



**Baden-Württemberg**



**Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government**

## **Shared Statement of Cooperation**

**between**

**the Welsh Government**

**and**

**the Government of Baden-Württemberg**

We, Wales, and Baden-Württemberg (hereinafter: the partners), have civic and government connections going back decades that have furthered European co-operation and deepened our mutual friendship and understanding. We signed our Memorandum of Understanding in 1990 and since then, links between our major and capital cities, and our smaller rural communities have introduced our people and organisations to new and enriching experiences.

Through our joint participation in European networks and programmes, such as the Four Motors for Europe, the Vanguard Initiative, Horizon, and Erasmus, the connections have been further strengthened. Wales and Baden-Württemberg are both committed to connecting politically, economically, culturally, socially, and environmentally, and to advancing social justice and equality. Our shared common values and interests recognise the critical importance of sustainable development, and we have pledged to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The changed European context with the UK's exit from the European Union and the opening of a Welsh Government office in Germany as well as the opening of the "BW-UK Office" in London have highlighted opportunities in specific areas of interest and identified new working practices which have the potential to strengthen our collaboration.

Through the signing of this Shared Statement, we reaffirm our intention to bring Wales and Baden-Württemberg closer together taking into account the developments in our societies and economies that have taken place over the last three decades. The work of the Welsh Government Office in Germany and the Baden-Württemberg overseas office in the United Kingdom, as well as our respective offices in Brussels, make an important contribution to this cooperation.

1. The aim of this Shared Statement is to strengthen and develop cooperation in priority areas identified by the partners. We plan to encourage and promote activity to support lasting, positive connections, to engage a wide range of stakeholders, to build relationships, to reflect on our ongoing collaboration, to share knowledge and networks and to consider opportunities for further cooperation.
2. We are committed to achieving a better and more sustainable future for all, which is at the heart of our response to the climate and biodiversity emergency and to our approach to economic and social stability in a changing geopolitical environment. Given their immediate urgency, climate change and sustainability are important focus areas of our joint work and across all areas of cooperation. In addition to this, joint activities will be supported in the following areas:
  - I. Bilateral engagement
  - II. Trade and Entrepreneurship
  - III. Science and Research
  - IV. Education and Youth
  - V. Culture and Communities
  - VI. Environment and Climate Protection

The above list is not exhaustive and should not limit the scope for cooperation and activity in other areas of interest. Activity between Wales and Baden- Württemberg is planned to be taken forward through:

- I. Ministerial exchange and exchanges between government and economic representatives;
- II. Engagement between our business organisations, clusters and at a company level including potential future Trade Missions. Engagement between universities, educational and research institutes, including colleges and vocational training institutions with a focus on links between education and industry;
- III. Engagement in global and European networks such as the Vanguard Initiative and the Four Motors;
- IV. Professional knowledge and information exchange; and
- V. Events and networking to support cooperation and collaboration.

The Welsh Government Office in Berlin and the Baden-Württemberg State Ministry in Stuttgart plan to support common activities respectively by the International Relations Teams of the WG and BW government, and a broad range of other internal teams and partners. The administrations plan to meet to review the common activities once a year which include evaluating the progress and planning of future projects which builds on our ongoing co-operation across a wide range of policy areas.

For the Welsh Government

For the Government of Baden-Württemberg

Vaughan Gething, Minister for Economy

Dr. Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut, Minister of  
Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism