



INTERREG VB/C PROGRAMMES – INFORMATION NOTE

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The cross border programmes form part of a wider suite of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programmes, which include both transnational and interregional programmes. The PMC has no formal roles in these other ETC programmes, however the Managing Authority would like to take the opportunity of sharing information about the implementation of these programmes within the region.
- 1.2 SEUPB acts as an Information Point and Regional Contact Point for the INTERREG VB/C Programmes for the 2014-2020 programme period. In this context, the Body promotes the programmes to eligible partners within NI and the Border Region of Ireland, communicating the aims and objectives of the programmes and advising potential applicants throughout the project development process and beyond. One of the main objectives for SEUPB under the new Programme period is to continue to encourage and develop cross border partnerships on transnational projects (Ireland/NI). SEUPB is also keen to encourage projects and partnerships previously funded under the INTERREG IVA Programme to explore the opportunities under the INTERREG VB/C Programmes.
- 1.3 The Programmes provide an important platform for organisations within Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland to work collaboratively together on shared problems/opportunities and many of the projects/programmes will complement the work of the INTERREG VA Programme in the future. At a Programme level, the INTERREG VB/C Transnational and Interregional Programmes also provide an opportunity for the cross border programme to learn from experiences of those programmes in terms of implementation and vice versa, therefore SEUPB view the Programmes as an important link for the region in relation to knowledge sharing and best practice.

2.0 INTERREG IVB/C Programmes – 2007-2013 Period

- 2.1 During the 2007-2013 programme period, a total of 53 projects with at least one Northern Ireland (NI) partner were approved across the four INTERREG VB/C programmes relevant to NI. The approved projects resulted in an additional € 11 million ERDF for the region.
- 2.2 In addition to the financial allocation there is also an incalculable added value provided to the region in relation to the knowledge exchange, networking and sharing of expertise that their involvement in a transnational project/partnership and programme brings to the organisation and region as a whole.

3.0 INTERREG IVB/C Programmes – 2014-2020 Period

- 3.1 Northern Ireland partners can participate within 4 programmes:

- Northern Periphery & Artic Programme;
 - North West Europe Programme;
 - Atlantic Area Programme; and
 - INTERREG Europe Programme – **INTERREG VC Programme**
- } **INTERREG VB Programmes**

- 3.2 As of June 2016, a total of 18 projects have been approved with at least one Northern Ireland partner (see Appendix A for further details). Over €4m in ERDF has been allocated to Northern Ireland partners and 11 projects have partnerships consisting of both Northern Ireland and Irish organisations.
- 3.2 Further Calls for Applications will open throughout 2016/17/18 with opportunities for partnerships from the region to work collaboratively on shared problems and opportunities. SEUPB will encourage partnerships approved under the INTERREG VA Programmes in the future to look for synergies with other projects and programmes funded under the INTERREG VB/C Programmes.

Recommendation

The Programme Monitoring Committee is requested to:

- **Note** the information in relation to the INTERREG VB/C Programmes

INTERREG VB/C Programmes (2014-2020) – Update for PMC to note

APPENDIX A – INTERREG VB/C PROGRAMMES (JUNE 2016)

PROJECT NAME	PROGRAMME	NI / IRELAND PARTNERS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
RYE CONNECT	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ADVANTAGE NI	RYE Connect will provide better transnational business opportunities, services and solutions for young entrepreneurs inside the whole NPA region. This will be achieved by developing a wide Associate Network working closely together, in a geographically intelligently managed model of a leaner partnership. Project partners come from Finland, Northern Ireland and Greenland, each working as a centre point for their associates and actions.
TARGET	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	SOUTH WEST COLLEGE LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICER, SLIGO CITC, CAVAN	This project will develop tools to enhance capacity of manufacturing companies in the NPA region to adapt and embrace new technologies and innovation. The toolbox developed will consist of subsets such as Digital manufacturing (robotics and simulation), New ideas and thinking (human centered and environmental thinking, competitiveness), Business models and modern Product innovation.
CRAFT REACH	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS TEAGASC	The Craft Reach project aims to develop and test services to help quality craft businesses grow and prosper in peripheral areas by improving their business models and their premises, lifting the products onto the international market and use the businesses as focal points in the local community and as inspiration for young people.
DRIFTING APART	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	The Drifting Apart project will unearth and strengthen the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the fascinating and interconnected geological heritage of the Northern Periphery and Arctic

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		FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL	region, and its many links to natural, built and cultural heritage – It will support the development of new and aspiring Global Geoparks, the promotion of innovative products and services for social and economic prosperity and to continue to build a strong network of Geoparks in the Northern Periphery and Arctic Region.
IMPROVE	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	DERRY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL ERNACT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL	IMPROVE aims to increase the level of innovation in six NPA peripheral regions in the field of technology-driven public service solutions. It adapts a novel living labs-driven approach to maximise knowledge transfers between regions and stakeholders. Real communities will demonstrate the approach by using it to co-produce six services, and develop tools and methodologies for use by other regions to implement the results of the project.
CREATIVE MOMENTUM	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE, CRAIGAVON COUNCIL WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	Creative Momentum (CM) tackles the peripherality and distance to market challenges experienced by entrepreneurs in the creative and cultural industries across the Northern Periphery and Arctic area, as well as low economic diversity in these regions. It provides enterprise development and market expansion spaces, services and supports with a transnational focus. At the core of CM is a shared vision that good ideas should transcend distance and that creativity is not bounded by geography. CM recognises and embraces the comparative advantage of a peripheral perspective and works to enable creative industries in the NPA area to bring this unique perspective to the global stage. Creative Momentum: make it local; make it global.
COOL ROUTE	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	DERRY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL CORK INSITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL	The project investigates all aspects of the practical logistics and business potential to establish a bi-directional yacht cruising route along the offshore areas of the Northern Periphery Area, stretching from the South of Ireland, to the UK (Northern Ireland and Western Scotland) on onwards to Norway. As an eco-tourism product, exploiting the natural resources of the zone in a manner that is sustainable and environmentally viable; this new sea route will be marketed internationally and will have a common branding, booking and

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		ROYAL YACHT CLUB CORK	information system. The objective of the project is to produce a Business and Marketing Plan, together with a Commercialisation Plan, together with a Commercialisation Plan and accompanied by a Logistical Study and Practical Guide for potential entrepreneurs in the NPA zone, for the establishment of small mooring, berthing and ancillary facilities-such as shower blocks and laundry facilities for cruising yachts in remote NPA coastal areas.
SAINT	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	DERRY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	Slow Adventures in Northern Territories (SAINT) will work with SMEs to make them more aware of how to capitalise on the business opportunities in guided 'slow adventure' experiences, offering simple nature-based, immersive journeys, living and travelling in wild places, through marketing to new, distant customer markets. Northern Europe's wide-open, 'wild' spaces provide a great, saleable contrast with the target group's lives in urban centres around the world.
RECENT	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	ACTION RENEWABLES	The RECENT project aims to increase energy knowledge in rural communities, and help them to have more resilient and energy efficient public infrastructure capable of handling climate change related risks. The project will develop 24 pilot community energy and energy efficiency projects across 5 NPA partner countries, with focus on the innovative use of community-owned water assets.
GREBE	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	ACTION RENEWABLES, FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	GREBE will focus on the challenges of peripheral and arctic regions as places for doing business and help develop renewable energy (RE) business opportunities provided by extreme conditions. It will support successful development of SMEs and start-ups in this sector through analysis of advanced RE options, expert business mentoring, transnational models of successful growth strategies, policy analysis and information on funding mechanisms for businesses and support agencies.
FREED	Northern Periphery & Arctic	SOUTH WEST COLLEGE	FREED will develop a service, by the means of which SME's in the region can access innovation in energy technologies otherwise not be

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	Programme	WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	available within the NPA region. FREED will also facilitate the transfer of technology innovations to SME's across the area, so that the outputs of the project will widely benefit the region. It will achieve this because it provides a unique access to private investment, which is the key determinant of success in stimulating innovation. FREED is a self-sustaining programme which will continue beyond the end of the project period, because it uses a practical process for energy innovation stimulation connected directly to the commercial rewards of success.
SECURE	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	DERRY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL ERNACT	The aim of the SECURE project is to transfer and implement innovative energy solutions for housing and public infrastructure across NPA regions with different maturity-levels. Knowledge transfer will be demand-led, supported by a quadruple helix approach, and impact will be maximised by focusing implementation in small smart energy communities and building up local authority capacity.
WATERPRO	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	AFBI LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL	While the agriculture and mining extractive industries are important sectors for the economy of Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) areas, their activities cause significant risk to the vulnerable environment through water and land pollution. Nutrients in agricultural runoff are one of the major contributors to eutrophication and algae blooms. The overarching goal of WaterPro is to develop eco-efficient tools and models for SRM practices and environmental protection for the NPA sparsely populated region. This will be done through development of a Tool-Box of good management practices and communication platform for agriculture and mining extraction runoff management.
ASCENT	Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL	The ASCENT project will bring together Local and Environmental Authorities to collectively address the environmental challenges facing the conservation and enhancement of Areas of Natural beauty in the partner regions. The ASCENT project will develop management plans across the programme area to assist Local Authorities and other stakeholders to monitor these sites and implement innovative measures to ensure their economic and environmental sustainability.

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CHIPS	North West Europe Programme	SUSTRANS UK	Pilot initiatives around Multi-modal transport across the NWE Region with a specific emphasise on cycling, Sustrans will lead the development of a demonstration project along the Comber Greenway which will see the development of Cycling Hubs and linakes between the Greenway and the Belfast Rapid Transport system and also with major employers and centres of employment along the greenway such as the Stormont Estate.
NICHE	INTERREG EUROPE	DERRY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL	The project intends to increase the adoption of research and innovation solutions by food sector companies through the improvement of existing policies in the partner regions where food has been identified as a high-potential sector for their smart growth. The project will bring together all the relevant actors to facilitate technology and knowledge exchange that will be translated into new products and services.
BOOST EER	INTERREG EUROPE	NILGA	The project's aim is to cultivate young entrepreneurs within and between the regions to become the crop of Europe's future. The project will define the paths and solutions for partner regions enabling higher education institutions and the other quadruple helix actors to be a part of thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem supporting young entrepreneurs.
CLUST&RIS3	INTERREG EUROPE	INVEST NI	Cluster organisations are major facilitators for cooperation among SMEs. The goal of the project is to improve cluster policies and the performance of cluster organisations, having in mind their important role in the insertion of SMEs in global value chains and in leveraging the successful implementation of RIS3.