

The Wales European Centre

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On secondment to WEC



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Wales European Centre

- Founded 1991
- Limited by guarantee 1998
- Budget 2001-02 £896,000
- 11 staff + 2 secondments

Original Partnership: Team Wales

- Welsh Development Agency (WDA)
- National Assembly for Wales
- Local Government
- ELWa, Universities & Colleges
- WLB, ACW, WTB
- CCW, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, FUW, National Parks, Leader Groups
- WTUC, WCVA

Finance

- WDA 29%
- Local govt 21%
- NAW 21%
- ELWa 7.5%
- HE 4.5%
- FE 4.5%
- Others 7.5%

To Give Wales an Edge in Europe

- provide intelligence
- promote Welsh interests
- raise the profile of Wales
- develop transnational partnerships

Services

- monitoring policy developments
- advocacy and lobbying
- building relationships

Policy Monitoring

- information and intelligence
- outputs
 - annual funding directory
 - weekly online newsletter
 - enquiries
 - fax and email alerts
 - issue papers
 - policy papers
 - <http://ewrop.com>

Advocacy

- identifying and lobbying on key issues
 - prioritisation
- outputs
 - analysis on decision processes
 - advice on lobbying strategies
 - support to delegations
 - briefing MEPs and key policymakers
 - support on CoR

Building Relationships

- Team Wales
 - Seminars and conferences
 - study visits
- Promotional
 - cultural activities
 - St David's Day
- Interregional links
 - exchanges of best practice
 - participation in programmes
 - partner search

Summary

- information on policies & programmes
- intelligence on policymaking
- contacts with the Commission
- relationship with the EP
- networking with other regions
- support for delegations
- support on CoR

Post 2003: Ty Cymru

- Welsh Assembly Government expanded office
 - withdraw from WEC
- Welsh Local Assembly Government set up separate office in Brussels
 - withdraw from WEC
- WEC office - reduced in size
 - rethink about WEC's role
 - 2003/2004 critical year in determining future of WEC

Post 2003: Ty Cymru

- Concept of Ty Cymru (Wales House):
 - new “Wales brand” in Brussels
 - brings together WAG, WLGA and WEC
 - joint working and sharing of information
 - promote Wales interests collaboratively in Wales

National Assembly for Wales

- NAfW Brussels Office
- Expanded role
- Working methods continue to evolve
- UKREP

Engaging Wales

- The challenge for Wales is:
 - to maximise the opportunities that enlargement provides
 - to create a framework for action that will enhance the positive impacts on Wales and regions in CEECs.
- “There are many potential opportunities for economic advantage to Wales and other European regions. We need to improve interaction between institutions in the candidate countries and ourselves and longer-term relationships on areas from trade to cultural issues.”
**Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan, First Minister,
National Assembly for Wales**

The vision

Vision

To make Wales a valued player in central and eastern Europe.

By contributing to the enlargement of Europe, Wales' expertise, experience and unique and diverse identity can realise mutual economic benefit and sustainable development for itself and the countries concerned.