

European Week of Regions and Cities

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The week beginning 8 October was European Week of Regions & Cities in Brussels. This annual event attracted over 6,700 participants from across Europe with over 200 official seminars and events together with a large number of unofficial seminars and discussions around Brussels. This year was the sixteenth year of European Week of Regions and Cities and the week aims to explore and share how regions and cities can work together across the continent.

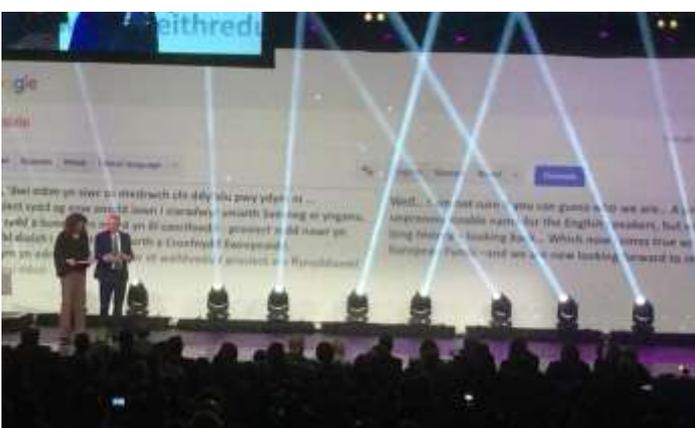
Wales House had a busy week with visitors from Welsh universities, Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association, at the same time we also attended sessions and hosted an event involving PDR at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

RegioStars – two Welsh projects in the finals

A highlight of the week was the RegioStars award ceremony on Tuesday 9 October as Wales had two finalists.

The ASTUTE project – www.astutewales.com – was a **finalist in the 'Supporting smart industrial transition'** category. Astute is a project that involves Aberystwyth University, Cardiff University, Swansea University, the University of South Wales and the University of Wales Trinity St David. It is designed to stimulate growth in the manufacturing sector across Wales by applying advanced engineering technologies to manufacturing challenges.

Nant Gwrtheyrn – www.nantgwrtheyrn.org - was a **finalist in the 'Investing in Cultural Heritage'** category.



Nant Gwrtheyrn being announced as the winners of RegioStars 2018—
Category "Investing in cultural heritage"

It was great to see Nant Gwrtheyrn win the award for best project in their category, Nant Gwrtheyrn is based in a former mining village in North West Wales that has been restored as a centre for Welsh language learning.



Workshop at PDR-Birmingham City University "Catalysts for Innovation" event

Wales House side-event

9 October, Wales House welcomed a regions week side-event, joint-led by Birmingham City University and PDR at Cardiff Metropolitan University, titled "Catalysts for Innovation". The event was an opportunity to present the three Interreg projects ([UrbanM](#), [Design4Innovation](#) & [ecoRIS3](#)) and their findings followed-up by three "interactive, design-led thinking" workshops, where the challenges or briefs from each project were presented and participants were encouraged to "think broad", co-creating solutions to the set challenges using established design methodologies. The session presented the projects with new perspectives and ideas which will feed -back to partners and stakeholders for the next phase of policy learning. We look forward to seeing PDR, along with Dr Anna Whicher from Cardiff Metropolitan University, once again in Brussels at the BEDA Insight Forum 2018 on 20 November 2018. More information about this can be found on the ["Events in Brussels" page](#).