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**A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND**

**Project Title**                    **Extension of the Entrepreneurship Centre – now the Hunter  
Centre for Entrepreneurship**  
**Project Sponsor**            **University of Strathclyde**

### **PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship in the University of Strathclyde has developed progressively over the years to play an increasingly full and dynamic role in promoting entrepreneurship in a higher education setting. This activity played a strategic role in contributing to the generation and development of new high-growth and high-tech firms in Scotland.

At a key stage in its development, the Centre, then called the Strathclyde Entrepreneurship Initiative, sought ERDF co-funding to enable the expansion of its activities. In particular, there was a need to be able to accommodate increased activity, including in the following areas:

- facilitating science and technology start-ups
- enabling an alumni programme providing information and awareness raising to graduates
- pursuing a Training for Innovation Programme, placing students in SMEs to undertake innovation projects.

### **PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The project proposed the extension, adaptation and equipping of the Centre's premises to better enable it to take up a wider range of roles. This allowed the:

- expansion of a collaborative postgraduate training programme in science and technology entrepreneurship
- expansion of alumni seminars on entrepreneurial awareness
- introduction of facilities enabling a 'hatchery' to be created for pre-start-up
- introduction of a full certificate/diploma/MSc in Technology Entrepreneurship.

### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

The project created flexible training and development facilities, delivered through a major extension and refurbishment of existing premises. By extending the top floor of the University's Livingstone Tower, the following elements were developed:

- teaching rooms with audio visual equipment for entrepreneurship courses
- hatchery space and facilities to house 'pre-business' start-up activities
- IT and audio visual equipment for the new teaching rooms and hatchery, and the development and delivery of teaching programmes including via the web
- serviced facilities providing workgroup environments for the use of teams of participants in science, technology and innovation programmes to undertake specific project and pre-start work
- office facilities for staff dedicated to delivering innovation programmes to postgraduates and SME participants.

**PROJECT FINANCE**

Funding Partners	University of Strathclyde
Eligible Costs (£)	£429,442
ERDF/ESF Support (£)	£214,721
Priority/Measure	Western Scotland 1997-99 Objective 2 Programme Priority 2, Measure 2.1: Infrastructure for applied research, technological development and innovation

**PROJECT PERFORMANCE**

The project was successfully implemented, and the high quality facilities are now in intensive use, providing a hub for the development of entrepreneurial skills and awareness among undergraduates, postgraduates and alumni from all disciplines.

More details of the Centre and its activities can be obtained at the Centre's website:  
<http://www.entrepreneur.strath.ac.uk>