

## European and External Affairs Committee

### Welsh Participation in EU Research, Innovation and Lifelong Learning Programmes

#### Draft UOG Response

The University of Glamorgan has a well established reputation of involvement in Structural Funding but also in the programmes relevant to this inquiry and their direct predecessors.

Central to the above activity is the University's European and External Resource Office which exists to facilitate the development and management of European and externally funded projects. It currently manages in excess of £75m of funding with several more large projects under negotiation. It deals with a plethora of funding streams on a European wide scale but its primary funding stream to date has been Structural Funding.

We regard to the three Programmes relevant to this inquiry, the University has a growing experience in all three. For example we had a relatively low activity base under FP5 and operated only as partners in larger projects. Under FP6, whilst still being involved as partners, we also led two projects one being a Marie Curie Chair (one of only two awarded in the UK in that year). Under FP7, whilst we still participate as a partner, we have also co-ordinated two large, multi-partner applications, one of which is at final contract negotiation stage.

Within FP7 our major area of interest has largely been renewable energy / hydrogen and carbon reduction research. The BIOWATT application (Microbial Fuel Cells for Clean Energy and Decrease of Greenhouse Gases) was co-ordinated by UOG and brought together 14 partners from across Europe. Whilst the project scored well it was not funded but placed on the reserve list. A more recent application co-ordinated by UOG, RELCOM (Reliable and Efficient Combustion of Oxygen / Coal / Recycled Flue Gas Mixtures), again brings together 14 cross-sector partners from across Europe. The project has been successful to date and we are currently at final contract negotiation stage with a total project cost of approximately £8.4million. Our involvement in previous Framework Programmes has provided the expertise and knowledge required to co-ordinate such large projects. Also, our participation in other funding streams such as A4B has allowed us to generate the critical mass required for high level involvement in Framework Programmes. In addition to the two projects mentioned above, we have submitted numerous applications in lesser subject areas (please see Appendix 1).

The University's participation in the Lifelong Learning Programme has largely been facilitated under the Erasmus strand, with some limited involvement in the Leonardo scheme. This was also the case in the previous Socrates Programme. We participate on an annual basis in the student, staff and teacher mobility programmes. The level of mobility under this scheme dropped considerably between 2004 to 2008 but figures have now started to improve again. The University has co-ordinated several multi-lateral projects under the Socrates / Lifelong Learning Programmes. Two Curriculum Development and two Intensive Programme projects were co-ordinated and successfully delivered by us under the previous Socrates Programme. Under the Lifelong Learning Programme the University successfully co-ordinated the WEEU (Women's Entrepreneurship in the EU) Multilateral project, which brought together 7 cross sector partners from 3 different countries with a

total project cost of over £350k. We have also contributed as a partner in the successful LLP Curriculum Development project, MA European Youth Studies. In order to broaden the number of EU partners and the scope of our activity under the Programme we have also utilised Preparatory Visit funding to explore new links.

Of the three Programmes listed, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme is the one in which we have had least involvement. Having said this, we are operating as a partner in two successful projects. ICEWISH operates under the ICT strand which seeks to utilise ICT solutions to reduce wastage in energy and water consumption and has 19 partners. Bio-methane Regions seeks to stimulate the market development of anaerobic digestion with a particular emphasis on bio-methane production and has 14 partners.

It would be true to say that participation, certainly in the FP7 programme, is challenging and there are numerous barriers. A major issue for an institution like UOG is the level of competitiveness encountered when applying. Whilst UOG has made major strides in its research performance and profile over recent years, FP7 success remains a difficult Programme to access. Another barrier is the requirement to work collaboratively with fairly large consortia from across Europe. Whilst this is obviously necessary to produce high impact research of European relevance, the bringing together of such consortia can be complex and the investment required to facilitate this, costly. Pump priming is needed to develop consortia and, whilst UOG has accessed the Wales European Collaboration Fund, it would be true to say that funds available through this route are limited and relevant to FP7 only.

As mentioned above, our successes to date have been in the areas of renewable energy, carbon reduction etc. It should be noted that much of the capacity and infrastructure built up around these themes has come as a result of our participation in Structural Funding and has given us the ability to compete on an EU level e.g. structural funding secured has facilitated our involvement in the LCRI (Low Carbon Research Institute) and the building of the Hydrogen Research Centre at Baglan. This particular research team is now seeking to develop a large FP7 bid in the near future. In addition to the research led teams, it should be noted that the University's participation in Structural Funding has facilitated the setting up and growth of the European and External Resource Office. It now represents a core of expertise in European project development, implementation, management and robust audit procedures.

From a policy perspective, changes to the Convergence Programme which will reduce funding for R&D and re-direct it to Transport, ICT and Infrastructure, will reduce our ability to build the critical mass required for participation in the Framework Programmes. In addition to this, the current review of QR (Quality Related) research funding received from HEFCW annually is of concern. Should this be significantly reduced, it will have a detrimental effect on our ability to participate in the three programmes.

## Appendix 1

### Applications made by UOG in the Three Programmes 2007 to date

Name of Project	Fund	Lead / Partner	Total Project Value	Approved/Not Approved
ICEWISH	CIP	partner	£173,073	<b>Approved stc</b>
Bio-methane Regions	CIP	partner	£86,612	Awaiting outcome
Gateways	LLP - Leonardo	partner	£88,000	Not approved
Keeping on Track	LLP - Leonardo	partner	£50,000	Not approved
BESU	LLP - Leonardo	partner	£120,000	Not approved
WEEU – Womens' Entrepreneurship in the European Union	LLP – Erasmus Multi-lateral	lead	£351,162	<b>Approved</b>
WEMAEU	LLP – Erasmus Multi-lateral	lead	£351,763	Not Approved
MA EYS – MA European Youth Studies	LLP – Erasmus Curriculum Development	partner	£27,627	<b>Approved</b>
Preparatory Visit Finland	LLP – Erasmus Mobility	lead	£3000	<b>Approved</b>
Preparatory Visit Austria	LLP – Erasmus Mobility	lead	£3000	Not approved
ORION	FP7 Collaborative	partner	£240,217	Awaiting outcome
PERARES – Science Shops	FP7 - CSA	partner	£40,000	<b>Approved</b>
CHASE	FP7 - CSA	partner	£198,541	Not Approved
BT Security Research	FP7	partner	£244,991	Not approved
Anywhere Control	FP7 STREP	partner	£344,093	Not approved
RELCOM	FP7 Collaborative	lead	c£8million	<b>Final contract negotiation stage</b>
WE25	FP7 Collaborative	lead	£887,895	Not approved
Biowatt	FP7 - Collaborative	lead	£4.7m	Not approved
REMGEM	FP7	partner	£700,000	Not approved
NIACO	FP7	partner	£82,196	Not approved
RETT	FP7 Collaborative	partner	£112,742	Not approved
Regions in Balance	FP7	partner	£220,000	Not approved
SOAC	FP7	lead	£99,504	Not approved
GODOT	FP7	partner	£230,000	Not approved