

SEMLEP

South East Midlands
Local Enterprise Partnership



13 July 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
Innovate Northamptonshire	University of Northampton & Northamptonshire Growth Hub	T: 01604 212696 E: enquiries@northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk www.northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk/inspiring-innovation
<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>		
Innovation Bridge	Central Beds Council & University of Bedfordshire; Anglia Ruskin University; University of Suffolk	T: 0300 300 8582 E: innovationbridge@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/innovationbridge
<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	Medilink & Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; The Open University	T:0115 822 3154 E: info@medilinkem.com www.medilinkem.com/projects/actis-(south-east-midlands)

The aims of the project are focused on improving the economic performance of 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.

IMAGE	Lead: University of Cranfield Delivery Partner: University of Bedfordshire	T:01234 750111 E: image@cranfield.ac.uk www.cranfield.ac.uk
--------------	---	---

IMAGE (Innovation in Manufacturing, Aerospace and Green Economy) is funded until December 2019 and will see hundreds of businesses across the region given access to the research, know-how and resource based at Cranfield University, the University of Bedfordshire and other universities in the South-East Midlands region. Funding through the programme is available to support small and medium-sized businesses in the SEMLEP area to develop new technologies, processes and services and to enhance their 'green business' credentials. IMAGE has a focus on three industrial sectors: manufacturing and advanced technologies, aerospace; and the green economy.

City Labs	Open University & ZTE; Fronesisys	Key contact: Alan Fletcher alan.fletcher@open.ac.uk/+44 (0)1908 654511
------------------	-----------------------------------	---

CityLabs is a project that brings together The Open University with ZTE (a global telecom company) and Fronesisys (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	www.ictescalator.co.uk

ICT Escalator runs for 3 years, across the SEMLEP area, and is specifically aimed at any SME or start-up company that wants to do more e-commerce, invent new trade online, be certain about cybersecurity or to use big data. It is open to third sector, charities and NGO's too, if you are using

it to generate more income or jobs, and that you expect to use high-speed broadband as part of your eventual success. ICT Escalator delivers much-needed carefully designed specialist support to develop your digital capability so that you can make full use of the internet, build on existing business opportunities and create new innovative digital applications, platforms and services. The project is not aimed solely towards ICT businesses; it targets all SMEs by addressing awareness, capability, skills, and security concerns about the digital environment.

NoDE project (Northamptonshire Digital Enhancement)	Northamptonshire County Council & Northamptonshire Growth Hub; Northamptonshire University	T: 01604 212696; 01604 367798 enquiries@northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk Sarah Ellwood: SEllwood@northamptonshire.gov.uk http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/business-and-economy/our-projects/Pages/northamptonshire-digital-enhancement-project.aspx
--	---	--

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.

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	T: 01604 212696 E: r2g@northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk www.northamptonshiregrowthhub.co.uk/ready2grow
<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.</p>		
Food Enterprise Advisory Support Team (FEAST)	The Food and Drink Forum	T: 0115 975 8810 E: enquiries@foodanddrinkforum.co.uk www.foodanddrinkforum.co.uk

<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>		
<p>Internationalizing SMEs</p>	<p>East Midlands Business Limited</p>	<p>T: 0345 052 4001 E: info@uktiem.co.uk www.emb-group.co.uk/programme-management/internationalising-smes</p>
<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>T: 01664 501301 E: enquiries@egs.live www.manufacturinggrowthprogramme.co.uk</p>
<p>The project supports SME Manufacturers to grow by identifying, understanding and removing barriers to growth and enabling sustainable business improvement. It provides free advice and support to manufacturing SMEs to help: identify opportunities and create plans for growth and improvement; work with the best external experts to implement those plans; cover up to 35% of the cost of implementing the plans through an improvement grant; connect to wider support to maximize opportunities for growth.</p>		
<p>Better Off in Business</p>	<p>The Princes Trust</p>	<p>Rebecca.Bull@princes-trust.org.uk (Northamptonshire) Anne.Gredley@princes-trust.org.uk (Milton Keynes)</p>
<p>The project aims to create an entrepreneurial culture and raise enterprise as a realistic goal disadvantaged young people aged 18-30. It will support participants at the start of their enterprise journey, providing them with hands on assistance to develop their confidence, ideas and guide them to reach their full potential. The project offers grants to test the potential of business idea, specialist support from mentors, a free legal helpline and continued support for two years once the business is up and running.</p>		
		<p>T: 0300 01234 35</p>

Velocity Growth Hub	SEMLEP	E: enquiries@velocitybusinesssupport.com www.velocitybusinesssupport.com
Velocity is a SEMLEP Growth Hub for SMEs in the South-East Midlands. Velocity Growth Hub aims to simplify access to business support in local areas, providing free, business support advice tailored to business including: One-to-one support from a team of trained business advisers; training and skills workshops; capital and revenue grants		
South East Midlands Start Up Programme (SEMSUP)	WENTA & University of Northants/University of Bedfordshire	emmawright@wenta.co.uk
<p>South East Midlands Start-up Programme (SEMSUP) will deliver:</p> <p>Targeted engagement and outreach and mentoring to strengthen entrepreneurial and enterprise culture;</p> <p>A variety of support mediums including 1:1 business advice, web based live chat business advice, webinars and workshops;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Advice and support for new business start-ups, including social enterprise, to survive and grow;</p> <p>Seed finance in the form of small Start-up grants</p> <p>Business incubation via a network of 5 University based incubators, linked to the provision of advice.</p> <p>The University of Northants will also offer specialist social enterprise support delivered by webinar and via networking events.</p>		

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 07775816773 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>		

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.

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.

Renew	Luton Borough Council	<p>Sue Davies, Programme Manager Corporate Energy Manager 01582 547067 Sue.Davies@luton.gov.uk</p> <p>Abdul Kahir (RENEW Delivery Manager) Housing Asset Manager 01582 546208 Abdul.Kahir@luton.gov.uk</p>
--------------	-----------------------	---

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.