

Strength in diversity

A report commissioned by Universities Wales

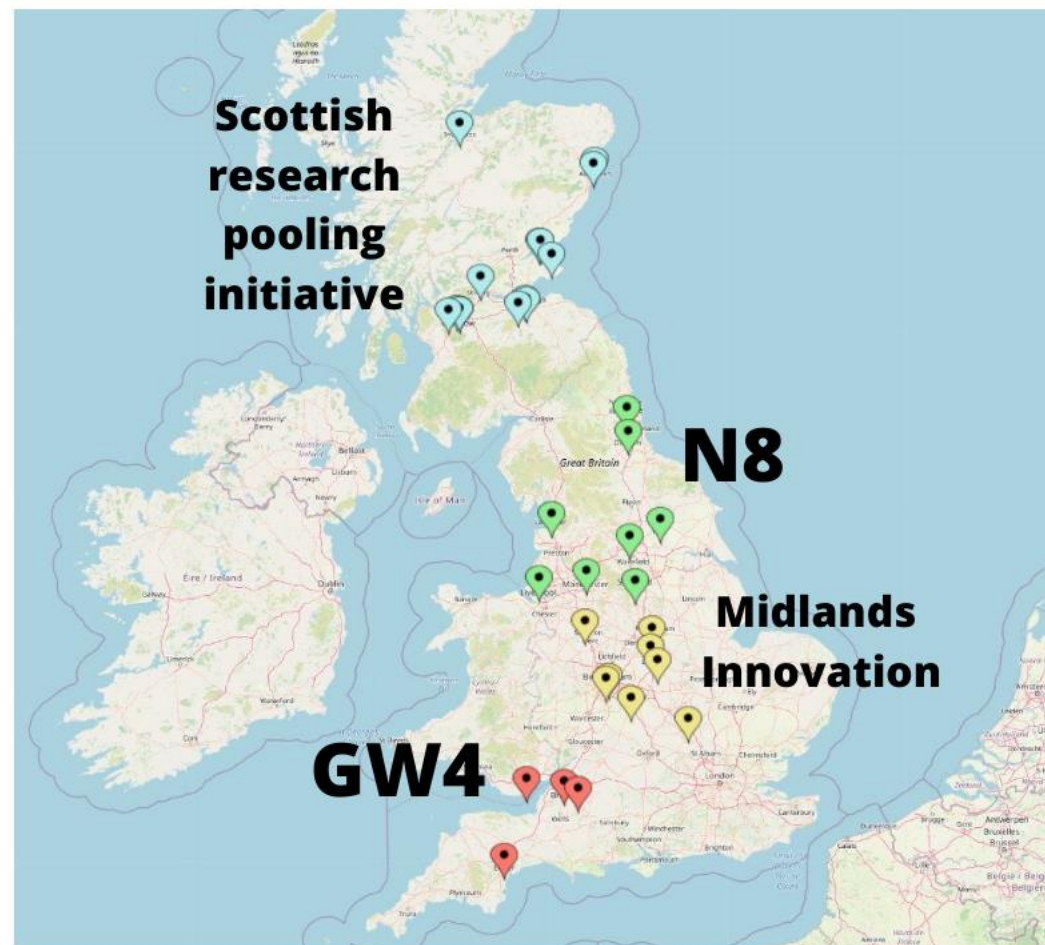
Professor Graeme Reid

March 2021

Funding environment

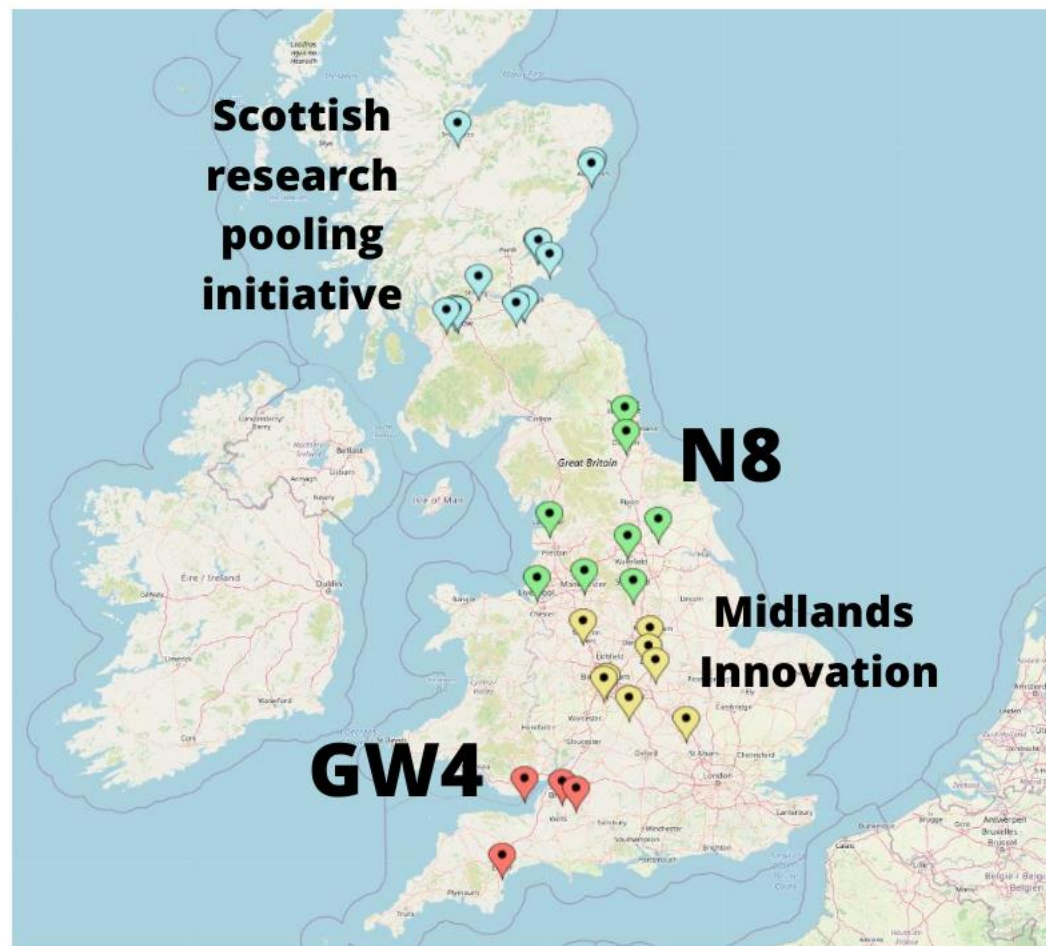
- UKRI budgets increased (except ODA)
- Strong narrative on regional disparities
- No more EU structural funding
- Funding for Horizon Europe unclear
- Covid pressure on Welsh Government budgets

Existing clusters & networks



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Yorkshire, London, Ox-Cam Arc, South East



Wales: turning diversity into strength?

- Missions
- Histories
- Locations
- External partnerships in research and innovation

Covid-19 pandemic changes:

- **Attitudes to distance**
- **Experience of video conferencing**
- **Potential for collaboration**

... and further emphasises regional agenda

Initial focus on Shared Prosperity Fund & Regional Initiatives

Create a protocol for:

- **Managing IP**
- **Sharing facilities and accomodation**
- **Employing researchers**
- **Funding bids to UKRI and charities**

Risks

- **Insufficient scale**
- **Insufficient substance**
- **Insufficient time**

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- **Insufficient scale**
- **Insufficient substance**
- **Insufficient time**
- **Expecting a 'Welsh share' of competitive UK funding**

Recommendations

1. Initial focus on regional funds
2. Streamline new collaborations: increase competitiveness; create funding opportunities
3. Agree protocol for future collaborations
4. Create support team, host by Universities Wales, run separately with ring-fenced budget
5. Financial support from Welsh Government or HEFCW – phased approach

Phased funding proposal

- **Year 1:** HEFCW fund 100% cost of team
- **Year 2:** HEFCW fund 75%; 25% from universities in proportion to R&I income
- **Year 3:** HEFCW fund 50%; universities 50%
- Thereafter, reflect experience of first three years

Initial focus on Shared Prosperity Fund & Regional Initiatives

Capture more for Wales

Capture more for higher education, research and innovation

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