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## **New investment boost for local jobs**

The year is ending on a high note for Llanrwst-based Menter Iaith Conwy who have been successful in obtaining a £400,000 investment to extend their work.

This new investment from the Rural Development Plan – a stream of EU funding administered by the Welsh Government – will enable the language agency to build on its existing work in three key areas:

- The training of local Welsh speakers to become qualified outdoor leisure instructors – to help enable them to gain employment in a growth industry in traditional Welsh-speaking heartlands. Of the 147 that have so far received training 15 have found jobs in the industry, with 12 receiving freelance work from the Mentrau network.
- The provision of Welsh language courses where there are insufficient numbers of students to qualify for mainstream funding. So far over a 100 have benefited with one provider being able to appoint a full time tutor.
- Community translation – the provision of cheaper translation services for the voluntary sector and charities. This social enterprise “Cyfieithu cymunedol” currently employs 4 for with very little grant subsidy.

“We had applied for RDP funding to expand our activities in these three key areas because our successes have already identified a clear demand, not just in Conwy but across the North” said Menter Iaith Conwy chief executive Meirion Davies.

“The granting of the RDP investment is excellent news, as it will safeguard existing jobs over the next two years, and will also enable us to take on at least one additional member of staff. Expanding the program will hopefully lead to more job creation.

“While all our work in the past was within the county of Conwy, the new funding will enable us to expand our work to other areas of north Wales in partnership with other language initiatives.

“It will mean, for example, that our community translation service will be available to organizations across north Wales, and that we will be able to almost double the number of people we can train for work as outdoor instructors.

“Our success shows how language regeneration can boost local economies, and this gives us great encouragement as we look forward to the new year.”