



Press Release

Welsh women break down barriers

This week training providers, trainees and project partners from South East Wales will be coming together to celebrate the achievements of more than 300 women, 45 employers and 70 educators and advisers.

Chwarae Teg's Ready SET Go ESF European Funded Programme established to break down barriers and encourage women into non-traditional training and employment is coming to an end this month (March). It has been one of Chwarae Teg's most successful programmes over the past two and a half years.

The project has proved to be a catalyst for many women, giving them the opportunity to explore new and exciting career routes and a platform to further education and training. It has also been innovative in ensuring that an holistic approach to equality and diversity within the workplace will support employers, educators and advisers in recruitment and retention of staff to address current and future skills shortages.

More than 30 courses have been run across the 13 Objective One counties in Wales – these have ranged from digital imaging, introduction to construction skills and plumbing, to conservation and fire fighting.

Marcella Maxwell, Chief Executive of Chwarae Teg said: "We are delighted to have exceeded our targets and successfully trained more than 300 women. We are now in the process of tracking all participants to find out how the training has changed their lives and we've been very impressed with the outcomes so far."

Marcella continued: "We're hoping to secure funding in the new round of European Structural Funds to develop a second phase of this important project. We have achieved

a lot in just two and a half years, and whilst we have only scratched the surface, need and demand for initiatives which open doors for women through training in sectors which are traditionally the domain of men has been firmly established. This is not only good for the women concerned, but also good for the economy in helping to develop a more diverse and skilled workforce.

The Ready SET Go project received a grant of £369,000 from the European Union's Objective One Programme through the Welsh Assembly Government, with match-funding from the Department of Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and Careers Wales. Chwarae Teg is contributing to key aims of the European Structural Funds Programme by promoting employability, business spirit, equal opportunities and investing in human resources.

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Notes to Editors:

About Ready SET Go

Chwarae Teg was established in 1992 to support, develop and expand the role of women in the Welsh economy and has undertaken a number of projects which have directly assisted women in the areas of enterprise, employment and learning. The Ready SET Go project is managed by Chwarae Teg, part-funded by DELLS, Careers Wales and ESF (European Social Fund) and covers 13 local authorities in the Objective One area.

Objective One Areas: Anglesey, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea and Torfaen