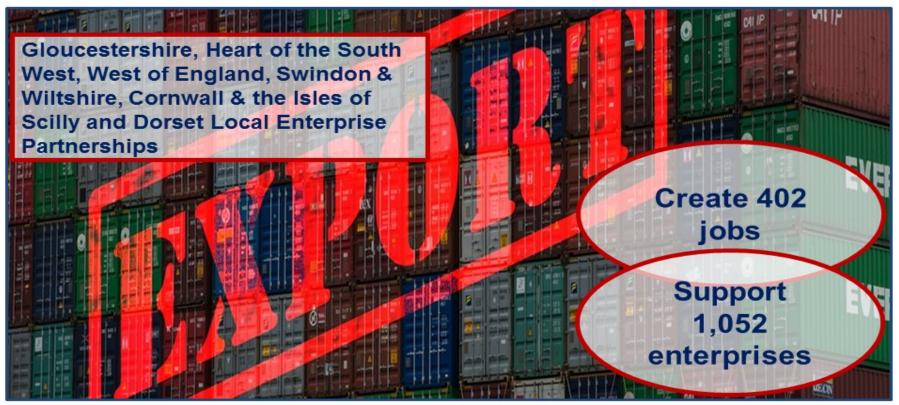
# £5.28 million (including £2.2 million ERDF) to deliver Rural Enterprise Programme helping SMEs



The project is targeting rural SMEs that want to expand, relocate, reconfigure or diversify their business. Grants are awarded to transform buildings into productive workspaces or build new commercial premises that will increase productivity and create/safeguard jobs.

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/eLand/rural-development-team/Rural-Enterprise-Programme/Rural-Enterprise-Programme.aspx

# £8.5 million ERDF towards £15 million Export for Growth project focusing on improving international trade



Led by GWE Business West Limited, the project will increase the number of small and medium-sized enterprises across the whole of the South West of England exporting and help existing exporters to maximise growth opportunities by entering new markets. This project will contribute to the national ambition to double UK exports by 2020.

www.businesswest.co.uk/export-growth

### Une sélection d'études de cas en français

## 2.8 millions £ de FEDER pour le projet River Hull + - réduction du risque d'inondations aux entreprises



Le projet River Hull+ améliorera la protection contre les inondations et rendre possible la régénération de terres de 3.1 hectares qui va contribuer à la sauvegarde des entreprises, des bâtiments commerciaux et les emplois dans la vielle ville de Hull et au centre-ville

The Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre (MFCIC) abrite des équipements pour le développement des piles à combustibles d'hydrogène. Ceux-ci vont créer l'énergie verte et sans émissions, avec laquelle l'on peut faire fonctionner tout, d'une maison à une voiture. Le centre MFCI va accélérer la recherche et le développement des piles à combustibles d'hydrogène à faible Carbonne.

En créant une espace où l'industrie et la recherche académique peuvent converger, le projet, qui a une valeur de 3.3 millions £ (1.65 million £ FEDER), va donner au Royaume-Uni l'occasion de devenir chef de file mondial pour l'innovation et la commercialisation dans l'économie de piles à combustible. Le projet fournira des établissements de recherche de pointe, accessible à toute PME et donnera le soutien technique aux PMEs pour qu'ils puissent utiliser ces établissements.

Innovate to Succeed (I2S) fournit aux petites et moyennes entreprises (PMEs) situées dans les régions de Hertfordshire, Greater Cambridgeshire et Greater Peterborough, le soutien personnalisé pour améliorer leur capacité en matière de gestion de l'innovation. Les entreprises bénéficiaires du projet font le sujet d'une évaluation diagnostique approfondie, et un ensemble de mesures de soutien individualisé est produit au but d'ancrer cette capacité de la gestion d'innovation dans l'entreprise.

Cet ensemble de mesures de soutien est fourni pour une période de jusqu'à 7 jours et l'objectif est de fournir à 300 PMEs les outils pour améliorer la capacité de gérer le procès d'innovation et de pouvoir traduire leurs connaissances en nouveaux produits au marché. Le projet est géré par Exemplas Ltd.

# 8 millions £ (FEDER), pour un projet dont l'objectif est d'améliorer la route A30 Carland



Le projet fera les travaux principaux au but de développer un projet de construire plus grand, qui modernisera 12.5km de chaussée actuelle au profit des entreprises et des communautés locaux, en réduisent la congestion routière, en améliorent les liaisons du transport et en encouragent l'investissement et en soutenant le développement.

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### Une sélection d'études de cas en français

Network for Creative Enterprise est un projet qui a une valeur de 1 million £ (y compris 500,000£ FEDER) et qui offre aux PMEs un programme de développement et de soutien individualisé dans l'ouest d'Angleterre.

Géré par l'université de l'ouest d'Angleterre à Bristol et soutenu par un consortium qui assure la représentation dans l'ensemble de Bristol, Bath, North East Somerset, North Somerset et South Gloucestershire, le projet vise la création de la croissance commerciale et la création des emplois dans le secteur créatif et numérique.

Les entrepreneurs créatifs ont besoin de soutien individualisé puisqu'ils opèrent à une échelle plus petite que plusieurs autres secteurs, et il est souvent le cas qu'ils utilisent une variété de compétences pour mener leurs affaires, allant de compétence en administration, en création, en production à la levée de fonds.

Le but est de promouvoir la croissance économique dans le secteur créatif, et ce secteur dispose d'une proportion élevée de microentreprises.

Le moyen est d'identifier des nouveaux talents entrepreneurials en utilisant les initiatives de rayonnement, et de développer et cultiver ce talent tout au longue d'un programme de mentorat et résidences dans des centres de développement qui se trouvent dans des organisations culturelles existantes, ainsi que des micro-subventions et des séances de formations.



Le soutien de Global Growth, géré par Newable Ltd, vise les entreprises innovantes et à forte croissance à Londres dans les secteurs suivantes: la technologie, le numérique, le créatif et technologie médical. Le projet soutiendra les entreprises à exporter avec confiance, le résultat de celui-ci sera 36 millions £ grâce à nouvelles ventes.

En août 2017, la première tranche du fonds Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF) a été officiellement lancé avec une valeur de 120 millions £. Cette somme, qui fait partie d'un fonds plus large de 250 millions £, est disponible pour le financement d'emprunt et des prêts de petites entreprisee. MEIF fournira plus de 250 millions £ d'investissement pour stimuler la croissance des PMEs de Midlands de Royaume-Uni.

Le fonds résulte d'une collaboration étroite entre le British Business Bank, le Department for Communities and Local Government, le Department for Business, Energy et Industrial Strategy et dix Local Enterprise Partnerships dans l'est, les midlands sud-est, et les midlands ouest de Royaume-Uni. Le fonds rassemble les financements nouveaux et actuels du gouvernement central, le fonds européen de développement régional (FEDER), le British Business Bank et la banque européenne d'investissement.

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