

Leeds Beckett University with Wakefield Metropolitan District Council



Wakefield is located in the north of England whose economic fortunes have long been tied to its central location and transportation links with a rich agricultural or industrial hinterland. Following recession after the closure of the coalfields in the 1980s, post 2000 saw a phenomenal growth in Wakefield's logistics and distribution sector. Higher skills levels however are significantly lower in Wakefield, making it harder to attract knowledge-based investment. Efforts to support internationalisation by SMEs will need more effort over a longer time period to create patterns of self-sustaining success.

The policy addressed is:

Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme via Priority 1: Unlocking the Growth Potential of Businesses in Key Economic Sectors

The Compete In project is facilitating a collaboration between Leeds Beckett University, Wakefield Council and the local business community to make the Leeds City Region a great place for enterprise from start-up to growth and innovation.

The Local Action Plan seeks to add the insights, methodological tools and approaches integral to two good practices:

- TRIIP from Gävle, Sweden
- VIT Emprende from Valencia, Spain

This will embed a more thorough practice stimulating internationalisation and innovation. These practices will include:

- Using new technology to facilitate faster, easier internationalisation
- Developing mentoring support with SMEs, learning strategies and digital platforms to enhance these measures
- Creating a well-developed innovation ecosystem model
- Deliver talent matching to innovative and growth-oriented SMEs
- Provide a fabric that links SMEs to advice, mentoring, financial assistance and sources, and to training and advice events and seminars

The following stakeholders contributed to the development and will implement the Local Action Plan (LAP) together with Leeds Beckett University.

RCP21: Remaking Competitive Places for 21st Century Businesses

Carmel Harrison PR: PR and Marketing strategy agency

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

The Harris Partnership: A national architectural practice

Spawforths: Architecture and town planning consultancy

Womble Bond Dickinson: Legal practice - working with local authorities and wider public sector

Joseph Rhodes Ltd: Manufacturing sector

Ad:Venture: Expert help and advice to high growth businesses

Wakefield Business Improvement District

Sarcophagus: Online construction collaboration technology

Our Agency: Creative design studio

For more information, follow the project at:
interreurope.eu/competein
facebook.com/competein



About
Wakefield

Local
Action
Plan