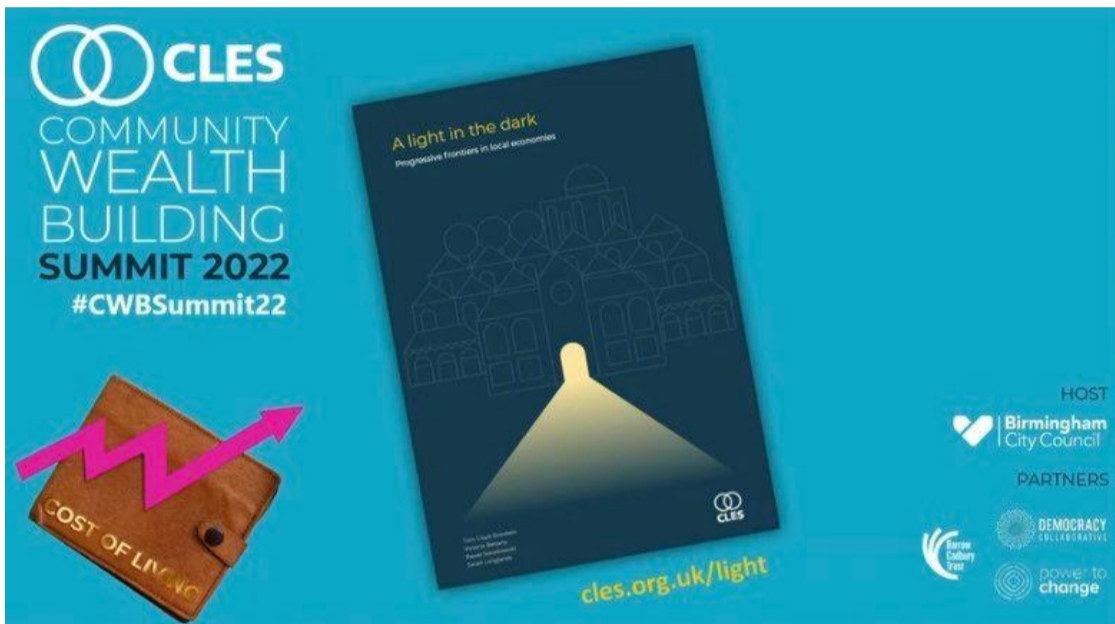


Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)

Generative economy, Community Wealth Building and the future of local economic development

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During the fellowship I have contributed to a publication *A light in the dark. Progressive frontiers in local economies*, which was released in November during a Community Wealth Building Summit in Birmingham

Overview of the Data Fellowship

From July to early September I had the privilege of working with Manchester-based think and do-tank, Centre for Local Economic Strategies. Through my fellowship at CLES I have worked on a publication about the future of local economic development and prepared a report on the state of the Welsh generative economy. In this way, I got fully immersed in thinking about how theory can help guide practice in politics and economics. It equipped me not only with quantitative and qualitative research experience, but also with the long term motivation to facilitate this change through research at the intersection of distributive justice, moral philosophy and democratic theory and implementation of policies that give more power to local communities.

Data Analysis

I performed a couple of different data analysis tasks. One of my contributions to a publication *A light in the dark. Progressive frontiers in local economies* was presenting data showing that raising Foreign Direct Investment does not come together with improved living standards for local people. My most significant analytics task was to analyse, with the use of Excel and R, the Welsh economy. I was looking on more than 180,000 businesses across 22 Unitary Authorities. I was searching for, e.g. details of generative businesses, SMEs by sectors or wealth distribution between areas of different levels of deprivation.

Findings

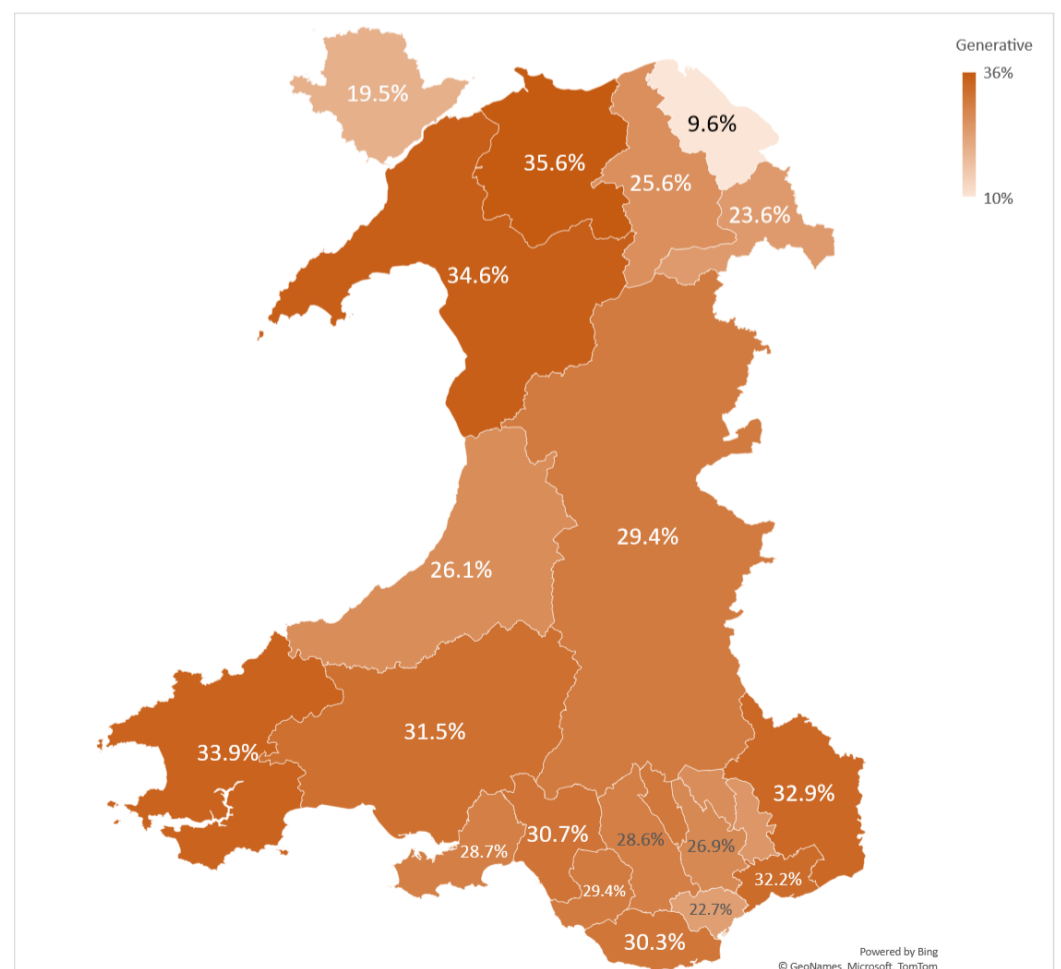
- There is a significant change of order between unitary authorities ranked by proportion of generative businesses and ranked by proportion of employees working for generative businesses

- On the latter, the proportion of employees employed by generative businesses varies from only 9.6% in Flintshire to 35.5% in Conwy
- Most of the SMEs are generative, however, some sectors are more vulnerable to corporate influence or lack data on shareholders (Education).

Key Skills Learnt

Most importantly, I have seen how the work of a well established think tank is organised and seen a huge potential of their working culture. I enjoyed and was hugely inspired by many of our brainstorming conversations on the intersection of politics and economics. CLES positively influenced a lot in my life, with the most straightforward example being my final year political theory dissertation, which is a normative defence of strengthening local communities and implementing Community Wealth Building approach for the good of people, places and planet.

I definitely improved my abilities to manage multiple tasks at the given period effectively, learned how to use theories in constructing the case for practical actions and got confidence in working as a team, in which we need each other's ideas and expertise to get the most from what we are doing.



Analysing the Welsh economy allowed us to see, for example, how the proportion of employees employed by generative businesses varies between Unitary Authorities.