

Sharing Excellence

INTERREG IIIA
in the Ireland / Northern Ireland
East Border Region

2003–2008



Project part financed
by the European Union

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East Border Region INTERREG IIIA Programme



The INTERREG IIIA Programme is an EU Community Initiative designed to support cross border co-operation, social cohesion and economic development between regions of the EU. The Ireland/Northern Ireland Programme covers all of Northern Ireland and the six Border Counties of Ireland: Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo. The Programme aims to address the economic and social disadvantage that can result from the existence of a border.

Throughout the lifetime of the INTERREG IIIA Programme (2000–2008) over €182 million has been invested in genuine cross border projects throughout the entire eligible area. This funding has been distributed through a number of different organisations such as Government departments working alongside locally developed Partnerships (Implementing Agents) on both sides of the border.

The East Border Region INTERREG IIIA Partnership was appointed as an Implementing Agent and as a result has funded 38 genuine cross border projects across the East Border Region to the value of approximately €25 million. We felt it was important to document a brief explanation of each of our funded projects, hence the creation of this publication.

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Welcome



Councillor Jackie Crowe
Chairman 2008
East Border Region
INTERREG IIIA Partnership

It has been both an honour and a privilege for me to serve as Chairman of the East Border Region INTERREG IIIA Partnership and I am delighted to be contributing to this publication which depicts the success of the cross border projects which our Partnership has funded.

Since its launch in 2003 the INTERREG IIIA Programme has played a significant role in the development of the East Border Region. Over the last 6 years our Partnership has awarded in excess of 25 million Euro to 38 genuine cross border projects throughout our region. This funding has been awarded to a wide range of organisations such as Community Groups, Private Enterprise, Chambers of Commerce, Enterprise Boards/Agencies, education providers and Local Authorities and has enabled them to provide services and facilities which have added value and addressed social and economic issues within the region.

Through the INTERREG IVA Programme we aim to build on the cross border linkages which we have established as a result of the INTERREG IIIA Programme and ensure cross border co-operation is at the forefront of all stakeholders in our Region.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who constitute the East Border Region INTERREG IIIA Partnership both Elected Members and Social Partners alike. These men and women have worked tirelessly over the past six years to ensure wise decisions are made and genuine cross border projects receive funding. In addition I would like to thank the staff of the Special EU Programmes Body for their constant guidance and assistance throughout the course of the Programme.

Finally a heartfelt thank you to the European Union for recognising and valuing cross border co-operation and thus enabling these excellent projects to contribute to the cross border economic development of our beautiful East Border Region.

Acknowledgements



Councillor John Hanna
Chairman 2008–2009
East Border Region Ltd

As Chairman of the East Border Region I am delighted to be given the opportunity to comment on and congratulate the East Border Region INTERREG IIIA Partnership on its success over the past six years.

The East Border Region embraced the concept of partnership through the delivery of this programme. The formation of the Partnership with its 50/50 split in membership comprising Elected Members and Social Partners was a new phenomenon and unique to the Ireland/Northern Ireland INTERREG IIIA Programme. This book is testimony to the success of the Partnership.

The EBR INTERREG IIIA Partnership was unique because for the first time local people were able to make decisions regarding spend in their own area. This meant that the INTERREG IIIA Programme had real impact on the ground. Right across the region examples of this can be seen. Looking at my own area, Banbridge we have benefited tremendously with the creation of the FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio in partnership with Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda, the development of Scarva Bandstand and numerous other tourism, IT and economic development related initiatives which we undertook on a cross border basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 38 Project Promoters who had the initiative to apply for the funding in the first place and who have worked tremendously hard in ensuring they met their targets and delivered for the region.

Since 1976 the East Border Region Committee has had one simple ambition 'to promote cross border economic development which will benefit the people of the region'. I am confident that this booklet 'Sharing Excellence' will stand as a testimony to the fact that over the past six years we are succeeding and will applaud our efforts. I look forward to continued success in INTERREG IVA.

Foreword



Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

Throughout Europe, INTERREG Programmes have delivered the ambitions of the European Union to aid and support regional development. The overriding aim of each of the 70 plus INTERREG IIIA Programmes was to promote co-operation across borders and between regions in order to transfer knowledge and experience, to take advantage of development opportunities and to address problems that arise as a result of the existence of borders. The INTERREG IIIA Programme in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland is a clear example of how the European Union's commitment to regional development can bring real benefits at the grass roots level.

The East Border Region Committee (EBR), along with the North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG) and the Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) and latterly the North East Partnership (NEP) and COMET, is a unique partnership of local authorities. These partnerships have enabled the INTERREG IIIA Programme to be delivered in a truly dynamic cross border manner delivering European Union funds to where they are most needed. By bringing local authorities together, not only have the partnerships been able to take advantage of opportunities but also to address common challenges. Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland, has certainly benefited from the work of these partnerships.

I believe as the INTERREG IIIA Programme draws to a close the opportunity should be taken to commend what the programme and the projects funded through it have achieved.

Through their contribution to the delivery of the INTERREG IIIA Programme, the partnerships have enabled many of the main targets of

Introduction



Pamela Arthurs
Chief Executive
East Border Region Ltd

It is with genuine pride that we in the Ireland / Northern Ireland East Border Region present to you 'Sharing Excellence' which showcases the impressive cross border projects which our Partnership has funded since 2003.

I am confident that the reader will be impressed by the range and breadth of the projects funded, projects which have had a real impact on the people of our region both North and South and this fact is evidenced when one drives throughout our beautiful region.

I believe that key to our success has been the fact that local people have made decisions regarding where the INTERREG IIIA money should be spent and that local knowledge has added immense value to the programme overall.

the programme to be reached or surpassed. Over 600 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs have been either created or safeguarded and over 2000 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) expanded in terms of product development, increased sales or job creation through projects implemented by the partnerships.

In addition to this over 3000 SMEs have been assisted through clusters created to support cross border business enterprise and research and development linkages. The East Border Region, as the other INTERREG IIIA Partnerships, has enjoyed notable success through the projects in which it has been involved.

There are, of course, over hundred projects made possible by the INTERREG IIIA Programme which have helped to further develop the region's economic potential. I welcome opportunities such as this to reflect on the success of these projects as it is essential that we document what has been achieved and assess where further development is possible.

In the new programming period, the partnerships will continue to play a valuable role in the INTERREG IVA Programme, in which they will be delivering Multi Annual Plans in their area. With all the partnerships remaining as important methods of delivery in the INTERREG IVA Programme I am confident that lessons learnt can be shared and successes built upon.

I commend all of those at EBR who have been involved in the implementation of the INTERREG IIIA Programme and look forward to continuing to work with the East Border Region under the INTERREG IVA Programme.

Many people have contributed to our success not least the men and women of the Partnership, ably assisted by advisors. The staff of SEUPB have continuously been available to support our work and a sincere thank you to them.

Finally can I pay tribute to the foresight of our Elected Members who set up the INTERREG IIIA Partnership and who consistently adopt a thoroughly pragmatic approach to cross border co-operation.

Acknowledgement to Members

Gratitude is extended to the following people for giving of their time selflessly to ensure that wise decisions were made and genuine cross border projects received funding.

Their assistance and support has been invaluable throughout the six years of the programme.

Members of East Border Region INTERREG IIIA Partnership 2003–2008

Councillors:

Ald Margaret Craig	Ards Borough Council
Cllr Jonathan Bell	Ards Borough Council
Cllr Thomas O’Hanlon	Armagh City & District Council
Cllr Eric Speers	Armagh City & District Council
Cllr Seamus Doyle	Banbridge District Council
Cllr Wilfred McFadden	Banbridge District Council
Cllr Dolores Kelly MLA	Craigavon Borough Council
Ald Stephen Moutray MLA	Craigavon Borough Council
Cllr Patsy Toman	Down District Council
Cllr William Clarke MLA	Down District Council
Cllr Tommy Reilly	Louth County Council
Cllr Finnan McCoy	Louth County Council
Cllr Jackie Crowe	Monaghan County Council
Cllr John Keenan	Monaghan County Council
Cllr Michael Carr	Newry & Mourne District Council
Cllr Jimmy McCreesh	Newry & Mourne District Council

Social Partners:

Ms Sheila Bailie	Ards LSP
Mr Kieran O’Loane	Ards LSP
Mr Robert Cummings	Armagh LSP
Mr Brendan Woods	Armagh LSP
Ms Esther Irwin	Banbridge LSP
Mr Gerry Smith	Banbridge LSP
Dr Jim McCammick	Craigavon LSP
Mr Tom French	Craigavon LSP
Ms Jan Irwin	Down LSP
Mr Francis Casement	Down LSP
Mr Liam Woods	Louth CDB
Mr Bill Tosh	Louth CDB
Mr Maynard Hanna	Newry & Mourne LSP
Mr Damian McGenity	Newry & Mourne LSP
Ms Emma Middleton	Monaghan CDB
Mr Peter McAleer	Monaghan CBD

Advisors:

Representatives from Government Departments North and South, Statutory Agencies and Officers from each of the Member Local Authorities.

The background features a dark blue grid pattern overlaid with a series of yellow, five-pointed stars. The stars are arranged in a circular pattern, reminiscent of the European Union flag, and have a slight 3D effect with shadows. The text is centered in white.

Measure 1.1

Business and
Economic Development

Project

IBEC / CBI Joint Business Council SME Development Programme



The Joint Business Council Project was established with the aim of improving the business environment in the areas of telecommunications, energy, supply chain/transportation and logistics and waste management. The project sought to remove barriers to cross border mobility affecting SMEs in the INTERREG region and in turn to promote cross border employment.

Project Promoters

- IBEC/CBI Joint Business Council

Total Project Cost € 2,390,132

Grant Awarded € 1,457,078

Contact Details

Mr Reg McCabe

Tel: RoI 01 6051 500

NI 00353 1 6051 500

Email: reg.mccabe@ibec.ie

Web: www.ibec.ie

www.cbi.org

The project aimed to improve education/business linkages leading to greater innovation and entrepreneurship among SMEs across a number of sectors. In addition it enhanced the work of Intertrade Ireland, the Cross-Border Groups, North-South Ministerial Council, EURES, universities, colleges and other agencies. Overall therefore the JBC Project helped achieve greater SME competitiveness through a range of actions, for example by cost reductions, greater security of energy supplies, greater broadband availability and connectivity.

Laurence Crowley, Martin McAleese, Dr Ian Paisley, Len O'Hagan, Martin McGuinness and William Poole at the IBEC-CBI Council Meeting and Dinner hosted by Belfast Harbour Commissioners on 6 March 2008.



Project

The Midas Project



Project Promoters

- Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT)
- University of Ulster
- Dream Ireland Ltd

Total Project Cost € 2,323,521

Grant Awarded € 1,742,640

Contact Details

Mrs Irene McCausland, DKIT

Tel: Rol 042 9370 403

NI 00353 42 9370 403

Email: Irene.mccausland@dkit.ie

Web: www.midasinitiative.com

The President of Ireland, Mrs Mary McAleese, arrives to launch The Midas Project and view the facilities on offer at The Bright Room.

The project aimed to develop and promote a cross border cluster of SME's within creative & digital media that provides the potential for economic growth and competitive advantage in international markets for the East Border Region.

The main aim of the project was to develop a cluster of creative & digital media companies and individuals in the East Border Region focusing on the following five areas:

- interactive leisure software (computer games),
- film & broadcast,
- design,
- animation, and
- music technology

This was achieved by assisting new business start ups, inward investment, and the growth/relocation of existing businesses.

The project promoters believed that to attract these types of business into the region a fully resourced world class production facility should be provided. This excellent, innovative facility called 'The Bright Room' is now widely used for the production of products and services in the following areas – animation, interactive leisure software and games, film and video, design, and music technology.



Project

East Border Region Tourism Partnership



The key objective of East Border Region Tourism Partnership was to identify cross border tourism priorities which would advance the economic potential of tourism throughout the region as a whole. The East Border Region, despite its natural assets, was underperforming as a tourism destination with the border being recognised as the main barrier.

Project Promoters

- East Border Region Tourism Partnership (comprising 8 local authorities of East Border Region)

Total Project Cost € 2,876,170

Grant Awarded € 2,174,713

Contact Details

Mrs Aveen McVeigh
East Border Region Office
Tel: NI 028 3025 2684
RoI 048 3025 2684

Email: aveen@eastborderregion.com
Web: www.enjoyebr.com

Village enhancement: refurbishment of the bandstand in Scarva, Co. Down.

The implementation of this project has had a major impact on the region as a whole in terms of integrating tourism activity, identifying gaps and addressing issues of duplication. It represents an effective model of cross border collaboration for the economic benefit of the region. The project undertook to develop the tourism product and to promote tourism throughout the East Border Region across the following key themes

- activity based tourism
- village enhancement
- events and festivals
- Christian heritage
- walking and cycling
- visitor servicing strategy

As part of the visitor servicing strategy the Partnership launched their own website www.enjoyebr.com. This website allows potential tourists worldwide to view the beauty of the East Border Region via media such as informative videos and innovative podcasts. Another element of the visitor servicing theme involved the creation of interactive multi media Tourist Information kiosks. These kiosks are strategically placed at various tourist sites and key points of entry throughout the region. The success of the East Border Region Tourism Partnership is evidenced through the partnership securing the NITB title 'Area Tourism Initiative of the Year 2005'. In addition the partnership was nominated for a BT Golden Eye Award and was also listed as one of the Top 50 Cross Border Achievers by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Daily Ireland.



Project

Carlingford Lough Ferry Economic Appraisal



This project from the Chambers of Commerce in Newry and Dundalk sought funding to update an Economic Appraisal carried out in 2000 as commissioned by Newry & Mourne District Council to examine the feasibility of establishing a cross border car ferry between Greenore, Co Louth and Greencastle, County Down.

Project Promoters

- Newry Chamber of Commerce
- Dundalk Chamber of Commerce

Total Project Cost € 43,700

Grant Awarded € 32,775

Contact Details

Ms Orla Jackson

Tel: NI 028 3025 0303

Rol 048 3025 0303

Email: orla@newry.com

Web: www.newrychamber.com

The appraisal assessed results and conclusions of previous studies considering the cases presented for and against the project. Evidence from interested parties such as NI Roads Service, Cooley Action Group, Louth County Council and Newry and Mourne District Council was considered. Further and more current studies for elements such as traffic analysis and cost estimates were also undertaken.

The project concluded that there is a need for a car ferry project linking Greenore and Greencastle and that this would have a positive economic and tourist impact on the EBR region.



Project

River Fane Development

Project Promoters

- Dundalk Salmon Anglers Association
- Fane Anglers

Total Project Cost € 180,032

Grant Awarded € 135,024

Contact Details

Mr Bernard Devenney

Tel: [RoI 042 9334 202](tel:+3531429334202)

[NI 00353 42 9334 202](tel:+3531429334202)

Email: kamsor@eircom.net

This community project involved the development of two stretches of the Fane riverbank totalling nine miles between Culloville in County Armagh and Blackrock in County Louth.

The project included construction of car park facilities to promote greater regional and tourist enjoyment of the Fane and erection of disabled anglers' station to open the amenities to the wider community and increase participation of disadvantaged groups in the pastime of game angling. This in turn has encouraged more visitors to the East Border Region where fishermen can enjoy modern facilities.

The funding enabled the promoters to provide up to date equipment in the hatchery which is now a useful resource which can benefit the entire river Fane as well as other local rivers.

Improved angling facilities on River Fane.



Project

Competitive Businesses through Sustainable Product Development



The primary aim of this project was to apply sustainable best practice into businesses and to deliver practical solutions for industry specific issues.

The project set out to:

- educate businesses in sustainable resource management
- deliver a general product analysis per company
- deliver a life cycle assessment of selected and analysed products
- assist businesses in (re)designing their product in a more environmentally friendly way.

Project Promoters

- CIDO (Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation Ltd)
- Monaghan County Enterprise Board

Total Project Cost € 314,448

Grant Awarded € 235,836

Contact Details

Mr Jim Smith

Tel: NI 028 3833 3393

Rol 048 3833 3393

Email: info@cido.co.uk

Web: www.ecosmartdesign.co.uk

In addition the project advised businesses about relevant EU legislation within industry and hosted networking events enabling local businesses from both sides of the border to learn best practice from a host of international speakers.



Ms Ulrike Ebili, Programme Manager, Mr Jack O'Connor, SEUPB and Mr John Gertaskis, Environmental Consultant pictured at the official project launch in September 2004.

Cllr Tommy Reilly, EBR INTERREG IIIA Partnership Chair and project staff at the project closure event.



Project

Cross Border Micro Enterprise Programme



The Cross Border Micro Enterprise Programme/Tradelinks is a framework for co-ordinated intervention in support of company and market development for micro enterprises based in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland i.e. the 'Border Corridor'.

Project Promoters

- Enterprise Northern Ireland
- The Border County Enterprise Boards

Total Project Cost € 3,710,000

Grant Awarded € 3,011,025

Contact Details

Mr Kieran Mathers

Tel: NI 028 3026 7011

Rol 048 3026 7011

Email: kmathers@nmea.net

Web: www.tradelinkstosuccess.com

This strategy, which comprises a portfolio of business development support programmes, is designed to assist businesses displaying entrepreneurial flair, but which do not have access to a continuous programme of support, to become more sustainable and competitive, and to generate greater added value, earnings and wealth within their host communities. The Micro Enterprise Programme also addresses the fact that trade between the micro enterprise sector in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is under-developed.

The Tradelinks Programme comprised the following five elements:

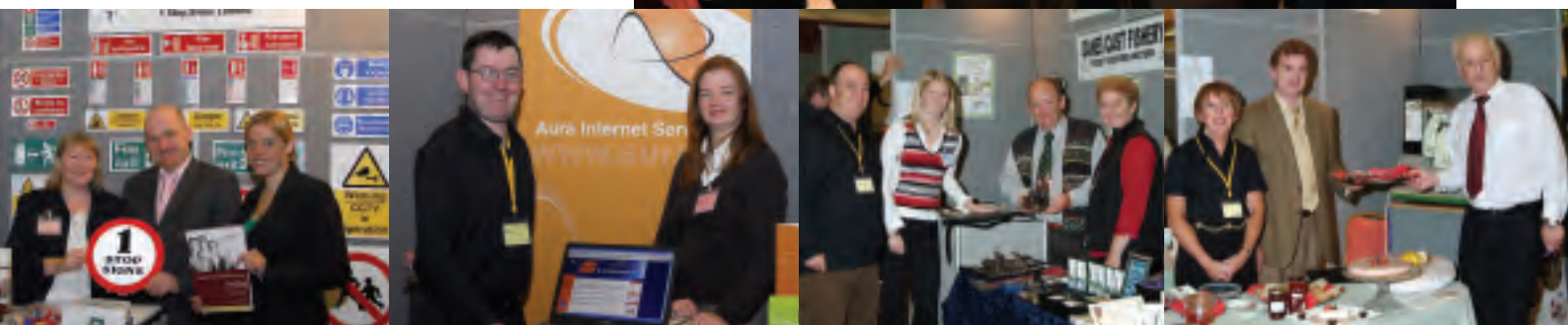
- 'Entrée' programme,
- 'Gearing Up' programme,
- 'Networking' programme,
- 'Trading', and
- 'Innovating' programme.

Throughout the course of the project 1600 businesses across the eligible region received support from the project.

Local business owners from across Down, Armagh and Louth who made a 'pitch' to Rachel Elnaugh of 'Dragon's Den' fame as part of a Tradelinks Networking event held in Craigavon in April 2005. Also pictured is Kieran Mathers of Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency, Tradelinks Programme Manager.



Participants on the Tradelinks programme exhibiting at the Annual 'Meet the Buyer' events.



Project

Coastal Villages Network

Project Promoters

- Omeath District Development Association
- Strangford Development Association

Total Project Cost € 5,000

Grant Awarded € 3,750

Contact Details

Mr Tony Henry

Tel: [RoI 042 9375 422](tel:0429375422)

[NI 00353 42 9375 422](tel:00353429375422)

Email: odd@utvinternet.com



Omeath, Co. Louth.

This project involved initial technical assistance to enable the four coastal villages of Omeath, Dunfanaghy, Glenarm and Strangford to explore the potential for cross border collaboration in the area of business, tourism and economic development.

The aim of the project was to identify opportunities for joint projects in the four geographical areas with the anticipation of this networking leading to further funding applications for joint development programmes in the future.

The objectives of this project were to

- develop close working relationships between the four groups
- establish a cross border coastal village's network
- share experiences among the groups
- compare and contrast the economies of each area
- identify opportunities for cross border economic cooperation
- develop joint actions to improve the local economies of each area

Following joint residentials for all four groups a cross border coastal network was established and a cross border action plan developed in respect of the four coastal villages.



Project

Environmental Management Systems (STEM)



Project Promoters

- Southern Group Environmental Health Committee
- Armagh City & District Council
- Newry & Mourne District Council
- Ards Borough Council
- Craigavon Borough Council
- Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council
- Banbridge District Council
- Down District Council
- Monaghan County Council
- Louth County Council

Total Project Cost £ 2,093,927

Grant Awarded £ 1,570,445

Contact Details

Mrs Eileen Campbell
 Tel: NI 028 3751 5800
 Rol 048 3751 5800
 Email: e.campbell@sgehc.com
 Web: www.stemproject.com

SMEs who participated in the STEM Programme demonstrating the savings they have made.

Participants who received STEM excellence awards.

The highly successful STEM project involved the implementation of a quality management system for SMEs on a cross border basis which was delivered in 270 local cross border businesses and nine councils. This quality management system included the implementation of an environmental management system which delivered an environmentally and economically sustainable enterprise culture within the nine cross border council areas.

As a result of the implementation of the quality management system within our SMEs trade barriers that existed due to lack of such quality systems have now been significantly reduced. This project has created a culture of environmental awareness which in turn has delivered savings in monetary terms as well as environmental costs.

The success of this project can be evidenced through the vast number of awards it has secured. Some of these awards are as follows

- Green Apple 2006,
- Leadership In Sustainable Development 2006,
- National Training Award (NTA) – regional winner 2007 and national winner, and
- Invest NI Award for ‘Small Business Training’ 2007.



Project

Newry Dundalk Farmers Market



This project primarily involved the establishment and subsequent development and marketing of a Farmers market in the Newry and Dundalk area on a cross border and regional basis. The project established a farming network/cluster with the aim of providing a forum whereby farmers could share information on best practice and improve local farming processes and practices.

Project Promoters

- Newry & Mourne District Council
- Dundalk Town Council
- Newry Dundalk Joint Chamber of Commerce

Total Project Cost £ 322,900
Grant Awarded £ 249,675

Contact Details

Ms Catherine Sweeney
Tel: NI 028 3031 3031
RoI 048 3031 3031
Email: catherine.sweeney@
newryandmourne.gov.uk
Web: www.newrydundalkmarkets.com

An objective of this project was to strengthen the local agri-food and craft sector to make it more nationally competitive and sustainable long-term and to explore and develop new market opportunities for the agri-food and craft sectors. This project contributed to the breaking down of barriers which often limits development within the agri-food/craft sector and encouraged cross border linkages in the agri-food and craft sectors.



Project

Castle Cruises

Project Promoters

- Castle Cruises
- Warrenpoint/Omeath Cross Border Management

Total Project Cost £ 80,410

Grant Awarded £ 37,400

Contact Details

Mr Brendan O'Neill

Tel: NI 028 4177 3070

RoI 048 4177 3070

Email: oneill@qcc.com.sa

The main aim of this project was the provision of a replacement, higher standard ferry boat to that which had been operated by Castle Cruises for many years on Carlingford Lough between Warrenpoint, Co Down and Omeath, County Louth.

The project also aimed to develop and consolidate existing business links between both locations and to widen the scope of the ferry service for the benefit of local economic and tourism development.

The project therefore involved expanding the traditional ferry service operated by Castle Cruises and the introduction of a more modern, 40–50 seater vessel which complies with health & safety standards and facilitates the operation of the business in all weathers. The ferry is thus a quality operator in the cross border tourist industry between County Down and County Louth.



Project

Newry/Dundalk Mini Metropolis



Project Promoters

- Newry & Mourne District Council
- Louth County Council

Total Project Cost £ 38,710
 Grant Awarded £ 29,032

Contact Details

Mr Gerard McGivern
 Tel: NI 028 3031 3233
 RoI 048 3031 3233
 Email: gerard.mcgivern@newryandmourne.gov.uk
 Web: www.newryandmourne.gov.uk/economic_development/NewryDundalk/twin_city.asp

The Mini Metropolis project involved undertaking detailed research and investigation into the concept of a 'Bi-Polar' City or 'Mini Metropolis' between Newry City and Dundalk Town at the Cross-Border interface of the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor.

This concept suggests that in a linear corridor between two established poles (Belfast and Dublin) the most attractive location in terms of investment will be the half way point. In the case of the economic corridor this will be the Newry/Dundalk cluster which could develop as a second order city within the corridor.

The project involved the publication of a detailed report in consultation with key stakeholders and as a result considerable progress has been made towards the further development and implementation of the Newry/Dundalk Twin City Region.

The report has since been taken up by central government in both jurisdictions and is acknowledged by senior planners and academics on both sides of the border, for having made a significant contribution to cross-border spatial planning.

The Newry/Dundalk Twin City Initiative was featured at the MOT conference in Lille, France in 2007, as a major success story in cross border development. The challenge now is to implement the recommendations of the report.



Project

The Workwise Project – Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace



Project Promoters

- Antrim Borough Council
- Armagh City & District Council
- Monaghan County Council

Total Project Cost £ 206,948

Grant Awarded £ 155,211

Contact Details

Mr Aaron McClelland

Tel: NI 028 9446 3113

RoI 048 9446 3113

Email: aaron.mcclelland@antrim.gov.uk

Vice Chair of EBR INTERREG IIIA Partnership Mr Tom French pictured at the Workwise Project closure event in June 2008.

Linda Norris Workplace Health Coordinator, Cllr Adrian Cochrane-Watson Mayor Antrim Borough Council, Philip Thompson Health and Wellbeing Manager pictured with the Action Cancer Big Bus when it visited the local council areas as part of the Health Initiative.

The Workwise Initiative focuses on the promotion of Health and Wellbeing in the workplace as a means of reducing rates of absenteeism and in so doing improving overall SME and Local Authority performance and competitiveness through increased employee productivity.

The project was delivered across the three partner Council areas and 150 local SMEs. Both the Health and Safety Authority in RoI and the Health & Safety Executive for NI recognise the significant economic and associated social problems relating to absenteeism. Before the commencement of the project a small scale pilot project was carried out by Antrim Borough Council targeting several Antrim based SMEs and revealed by utilising up to ten targeted areas of health advice and awareness a business can reduce employee absenteeism.

The primary aim of the project comprised the promotion of Health and Wellbeing in the workplace to help deliver a sustainable enterprise culture and to strengthen the SME sector both nationally and internationally in terms of competitive advantage.



Project

Enterprise Network East



Enterprise Network East is a framework developed by Enterprise NI (South Eastern Region) and Louth County Enterprise Board, in association with councils and the private sector to deliver

- a co-ordinated intervention in support of company and market development for micro enterprises based in the East Border Region, and
- to build beneficial international partnerships for exchange of experience, capacity building, policy development and business-to-business contact.

The project involved a portfolio of business development support actions and was designed to assist businesses displaying entrepreneurial flair, but which do not have access to a continuous programme of support.

Project Promoters

- Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency
- Armagh Business Centre
- Ards Business Centre
- Down Business Centre
- Banbridge District Enterprises
- Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation
- Louth County Enterprise Board

Total Project Cost £184,800

Grant Awarded £138,600

Contact Details

Mr Conor Patterson

Tel: NI 028 3026 7011

RoI 048 3026 7011

Email: cpatterson@nmea.net

Web: www.nmea.net

Complementing the development of overseas partnership building for economic and social gain, this project also aimed to contribute to co-ordinated policy development between the private sector, local authorities and the enterprise support sector.

The Enterprise Network East Project comprised three actions which

- provided a focus for regional approaches to developing overseas markets;
- provided resources to appraise potential business opportunities; and
- equipped micro enterprises to have face-to-face contact with potential business partners in Europe.



Project

Cross Border Retail Development Programme



Project Promoters

- Armagh City and District Council
- Monaghan County Council
- Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council

Total Project Cost £ 123,727

Grant Awarded £ 92,795

Contact Details

Mrs Dawn Park

Tel: NI 028 3752 9600

Rol 048 3752 9600

Email: dawn.park@armagh.gov.uk

Web: www.armagh.gov.uk

The first of its kind this project aimed to rejuvenate and regenerate the retail centres of Armagh city, Monaghan town and Dungannon town as well as facilitate the growth of retail support organisations in each area through joint cross border collaboration.

Although the three city/towns are at different stages of development in terms of their respective retail offer and support structures, they all face increasingly stiff competition from more established centres such as Lisburn, Newry and Dundalk. Each area also has a retail support organisation; Armagh Chamber of Commerce, Monaghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Dungannon Life which require support and development.

The project provided training specifically for retailers, supported key events, encouraged networking and sharing of experiences across the three areas as well as joint marketing initiatives to raise the profile of the city/town centres both to the local population and beyond. This included a joint Christmas TV advertising campaign.

A retail development strategy for the region until 2010 was completed and detailed action plans for the local retail support organisations has contributed to ongoing results for this project.



Christmas Advertising campaign promoting the retail centres of Armagh, Dungannon and Monaghan. The three Cities/Towns of Armagh, Dungannon and Monaghan who participated in the project.



Project

Ulsters Changing Borders



Project Promoters

- Banbridge District Council
- Newry & Mourne District Council
- Armagh City & District Council
- Louth County Council
- Monaghan County Council

Total Project Cost £ 90,000
Grant Awarded £ 67,500

Contact Details

Mr John Douglas

Tel: NI 028 4066 0600

RoI 048 4066 0600

Email: john.douglas@banbridge.gov.uk

Web: www.borderlands-ireland.com

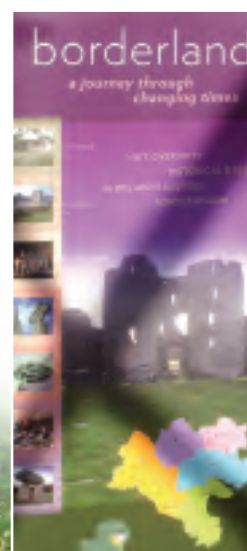
EBR Members and Officials pictured at the official launch of the 'Borderlands' project held in Navan Fort, Armagh on 8th May 2008.

This project is a joint cross border Heritage Tourism Marketing Initiative focusing on Pre-Christian/early Christian sites and the built heritage in settlements located on both sides of the border between The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The project involved identifying the 'Best of' in each partner's area and produced a user friendly visitor publication linking the various sites together. The project focussed on the ancient Danes Cast / Dorsey / Black Pigs Dyke Border and on to the present border between Ulster and Leinster.

In addition, the project also involved a marketing campaign, print support, signage and interpretive panels and a dedicated website.

Research demonstrates that higher-spending international 'heritage tourists' are attracted to an area by the intriguing idea of an enduring but constantly changing boundary, through the highlighting of its finest archaeological evidence. This project therefore resulted in the production of an attractive, full-colour promotional piece, aimed at tourists, covering the archaeological and mythological expression of the East Border Region's internal border.



Project

Cross Border SME Furniture Design and Innovation Network



Enterprise
Ireland

Project Promoters

- CIDO
- Enterprise Ireland North Eastern Region
- University of Ulster

Total Project Cost € 393,067

Grant Awarded € 294,800

Contact Details

Mr Jim Smith

Tel: NI 028 3833 3393

Roi 048 3833 3393

Email: info@cido.co.uk

Web: www.furnitureinnovationnetwork.com

This project sought to establish a cross-border Furniture Network with the aim of encouraging eight Northern and eight Southern companies to co-operate, work on common designs and eventually realise the mutual benefits of forming a trading group.

The companies who participated on the Programme were provided with training and mentoring from industry experts in Enterprise Ireland and the University of Ulster focusing on product design and innovation. In addition they took part in a number of study visits to Denmark, Finland and the UK to share international best practice.

The companies worked collectively to secure a number of joint furniture contracts for work in preparation for the London Olympics 2012 and the Southern element of the network were awarded some continuation funding from Enterprise Ireland to allow them to continue the network into 2007/2008.



Project

Cross Border Development of Oyster Farming in Carlingford Lough

Project Promoters

- Mourn Shellfish Ltd
- Cloughmore Shellfish
- Queens University
- CBAIT

Total Project Cost € 810,075

Grant Awarded € 424,775

Contact Details

Mr Bob McCoubrey

Tel: NI 028 4375 1161

Rol 048 4375 1161

Email: bob.mccoubrey@bms.com

The project involved a partnership between Mourn Shellfish Ltd in County Down and Cloughmore Shellfish Ltd in County Louth to develop and expand sustainable farming of oysters in Carlingford Lough through the expansion of existing operations and with the introduction of new and innovative aquaculture methodologies.

The project was underpinned through the involvement of the Centre for Marine Resources and Mariculture (C-Mar) at Queen's University, Belfast and the Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative (CBAIT), Dundalk, County Louth.

The project succeeded in reintroducing the native oyster to Carlingford Lough. Project Promoters are confident that the native oyster will continue to flourish for many years to come.



Project

Louth, Newry & Mourne Film Commission



Project Promoters

- Louth County Council
- Newry and Mourne District Council

Total Project Cost € 443,616

Grant Awarded € 332,713

Contact Details

Mrs Alison Condra

Tel: Rol 042 9324 153

NI 00353 42 9324 153

Email: alison.condra@louthcoco.ie

Web: www.filmcommission.ie

Filming of 'How about You' based on the Maeve Binchy novel and starring Vanessa Redgrave which was filmed in Rostrevor, Co. Down.

This project sought to establish a Film Commission that would attract film and television makers to work in the area covered by Louth, Newry and Mourne. The project aimed to create a supportive and welcoming environment for the audio-visual production industry and to maximise the benefits to SMEs in the region through facilitating their engagement with on-location production companies.

The project also aimed to encourage the utilisation of the existing hospitality enterprises in the region by visiting production companies; in addition it aimed to encourage future tourism to the region by the utilisation of film and television recognition and tie-ins.

The Film Commission was an extremely successful project which resulted in a number of film-related developmental projects happening in the East Border Region:

- BBC's *'Saving Planet Earth'* filmed in Newry
- BBC's *'So you thought you knew Cuchulain?'* filmed in Ardee
- TG4's *'Paisean Faisean'* filmed in Dundalk
- RTE's *'I'm an adult get me out of here'* filmed in Dundalk
- RTE's *'Trouble in Paradise'* filmed in Dunleer

One of the projects main successes was to secure the filming of *'How about you?'* based on the Maeve Binchy novel and starring Vanessa Redgrave which was filmed in Rostrevor, County Down. The estimated total spend in the region as a direct result of productions filmed in the area is in excess of € 720,000.



Project

Karlingfjords Mountains and Waterways



This project managed by Dundalk and Newry Chambers of Commerce set out to promote joined up tourism development across Carlingford Lough.

Project Promoters

- Dundalk Chamber of Commerce
- Newry Chamber of Trade & Commerce

Total Project Cost € 486,000

Grant Awarded € 341,400

Contact Details

Mr Bill Tosh

Tel: [RoI 042 9336 343](tel:0429336343)

[NI 00353 42 9336 343](tel:00353429336343)

Email: bill@dundalk.ie

Web: www.dundalk.ie

Mr Jack O'Connor, SEUPB and EBR Members and Officials pictured at the Karlingfords Mountains and Waterways project launch which took place on the Tall Ship 'Artemis' on Carlingford Lough in June 2005.

The project sought to strengthen investment in tourism regionally; develop a nationally and internationally recognised brand and sustainable initiatives in tourism; explore & develop new market opportunities and cross-border business linkages; and co-ordinate input to improve the effectiveness of the events calendar for the Lough.

The project achieved the following aims

- the establishment of a joined-up events' sailing programme across the Lough
- development of shared capacity and expertise to deliver high quality sailing competitions
- use of the events to re-establish lapsed sailing and create a high quality integrated calendar
- establishment of a calendar of well organised events in villages around the Lough and encourage/promote the growth of complimentary sail/shore festivals



Project

East Border Arts Partnership



This project involved a capital build in both partner areas of Banbridge and County Louth. In Banbridge the project enabled the creation of the FE McWilliam Art Gallery and Exhibition Centre and in Drogheda, County Louth, the project facilitated the restoration of a Franciscan Friary, namely Highlanes Gallery to world class exhibition standard.

Both galleries provide a major cultural and tourism resource for the border region. Developed to 'British Museum Standard B' with the capacity to house major exhibitions the Galleries offer a major boost to the Regions cultural offering.

Project Promoters

- Banbridge District Council
- County Louth Local Authorities

Total Project Cost € 6,462,179

Grant Awarded € 3,387,915

Contact Details

Mr John Douglas

Tel: NI 028 4066 0600

RoI 048 4066 0600

Email: john.douglas@banbridge.gov.uk

Web: www.banbridge.com

The sculpture garden and cafe of the FE McWilliam Gallery, Banbridge, Co. Down. Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

This project has at its heart a serious effort to increase cross-community and cross border co-operation in the arts field as it actively encourages people from both towns to take the opportunity to visit one another. Both facilities share exhibitions and staff and have made a commitment to develop joint education programmes which, will involve the exchange of community and school groups. Already, several exchanges have taken place with many more planned in the future.

This project will undoubtedly have a major positive impact on cross border tourism in the East Border Region.



Project

Sharing a Vision for our Coastline



Project Promoters

- Ards Borough Council
- Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Carrickfergus Borough Council
- Moyle District Council
- Down District Council
- Newry & Mourne District Council
- Louth County Council

Total Project Cost € 1,140,628

Grant Awarded € 855,471

Contact Details

Mrs Noreen O'Callaghan

Tel: NI 028 3025 2684

RoI 048 3025 2684

Email: noreen@eastborderregion.com

Official opening of the 'One World Garden' in Whitehead, Carrickfergus which was held in September 2008.

This project focused on the design and delivery of a series of Environmental Improvement Schemes, aimed at improving the urban fabric of various coastal settlements throughout the East Border Region. The overall aim was to improve the potential of these coastal locations as places in which to invest and to stop and visit.

The geographical focus of the project was centred on a series of coastal settlements on the Irish Sea and the Strangford / Carlingford Lough coastlines. In all, settlements across the three counties of Antrim, Down and Louth were included in the programme. Running north to south, the settlements include Waterfoot, Whitehead, Whiteabbey, Millisle, Ballywalter, Newcastle, Rostrevor, Warrenpoint, Clougherhead, Annagassan and Blackrock.

In line with central Government strategic policies, the programme was focused on regeneration at local level, with cross-border coastal and maritime heritage as the connecting theme. The programme targeted smaller towns, thus removing the perception that only the metropolitan areas get the funds, the initiatives and therefore the social and economic benefits.

The programme enabled small scale infrastructure improvements to take place in a number of areas. It is an excellent example of co-operation between Local Authorities.



Project

The New Media Factory



Project Promoters

- Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT),
- Louth/Newry & Mourn Film Commission
- University of Ulster

Total Project Cost € 349,570

Grant Awarded € 262,133

Contact Details

Mrs Irene McCausland, DKIT

Tel: [RoI 042 9370 403](tel:0429370403)

[NI 00353 42 9370 403](tel:00353429370403)

Email: irene.mccausland@dkit.ie

Web: www.midasinitiative.com

The New Media Factory was a pilot cross border initiative aimed at creating a sustainable pool of specialist labour within the East Border region to support and consolidate the strategic development of the digital content industries and to enhance the capacity of the region to become a hub for the creation and exploitation of digital and new media products and services.

Through an innovative human resource development and upskilling framework, the project provided a range of cross border industry-led, project-based training initiatives to support the region's capacity to develop the production, post-production and commercial exploitation of digital content particularly within film, television, animation and mobile market sectors.

The project focussed upon implementing a range of learning initiatives specifically tailored for SMEs, individuals and freelancers that brought a blend of industry level, professional training together with state-of-the-art technology within a commercial, market focused context to help increase knowledge, skills and economic capacity in the region to create jobs and generate wealth.

There were three main contexts for the project

- the digital content industries have been recognised as offering significant potential for economic growth across the island of Ireland, and for the East Border region in particular,
- the MIDAS Initiative, a cross border clustering project for the digital content industries, has been successful in creating an infrastructure for the promotion and development of these industries in the region, most specifically with the establishment of the Bright Room, and
- the successful establishment and development of the Louth Newry and Mourn Film Commission in attracting film and television projects to the East Border region.



Green screen and editing facilities at The Bright Room provide skills training and development resources for the New Media Factory.



Project

Craftmark

CRAFTMARK™


Craftmark, a cross border economic development initiative, is a partnership between County Down Crafts and Louth Craftmark. The project offered a two year programme of events (2006–2008) that helped develop business opportunities for designer/makers in counties Armagh, Down, Louth and Monaghan.

Project Promoters

- Louth County Enterprise Board
- County Down Crafts

Total Project Cost € 374,451
Grant Awarded € 280,838

Contact Details

Ms Sarah Daly
Tel: [RoI 042 9396 943](tel:0429396943)
[NI 00353 42 9396 943](tel:00353429396943)
Email: sarahdaly@craftmark.ie
Web: www.craftmark.ie

The main aims of the project were

- strategic development of the craft, applied art and design sector in the East Border Region,
- to improve the cross border network structures that strengthen craft, applied art and design businesses that produce, promote and present craft, applied art and design sector in a positive light,
- to broaden the range of audiences, participation in and access to the craft, applied art and design sector,
- to provide a programme of activities of direct relevance to the craft, applied art and design sector, and
- to provide craft, applied art and design businesses with a platform for co-operation and business growth.

Craftmark exhibiting at Showcase 2007, RDS, Dublin.



Project

Join our Borders by Sea



Project Promoters

- Irish Sea Cruises
- Carlingford Marina Enterprises

Total Project Cost € 249,553

Grant Awarded € 101,365

Contact Details

Mr Vincent Kearney

Tel: NI 028 4483 2866

RoI 048 4483 2866

Email: info@irishseacruises.com

Web: www.irishseacruises.com

The project involved two companies Irish Sea Cruises (ISC) based in Ardglass, Co. Down forming a Partnership with Carlingford Marina Enterprises Ltd (CME) to provide a marine passenger service operating from Ardglass – Annalong – Kilkeel – Warrenpoint – Carlingford – Greenore – Dundalk – Drogheda through the Join Our Borders By Sea Project.

Through the project Irish Sea Cruises purchased a custom built 9.5 metre passenger vessel to enable them to provide a tourist amenity along the border sea area.

The project had the following aims

- to provide new sustainable tourism markets for both companies covering the Carlingford/Louth–Cooley tourism area,
- to increase tourism numbers to the area,
- to strengthen 2 SMEs, namely ISC and CME,
- to promote effective cross border linkage between both areas, and
- to enable joint development and marketing of the passenger service.

Joint marketing materials were developed to promote the joint venture which included; a poster campaign, extensive media campaign on both sides of the Lough including TV, radio and press receptions.



Project

Cross Border Crayfish Project



Project Promoters

- Aquaculture Initiative (EEIG),
- PDS Farm
- Moneycarragh Trout Farm

Total Project Cost € 209,533

Grant Awarded € 157,150

Contact Details

Mr Martin Flanigan

Tel: NI 028 9260 4091

RoI 048 9260 4091

Email: martinflanigan@hotmail.com

This project was a co-operative venture between two aquaculture farms, namely PDS in Arvagh, Co. Cavan and Moneycarragh Trout Farm in Dundrum, Co. Down and the project enabled the two aquaculture producers to share technological know-how, share facilities, improve their competitiveness and develop new products to new markets.

Aquaculture project management expertise was provided by The Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative Team (EEIG) while aquaculture RTD (Research, Technology, Development) expertise was provided by the Research Institute of Fish Culture and Hydrobiology (RIFCH) at Vodnany, Czech Republic.

A central objective was to establish an innovative polyculture of two novel and emerging indigenous species in the aquaculture sector in the Island of Ireland. The crayfish in question are the native species *Austroptamobius pallipes* (*A. pallipes*). This project used crayfish from an existing licensed hatchery in Co. Down to on-grow these at a perch farm in Co. Cavan. This strategy helped maximize the efficiency of production methods in the perch farm and created an opportunity for a second cash crop of crayfish from the existing farm structures. In return the Crayfish hatchery benefited immensely from PDS's hatchery know how and up to date facilities.



Project

East Border Region Committee



Project Promoters

Member Local Authorities of EBR

- Ards Borough Council
- Armagh City & District Council
- Banbridge District Council
- Craigavon Borough Council
- Down District Council
- Louth County Council
- Meath County Council
- Monaghan County Council
- Newry & Mourne District Council
- North Down Borough Council

Total Project Cost £ 922,514

Grant Awarded £ 677,635

Contact Details

Ms Pamela Arthurs

Tel: NI 028 3025 2684

RoI 048 3025 2684

Email: pamela@eastborderregion.com

Web: www.eastborderregion.com

The then EBR Chair Cllr Patsy Toman presents President McAleese, who invited EBR to visit Aras an Uachtaran in Sept 2005, with a souvenir of the work carried out in the region.

The East Border Region Committee (EBRC) comprises ten Local authorities namely; Louth, Monaghan and Meath in the Republic of Ireland and Newry & Mourne, Down, Armagh, Craigavon, Banbridge, North Down and Ards in Northern Ireland. The Committee have been working together on a cross border basis to promote economic development for over 32 years.

Elected Members from all of the Political Parties North and South are members of EBRC. The population of the Region is 826,000 (almost 1 in 7 on the Island of Ireland). The core activities of the EBRC have been funded by the INTERREG Programme since 1991. INTERREG II funding enabled the EBRC to set up a full time secretariat in 1995, and consequently enabled the Committee to enhance and develop its cross border activities.

The EBRC used the funding secured from the INTERREG IIIA Programme to strength cross border co-operation across the region. The EBRC is a strategic network which has acted as a conjugate for economic development in the East Border Region and has been the primary facilitator for all the EBRC activity in relation to INTERREG IIIA.

The performance of the EBRC in terms of leadership and management has led to the establishment of a number of INTERREG IIIA structures /networks including the INTERREG IIIA Partnership and the Thematic Working Groups. The activities of EBRC will ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the INTERREG IIIA investment in the East Border Region.

In 2008 the EBR Secretariat employs eight members of staff who work across the region on a full time basis in the pursuit of innovative cross border economic development. The EBRC is a truly democratic, representative, transparent, multi skilled cross border organisation.





Measure 1.2

The Knowledge Economy

Project

Netwell



Project Promoters

- Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT)
- University of Ulster

Total Project Cost € 450,000

Grant Awarded € 337,500

Contact Details

Mr Rodd Bond

Tel: [042 9370 200](tel:0429370200)

NI [00353 42 9370 200](tel:00353429370200)

Email: rodd.bond@dkit.ie

Web: www.dkit.ie

Minister Dermot Ahern, Cllr Jackie Crowe Chair of the EBR INTERREG IIIA Partnership and representatives of the NETWELL project pictured at the first project seminar held in Sept 2007.

The aim of the Netwell project was to stimulate and support the growth and extension of new markets for ICT, digital media, internet and wireless-based applications and services aimed at the elderly home environment on a cross-border basis.

Aims of the project include

- piloting the demonstration of 'aware homes',
- promoting innovation and collaboration,
- developing skills and capabilities,
- growing market awareness, and
- improving resource utilisation.

The project also made a significant contribution to social cohesion and inclusiveness for the elderly and those with a disability.

As a part of this overall project, the Netwell pilot project focussed on a pilot 'proof of concept' implementation of ICT technologies in to existing homes in sub-urban and rural areas within the region, and on increasing the capabilities of SMEs in the region to participate in this growing market area.



Project

The eRegion Development Project



Project Promoters

- Craigavon Borough Council
- Louth County Council
- Monaghan County Council
- Banbridge District Council

Total Project Cost £330,645
Grant Awarded £275,321

Contact Details

Mrs Nicola Wilson
Tel: NI 028 3831 2575
Roi 048 3831 2575
Email: nicola.wilson@craigavon.gov.uk
Web: www.discover-ict.com

The official launch of Discover ICT in Dec 2006.

The e-Regional Development Project promoted knowledge of new technology and already existent IT projects and training provision through a cross regional ICT portal, internet kiosks known as e-Toys and e-Pocket Guides.

The products funded contained information on the benefits of and advice on regional council services online as well as what ICT is, advice about buying computers, what the internet is, how to get internet access, what e-mail is, where you can learn ICT, what digital TV & Radio is, telecommunications, banking & ATM's, e-business, e-commerce, digital photography, ICT help, financial assistance and support. In addition they also contained informative case studies to help the user understand how the various ICT's work in real life situations.

The products also provided information on links to web sites where the information and/or products can be sourced.

In short the project aimed to demystify the IT sector and make it user friendly.



Project

The Knowledge Economy Programme



Project Promoters

- Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation (CIDO)
- Ardee Community Development Company Ltd (ACD)

Total Project Cost £ 265,003

Grant Awarded £ 198,752

Contact Details

Mr Jim Smith

Tel: NI 028 3833 3393

Rol 048 3833 3393

Email: info@cido.co.uk

Web: www.knowledge-economy.net

The Knowledge Economy Programme aimed to measurably improve the business performance of SMEs in the Craigavon and Ardee areas and to foster business-to-business linkages on a cross-border basis through the uptake and exploitation of modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The funded programme was targeted to meet a very genuine need that existed amongst SME businesses in Craigavon and Louth with the aim of increasing their ICT awareness and usage, improving their capacity to integrate ICT into their current and future business activities and to develop their understanding of knowledge as a competitive driver. In particular, the programme targeted SMEs with export potential, raising their awareness of the potential benefits of new technologies with regard to integration into national and international markets, with the concrete aim of increasing their export sales and subsequently generating employment.

Programme activities were divided into the following three categories

- Training
- Mentoring
- Website Development.



Project Co-ordinator Mr Gordon Gough and project promoter representatives at the KEP launch event in April 2007.

Project

Cross Border Archive Project



Within this project Newry and Mourne Museum (based in Newry) and Louth County Archive Service (based in Dundalk) made accessible via ICT, archival information on the historical development of the Newry and Mourne/Louth cross border region.

Project Promoters

- Louth County Archive Services
- Newry & Mourne Museum

Total Project Cost € 186,861

Grant Awarded € 140,146

Contact Details

Ms Lorraine Buchanan

Tel: [RoI 042 9339 387](tel:0429339387)

[NI 00353 42 9339 387](tel:00353429339387)

Email: lorraine.buchanan@louthcoco.ie

The project involved cataloguing onto a computer database the appropriate archival collections held in both Newry and Dundalk. Up to 20,000 archival items from this region were placed online.

Both archive collections are linked in a Knowledge Web, placing the archives at the heart of a 21st-century learning agenda. Additionally the project also included the development of an online exhibition focusing on the material held in both archives. This online exhibition is available to schools, local libraries, museums, businesses and professionals, tourism offices and the general public, locally, nationally and internationally and is supplemented by a permanent exhibition.

An education resource was also produced for 250 schools in the Louth-Newry & Mourne regions, this CD ROM uses material in both archives to look at the themes that are studied by schools such as the Great Famine, the Home Rule Crisis and Partition and provides a local perspective on these national events.



Website of the Cross Border Archive Project.



Part of the Reside collection at Newry Museum.



Actors who took part in an historical re-enactment at Louth County Archives Service.

Project

East Border Region Environmental Website – www.sustainandbuild.com



Project Promoters

- Down District Council
- Banbridge District Council
- Armagh City & District Council
- Ards Borough Council
- Craigavon Borough Council
- Newry & Mourne District Council
- Monaghan County Council
- Louth County Council

Total Project Cost £238,370

Grant Awarded £178,778

Contact Details

Mr Joseph Birt

Tel: NI 028 4461 0827

RoI 048 4461 0827

Email: joseph.birt@downdc.gov.uk

Web: www.sustainandbuild.com

www.sustainandbuild.ie

www.sustainandbuild.co.uk

This project involved a partnership between Down, Newry and Mourne, Armagh City, Banbridge District Councils, Ards and Craigavon Borough Councils and Louth and Monaghan County Councils. The project involved the creation of an East Border Region environmental website that provides current and authoritative cross border information on building and environmental issues. It provides a new and innovative portal for accessing comprehensive and easily understood information on legislative requirements such as planning, building and environmental issues.

Detailed information is also provided on relevant regional and national environmental policies and strategies and on good design, best practice, new technologies and techniques, sustainability, energy conservation, alternative energy sources accessibility and other wide ranging issues. The website helps users identify local suppliers, professionals, builders, specialist services, brown field sites and development opportunities.



Project

GIS Development Project



Within this project the East Border Region Environmental Working Group, implemented a co-ordinated corporate Geographical Information System (GIS) within seven of the member authorities of the East Border Region Committee, and Cavan County Council. The project initially promoted joined up working relationships within and between councils in terms of a wide variety of data and information, and eventually delivered information, interaction and services to the wider public in participating council areas.

The primary aim of the project was to implement, in partnership between the councils, a corporate GIS by employing a GIS team for the region, which developed the systems, trained staff on its use, set data management protocols and rolled out the system to the organisations to access up to date and easily understood data at the user level, allowing better informed decisions to be made on the delivery of services.

Project Promoters

- Down District Council
- Banbridge District Council
- Armagh City & District Council
- Ards Borough Council
- Craigavon Borough Council
- Newry & Mourne District Council
- Monaghan County Council
- Cavan County Council

Total Project Cost £ 583,514

Grant Awarded £ 437,631

Contact Details

Mr Canice O'Rourke

Tel: NI 028 4461 0800

Rol 048 4461 0800

Email: canice.o'rourke@downdc.gov.uk

Web: www.eastborderregionmaps.com

The second phase then provided direct access information to the general public and other stakeholders through the setting up of www.eastborderregionmaps.com. Through this site members of the public can utilise detailed maps of the region, use the 'find my nearest facility' and contact their local authority.



Pictured at the G.I.S. project launch which was held in the Slieve Donard Hotel in July 2008 is EBR INTERREG IIIA Partnership Chair Cllr Jackie Crowe, Mayor of Down District Council Cllr Colin McGrath and G.I.S. Project staff.

The background features a dark blue grid pattern with several yellow, five-pointed stars scattered across it. The stars have a slight 3D effect with shadows. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

Measure 1.3

Human Resource
Development and Skilling

Project

Re-skilling Professional Agriculturists post CAP Reform



Project Promoters

- Northern Ireland Institute of Agricultural Science (NIAS)
- Agricultural Science Association (ASA)

Total Project Cost £ 60,000

Grant Awarded £ 49,500

Contact Details

Mr Andrew Stewart

Tel: NI 028 9443 2186

RoI 048 9443 2186

Email: astewart@fish.co.uk

The project aim was to identify the re-skilling needs of professional agriculturists working in Northern Ireland and the border counties and to develop a common cross-border continuous personal development programme (PDP) to record training activities and gain official recognition for personal training undertaken by participants.

Through the project a consultant was engaged to assist the two professional bodies, the Northern Ireland Institute of Agricultural Science (NIAS) and the Agricultural Science Association (ASA) to design a comprehensive survey questionnaire and oversee the conduct of a skills needs survey of 50 professional agriculturists working in Northern Ireland and 50 working in the border counties.

The completed survey identified ways in which professional agriculturists working on both sides of the border can improve communication with each other and share common experiences.

A further aim of the project was to design a computer programme to manage the PDP and to pilot the programme for a 12-month period among 60 Institute members. A comprehensive database of relevant information sources with emphasis on e-learning and environmental issues was also developed to assist professional agriculturists re-skill and to complement in-service training provided by employers.



Project

Cross Border Local Authority Management Programme



This project was designed to pilot a model of training which can be used to promote understanding, develop networking and establish a leadership and management skills set that enabled local authority staff on both sides of the border to work together constructively and productively on cross border initiatives and projects designed to benefit citizens in both jurisdictions. The programme consisted of nine workshops plus a site visit by each participant to their opposite jurisdiction for 'peer learning'.

Project Promoters

- Louth County Council
- Banbridge District Council
- Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT)
- Southern Regional College – Newry Campus

Total Project Cost € 86,693

Grant Awarded € 62,770

The project afforded participants the opportunity to share knowledge and best practice on common legislation which informs and directs the work of local authorities in both jurisdictions. In addition the project involved training on leadership/management skills, specifically geared to the local authority sector.

Contact Details

Mr Michael McCabe

Tel: [RoI 042 9335 457](tel:0429335457)

[NI 00353 42 9335 457](tel:00353429335457)

Email: michael.mccabe@louthcoco.ie

Web: www.louthcoco.ie

Participants on the Cross Border Local Authority Management Programme pictured at the Project Award Ceremony in April 2008.



Project

The Creative Enterprise Office



The Creative Enterprise Office, based in Dundalk, provided a support service for people in the East Border Region starting or already working in the arts and/or creative enterprises including, for example; crafts, visual arts, design, musical performance, drama, literature and dance.

The primary aim of the project was to create an environment in the East Border Region that nurtures creative opportunity and actively supports creative enterprise.

Project Promoters

- Louth County Enterprise Board
- Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency

Total Project Cost € 510,302

Grant Awarded € 399,711

Contact Details

Mr Ronan Dennedy

Tel: Rol 042 9327 099

NI 00353 42 9327 099

Email: rdennedy@lceb.ie

Web: www.ceoclub.ie

Cllr Michael Carr EBR, Mrs Dette Hughes EBR and project representatives pictured at the launch of the Creative Enterprise Office in Newry in November 2005.

Members of the Creative Enterprise Club who participated in a Study trip to Edinburgh in Sept 2007.



Project

Social Economy Bridging Programme



Project Promoters

- Banbridge District Council
- Louth County Council

Total Project Cost £ 111,496
 Grant Awarded £ 72,258

Contact Details

Mrs Elaine Gillespie
 Tel: NI 028 4066 0644
 RoI 048 4066 0644
 Email: elaine.gillespie@banbridge.gov.uk
 Web: www.banbridge.com

The Social Economy Bridging Programme was a joint cross border initiative between Banbridge District Council and Louth County Council. The Bridging Programme supported and developed organisations from Banbridge and Louth that were involved in the ‘social economy’ – in other words, working to improve the social aspect of their communities by developing business opportunities and then re-investing any surplus finances that have been generated back into the business or local community.

The programme consisted of a mixture of training workshops, networking opportunities, best practice visits and mentoring support. There were ten places (five from each Council area) on the training element of the programme with another 24 places for groups from Belfast, Banbridge and Louth to take part in the networking/best practice visits.

The training was tailored as much as possible to the specific needs of the participating groups with specialised mentoring support available to those groups involved in the training element.

Magnet Women’s Group, one of the participants on the Social Economy Bridging Programme pictured at the Project closure event, held in the Ballymacscanlon Hotel, Dundalk, in May 2008.



Project Promoters pictured at the launch of the project and at the closure event.



Project

Border Innovation Gateway (BIG)



Border Innovation Gateway (BIG) was an ambitious regionally based pilot pre-incubation initiative, which aimed to catalyse a step change in the creation of high technology high growth businesses in the East Border Region.

For the first time in Ireland, the Border Innovation Gateway project drew on the pre-incubation model for creating entrepreneurial cultures and cascading economies in other high technology regions of the world. With the collective entrepreneurship, research and commercialisation and business support resources of Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT), Newry Institute/Greenshoots Newry Ltd and the Business Support Centre within Upper Bann Institute the project has been an extreme success. The programme targeted people with knowledge based ideas like engineering, ICT, software, creative and digital media.

Project Promoters

- Greenshoots Newry
- Southern Regional College – Portadown Campus
- Dundalk Institute of Technology

Total Project Cost £308,312

Grant Awarded £230,350

Contact Details

Mr Kieran Fegan

Tel: NI 028 3026 5402

RoI 048 3026 5402

Email: fegank@greenshoots-newry.com

Web: www.greenshoots-newry.com

Border Innovation Gateway had three main aims

- to educate potential entrepreneurs,
- to help develop their potential business concepts, and
- to help those entrepreneurs make a more informed choice when considering the idea of enterprise creation and in particular their suitability to running their own business.

County Down vet, Dr. Jo McKelvie who has established a new business, with help from the cross-border Border Innovation Gateway (BIG) pre-incubation programme, pictured with Programme Manager Mr Kieran Fegan.

Pictured to the right DKIT student entrepreneurs, Mr James Moran and Mr Rob Mullen who have established their new business 'Neuralcore Technologies', with help from the cross-border Border Innovation Gateway (BIG) pre-incubation programme.

The programme supported 61 potential entrepreneurs and as a direct result of participating in the BIG Programme a County Down Vet Dr Joe McKelvey established a new consultancy service which runs and advises on pharmaceutical veterinary clinical trials. Her company has already developed a global market securing contracts from around the world.



Contact us



East Border Region Ltd
2 Monaghan Court
Monaghan Street
Newry
BT35 6BH

Tel: [NI 028 3025 2684](tel:02830252684) | [RoI 048 3025 2684](tel:04830252684)
Fax: [NI 028 3025 2685](tel:02830252685) | [RoI 048 3025 2685](tel:04830252685)

Email: info@eastborderregion.com
Web: www.eastborderregion.com

Monaghan

Banbridge

Down

Meath

Louth

Newry & Mourne



Ards

Craigavon

Armagh

North Down

