



## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

# Project Case Study: BREATH

### THEME:

Research and Innovation

### FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€8,506,928.97

### MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for the Economy, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, and the University of the West of Scotland

### LEAD PARTNER:

Dundalk Institute of Technology

### PROJECT PARTNERS:


University of the West of Scotland, Queen's University Belfast

### PROJECT CONTACT:

Keith.Thornbury@dkit.ie

**Start Date:** 01/01/2017

**End Date:** 30/06/2022

 [www.breath-copd.org](http://www.breath-copd.org)

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**BREATH (Border and Regions Airways Training Hub)** is a unique, world class, cross-border cluster of researchers that will help address the causes, treatment and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). COPD is an incurable and slowly progressive condition that causes breathing difficulties and irreversible lung damage. Because it is often unrecognised and undiagnosed, it is sometimes called the 'invisible disease', yet it will soon be the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death world-wide. Central to BREATH's mission is to train a cohort of approximately 20 of the best young scientists to help fight and raise awareness of COPD within the Region.

*"One problem is that we still don't fully understand the underlying mechanisms and as a consequence currently available drugs are not particularly effective at slowing or reversing the disease process."*

*"This EU investment brings together scientists and clinicians from the border regions to help resolve some of these knowledge gaps, which in time will lead to better treatments for patients."*

*Professor McGarvey, consultant chest physician and clinical lead for the programme.*



European Chief Negotiator, Michael Barnier, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB and PhD student Shruti Kulkarni at the fourth plenary All-Island Civic Dialogue event



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Northern Ireland, Ireland and the South West of Scotland have some of the highest rates of COPD in the world. COPD related hospital admissions is higher in Ireland than any other developed country, based on emergency admissions to hospital.

BREATH will provide an innovative, industry-relevant training programme to stimulate R&I, attract inward investment and enhance economic development. Throughout the five year project, researchers and doctoral students will work together, not only to better understand COPD, but to raise awareness of the disease to help encourage preventative measures, timely treatment and disease management.

*“Together with our Irish partners, BREATH offers a wonderful opportunity to gain new insights into lung disease. By better understanding this often ‘invisible’ killer disease, we hope to develop new and improved treatments – as well as helping prevent COPD by public awareness in the affected regions.”*

Professor John Lockhart, Director of the Institute of Biomedical and Environmental Health Research, UWS.



#### Project Key Outputs:

- Enterprises receiving support: 5
- Enterprises receiving grants: 2
- Enterprises receiving non-financial support: 5
- Researchers in supported entities: 22 (total of 89.5 researcher years)
- Enterprises cooperating with research institutions: 5
- Enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects: 2
- Research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects: 3