

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

4 April 2023

Dear Chair,

Welsh Government response to CYPE Committee 2022-23 Draft Budget report:

Recommendation 24: The Welsh Government must provide the Committee with 6 monthly updates on the progress of the implementation of the ILE programme, including information on how the Welsh Government is promoting the programme to learners in Further Education.

The past six months has seen further progress made in relation to the implementation of Taith (formally the International Learning Exchange programme), and the end of the first full year of the programme.

2022 Pathways

Activity relating to the first Pathway 1 call (mobility of individuals) commenced in September 2022. More than £10m was allocated to 52 successful projects, which are predicted to enable over 6200 individuals to take part in international learning activities over the next three years (as projects can be multiple years in length). By 31 December, 64 participants had been reported as having taken part in Taith-funded activity, both outward and inward. This figure is increasing week by week, as it is expected that the majority of activity for one-year projects funded through the 2022 Pathway 1 call will take place in the spring and summer terms.

The wide-ranging types of projects Taith supports are starting to be showcased on the [Taith website](#) and through relevant social media channels, including projects involving robotics and the Welsh language in Singapore, pupils from North Wales visiting Colombia, and an upcoming trip to the U.S. for a special school to look at techniques for working with young people with autism.

The success of Pathway 1 was followed by the first Pathway 2 call, which opened in October 2022. Pathway 2 supports projects that centre around a specific theme and produce tangible outcomes, with the themes for 2022 being: Developments in Education, Diversity & Inclusion, and Climate Change. This resulted in 19 successful applications.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

A second Pathway 1 call for the Further Education and Vocational Education & Training (FE/VET) sector was also launched in October to coincide with Pathway 2. Both funding calls were open until early December, and following an external assessment process, grant agreement letters have now been issued to successful organisations for projects to begin in May. Tables 1 and 2 indicate the outcomes from the second Pathway 1 call specifically for FE/VET and the Pathway 2 call.

Table 1. Value of projects awarded – Pathway 1 second call (FE/VET only).

	No. of applications	No. of projects awarded	Total awarded (£)
FE/VET	5	3	552,491

Table 2. Value of projects awarded by sector – Pathway 2.

	No. of applications	No. of projects awarded	Total awarded (£)
Schools	12	7	430,945
FE/VET	7	5	279,880
Youth	6	4	181,596
Adult Education	6	3	199,839
Total	31	19	1,092,260

N.B. Higher Education was not included in Pathway 2 following feedback from the sector that funding should be focussed on Pathway 1.

The Pathway 2 projects awarded funding were encouragingly wide-ranging and varied. Examples include an FE college developing courses on Electric Vehicles and Green Technology with an innovation hub in India, an Adult Learning organisation working with a partner in Greece to create resources around the inequalities faced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, and a school partnering with an institution in New Zealand to produce guidance on best practices in bilingual education.

The results from these two Pathways, along with the first Pathway 1 call, bring the total number of projects funded by Taith in the 2022 call year to 74.

2023 Pathways

The 2023 Pathway 1 call opened in January and closed on 16 March. The Taith programme executive worked hard to engage with all sectors, and this is reflected in the healthy number of applications that were submitted. 86 applications were received, an increase of 14 from 2022's first Pathway 1 call. Encouragingly, 11 applications were received from the FE/VET sector, including from 8 individual colleges. Outcomes, including the number of mobilities planned and destination countries, will be published on the Taith website in July 2023 once assessments have taken place.

The next Pathway 2 call will open in October 2023, and early next year will see the 2024 Pathway 1 call. I would welcome committee members' support in promoting these opportunities to our learners.

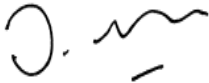
Governance

Taith's Advisory Board continues to meet on a regular basis to bring together representatives from all sectors to provide strong, high-level oversight and advice to the programme team.

Following a strong start to the programme, the Taith executive is committed to ensuring that it has the necessary mechanisms in place to fulfil its potential to provide life-changing opportunities for learners and young people across Wales.

With that in mind, Taith is working to implement a number of recommendations set out by the Good Governance Institute in their review of the programme last year. The ILEP Board of Directors is currently in the process of recruiting two independent members, which will strengthen the governance and enhance the expertise of the Board. Details of the roles can be found [here](#); I would encourage committee members to highlight the opportunities to their relevant networks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Miles' with a stylized flourish.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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