

YOUR EU!

The latest news from the
European Union's PEACE III and
INTERREG IVA Programmes



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 – 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



**Northern Ireland
Executive**

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YOUR EU!

The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. The Body was established on 2 December 1999, under the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland (8 March 1999), which created the implementing bodies.

The Special EU Programmes Body's principal function is to provide the Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat functions for the PEACE and INTERREG Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2014-2020). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programmes.

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To submit ideas, material and photographs for the next issue, please e-mail communications@seupb.eu
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Foreword

Welcome to the spring edition of Your EU!, which features the latest news from a wide range of projects which are funded under the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes.

It's an exciting time for the SEUPB as we have had confirmation that the new INTERREG Programme for 2014-2020 has been formally adopted by the European Commission.

To help projects prepare themselves for the first funding calls for the new INTERREG and PEACE Programmes, we have undertaken a series of Pre-Application Development Workshops throughout Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Exciting news too from Londonderry, where the Peace Bridge has further cemented its iconic status by being featured on a new set of Royal Mail bridge-themed stamps.

Also in Derry, pioneering peace work has been taking place with Coiste hosting a meeting between four members of the British Army (now with Veterans for Peace UK) and four former members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), as part of the

PEACE III-funded 'Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up' programme.

Construction work is well underway on two new interpretative centres promoting the Orange Institution in Belfast and Loughgall. The new facilities have received funding from the EU's PEACE III Programme and will be formally known as the 'Museums of Orange Heritage'.

The INTERREG-funded 'North West Healthy Living, Community Garden and Allotments Project' has successfully delivered five new allotments/community gardens to meet the local health, social and economic needs of five Council areas in the region.

Developed by the Loughs Agency, along with a range of partners, the INTERREG-funded 'Marine Tourism and Angling Development' project is establishing a new Beach Activity Centre at Benone and a new pontoon at Greencastle, both of which aim to develop and promote marine tourism, water-based leisure activities, angling tourism and recreational angling in the Foyle and Carlingford systems.



In Fermanagh, Ireland's largest green technology research and development and training facility, the £1.5m 'Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies (CREST)' has been opened at the South West College (SWC). Funded by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, CREST provides specialist education, training and R&D support to businesses operating in the renewable energy and sustainable technologies sector.

If you have any feedback on this edition of Your EU! or suggestions for content for future editions, please contact the SEUPB's Communications team at communications@seupb.eu

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

FOREWORD...

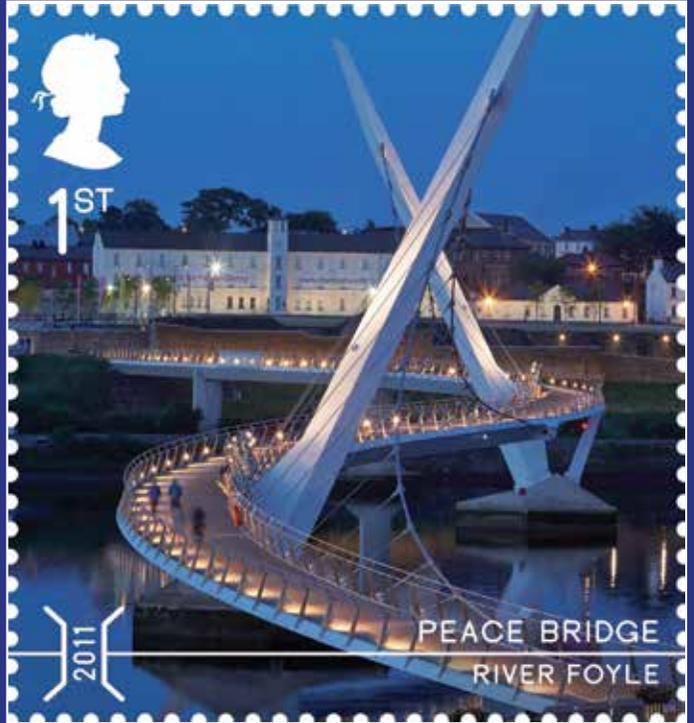
Peace Bridge receives 'stamp' of approval!

The EU PEACE III-funded Peace Bridge is featured on a new set of First Class stamps which was launched recently by Royal Mail.

The 'Bridges' stamp issue aims to celebrate the leaps in engineering that have seen the UK's bridges evolve from humble stone crossings to dramatic and symbolic landmarks.

Constructed for pedestrians and cyclists, the Peace Bridge was conceived as two distinct structural systems that work in harmony. Completed in 2011 to the designs of Wilkinson Eyre, the Peace Bridge features a pair of tall masts, whose system of cables overlap mid-river to form a symbolic structural 'handshake' across the River Foyle. The 235-metre-long pathway of this self-anchored suspension bridge provides a promenade and makes connections, while evoking a sense of pride, place and unity.

First Minister Peter Robinson and deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness said: *"When the bridge was opened in 2011 we hoped it would be a catalyst for change. Now in 2015 the bridge symbolises a new chapter in our history*



The Peace Bridge features on a new set of First Class stamps launched recently by the Royal Mail.

and is viewed not just as a foot bridge but as a beacon of hope. This stamp will celebrate and raise awareness of this iconic bridge which has not just physically connected two parts of the City but united our people.

The other bridges featured on the stamps are: Tarr Steps (Exmoor); Row Bridge (Lake District); Pulteney Bridge (Bath); Thomas Telford's Craigellachie Bridge (Moray); Pont Grog y Borth / Menai Suspension Bridge; Robert

Stephenson's High Level Bridge (Newcastle/Gateshead); Royal Border Bridge (Berwick-upon-Tweed); Tees Transporter Bridge (Middlesbrough); and the Humber Bridge. Royal Mail also issued a special postmark to mark the stamp set and Royal Mail vans in each bridge location across the UK carry an image of their new stamp.

The 'Bridge' stamps are on sale now from www.royalmail.com/bridges, by phone on 03457 641 641 and in 8000 Post Office branches across the UK.

INTERREG Programme is Adopted for the Region

Following detailed negotiation with the Member States (UK and Ireland) the European Commission has formally adopted the new INTERREG cross-border Cooperation Programme for the Border Region of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland for 2014-2020.

In addition to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investment of more than €240m in the Programme, €43m will also come from national contributions, raising the total Programme value to €283m. The SEUPB will invite potential beneficiaries to apply for funding through a series of open calls starting in the spring of 2015.

Welcoming the news Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB said: *"This is exciting news and highlights the Commission's continued commitment to supporting greater levels of cross-border cooperation across the region, in order to improve the lives of local people.*

"The SEUPB looks forward to working with our partners, throughout the delivery of the Programme, in order to bring about positive change in the areas of cross-border healthcare provision, environmental protection, sustainable transport



and research and innovation development."

Commenting on the successful adoption of the Programme, Ireland's Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, TD, said: *"This considerable EU investment enables us to continue the important work of previous INTERREG Programmes, which have played an important part in fostering cross-border cooperation. The Programme will build on the work of economic and social development in the eligible area and fostering cross-border cooperation."*

Welcoming the new INTERREG Programme, the Northern Ireland Minister for Finance and Personnel, Simon Hamilton MLA, said: *"Northern Ireland has already benefited significantly from previous INTERREG programmes and this new round presents a further opportunity to benefit, both socially and economically, from the significant funding available in order to improve and enhance the lives of those living in*

Northern Ireland, the Border Region of the Republic of Ireland, and Western Scotland."

In Western Scotland the new INTERREG Programme for 2014-2020 will cover Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and the North Ayrshire mainland, South Ayrshire, Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Arran and the Cumbraes, Argyll and Bute and the Western Isles.

Following the announcement, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities, Keith Brown MSP, said: *"This funding will have a positive impact on many people's lives across a wide-range of important issues like health, sustainable travel and the environment. The themes for this funding will make an important contribution to the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy and help to share best practice across borders."*

The SEUPB will publicise a rolling calendar of funding call dates at www.seupb.eu to inform potential Programme beneficiaries of application submission deadlines.

PROJECT NEWS...

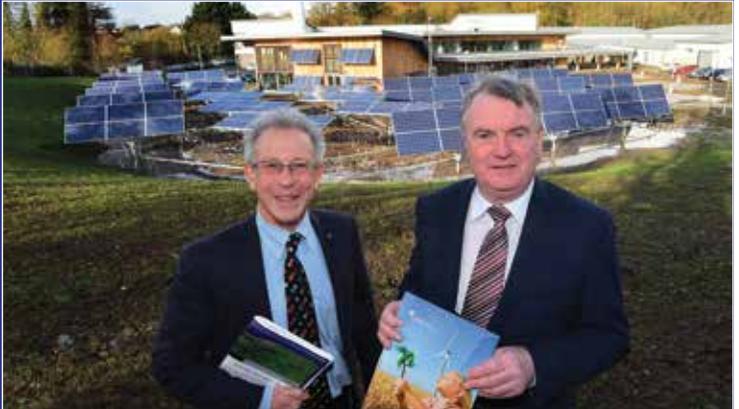
'CREST Centre' launched

Ireland's largest green technology research and development and training facility has been opened at the South West College (SWC), Enniskillen, County Fermanagh.

Staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of sustainability and innovation professionals, the £1.5m 'Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies (CREST)', which is funded by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, provides specialist education, training and R&D support to help small and medium-sized firms compete in the multi-billion pound renewable energy and sustainable technologies sector.

Speaking at the launch of the new facility, Tim Stokes, CREST Programme Manager said: *"CREST is helping to stimulate innovation and improve the competitiveness of the small business sector in the region. This in turn is safeguarding and creating jobs whilst contributing towards better stewardship of our natural environment. We're already off to a promising start and want to hear from more businesses interested in gaining from our support."*

CREST provides industry



Pictured at the official opening of the 'Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies (CREST)' are Malachy McAleer (right), Director, South West College and Chris Hines MBE, former Sustainability Director at the Eden Project, Cornwall.

R&D, demonstration and testing facilities for new renewable energy products and sustainable technologies. The facilities include laboratory space, testing equipment, demonstration technologies and the assistance of technical staff to help bring ideas and concepts to the next stage of development.

Welcoming the new facility, Lorraine McCourt, Director with the SEUPB, said: *"We are delighted to see that the centre is now fully up and running. Its completion will help us to fulfil many of the environmental protection objectives of the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, which was designed to encourage greater levels of cross-border collaboration*

on key issues such as environmental sustainability."

The CREST Centre's dedicated R&D spaces and specialist equipment rank it highly among the UK and Ireland's top 'clean and green' training facilities.

The facilities are available to businesses or individuals within Northern Ireland, the border counties of Ireland and Western Scotland who have ideas for new products or process developments but who do not have the physical and/or technical capacity to develop, test and commercialise them.

To find out more about the 'CREST Centre' and the array of innovation and R&D services available, visit www.thecrestproject.com

'Museums of Orange Heritage' branding unveiled

Two new interpretative centres promoting the Orange Institution, which have received funding from the EU's PEACE III Programme, will be formally known as the 'Museums of Orange Heritage'.

The new facilities at Schomberg House, Belfast and Sloan's House, Loughgall were funded through 'REACH (Reaching Out Through Education and Cultural Heritage)', a project which received £3.6 million from the EU's PEACE III programme.

The official title of the new interpretative centres was unveiled by the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, who said: *"The Museums of Orange Heritage represent one of the most significant and exciting initiatives ever undertaken by the Institution. There is now a sense of real anticipation as their physical completion moves ever closer."*

"Both facilities in Belfast and Loughgall will allow us to preserve and present the impressive historical collections of the Orange Order, as well as promote understanding and mutual respect through interpretation



Orange Order Grand Master Edward Stevenson (second from right) pictured with Grand Lodge Director of Services, Dr David Hume (right); Marketing Officer Ashleigh Hill; and Museum Curator Jonathan Mattison unveiling the 'Museum of Orange Heritage' branding at Schomberg House, Belfast.

and creation of shared space", he added.

The redevelopment of the Institution's Cregagh Road headquarters will include a museum displaying a wealth of items and artefacts relating to this history of Orangeism across the world. The expansion will also incorporate a research facility and educational resource, with particular access for school and cross-community visits.

Amongst the artefacts and documents which will be on prominent display in the new interpretative centre are William III's saddlecloth and a letter written by William III prior to his departure to Ireland in June 1690 as well as a Junior Royal Black Preceptory sash worn by the late George Best as a boy.

Historical artefacts at Sloan's House include Sloan's table (where the first warrants were signed), a bust of King William and a musket with bayonet which was used at the Battle of the Diamond.

The refurbishment of Sloan's House will include an extension to cater for an additional museum exhibition area and provision of detailed information relating to the early history of the Orange Order.

Both facilities are progressing well and expected to open in late 2015, providing a unique and unprecedented showcase of Orange history and culture.

For further information on the Museums of Orange Heritage, please visit www.orangeheritage.co.uk

PROJECT NEWS...

Real Life Interview: 'iOTA - Innovation, Opportunity, Training and Advice'

REAL LIFE INTERVIEWS...

Over 300 businesses throughout the East Border Region have benefitted from the INTERREG-funded 'Innovation, Opportunity, Training and Advice (iOTA)' programme, which provides a range of innovation support to existing and potential SMEs and micro-enterprises.

The 'iOTA' programme offers support through two strands of activity. Strand A focuses on harnessing innovation and creativity and developing a business concept, while strand B aims to create awareness of how innovation relates to local businesses and devises a bespoke Innovation Action Plan.

The success of the 'iOTA' approach can be illustrated by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from programme participants, including Nicola Hamill, Owner-Manager of



Councillor Gary Carvill, Monaghan County Council and Aveen McVeigh, Project Co-ordinator promoting the 'iOTA' programme.

Wee Wonders, which offers a fun and educational way for children to build confidence and learn social skills through play. Nicola says: *"Since completing the programme, Wee Wonders has grown from one staff member to five in a mere 12 months. The next stage for the business is to begin the franchising and developing franchisees all across Northern Ireland and the UK".*

which I'd thoroughly recommend to anyone."

Hailing the success of the programme, Councillor Peter Savage, Chairman, East Border Region said: *"The 'iOTA' programme offered much needed support to micro-enterprises and SME's on both sides of the border over the past two years. Along with increased turnover some companies were able to not only sustain jobs but create new positions, and introduce new products to the market through the innovation training provided by the Programme."*

The oldest participant in the programme was 81 year old artist John Scott, from County Armagh: *"I found all the lectures excellent, with the topics covering relevant*



Echoing Nicola's comments is Simon Quinn, founder of the new online language learning web app VivoLingo. He says: *"'iOTA' is definitely a great 'first step' on the road to building a successful innovative company,*



"Instead of one person delivering the entire course, specialised industry experts were used to teach their own unique area".

areas which I can apply to my business and other business ideas."

One of the more unusual businesses which took part in iOTA is Aquatic Greens, which combines aquaculture and hydroponics to produce fresh farmed fish and vegetables simultaneously in a closed loop system. Owner Dean Gray says, *"I found the course tremendously useful and I would recommend the iOTA programme to anyone that is starting to run a business."*

NI Silver is a family run company specialising in hand-crafted bespoke silver jewellery inspired by Northern Ireland icons.

Owner Ruth McEwan-Lyon says: *"The 'iOTA' programme meant that I could spend the day with my daughter, but then work on the practicalities of the business one evening per week."*

I found the action plan one of the most useful things as the 'one to one' analysis with a mentor helped me to step back and look at the business, giving me an insight into where I was, where I wanted to be and how I was going to achieve it."

Blackwell House is a luxury guest house in Scarva, County Down, with an emphasis on escape, relaxation and great food. Owner Joyce Brownless found the interaction with other 'iOTA' programme participants to be especially useful to her business: *"My colleagues offered lots of different ideas and suggestions which proved really insightful and helpful and guided me on my personal journey. All in all this was a very worthwhile experience and I was incredibly lucky to find 'iOTA' just when I needed it".*

The 'iOTA' Programme takes the process of innovation to businesses by offering road shows and master classes throughout the East Border Region.

Businesses recruited in this way are moved along an innovation spectrum from awareness to active engagement with innovation support structures, the development of an innovation strategy, implementation of an innovation action plan and then to embed the culture of innovation within the business. When businesses complete their support programme of activity, they can be referred to a range of other innovation support programmes.

For further information, please visit www.iotaprogramme.com/

REAL LIFE INTERVIEWS...



Pre-Application Development Workshops

A series of Pre-Application Development Workshops for potential beneficiaries who will be applying for funding under the new 2014-2020 programmes took place from February to April 2015.

The workshops were held in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland, ahead of the launch of the new PEACE and INTERREG Programmes in late spring 2015.

The new PEACE Programme, which represents a value of €270m, aims to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and discrimination and make a lasting difference

in building greater cohesion between communities.

The INTERREG Programme aims to build greater economic and social cohesion across the territory of Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland and has an overall value of €283m.

While the workshop events did not provide information on specific funding calls, they provided generic funding application information relevant to both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes for 2014-2020.

The events were divided into two sessions over the course of one day, focusing on issues associated with Project Development in the morning and Project Budgeting and Finance in the afternoon. The

first workshop was applicable to individuals responsible for developing the project and/or involved in completing the application form, while the second was designed for those responsible for developing the project budget and/or managing project finance.

To watch a video recording of one of the workshops, please visit www.seupb.eu

'Northern Voices' – unheard voices from the conflict

A new bi-lingual TV and Radio documentary series which documents previously unheard voices and stories about the conflict in Northern Ireland was launched recently at Belfast City Hall.



One of the many attendees at the recent series of Pre-Application Workshops, hosted by the SEUPB in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.



Pictured at the launch of 'Glórtha Aduaidh/Northern Voices' at Belfast City Hall are (left to right): Lorraine McCourt, Director, SEUPB; Nichola Mallon, former Lord Mayor of Belfast and Sonia Nic Giolla Easbuig, Ligid Productions.

'Glórtha Aduaidh / Northern Voices' is a six-part TV and radio series which highlights the issues faced by ordinary people on all sides of the sectarian divide during the conflict in Northern Ireland.

The project was supported by the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed for the SEUPB by the Community Relations Council/Pobal Consortium. It was broadcast on TG4 and on Radio na Gaeltachta and Raidio Failte in Belfast.

Welcoming the project's launch and news of the series' broadcast, Lorraine McCourt, Director of the SEUPB, said:

"By recording these previously unheard voices and stories of ordinary people on both sides

of the border and from all sides of the sectarian divide, 'Glórtha Aduaidh/Northern Voices' will play an important role in helping us reach a better understanding of the past as we look to the future. Many of the issues touched upon by 'Northern Voices' will be further addressed within the new PEACE Programme 2014-2020."

'Glórtha Aduaidh / Northern Voices' documents the experiences of those families who were directly affected by the conflict in Northern Ireland, but whose stories have, until now, been previously unheard. The series was produced as part of a project which included extensive research, interviews and themed events, debates and conferences and involved

participants from both sides of the border.

The project was jointly delivered by WestBIC, a bilingual innovation company, and Ligid Productions Ltd, an Irish TV Production Company specialising in factual documentaries and short form drama.

For more information on 'Glórtha Aduaidh / Northern Voices', please visit www.glorthaaduaidh.com

Coiste hosts visits from Veterans for Peace UK

A landmark series of meetings took place recently between Coiste na n-Irchimí, a Belfast-based support group

for republican ex-prisoners and Veterans for Peace UK, the British branch of a US anti-war group for former members of the military.

Coiste na n-Irchimí is the central body of the 13 partner organisation network which is participating in Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up, a project funded by the EU's PEACE III Programme which is supporting former republican politically-motivated prisoners.

Michael Culbert, spokesman for Coiste said: "I see these interactions as major groundbreaking exercises, which are happening only because of the SEUPB support of the Coiste network."

The meeting in Derry between four former members of the British army and four former members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was covered by journalist Ian Cobain in *The Guardian*.

Speaking in *The Guardian*, one of the Coiste participants in the Derry meeting said: "It's very important that we should do this. We should try to learn from what happened here, in order to promote peace in the future". Another participant added, "I feel lessons can be learned from the past conflict here in Ireland, by talking and engaging in an open and honest way, lessons which could be useful in other parts of the world."

Ben Griffin, who served for seven years in the Parachute Regiment and the Special Air Service and who was also present at the meeting concurred: "I think it's important for enemies and communities that see each other as enemies to come together and try and humanise each other, to meet the real person, rather than seeing them as 'the other'."

In addition to this meeting, the members of Veterans for Peace UK also met former members of the IRA in Belfast and South Armagh as well as other members of the nationalist community in Northern Ireland.

'NW Healthy Living, Community Garden and Allotments Project'

The local health, social and economic needs of five Council areas in the North West region are being addressed with the successful delivery of five new allotments/community gardens as part of the INTERREG IVA-funded 'North West Healthy Living, Community Garden and Allotments Project'.

The five Councils and key health and social care agencies in the North West region worked together in a joint planning, management and delivery process to develop healthy living strategically across the region.

Located in Strabane, Maghera, Carndonagh, Limavady and Castlederg, the five allotments/community gardens all share common aims: to create a sustainable source of food; to act as a resource for healthy living through physical activity; to address 'food poverty'; to bring people in the community together; to create open space and to encourage biodiversity.

In addition to the allotment plots, each site has its own particular individual features, with Carndonagh boasting solar panels and an outdoor pursuits area, Limavady having an orchard area with rockery and composting facilities, Maghera featuring a restored Victorian wall garden, a fruit orchard and a labyrinth and Castlederg featuring a play park.

A number of local events have taken place to animate the allotments/community gardens, including a Hallowe'en Fun Day, a gardening seminar and Christmas Planter and Yule Log workshops.

The training aspect of the North West Healthy Living, Community Garden and Allotments Project has been extremely successful with a number of programmes having been delivered across the region, including a Teenage Obesity Programme which was delivered to over 100 families as well as a Schools Programme which had over 800 participants.



Pictured at the launch of Tulacorr Allotment Site are (left to right): Pauline O'Neill, Project Officer, Strabane District Council; Karen McFarland, Derry City & Strabane District Council; Anne McNaught, NW Region Cross-Border Group and Councillor Paul Canning, Chairperson, NW Region Cross-Border Group.

Chairman of the North West Region Cross-Border Group, Councillor Paul Canning said: *"The feedback from these programme activities has been excellent and it is clear that they are helping local people, communities and schools to embrace the healthy living initiative and become more involved with their own gardens and nature, helping to improve quality of life, mental health issues and obesity problems."*

Sustainable community participation has been achieved through a North West Stakeholders Forum, which has engaged community and voluntary groups in order

to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills across the region and assist in supporting groups beyond the lifetime of the project.

For further information, please visit www.nwcommunitygardens.com

'Great Lighthouses of Ireland'

Work on the refurbishment of five lighthouses in a cross-border project stretching around the Irish coast from Co. Down to Co. Donegal is nearing completion.

The development, which secured €2.5m under the

INTERREG IVA Programme, will result in three new visitor attractions and eight new self-catering units as part of an entirely new visitor experience for the forthcoming tourist season.

The Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) is the organisation tasked with ensuring all mariners can safely navigate the seas around the Island of Ireland. With the advent of satellite and electronic navigation systems, the face of navigation is changing rapidly. Technological developments such as low-energy lighting and new radio aids have resulted in a new suite of Aids to Navigation, which enables

CIL to release some of its traditional built infrastructure for alternative uses.

The 'Great Lighthouses of Ireland' project involves the refurbishment of the lighthouses and former lighthouse keeper dwellings as themed visitor accommodation. As heritage buildings are involved all work is proceeding carefully, with the aid of CIL experience and conservation specialists. All lighthouses under development are still fully functional and important Aids to Navigation, allowing the visitor to experience a history that is very much alive.

The INTERREG funding has allowed CIL to invest in the

development of an overarching brand for its tourism properties right around the coast. The brand – 'Great Lighthouses of Ireland' – has been researched and developed by a professional team with input from lighthouse tourism operators, consumers and tourism agencies and will be formally launched on 20th May 2015.

The new attractions will be run in partnership with local operators and will enable local communities to preserve their own lighthouse and to tell its story.

Commenting on the project, Yvonne Shields, Chief Executive of CIL, said:

"With 'Great Lighthouses of Ireland' we are delighted to introduce an exciting and memorable new tourist experience, which will safeguard the future of these incredible buildings which have served coastal and marine communities for generations. On behalf of all the partners in the project we would like to thank SEUPB most sincerely for their assistance and support in helping us to do so."

For further information on the Lighthouse Tourism Trail, please visit <http://bit.ly/1Hkjbw2>



Refurbishment works underway at Fanad Head Lighthouse, Co. Donegal as part of the INTERREG-funded 'Great Lighthouses of Ireland' project.

NW Regional Science Park - 'Tech Meet-Up' Event

The Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP), which is often the first point of contact for more established tech businesses in Belfast and Derry~Londonderry, has taken to the road for a 'NI Tech Meet-Up' event, to make it easier for start-ups with a technology-focused idea to get access to its free resources.

The event was delivered as part of the NW Regional Science Park, a cross-border facility which is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG IVA Programme.

The first 'NI Tech Meet-Up' took place in Hedonist hair salon on Belfast's Botanic Avenue and gave those from across the city the chance to network with like-minded individuals from the North West region in an informal environment.

Andy McDonald from NISP said: *"With the NI Tech Meet-Up events we want to show that ideas need to be nourished early on and that we can provide the business support and industry connections to make them a reality."*



Pictured at the recent NW Regional Science Park Tech Meet-Up Event in Belfast are (left to right): John Knapton, NISP; Roberta Osborne, NISP; Ian Scott, Taggled.

The audience at the Belfast 'Meet-Up' heard from Science Park success stories including Ian Scott from video tagging company, Taggled, which is now working with US company ShopStyle, the leading global digital fashion shopping platform. Also speaking were Halo Business Angel of the Year Stephen Houston and Mark Nagurski who runs the hugely successful CultureTECH festival in Derry.

Ian Scott from Taggled said: *"I have been a tenant in the Science Park in Belfast for several years and the strong sense of community and support from other tenants and the NISP team has played its part in getting Taggled to*

where it is now. Whilst the start-up scene can be tough to navigate and succeed in, with the right product, team and support, I believe you can compete and thrive at a high level."

Also present at the Belfast event were investors, festival organisers and NISP programme managers all on the lookout for entrepreneurs of the future.

For further information, please visit www.nitechmeetup.co

PROJECT NEWS...

'Marine Tourism and Angling Development' Project

The INTERREG-funded 'Marine Tourism and Angling Development' project has announced updates on two of its sub-projects – the Beach Activity Centre at Benone (managed by the Loughs Agency in partnership with Limavady Borough Council) and the pontoon at Greencastle (managed by the Loughs Agency in partnership with Donegal County Council).

The project aims to develop and promote marine tourism, water-based leisure activities, angling tourism and recreational angling in the Foyle and Carlingford systems.

Benone Strand – Beach Activity Centre

Limavady Borough Council and the Loughs Agency have announced the development of a new beach activity centre at Benone Strand near Limavady. Funded through the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, the beach activity centre will provide a welcome improvement to visitor facilities at one of Northern Ireland's most popular beaches.

The new beach activity centre will be developed on the footprint of the existing building at the beach entrance road and will provide new toilets,



An artist's impression of the planned Beach Activity Centre at Benone Strand.

showers and changing facilities as well as interpretive materials highlighting the special features of the site.

The centre will be developed with a strong emphasis on sustainability, given the proximity of Magilligan Special Area of Conservation. It is hoped that this will further promote the area as an outdoor playground throughout the year.

Greencastle pontoon

The success of the INTERREG-funded pontoon in Derry will be further enhanced with the provision of a pontoon at Greencastle, Inishowen, County Donegal.

The Greencastle facility will provide a staging berth for yachts making their way up river to Derry~Londonderry and will also function as an anchor point for pontoons that can be moved into place to form a temporary boat haven when required.

The gangway and constant freeboard of the proposed pontoon (as it is floating) will also permit access to and from boats at Greencastle for disabled users. The pontoon will serve as a landing stage for tenders ferrying passengers ashore from large cruise ships that cannot sail further upstream.

Opening the 'Gateways to Growth' for cross-border business

PROJECT NEWS...

Over 100 delegates from across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland gathered at the Grand Opera House in Belfast recently for the 'Gateways to Growth' cross-border networking event.

The event's keynote speaker, Yanky Fachler – who is the author of a range of entrepreneurial books, as well as being a motivational speaker and broadcaster – explored ways in which the delegates and their businesses could stand out in a crowded marketplace.

Guest speakers were Lynne McCullagh from Eurofire Systems in Antrim and Stephen Englishby from Trailer Vision Ireland in Co. Louth, both of whom were participants in the 'Gateways to Growth' initiative.

Lynne and Stephen revealed how they made valuable connections and won business as a result of participating in the business skills workshops and large-scale cross-border 'Meet the Buyer' events which were part of 'Gateways to Growth'.

Lynne elaborated: *"The 'Meet the Buyer' events I attended as part of 'Gateways to Growth' have resulted in 17 installations of our fire prevention systems to date, with more to follow. As a result we have dramatically improved our opportunities for growth in a very competitive marketplace.*

Stephen also added how Trailer Vision Ireland benefited from participation in 'Gateways to Growth': *"We found that it was proving particularly difficult to get a strong foothold in the*

Northern Ireland market. The 'Gateways to Growth' team provided training so that we had a better understanding of what businesses in Northern Ireland were looking for from potential suppliers and how best to put our business and products forward to these companies. We have now secured a number of contracts in Northern Ireland as a result of developing the relevant confidence and knowledge on the 'Gateways to Growth' programme."

The 'Gateways to Growth' project is delivered by Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the COMET Councils in Northern Ireland, Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce.

To find out more about 'Gateways to Growth', please contact Martina Crawford at Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 028 9024 4113.



Pictured at the recent 'Gateways to Growth' event are (left to right): Pièr Morrow, Comet INTERREG Partnership Programme Manager; Sandra Scannell, Operations and Programmes Director, Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Yanky Fachler – Yanky Business, keynote speaker; Toni Forrester, Chief Executive, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce and Lorraine McCourt, Special EU Programmes Body.

'Ren Net' Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Conference and Exhibition

PROJECT NEWS

Sustainable energy industry experts, academics, and business people came together recently to host a free, two day conference and exhibition in Letterkenny which gave almost 1,500 visitors the benefit of their collective knowledge.

The Low Energy Buildings and Energy Supply Chains Conference looked at how the North West can become a low-carbon economy. Organisers believe that everyone has a part to play in developing a greener, cleaner way of living and doing business.

The event was hosted by the North West Renewable Energy Business Network, 'Ren Net', an INTERREG IVA-funded project

which has been delivered through a cross-border partnership, led by the North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG).

The 'Ren Net' Build and Renovate Show featured a large display of green economy products including external and internal insulation, thermal and photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, biomass boiler and heat pumps.

'Ren Net' is a network of businesses involved in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the North West. At the opening of the conference, Project Officer, Joanne Holmes talked about the success of 'Ren Net' in providing support to small businesses through various avenues of tailored

mentoring, training and field trips to Britain and across Europe.

The Build and Renovate Show provided information through seminars, demonstrations, and one-to-one advice at the many exhibition stands that covered all aspects of sustainable technology designed for the construction industry.

Exhibitors reported great interest in their products and services, with many follow-up calls arranged. Organisers are confident that the 'Ren Net' event will lead to continued growth in the sector of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the North West.

For further information on 'Ren Net', please visit www.ren-net.org.



Attending the 'Ren Net' Project closure event are (left to right): Councillor Paul Canning, Chairperson of NW Region Cross Border Group; Mr. Seamus Neely, County Manager, Donegal County Council; Joanne Holmes, Ren Net Project Manager; Councillor John Campbell, Cathaoirleach (Mayor) of Donegal County Council; Linda White, NW Region Cross-Border Group (Lead Partner).

Interregional and Transnational Programmes

PROJECT NEWS...

Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020

The Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme 2014-2020 was approved by the EU Commission in December 2014. The Programme's Monitoring Committee met for the first time on 10th February 2015 in Copenhagen to assess the applications submitted for the First Call and approved 13 projects out of the 20 applications received. In total, approximately €13.4m was allocated, representing 24% of the programme funding.

For further information on the Programme, please visit: www.northernperiphery.eu/ or contact the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland, Declan McGarrigle, on 028 9026 6678 or by email at declan.mcgarrigle@seupb.eu

North West Europe Programme 2014-2020

The Programme launched its First Call for Applications in April 2015. This will be a two stage process:

Step 1: Concept note

To progress to the next round, applicants must be able to explain what measurable change (i.e. results) their project intends to achieve and why it matters to the Programme area.



Step 2: Full work plan

Projects can get up to 60% co-funding if they demonstrate they can achieve a measurable change (i.e. results) on the NWE territory in an economic, efficient and effective way.

For further information on the programme and the First Call for Applications, please visit www.nweurope.eu/

Atlantic Area Programme 2014-2020

The Draft Cooperation Programme has been published and is available to download from the Programme's website: <http://bit.ly/1Coz5Ri>

The Programme has not yet been approved by the European Commission and is subject to change. Following final approval of the Programme by the EC, the

following priority areas will be invited for application:
Stimulating Innovation & Competitiveness;
Fostering Resource Efficiency;
Strengthening Risk Management Systems;
Enhancing Biodiversity and the Natural and Cultural Assets.

INTERREG EUROPE Programme 2014-2020

The Programme (valued at €359m European Regional Development Fund) aims to improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes.

For further information, please visit: www.interreg4c.eu/interreg-europe/
Please note that all of the information provided above is subject to final approval by member states and the EU Commission and is therefore subject to change.

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE

The €269m PEACE Programme 2014-2020 is a unique Structural Funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The PEACE Programme has four key priority areas, which are the result of extensive research and public consultation carried out by the SEUPB:

- Shared Education
- Children & Young People
- Shared Spaces & Services
- Building Positive Relations at at Local Level

The eligible area is Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo).

For further information on the PEACE III Programme contact: Joint Technical Secretariat Omagh, Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750 E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast, Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660 E: info@seupb.eu

INTERREG

The €283m INTERREG Programme 2014-2020 has been designed to address many of the developmental problems which are exacerbated by the existence of borders, in order to build upon opportunities for enhanced economic and social development across the region.

The Programme's key priorities are:

- Research & Innovation
- Environment
- Sustainable Transport
- Health

The targeted eligible area is Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo) and western Scotland (Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, and South Ayrshire).

For further information on the INTERREG Programme contact: Joint Technical Secretariat, Monaghan. Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003 E: monaghan@seupb.eu or

Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland Europa, 150 Broomielaw, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU. Tel: +44 (0) 141 228 2202 E: Caroline.Coleman@scotent.co.uk

INTERREG VB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role in promoting North/South participation in the relevant INTERREG VB Transnational Programmes.

These programmes are:

The Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme

This €56million ERDF programme aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern regions of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential. The programme area involves parts of Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Scotland, Northern Ireland – in co-operation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland

The North West Europe Programme

This €396 million ERDF programme aims to help make this new region more competitive, environmentally friendly and cohesive by improving access to more and better jobs, enhancing the environmental qualities of the region, improving accessibility and ensuring that cities and rural areas are attractive and sustainable. The programme area is France, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland Luxembourg, Belgium, and Switzerland. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

The Atlantic Area Programme

The programme aims to achieve progress on transnational co-operation that is geared towards cohesive, sustainable and balanced territorial development of the Atlantic Area and its maritime heritage. The programme region covers all of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and those regions within Portugal, Spain, France and the UK that border the Atlantic Ocean. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

INTERREG EUROPE Programme

The €359 million ERDF INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programme is aimed at local and regional authorities. It focuses on the identification, analysis and dissemination of good practices by public authorities in order to improve the effectiveness of regional and local policies. Co-operation projects are eligible across all 28 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

For further information on VB and VC Programmes, contact: Declan McGarrigle at the SEUPB Belfast office: Tel: + 44 (0) 28 9026 6678 E: declan.mcgarrigle@seupb.eu

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