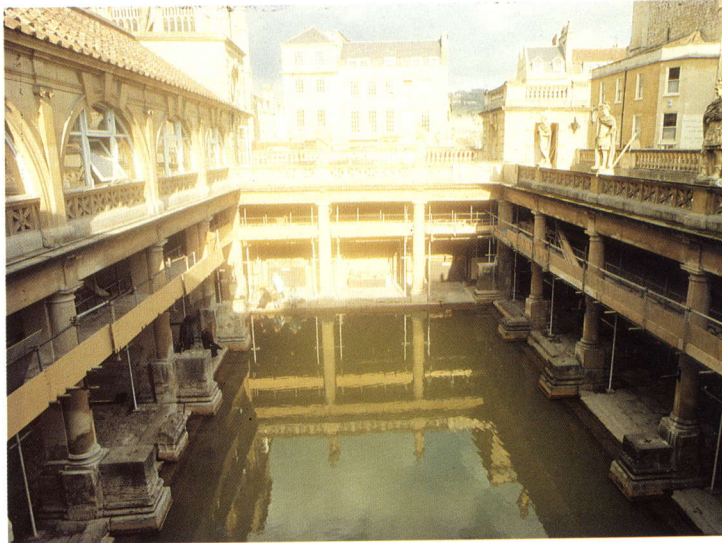


West

A REGION
OF THE



European Union



Roman baths, Bath. Photo: COI Picture Library

West

A REGION
OF THE

THE
WESTERN
WORLD
IS
A
REGION
OF
THE
WEST

The term "European Union" stemming from Maastricht is preferred in this text. However, whenever funding programmes or policies/laws stemming from the original EEC or ECSC treaties are referred to the term "European Community" is used.

The dynamic diversity of the European Union is embodied in its regions. The Union, a Community of 12 Member States where decisions are taken by Ministers responsible to national parliaments, is committed to preserving this diversity as it advances towards ever closer integration.

Each of the regions of the European Union has its own particularities. Each is affected by Community policies. The increasing recognition of this fact underlies the vast growth in cooperation between the regions, from the humblest twinning links to large cross-frontier spending programmes such as INTERREG, providing European Union support for the problems of national border areas. Cross European links in transport, energy and telecommunications are being initiated from the smallest to the greatest. These links are the nerves of the European Union as a Community with a common purpose based on national and regional self-interest with a blossoming regional diversity.

Development of the Regions

The removal of frontiers has brought regions in direct contact with each other. There are increasing trans-frontier exchanges and cooperation on projects. Many policies of the Union will be of special benefit to the regions. Just to mention a few, competition policy has helped create a level playing field where firms from all regions can compete on fair terms on EU markets; the deregulation of transport policy has cut the cost of moving goods between the regions. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have been among the prime beneficiaries of EU action. Measures include helping them make contacts with partners in other countries and provide them with business start-up aid.

The harmonious development of the regions can only be achieved by reducing the disparities between the economically strong and the less advanced among them. This is why the European Union is committed to re-allocate more of its resources (25% of its budget) to the regions which are lagging behind. The Structural Funds

consist of the European Regional Development Fund, the guidance section of the Agricultural Fund and the European Social Fund. Nearly two-thirds of the money goes to disadvantaged priority regions. The aims of the Funds include helping regions seriously affected by industrial decline and promoting the development of rural areas.

The European Union must also promote the balanced social development of its regions. The citizens benefit from education, training and mobility programmes. These include help for technology training, vocational training for young people, as well as student exchanges under the ERASMUS programme.

The Single Market

Community spending programmes do not by any means represent the whole picture. Much of this spending has a wider impact by the very fact that the Community is addressing common problems, such as the difficulties of frontier areas, coal and steel closures or the telecommunication needs of the outer regions. Similarly, the scientific and education programmes have a far wider impact than the amount of money involved might suggest, through the large number of cooperation networks that these programmes have helped to establish.

At the heart of the European Union lies the Single Market. Its economic impact is of a different order of magnitude. Here lie the freedoms leading to Europe's competitive edge in the rest of the world: free movement of goods, people, services and capital. Its counterpart is the Community external trade policy. Here the economic benefits of the Union acting together, for example, in the recent Uruguay round of the GATT negotiations, dwarfed any impact of the funds in the regions. The regions and the Union itself are indivisible.

The term "European Union" stemming from Maastricht is preferred in this text. However, whenever funding programmes or policies/laws stemming from the original EEC or ECSC treaties are referred to the term "European Community" is used.

1. The West of England

The five counties of Avon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire have a total population 3,208,881. The area has a solid agricultural base but also high-tech industries, seaside resorts and long-established trading links. Bristol has long been a centre for the wine trade with continental Europe but was also the first British port to develop trans-Atlantic links and especially the West Indies sugar trade. Historic sites such as Stonehenge and Glastonbury evoke Britain's distant past but the industrial base in the region tends to high technology rather than the large traditional industrial sectors whose decline poses problems for other regions.

Although 1993 unemployment was below UK average in four of the five counties, in Dorset it was above, with a trend for the position to worsen in comparison with the rest of the UK. Unemployment, particularly in the winter, is highest in the geographically peripheral areas (eg Weston/Bridgwater, Minehead, Bournemouth). Although three of the counties (Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) have GDP per head above the national average, the two counties furthest from London (Somerset and Dorset) have GDP per head below the UK average.

The economic life of the regions is deeply affected by decisions taken at the level of the European Union and especially by the completion of the Single Market and changes in the Common Agricultural Policy. Although the region does not qualify for much assistance from the European Community Structural Funds, it boasts many initiatives relating to the European Union. This booklet tries to pull these locally-based initiatives together so as to provide an overview of the European Union in the West. Even so, because there are so many, the ones included have been chosen as illustrative to give a balanced spread of the activities which occur; many of those omitted are in no way inferior to the examples included.

2. The Single Market

The European Union is the world's largest trading bloc. Although geographically the West is relatively peripheral to Europe's heartland, trade with the rest of the EU has increased. Statistics of imports and exports are not recorded according to their county of origin/destination. Nonetheless, evidence from road hauliers and (for example) from the post and telecommunications usage, all suggest increased levels of commerce.

The advent of the "Single Market" is of great interest in the West. Gloucestershire has carried out research to assess its impact on the county's economy. From about 1988 the Chambers of Commerce, Information Centres, and DTI (South-West) worked to raise awareness of opportunities for expansion in the Single Market; this includes the requirement that "public procurement" in each Member State be open to companies from all countries, with the DTI able to call on its "Compliance Unit" in London if firms meet artificial barriers to trade within Europe.

France and Germany have now developed into major markets, with some additional presence for the West in countries such as The Netherlands, Spain and Portugal. The West's visible exports to Europe reflect its manufacturing strengths such as aerospace, automotive components, electronics. Many of the firms "exporting" to the continent are those with specialist markets for whom the British market is too small - for example the West has firms selling to health services (eg a supplier of hospital airbeds, another supplier of artificial hip-joints), or to the leisure market (eg manufacturers of yachts), while the others (such as a manufacturer of specialist footwear) have found the armed forces of Europe a worthwhile market.

In the West there are a slightly higher proportion of small businesses than the UK average - particularly in Dorset and Somerset. Many of these firms are too small to consider a Europe-wide market on their own. However, there has been good use of facilities such as Europartenariat to meet partners or agencies, and the West has many small firm export success stories, from ice-cream manufacture to industrial fasteners.

In the reverse direction, some of the West's small, even one-person firms make a living by selling European produce here. Firms from elsewhere in Europe have invested in the West. There are, for example, major French shareholdings in Bristol Water, and a French company now collects tolls on the Severn Bridge, just as there is British investment overseas.

That the West of England's industrial fortunes are now tied up with European Union decisions is well illustrated by the aerospace industry. Its sales are directly affected by EU negotiations (with the US amongst others) over national governments' involvement in aircraft purchasing decisions. At Filton, British Aerospace carries out design work (and some manufacturing of parts) for the wings of the European Airbus, in which it has a 20% stake. The Airbus has customers worldwide, including the European airlines.

3. Transport and Tourism

The development of the EU has implications for the West's transport infrastructure. Well over 90% of the overseas trade of the seaports of Avonmouth and Poole is with the rest of the EU - mostly with France and Iberia. "Roll on-roll off" traffic from Britain to France has increased substantially in the last decade and the West's ports of Poole and Weymouth have shared in this.

Under the Maastricht Treaty, outline plans were made in 1993 for a "Trans-European road Network". Three existing routes across the West were so designated (London-Exeter-Plymouth, London-Cardiff-Fishguard/Pembroke and Birmingham-Exeter). This scheme does not involve any Community finance at present, and it is considered that any future funding is likely to be small. Nevertheless, throughout the country there is continuing pressure from local authorities and Chambers of Commerce for additional routes to be added as part of the 1995 review of the network, and notable among these campaigns has been that for a route to Poole (as part of a through route from Ireland to the Continent).

1994 sees the opening of the Channel Tunnel. No international rail freight depot is currently planned in the West country. The nearest international rail freight terminal currently planned will be Cardiff.

“Feeder” passenger services will run through Bristol via Salisbury and Swindon to the International Terminal at London Waterloo.

In 1992 nearly 1.4 million overseas visitors came to the five counties of the West; some were on business or visiting friends and relatives, but the majority were on holiday, a substantial number visiting a few key locations (such as Bath or Stonehenge). It is difficult to be certain from the available statistics, but up to half of these overseas visitors may be from other EU countries and the number seems to be increasing. Although most overseas visitors to the West come via the traditional entry points (London’s airports and the south-eastern seaports), there are signs that the south-western seaports are gaining ground - services have recently been expanded at Weymouth for example. Bristol airport (with scheduled service to Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt and Paris) reports that demand has been growing steadily, and while Bournemouth airport is currently a focus for charter and not scheduled traffic, it has seen increased corporate usage, and there have been demands for an expansion of its role.

In the West several projects involving tourism have been part-funded by the EU. For example, the “Atlantis” project, developed by the Atlantic Arc Commission, includes elements from Somerset and Dorset (as well as Devon and Cornwall) involving tourism. For the “Culture, Cooking and Craft” project (funded by the EU’s Tourism Directorate), Dorset County Council has employed a French citizen as co-ordinator, bringing together partners in Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal to encourage tourists to visit, and to promote their common heritage. It is hoped that small and medium-sized businesses will benefit by the promotion of craft products such as glassware and pottery and locally produced foods, such as Dorset cheese and ales.

4. Agriculture, rural development, the environment

Agriculture is important to the five counties of the West of England, who together have 7.6% of the UK’s farming community. Agricultural spending is also an important part of the whole EC budget, accounting at present for just over 50% of the total.

The “guarantee” section of the agriculture budget finances intervention and export rebates to ensure that prices are kept stable and to give the farming community incomes comparable with their industrial counterparts. With support prices set annually and surpluses bought by intervention boards, this system has created unwanted food surpluses. The Common Agricultural Policy has been modified to reduce over-production, with milk quotas and the “set-aside” scheme to take arable land out of production and direct compensation to producers. Under the GATT settlement agreed in December 1993, the EU will have to reduce its internal support by 20% over six years.

It is not possible to break down the figures for agricultural funds on a county basis; however, it is possible to see the results of shifts in support prices. The West contains some important cereal producing counties (eg Wiltshire) and in the 1970s and 1980s the area of wheat expanded significantly. More recently, there was a shift to oilseed rape, especially found in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire (by 1992 the West was growing five times as much oilseed than it was ten years previously) and latterly to linseed. The Western counties have 16% of the UK's cattle (especially in Somerset), but in the last decade dairy herds have decreased significantly in all five counties (with the efforts to reduce the milk surplus) while beef herds increased. Again, in the last ten years the agricultural labour force declined in all five counties, while there has been a slight increase in farm sizes (especially in Gloucestershire).

In common with the rest of the UK, the Western counties' farming community (including the NFU) have lobbied the British Government and the EU to reduce the administration required in some of the schemes, and to ensure that schemes are equally implemented across the Community. One successful lobby was that by the English Vineyards Association, which represents 81 vineyards in the West (the second highest concentration in Britain); the EC's scheme to limit production and thus surpluses will now be more flexibly applied in Britain.

There have also been some valuable lessons to be learned from meetings with farmers from other EU countries, some of whom have had to diversify at a faster rate.

In addition to the “guarantee” section of agricultural funds mentioned above, there are also “guidance” funds, to support agricultural restructuring and rural development measures. Funding received in the West has included schemes of diversification into tourism and schemes to improve the marketing of produce. In many cases the EC contribution is not apparent to the recipients of grants, because the funding takes the form of reimbursement to the Government for its own schemes. The projects aided are quite diverse ranging from the Woodland Grants Scheme (well used in areas such as Gloucestershire) to well-known Farming and Conservation Grants and little-known grant applications; for example, with several instances in Somerset and Dorset, installing wind-powered generators to supply farms with electricity.

The EU’s research and development programmes also benefit agriculture, and its programmes for agriculture and agro-industry research has funded projects in the West.

In addition, the European Union assists environmental projects. In the Brue Valley (Somerset) the EU paid half the cost of re-establishing a major wetland site under threat from intensive agriculture and peat extraction. “Architectural Heritage” funds have helped to restore the landscaped grounds of Prior Park, Bath, to their original grandeur, to remodel College Green in Bristol and also to restore the original Temple Meads station. Meanwhile, recent road building controversies, such as in the Stonehenge area, have highlighted the debate over the EC’s Directive on environmental impact assessments.

5. Regional Development

Over the years, the European Union has developed a regional policy, to reduce inequality between prosperous and less affluent regions.

Until recently, the five West of England counties were not eligible for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund. From 1992, Somerset County met success in having the Exmoor area designated as eligible under the Fund’s Objective 5b which aims to “develop rural areas where agricultural incomes are low and social and economic developments are below average.” This

makes it eligible for various ERDF programmes, and the relevant UK Ministries (such as the Ministry of Agriculture) have until April to propose to the Commission how their own schemes will apply in these newly designed areas.

The West is now benefiting from the EC's KONVER programme which helps areas with problems caused by cutbacks in the defence sector. A partnership of bodies in south Dorset was recently awarded £366,000 under KONVER, to help overcome problems associated with the rundown of the naval base at Portland. This will involve retraining, with a new centre at the base itself, a business centre in Dorchester and a programme to generate inward investment.

Another successful application for KONVER funding was by the County Councils and the Training and Enterprise Councils of Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire (and the Western Development Partnership in Avon). This joint bid has been awarded almost £1.5 million from the EU, and is the largest KONVER grant in the UK. In Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire there are over 70 military establishments, and nearly 12% of jobs (11,000) are defence-related. With national governments cutting back defence across Europe, a 1992 EC study identified the three counties as the only European sub-region vulnerable to cuts in BOTH defence industries AND in the military services. The aim will be to diversify the sub-region's economy, supporting the expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises, developing redundant military bases as the sites for new business activities, and offering training wherever job losses are taking place.

6. Research, Training and Education

In seven counties of the whole south-west region, firms, universities and research institutes participated in more than 220 cross-border research and development projects co-funded by the EU during 1987-92. These projects created over a thousand working relationships with partners throughout the EU, particularly in France and Germany, but with significant numbers in the Netherlands and Italy. Indeed for the EC biotechnology programme, the national contact point is actually in the West, at the Agricultural and Food Research Council in Swindon.

Parts of the West are noted for high technology industry, and these have a high profile in relevant EU projects. For example, ESPRIT funds research and development in information technology; in 1991-2 there were no less than 15 ESPRIT projects in the West, the majority in Bristol and Bath, but with a presence in every one of the counties (Poole, Shepton Mallet, Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Swindon etc).

Another programme well used in the West is THERMIE which covers Demonstration Projects in the field of Energy Technology Saving and alternative energy sources. There is also JOULE for basic R&D in similar areas. A South Western Electricity Board project involves the use of agricultural products for electricity generation; Bristol has a low-energy housing project (in collaboration with Denmark and the former East Germany); Winfrith Technology Centre (Dorset) gained funds for computer modelling; at Bath, Carbo Coal is recovering carbon from waste fly ash; while at Blandford St Mary (Dorset), Hall and Woodhouse are developing a heating and mixing system for an anaerobic digestion plant.

The European Investment Bank lends to public and private capital projects. Recent EIB loans in the West of England have included funds for a whole range of improvements to drinking water supply and sewerage systems (Severn-Trent Water, Wessex Water and Bristol water companies); as well as a large loan (£150 million available between 1990 and 1996) for the Second Severn Crossing.

An important arm of EC Social policy is the European Social Fund (ESF), one of the three Structural Funds (the others are the Agricultural Guidance and the Regional funds). It aims to help groups who have not shared in the prosperity brought by the EU, combating long-term unemployment and training people to find jobs.

The Social Fund programme HORIZON has aided no less than five projects from Avon, the most urbanised of the West's counties (Bristol is the tenth largest city in the UK). Two of the Bristol projects are for single parents, one involving them in community work (exchanging experiences with Portugal), and another (with partner projects in Greece and the Netherlands) creating a multi-racial self-help network, including self-confidence and job-search courses. Bristol University received funds for deaf people to become sign language interpreters and to train others as signers

(exchanging training materials with partners abroad). A Bath project involved people with mental health problems in work experience and jobsearch skills.

The European Social Fund also funds projects for women. Great Western Enterprise at Swindon, with partners in France and Denmark is recognised as a European centre of excellence for programmes to help women running their own businesses. With grant aid from the Social Fund, it is disseminating the results of its experience to countries such as Ireland and Portugal. The NOW programme has assisted a rural "Women in business" project (FACE), linking Glastonbury in Somerset with partners in Spain. Meanwhile, the EU's IRIS network linked projects in Coleford and Bournemouth for women returners, in Stroud for employed and unemployed women and in Swindon for women managers.

Besides the European Social Fund, there are other EC education and training programmes which have attracted numerous participants from the West.

Recently, under the ERASMUS programme of student exchanges, nearly one thousand continental students a year have been studying for part of the academic year in the West's higher education institutions - with almost as many students making the exchange in the reverse direction. Under the COMETT programme for university-business cooperation to improve training in technology, several dozen students per year from the West have obtained places with firms in other European countries to get practical work experience outside their home environment, while a number of firms in the west have worked with establishments elsewhere.

Bournemouth University shows one example of involvement in Europe. With its own full-time "European Liaison Officer", it has attracted EC funds for a variety of multi-national projects; for example it is the UK coordinator of a large agricultural project and of a COMETT project. Its BA International Marketing students spend 18 months abroad and the BSc nursing students spend 3 months in the Netherlands or Spain. About 75 of its students a year study overseas under the ERASMUS programme.

The Bournemouth area is itself a long-standing centre for short intensive language courses for overseas students, and there are clear indications that the demand for such provision is increasing as English is the Community's business language.

The European Union LINGUA programme, to improve the teaching and learning of European languages, recently financed a total of 12 projects in the five counties. For example, Weston-super-Mare College worked with a college in Rome to produce tourist information; Yeovil Tertiary College worked with a French Lycée on a banquet using each other's local knowledge; while Bristlington School, Bristol, produced a bilingual newspaper with a school in Brogo Valsugana.

Visits and exchanges have been widespread. The PETRA programme of vocational training for young people has enabled about a hundred young people a year to attend courses overseas. As part of the Youth for Europe programme, several hundred youngsters from the West made exchange visits (usually for up to three weeks) to other countries.

Many schools in the West have held language days (with activities such as food sampling and trying out new languages) A number of schools have built quite extensive links - for example with help from an EC grant, pupils from Preston School, Yeovil, met counterparts from Greece and Holland to work on curriculum projects such as maths and health education.

Primary schools have undertaken projects with the Netherlands based on art and waterways and with Finland, France and Spain based on economic understanding. 120 trainee teachers from Gouda spent two days in Gloucestershire primary schools. A project to introduce primary schools to foreign languages through fun activities will culminate in a residential trip to France. In special education, drama students from Poland and Italy worked with students from a college for disabled youth, and LINGUA funded 16 teachers from Gloucestershire and Devon to visit special schools in Brittany.

In 1992, the UK Presidency of the EC was marked by additional funding for educational exchanges, including awareness-raising sessions for the South-West's teachers. In Gloucestershire, young people from all over Europe took part in a "European Youth Forum" with team activities such as presentations about countries and cultures. They visited a disabled Olympic Games afternoon, where a runner carried a European flag that was visiting every country in Europe.

Again, in 1992, this time in Somerset, Frome Community College's "European Community of Stones" was helped by Foster-Yeoman, a local quarrying firm to adapt a site next to the College as an amphitheatre with huge stones from each of the Community Member States. The stones included UK Portland, deep pink Portuguese marble, grey Italian marble, and yellow sandstone from Luxembourg. 120 young people from all over Europe (including Russia and Eastern Europe) took part in a festival, including performances, visits and a fashion show supported by the Bath fashion houses.

Educational links are not solely for young people. Gloucestershire's Adult Continuing Education and Training Service has managed an EC-funded guidance project for long-term unemployed people based in the Council's Family Centres, while visitors to the European Union's institutions included students from Swindon's "University of the Third Age".

The FORCE programme supports projects in the field of continuing vocational training. A Bristol college has a training project under this programme bringing together British, Irish and Spanish tool hire firms.

TEMPUS promotes higher education links with the countries of East and Central Europe. Gloucestershire is cooperating with Belgium in such a link with Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

7. European Links

The West has many long-standing links across the Channel with northern and western France. The twinning arrangement between Bristol and Bordeaux goes back 45 years. Sixty of the West's towns have twins in France, but there are now 35 with Germany, although only eight with the rest of the EU and 19 elsewhere. Even quite small towns have set up links, often in the early stages with the help of EC funds.

In 1993, the link involving Sherborne (in Dorset) won the EU's award for the best initiative between twinned towns. The town was originally linked with Granville, but since 1991 they have expanded this to a "Douzelage" of twelve towns, one in each European Union country. Representatives of the towns meet every six months and initiatives range from tourism to a recent drama group trip to Denmark.

Two years ago Wellington (in Somerset) won the "European flag" award for its long-standing twinning links with Lillebonne in France and Immenstadt in Germany (as well as developing associations with Torres Vedras in Portugal). Highlights include the annual children's exchanges involving over one hundred young people (four coachloads a year!). Other activities include civic exchanges, sports club tours, and social exchanges such as those involving the Women's Institute.

There are also links at county level. For example, Dorset has been linked with La Manche in Northern France since 1984 (including Experience Exchange projects) and has signed a co-operation agreement with Wexford in Ireland, Central Region in Portugal and Castile and Leon in Spain (involving tourism and educational links).

The need for closer collaboration on European matters has also brought parts of the West itself closer together. Bournemouth and Poole Borough Councils are joining with Southampton and Portsmouth in a South Coast Metropole (to link with a Normandy Metropole). At the end of 1993 Bristol joined Gloucester and Swindon in "the West of England Initiative" to give these urban centres a presence in Europe. The Western Development Partnership has a complementary lobbying role, perhaps in future wider than its current Avon base. Cooperation between Avon,

Gloucestershire and Wiltshire gained funding from the KONVER programme to help areas hit by cutbacks in the defence industries.

Avon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Somerset County Councils are members of the Atlantic Arc network. This brings together the western most regions of the European Union, stretching from Ireland to the Atlantic seaboard of France, Spain and Portugal. Its activities develop economic and cultural cooperation including transport and tourism.

Through the Trade Union Commission of the Atlantic Arc (set up with EU help) the West of England's trade unions work closely with others in, for example, France and Spain, on common problems such as diversifying defence industries, or with the parallel decline of Bristol and Bordeaux docks. These close links with other communities are developing spin-off social and cultural projects.

Recently established under the Maastricht Treaty, the Committee of the Regions will provide a local and regional voice in the EU. The British delegates are chosen from locally elected representatives. Two alternative members are from the West; Councillor Elgar Jenkins from Bath District Council and Councillor Tony Prior from South Somerset District Council.

Collaboration is not confined within the borders of the European Union. Through a range of projects, groups in the West have had contact with the rapidly changing countries in East and Central Europe. For example, Great Western Enterprise at Swindon is part of a PHARE project to introduce the enterprise agency idea to the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Moreover, local charity groups in the counties of the West have been channelling help to countries alongside centrally-funded EU humanitarian aid, to the former Yugoslavia, Azerbaijan and north Iraq, Africa and many other places.

8. Contact Points

Most of the five county councils have strategies to adapt their own service to the demands of Europe, and to maximise the local benefit of EU membership. Each has an officer either working exclusively on European matters, or combining it with other duties. (Some of the larger district councils have designated European offices of their own.)

- AVON:** David Sanderson, Avon County Council
Planning Dept., PO Box 46, Middlegate,
Whitefriars, Lewin Mead, Bristol BS99 7EU;
0272 22635
- DORSET:** Ann Minto, Europe Officer, County Hall,
Collition Park, Dorchester, Dorset
DT1 1XJ;
0305 224176
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE:** Mavis Morris, European Liaison Officer,
Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall,
Gloucester GL1 2TG;
0452 425838
- SOMERSET:** Alan Lambourne,
Somerset County Council Europe Project,
County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY;
0823 255386/255396
- WILTSHIRE:** Mike Parker, Employment Co-ordinator,
County Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 8JN;
0225 713022

Each of the Counties has some initiative to help schools.

- AVON:** Avon International Education, School House,
Bishop Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8LS;
0272 240801
- DORSET:** Lorna Milne, Dorset Europe Support Office,
Poole Reference Library, Dolphin Centre,
Poole BH15 1QE;
0202 661706

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: European Development Unit, County Curriculum Centre, Churchdown Lane, Hucclecote, Gloucester GL3 3QN; 0452 623070

SOMERSET: Resources and Learning, Somerset County Council, Parkway, Bridgewater, Somerset TA6 4RL; 0278 421015

WILTSHIRE: Wiltshire Education Business Partnership, Bowyers (Wilts) Ltd, 55 Stallard Street, Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 8HH; 0225 777367

SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN THE WEST

1. European Documentation Centres

Official publications of the EC

Bath

The Library
University of Bath
Claverton Down
BATH BA2 7AY

Tel: 0225 826826 ext 5594

Bristol

The Law Library
University of Bristol
Wills Memorial Building
Queens Road
BRISTOL BS8 1RJ

Tel: 0272 303370

2. European Information Centres

Provide up-to-date information on all aspects of Community affairs to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Bristol

Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Industry
16 Clifton Park
Bristol BS8 3BY

Tel: 0272 737373

United Kingdom Regions

THE WEST A REGION OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

1 South West

Devon
Cornwall

2 West

Dorset
Wiltshire
Somerset
Avon
Gloucestershire

3 East

Norfolk
Cambridgeshire
Suffolk
Bedfordshire
Essex
Hertfordshire

4 West Midlands

Staffordshire
Shropshire
West Midlands
Warwickshire
Hereford and Worcester

5 North

Durham
Tyne and Wear
Cleveland
Northumberland
Cumbria

6 South East

Kent
West Sussex
East Sussex
Surrey

7 South

Hampshire
Berkshire
Oxfordshire
Isle of Wight
Buckinghamshire

8 East Midlands

Leicestershire
Nottinghamshire
Northamptonshire
Lincolnshire
Derbyshire

9 Yorkshire & Humberside

South Yorkshire
West Yorkshire
North Yorkshire
Humberside

10 North West

Greater Manchester
Merseyside
Lancashire
Cheshire

11 Greater London

12 Scotland

13 Wales

14 Northern Ireland

Author: Mike Webb

We would like to thank all those individuals and organisations in the region, without whose enthusiastic assistance this brochure could not have been produced.

March 1994 – 9490



West Region

- 1 Dorset
- 2 Wiltshire
- 3 Somerset
- 4 Avon
- 5 Gloucestershire

