

SEMLEP

South East Midlands
Local Enterprise Partnership



6 November 2017

South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership

**European Regional Development Fund
2014-2020**

Projects' Directory

First Half of the Programme



1. Introduction

Projects funded by the European Regional Development Fund Programme (ERDF) contribute to the economic growth of the South-East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership¹ (SEMLEP) Area primarily by promoting investment in research and innovation; supporting and promoting small and medium enterprises; creating a low carbon economy; enhancing access to information communication and technology; and protecting the environment.

The SEMLEP' ERDF Programme 2014-2020 is worth over £57m.

Funds can be accessed by organisations from the private, public, voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors.

This Directory provides an overview of all the projects approved, during the first half of the European Programme³, across the SEMLEP area.

We hope that the information provided will help current and future providers aligning interventions, as well as being a helpful resource to businesses in the SEMLEP area who might benefit from ERDF interventions.

2. ERDF commitments to date

For the first half of the Programme the SEMLEP has committed over £30m of ERDF (equivalent to approximately 56% of the full Programme).

Of these, £6.4m are funding projects promoting research and innovation; £2.2m are supporting small and medium enterprises develop digital products and services as well as helping them upgrade to superfast broadband; £17m have been invested in projects providing business support, mentoring and development grants. Over £4m are invested in social housing retrofit and supporting businesses adopting energy efficiency/low carbon solutions.

¹ References to SEMLEP mean the expanded SEMLEP which merged with NEP in 2017

² Based on 0.78 pence exchange rate

³ The ERDF Programme should last 7 years, from 2014 to 2020; however, following the EU Referendum projects will only be approved up until the point at which the UK leaves the EU.

3. Project Details

Priority Axis 1: Promoting Research and Innovation

Two types of activities are possible under this Priority Axis: to invest in research and innovation infrastructure that encourages collaboration with research community; and to increase investment in research and innovation by small and medium enterprises. Support is limited to priority sectors and technologies where local areas have a comparative advantage.

Project Name & Lead	Project Lead & partners	Contacts
<p>Innovate Northamptonshire</p>	<p>University of Northampton & Northamptonshire Growth Hub</p>	<p>Cathy Martin (UoN) T: 01604 892927 E: Cathy.martin@northampton.ac.uk Facebook: @NorthantsGrowthHub Twitter : @NorthantsGH LinkedIn : Northamptonshire Growth Hub</p> <p>For Clients: T: 01604 212696 E: IN@northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk</p> <p>www.northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk/inspiring-innovation</p>
<p>The project aims to promote research and innovation within small and medium sized enterprises across Northamptonshire by encouraging collaboration with external research institutions and specialists. Running until February 2019, the project offers a combination of workshops, advice, demonstrator visits and financial assistance depending upon the innovation need of each SME. The project will primarily focus on four key sectors: High Performance Technologies, Agri-tech including Food and Drink, Creative and Cultural Industries and Logistics, however businesses from other sectors can apply.</p> <p>Benefits for Service users / Participants: Access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 121 adviser support to help develop an innovation action plan and identify resources • Workshops to encourage and enable innovation within business, identify and protect Intellectual property, identify and prepare to apply for/ manage sources of funding • Demonstrator visits designed to encourage innovation and share best practice • Grants and vouchers from £4,000 - £20,000 to support research, development, innovation, collaboration with external experts 		
<p>Innovation Bridge</p>	<p>Central Beds Council & University of Bedfordshire; Anglia Ruskin University;</p>	<p>T: 0300 300 8582 E: innovationbridge@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/innovationbridge</p>

	University of Suffolk	
<p>Innovation Bridge is a three-year business support project, running until summer 2019 offering access to: three days of FREE academic support to help develop an action plan for developing a new product or service; grants of between £1,000 and £15,000, to implement plans covering up to 30% of the investment. The project supports SMEs, including start-ups, that are looking to grow, develop a new service or product.</p>		
ACTIS	<p>Medilink & Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; The Open University</p>	<p>Teresa Smith T:0115 822 3154 E:Teresa@medilinkem.com E:info@medilinkem.com www.medilinkem.com/projects/actis-(south-east-midlands)</p>
<p>The aims of the project are focused on improving the economic performance within the Clinical Technologies and the Life Sciences sector within the locality of SEMLEP, by enabling SMEs to increase their competitive advantage through innovation and stimulating interaction between business, research entities and the NHS. It will provide: access to high value cutting edge Life Science sector specific expertise; cross sectoral expertise from universities; grant funding; and networking opportunities.</p> <p>Benefits for Service users / Participants: ACTIS will deliver a range of activities that seek to engender a culture of innovation within the clinical technologies and life science sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation support to businesses already in, or transitioning into the Clinical Technologies and Life Sciences sector through sector specific business advice and signposting; • Grants of £1,000-£20,000 (at 30% intervention) for medical and healthcare directed innovation projects; • Grants of up to £3,000 (at 30% intervention) for attendance at medical/healthcare conferences to increase understanding of the life science sector for new products and services; • Special Interest Groups to exchange ideas and stimulate engagement between Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), academia, clinicians and other businesses 		
IMAGE - Innovation in Manufacturing, Aerospace and Green Economy	<p>Lead: University of Cranfield Delivery Partner: University of Bedfordshire</p>	<p>Sandra Turner T: 01234 754423 E:image@cranfield.ac.uk E:sandra.turner@cranfield.ac.uk www.cranfield.ac.uk/image @cranfielduni – Twitter</p>
<p>IMAGE (Innovation in Manufacturing, Aerospace and Green Economy) is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund until December 2019 and will see hundreds of businesses across SEMLEP given access to the research, know-how and resource based at Cranfield</p>		

University, the University of Bedfordshire and other universities in the South-East Midlands region.

Through innovation vouchers, businesses will be able to access subsidized academic consultancy and world-leading research facilities.

Benefits for Service users / Participants:

IMAGE can help your business develop new ideas and strategies by supporting you with:

- Prototyping
- Developing and testing your product
- Demonstration services
- Networking opportunities
- Management coaching
- Strategic insights
- Business development

Key Outcomes:

SMEs will be able to innovate and grow by accessing subsidized support and facilities from leading Universities. The outputs for the Image Project are:

Number of Enterprises receiving support 95

Number of Enterprises receiving grants 40

Number of Enterprises receiving non-financial support 55

New Enterprises Supported 10

Enterprises supported to introduce new product to market 20

City Labs	Open University & ZTE; Fronesis	Alan Fletcher T: 01908 654511 E: alan.fletcher@open.ac.uk
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CityLabs is a project that brings together The Open University with ZTE (a global telecom company) and Fronesis (a management consulting organisation) to deliver a programme of engaging regional SMEs in research and development of Smart City and Data Science applications. CityLabs will provide SMEs with access to key computing infrastructure, developer and management support and the chance of seed funding to engage in research activity that brings new products to market. CityLabs will build on the success of MK:Smart and utilise the MK:Data Hub to ensure that a computing and people network delivers a firm base of support for SMEs. The project will run from July 2017 to June 2019.

Priority Axis 2: Enhancing Access to, and use and quality of, information communication and technology

ERDF can support interventions to increase the number of Small and Medium Enterprises that make full productive use of digital technologies by developing ICT products and services, e-commerce, and enhancing demand for ICT.

Project Name	Project Lead & Partners	Contact
ICT Escalator	University of Bedfordshire	Kola Akinola E: kola.akinola@beds.ac.uk www.ictescalator.co.uk
<p>ICT Escalator is an EU funded project led and managed by the University of Bedfordshire. The project enhances access to, and increases the use and quality of information and communications technology and broadband provision for SME's across South East Midlands area. ICT Escalator provides grants of up to £3000 subject to availability and also cutting edge expertise. The project can also provide skilled graduates to support SMEs</p> <p>Benefits for Service users / Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 hours consultancy by the University • Opportunity to get a graduate placement for 12 weeks at no cost to the SME • Availability of grants for eligible SMEs • Network with other businesses <p>Key Outcomes: 150 businesses engaged in consultancy support 55 new Enterprises will be created 84 new to the firm products</p>		
NoDE project (Northamptonshire Digital Enhancement)	Northamptonshire County Council & Northamptonshire Growth Hub; Northamptonshire University	T: 01604 212696; 01604 367798 enquiries@northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk Sarah Ellwood E: SEllwood@northamptonshire.gov.uk http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/business-and-economy/our-projects/Pages/northamptonshire-digital-enhancement-project.aspx
<p>An extension of the county council's Superfast Northamptonshire, the scheme will work in three ways: providing grants to support innovative digital business improvement projects; offering a digital adviser to help businesses capitalise on technological advances; developing a connection voucher scheme, enabling some businesses to upgrade to a superfast broadband connection by providing 50% of the cost. The project will be delivered through the Northamptonshire Growth Hub, a partnership between the county council and the University of Northampton.</p>		

Priority Axis 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

The primary aim of the is priority axis is to improve the competitiveness of SMEs by increasing and improving their capacity and capability and by promoting entrepreneurship.

Project Name	Project Lead & partners	Contacts
Ready to Grow	University of Northampton & Northamptonshire Growth Hub, Northampton County Council	<p>Cathy Martin (UoN) T: 01604 892927 E: Cathy.martin@northampton.ac.uk Facebook: @NorthantsGrowthHub Twitter : @NorthantsGH LinkedIn : Northamptonshire Growth Hub</p> <p>Helen Miller (NCC) T: 01604 366755 E: HMiller@northamptonshire.gov.uk</p> <p>For Clients: T: 01604 212696 E: r2g@northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk</p> <p>www.northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk/ready2grow</p>
<p>The Ready2Grow project aims to improve the capacity and performance of small and medium sized enterprises and to encourage entrepreneurship across Northamptonshire. It supports enterprises from start up to growth and the development of new skills, whilst instilling SMEs with the confidence to apply for growth funding. The project offers 121 support, a series of workshops and grants under 2 strands: Enterprise Club for starters and Growth Academy for growers. Delivered by Northamptonshire Growth Hub in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council.</p> <p>Benefits for Service users / Participants: Access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 121 adviser support to help develop an action plan and identify resources • Workshops specifically aimed at supporting people to set up their own business for the starter strand and growth development for growers • 3 grants varying from £1,000 - £25,000 to support start-up costs, business consultancy, implement growth plans 		
Food Enterprise Advisory Support Team (FEAST)	The Food and Drink Forum	<p>T: 0115 975 8810 E: enquiries@foodanddrinkforum.co.uk</p> <p>www.foodanddrinkforum.co.uk</p>
<p>The Food & Drink Forum has secured funding to offer a range of useful services to food and drink manufacturers over the next three years, including; grant funding, business mentoring, industry events, technical support and technical apprentices. The project can offer eligible SMEs: grants to purchase new equipment; two days of free support from the technical team; mentoring; apprentices and industry events.</p>		
Internationalizing SMEs	East Midlands Business Limited	<p>T: 0345 052 4001 E: info@uktiem.co.uk</p>

		www.emb-group.co.uk/programme-management/internationalising-smes
<p>This project provides a targeted programme of advice, events and financial support that will encourage and assist small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the East and South Midlands to investigate and move into new overseas markets. The project aims to enhance the capability and capacity of SMEs and their leaders to exploit opportunities in overseas markets by providing: expert advice and support for SMEs provided by International Trade Advisers to enter, establish and expand in international markets; support events, trade fairs and overseas missions to assist small and medium sized enterprises to enter, establish and expand in international markets; sector specialist advice to cover locally significant sectors, such as Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences/Healthcare, Food & Drink Production, High Performance Technologies, Transport Equipment Manufacturing and Environmental Technologies; language and culture training to help businesses understand the business and social culture in their target markets, and; grant funding for SMEs, to address financial barriers to exporting.</p>		
<p>Manufacturing Growth Programme (MGP)</p>	<p>West Midlands Consortium</p>	<p>Roy Matthews (MGM, Velocity region) T: 07790 358523 E: roy.matthews@egs.live Adrian Waters (MGM, Northants region) T: 07790 358557 E: adrian.water@egs.live Chris Needham (MGP Regional Manager) T: 07920 563581 E: chris.needham@egs.live</p> <p>General: T: 01664 501301 E: enquiries@egs.live</p> <p>www.manufacturinggrowthprogramme.co.uk</p>
<p>The Manufacturing Growth Programme (MGP) is a £9.7m ERDF funded programme focused on providing support to manufacturing SMEs wishing to grow their business. The programme is delivered by Economic Growth Solutions, and will support around 400 businesses across the SEMLEP region.</p> <p>Specialist Manufacturing Growth Managers (MGMs) are in place to offer eligible businesses the opportunity to access grant funding of up to 35% towards the cost of eligible projects – minimum £1000 contribution, maximum £3500.</p> <p>Eligible businesses for MGP support range from those just involved in the design of manufactured products, right through to those carrying out Manufacturing, Production or Assembly in-house. Sectors supported range from traditional manufacturing bases to hi-tech niches, and as diverse as Food, Furniture & Fusion.</p> <p>Benefits for Service users / Participants: Advice and support to manufacturing SMEs to help identify improvement opportunities. Strategic Business Review Creation of a growth plan with clear aims Identify best external experts to work with Grant funding of £1000 to £3500 (max 35%) to access coaching or consultancy support</p>		
<p>Better Off in</p>	<p>The Princes Trust</p>	<p>T: 01438 730520</p>

Business		<p>E: Rebecca.Bull@princes-trust.org.uk (Northamptonshire) E: Anne.Gredley@princes-trust.org.uk (Milton Keynes)</p>
<p>The Explore Enterprise programme aims to help those aged between 18 and 30 to work towards their personal goal of self-employment. The programme is available for those that are unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week. It supports those at the start of their Enterprise journey by providing a 4day training course, mentoring support, hands on assistance to develop their confidence, ideas and work with them on a Business Plan. The programme offers small grants to test the potential of their business ideas. Low interest loans and a 2-year mentoring programme once the business is up and running.</p>		
Velocity Growth Hub	SEMLEP	<p>Marcela Crusco T: 01234 436123 E: Marcela.Crusco@Semlep.com Facebook : /VelocityGrowthHub Twitter : @Velocity Growth Hub LinkedIn : Velocity Growth Hub</p> <p>For Clients: T: 0300 01234 35 E: enquiries@velocitygrowthhub.com www.velocitybusinesssupport.com</p>
<p>Velocity is a SEMLEP Growth Hub for SMEs in the South-East Midlands. Velocity Growth Hub aims to simplify access to business support and increase the growth capacity of SMEs. This project is running until December 2018. Velocity provides free, business support tailored to business including:</p> <p>Benefits for Service users / Participants:</p> <p>One-to-one bespoke diagnosis and brokerage by experienced business advisers to help SMEs across the South-East Midlands to develop and implement their growth plans.</p> <p>Workshops and events provides SMEs with step-by-step advice and guidance in developing growth capacity and leadership and management skills to address barriers to growth</p> <p>Grants: Available for established SMEs and social enterprises (i.e. more than 12 months since incorporation or registration). The amount awarded will be based on up to £5,000 of grant for each job (minimum of 36 hours per week) that is created by the revenue grant project. Revenue: £1,000 to £10,000 up to a maximum of 33% of eligible expenditure. Capital: £5,000 to £50,000 up to a maximum of 25% of eligible expenditure.</p>		
South East Midlands Start Up Programme (SEMSUP)	WENTA & University of Northants/University of Bedfordshire	E: emmawright@wenta.co.uk
<p>South East Midlands Start-up Programme (SEMSUP) will deliver:</p>		

Targeted engagement and outreach and mentoring to strengthen entrepreneurial and enterprise culture;
 A variety of support mediums including 1:1 business advice, web based live chat business advice, webinars and workshops;
 Advice and support for entrepreneurship and self-employment amongst underrepresented groups by developing entrepreneurial skills and attitudes with a focus on increasing the number of business start-ups;
 Advice and support for new business start-ups, including social enterprise, to survive and grow;
 Seed finance in the form of small Start-up grants
 Business incubation via a network of 5 University based incubators, linked to the provision of advice.

The University of Northants will also offer specialist social enterprise support delivered by webinar and via networking events.

Priority Axis 4: Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors

The role of European Regional Development Fund intervention should be on smaller-scale investments focussed on needs and opportunities addressed by whole place energy solutions, improved energy efficiency and low carbon innovation in technologies, goods and services.

Project Name	Project Lead & partners	Contacts
Smart Energy Business for Northamptonshire	Northampton County Council & University of Applied Sciences Trier's Institut für angewandtes Stoffstrommanagement	Dr Darren Perry Head of Energy and Carbon Management One Angel Square 4 Angel Street Northampton NN1 1ED T: 07775816773 E: daperry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
<p>The Smart Energy Businesses (SEB) project is a product of partnership between Northamptonshire County Council and their Energy and Carbon Management Team, and the University of Applied Sciences Trier's Institut für angewandtes Stoffstrommanagement: a partnership that was first formed during the successful implementation of the INTERREG IV Project ZECOS. The project is due to start in the autumn of 2017 having recently been approved by DCLG and the SEMLEP ESIF committee.</p> <p>The SEB project establishes an energy support service for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the Northamptonshire and South-East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership areas, providing specialist workshops, training, networking and project design support as part of an energy education package, and energy efficiency grants to contribute towards the purchase of energy saving installations in the two targeted areas of heating and lighting efficiency.</p> <p>Over the three-year project period, the project targets to support a total of 647 businesses, contributing to a local reduction in greenhouse gases of 1,778tCO₂e.</p>		
Renew	Luton Borough Council	Sue Davies Programme Manager Corporate Energy Manager T: 01582 547067 E: Sue.Davies@luton.gov.uk Abdul Kahir (RENEW Delivery Manager)

		Housing Asset Manager T: 01582 546208 E: Abdul.Kahir@luton.gov.uk
External wall insulation to two high rise blocks (social housing) including rain screen cladding systems. Heat Recovery Ventilation Systems, LED lighting and Solar Panel with battery storage to communal areas.		