



## Press Release

**Date: 24 August 2018**

### **ELECTRIC VEHICLE USAGE TO RECEIVE A POTENTIAL €8 MILLION CHARGE-UP**

**The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) today opened a funding call worth up to €8 million, under the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, to support the increased use of Electric Vehicles on a cross-border basis.**

The funding comes at a time of renewed public interest in, and increased production of Electric Vehicles across the region. According to Next Green Car™ new registrations of plug-in cars increased from 3,500 in 2013 to more than 160,000 by July 2018 in the UK.

In recognition of the environmental benefits of Electric Vehicles, the Irish Government has also set an ambitious target that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold across Ireland will have zero emissions (or BE zero emissions capable).

In addition to reducing dependence on fossil fuels Electric Vehicles offer a number of well-documented advantages. On average they need less maintenance than normal cars (as fewer moving parts are involved in their production). They also encourage the development of renewable energy sources as well as the use of more environmentally-friendly production techniques from manufacturers.

The support provided under the INTERREG VA Programme will be used to create a cross-border Electric Vehicle network including up to 73 new (or upgraded rapid charging points) for cars across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Underlining the importance of the call Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: **“One of the most common concerns for people thinking about purchasing an Electric Vehicle is a lack of confidence in readily available charging points. In order to help alleviate these concerns the EU's INTERREG VA Programme will enhance and develop the already existing network of cross-jurisdictional charging points.”**



**“It will expand the distribution network of existing rapid chargers and install higher powered charging points to allow for faster charging of Electric Vehicles. In doing so the programme will help reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and as a consequence enhance the health of citizens living on both sides of the border,” she continued.**

The funding call opens on the 24 August 2018 and will close on 31 October 2018, further details are available at [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu). It is being funded under the Sustainable Transport objective of the INTERREG VA Programme which has been designed to help reduce carbon emissions by increasing the number of registered Electric Vehicles, on both sides of the border, by up to 2,000 by 2023.

Match-funding for the call has been provided by the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in Ireland and the Scottish Government.

- ENDS.

**For more information please contact John McCandless, Communications Manager with the SEUPB via email: [john.mccandless@seupb.eu](mailto:john.mccandless@seupb.eu)**

#### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)**

- The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU Structural Funds Programmes, PEACE IV and INTERREG VA which are designed to enhance cross-border cooperation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.



- The INTERREG VA Programme has a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) contribution of €240 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)