



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

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EU UNIT UPDATE



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WELCOME / FAILTE

This bulletin is produced by the EU Funding and Strategic Policy Unit of Donegal County Council. The EU Unit works with all services of Donegal County Council to proactively target external funding opportunities, influence policy and identify EU networks of benefit to the Council. The Strategic Policy Unit promotes and support inter-agency networking and partnership across the wider north west region through a range of collaborative structures and projects. This bulletin will provide you with all the latest news in relation to Donegal County Councils involvement in this important area of work.

Liam Ward, Director of Services, Donegal County Council

Interreg VB Atlantic Area Programme announces successful projects at Stage 1

The Monitoring Committee of INTERREG Atlantic Area, held on 7-8 September in Dublin, selected 102 Expressions of Interest (EOI) to submit an online full project application for the second stage of the ongoing call. Between April and May 2016, the Joint Secretariat received 425 EOI under the first stage of this application process. Donegal County Council has now been notified that 4 out of the 5 submitted projects have been successful at Stage 1. Stage 2 opened on October 31st and will close on December 19th 2016.

TRAIL GAZERS PROJECT

Led by Donegal County Council through the Research and Policy Unit, the Trail Gazers partnership sets out to develop and test a transnational framework to enable the future management and promotion of trails across the Atlantic Area. The framework will use digital technologies and indicators to develop trails in an environmentally friendly, sustainable, cost effective and highly innovative manner. The project will analyse existing and future levels of activity on chosen trails by establishing a common set of economic, social and environmental indicators; by utilising innovative technologies and systems (sensors, GIS, augmented reality) to capture information on trails activity and by displaying these metrics via a 'Trails Dashboard'. The project will explore how new technologies such as Go Pro cameras, drones and Talking Heads can be used to showcase trails to Atlantic tourist visitors via virtual experiences.

For Further information please contact:
Loretta McNicholas Donegal County Council, Tel.: 074 9153900 email
lmcnico@donegalcoco.ie

ATLANTIC ON BIKE PROJECT

Working with Mayo and Sligo County Councils, Donegal County Council is a partner in the Atlantic On Bike project, which seeks to create a necklace of cycling routes from Portugal to Norway. This project will, if approved, attract additional funding for the marketing and promotion of cycleways, and connect existing cycleways in an EU context, while also connecting with Counties Sligo and Mayo into one overall EUROVELO route.

For further information please contact: EU unit Donegal County Council, Tel.: 074 9153900



Trail Gazers Project Development Workshop in preparation for Stage 2 of the Atlantic Area Application.

TIDES OF TIME PROJECT (TIDES)

The TIDES project will develop new types of transnational tourism packages based on connecting and jointly marketing maritime sites, museums and historical archives in Atlantic regions related to the same historical period or event, e.g. Napoleonic Wars, World Wars or Atlantic migrations. The project will facilitate communities to create new local jobs, attract tourists, create synergies with existing tourism providers, and improve economic and social well-being in project regions. The lead partner is ERNACT working in partnership with Donegal County Council and EU partners.

For further information please contact:
Barney Mc Laughlin Tel.: 0749153900
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CAPITEN PROJECT

Donegal County Council is a project partner in project Capiten which seeks to develop centres of excellence across Europe in the water and marine based leisure sports sector. Building on the malinwaters.com and Sailwest project, Capiten will provide support for marketing and communications of marine leisure opportunities and facilities in each partner region, provide training for SMEs in how to take advantage of spin offs from the sector, and support the development of marine leisure events (e.g. Atlantic International challenge). This project will focus on the marine leisure potential of County Donegal and building this further.

For further information please contact:
EU unit Donegal County Council,
Tel.: 074 9153900



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Project Development Workshops for Atlantic Area Application - Stage 2

In preparation for stage 2 of the Atlantic Area Programme application, Donegal County Council held a one day project development workshop in Dublin on October 12th for the Trail Gazers project. The workshop provided the partners the opportunity to review key activities, scope out the work packages and develop the outputs, indicators and targets for the project. The workshop was attended by partners from Spain, United Kingdom, Portugal and Ireland.

On October 20th Donegal County Council also attended a development workshop for the CAPITEN project at the Maison de la Bretagne in Paris. The workshop was hosted by the project's lead partner The Conseil Regional de Bretagne and brought together all the partners from Ireland, N.Ireland, Scotland, France, Spain and Portugal. This provided an opportunity

for the partners to further develop the project work packages, timelines, key milestones and budgets.

Other project development workshops will take place over the coming weeks. Donegal County Council will attend

the Atlantic on Bike development workshop on November 23rd and 24th in Valladolid, Spain.

For further information please contact EU unit, Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9153900.



CAPITEN project partners at the Project Development Workshop in Paris.

CatchmentCARE Project



A decision on funding for the CatchmentCARE project is due by early December 2016 following submission of the Stage 2 Business Plan in July 2016.

Donegal County Council is leading the project which has 7 other partners; Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Loughs Agency, University of Ulster, Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and the British Geological Survey/ Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (BGS/GSNI). The project partners are awaiting a decision by the SEUPB steering committee.

The bid for funding is being made under the Environment measure, specific objective 2.4 The

CatchmentCARE project will address the core challenge of restoring water-bodies in border area catchments by increasing catchment resilience (biophysical, social and economic) and developing stakeholder capacity (community, government and NGOs)

taking into consideration both surface and groundwater.

For further information contact: Joanne Holmes, Donegal County Council Tel. : 074 9153900, jholmes@donegalcoco.ie



MalinWaters^o

The MalinWaters brand is becoming more established with 43.61% increase in traffic to MalinWaters.com in Q2 of 2016. MalinWaters now has almost 10k likes on Facebook and continues to reach audiences.

A Google Ad Words campaign ran from May – June 2016 delivering over 994,695 Ad Impressions and over 6k visits to the www.malinwaters.com website. The News section on the website has been updated with fresh regular content and there is a new section on the website covering ferry transport in the MalinWaters regions. Three new YouTube videos promoting the MalinWaters regions are now

available on the MalinWaters YouTube channel and have over 20k views as a result of a specific video advertising campaign. Print adverts have also been placed in Welcome Anchorages, Yachting Life, Take Off magazine, Scottish Paddler and Scottish Diver publications.

Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council (Donegal Tourism Ltd and Visit Derry) attended the Northern England Boat Show in Liverpool on 3rd – 5th June 2016 to promote MalinWaters and other marine themed activities in both regions. This was a collaborative approach to marketing with both sharing a stand promoting Donegal and Derry-Londonderry collectively. 200,000

visitors attended the Northern England Boat Show from UK and European markets.

A meeting of MalinWaters partners is planned for November 2016 during which the results of the 2016 marketing activities will be presented to partners and plans for the continued development of MalinWaters in 2017 will also be discussed. This project continues to deliver successful results and shows the importance of a collaborative approach to projects.

For further information please contact: Joy Harron, Marine Marketing Development Officer, Donegal Tourism Ltd, Tel: + 353 (74) 9724431 donegalmarinetourism@gmail.com

WILDSEA Europe

The new WILDSEA Europe website www.wildsea.eu is performing very well with over 10k visitors to date since the website was launched. There are now a significant number of businesses listed on the website, which offer fantastic wildlife watching experiences across Europe. The next phase in the development of the website will include the launch of a new online booking system specifically designed to allow experience providers to take instant bookings via the website. The WILDSEA Europe project marketing activity is underway. The Marketing Plan includes a Google Ad Words campaign to drive relevant targeted traffic to the website. Several new consumer videos have been created and a new YouTube channel called Wildsea.eu has been created. A multi-lingual trade video has also been launched aimed at encouraging experience providers to join the WILDSEA Europe network and get listed on the website.

WILDSEA Europe will be promoted at several events across Europe including DIVE 2016, which took place at the NEC in Birmingham in October. Donegal Tourism Ltd took the lead at this event promoting

Donegal in addition to the WILDSEA Europe project. In November 2016 the WILDSEA Europe project partners will host a workshop and take part in a promotional event called Business2Sea, which is organised by the Forum Oceano and will take place in Porto, Portugal with marine sector, tourism and EU Commission representatives in attendance.

At this event the project partners will also take part in a Steering Committee Meeting to discuss the future plans for the project, which is due to officially end in December 2016. The aim of partners will be to secure further EU funding in order to build on the success of WILDSEA Europe to date and to continue to increase brand awareness and direct traffic to www.wildsea.eu to

create a sustainable tourism future for experience providers. The Project is a European, public-private cooperation effort that is supported by the COSME programme of the European Union through the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME).

For further information please contact: Joy Harron, Marine Marketing Development Officer, Donegal Tourism Ltd, Tel: + 353 (74) 9724431 donegalmarinetourism@gmail.com

WILDSEA
EUROPE



Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union



COOL ROUTE PROJECT

Donegal County Council is a key partner in the Cool Route project with responsibility for project communications including the development of the project website www.sailcoolroute.eu. There has been an extraordinary level of engagement and buy-in by key sectoral actors and project awareness is growing in all regions. The Cool Route project received INTEREG VB funding under the Northern Periphery & Arctic programme 2014-2020 by lead partner Cork Institute of Technology.

In October, 2015 Cool Route partners initiated a very wide area survey on the preferences, priorities, needs and interests of the yacht cruising community. The purpose of the survey was to obtain accurate data on the views of people within the sector.

With over 500 responses, the study reached respondents throughout Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, The Faroe Islands and Norway. Additionally, responses came in from Canada, USA, France and New Zealand.

Speaking at the launch of the study in July 2016, during Volvo Cork Week, Cool Route partner Dr. Breda Kenny, Head of Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellent, who leads the overall project stated:

"This extensive engagement with its most important stakeholders in the sailing world, demonstrated clearly the value of developing the Cool Route and its strong potential to bring new business opportunities to a myriad of small enterprises in remote coastal locations- supporting local economic growth and job creation in Europe's Northern Periphery and Arctic Area."

The findings of the Cruising Preferences Study, which is the widest and most comprehensive engagement with cruising sailors ever undertaken in Northern Europe, will now form an important input to the ongoing development of the Route Marketing and Business Plans.



Pictured at the launch of the Cool Route Cruising Preferences Report are left to right: Kieran O'Connell, RCYC Chairman Volvo Cork Week, John McAleer, CIT, Gavin Deane, RCYC, Dr. Breda Kenny, CIT, Mark Ring, RCYC, Gerard O'Donovan, CIT and Paul Gallagher, CIT

Hiking Europe Conference Seminar



Donegal County Council recently attended the Hiking Europe Conference which took place in Barcelona on September 27th. The conference was hosted by the Catalan Tourist Board and attended by delegates from Spain, Italy, Germany Austria, Croatia, Iceland, Finland and France. A large crowd attended the conference where the discussion centred on marketing the routes and developing the links with partner states.

The Hiking Europe project aims to promote a transnational network of rural tourism routes. These routes will be structured around different itineraries of hiking trails around Europe to facilitate the discovery of natural and cultural heritage of the involved territories. The project is funded by the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises programme (COSME) of the European Commission.

and businesses to enter their details and be included on the electronic map which can be amended and updated on a regular basis. The project will also include the completion of a Training Needs Assessment and the development of training material for stakeholders located along the Gaeltacht Way.

For further information please contact Caroline Britton Tel.: 074 9153900

Donegal County Council will be promoting the Bealach na Gaeltachta National way marked walking routes including: Sli an Earagail, Sli na Rosann, Sli na Finne and Sli Cholmcille along with the three island walks on Aran Mor, Gola and Tory islands. Donegal County Council has established an on-line expression of interest form for local communities



ASCENT Project

ASCENT (an acronym for Apply Skills and Conserve our Environment with New Tools) will bring together local and environmental authorities to collectively address the environment challenges facing the conservation and enhancement of the areas of natural beauty in the five partner regions. ASCENT is a €1.6 million project which is funded by the Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme (2014-2020), with Donegal County Council as lead partner in addition to the four partner regions of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in Northern Ireland, Metsähallitus Park and Wildlife in Finland, Hordaland County Council in Norway and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland.

Pictured at the Launch of the ASCENT project L-R: Seamus Neely Chief Executive Donegal County Council; Cllr Terence Slowey Cathaoirleach Donegal Co Co and Michael O'Brien of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly



ASCENT commenced on the 1st of September 2016, with the inaugural steering committee meeting taking place on the 19th of October in

County Donegal. To coincide, ASCENT was officially launched by An Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council, Cllr Terence Slowey in the Dunlewey Community Centre on the 20th of October 2016. Members of the project team attended the Arctic Boost Conference and lead partner seminar in Akureyri in Iceland on the 28th and 29th of September and provided a presentation to delegates at that event.

For further information, please contact: Charles Sweeney Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9153900 charles.sweeney@donegalcoco.ie



Rosita Mahony presenting at Lead Partner Seminar in Akureyri, Iceland

WaterPro Project

The WaterPro Project is supported by the Interreg VB Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme and will develop sustainable systems to protect water quality from diffuse agricultural and mining pollution.

Donegal County Council are partnering with Savonia University of Applied Sciences Ltd, Finland, [Lead Partner], Geological Survey of Finland, Agricultural University of Iceland, Lulea University of Technology, Sweden, Agricultural Agency, Faroe Islands, Lough Neagh Partnership, Magherafelt, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast and Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. Donegal County Council will attend a partners meeting in Sweden at the end of November which is being hosted by Luleå University of Technology.

For further information contact: Joanne Holmes, Donegal County Council, jholmes@donegalcoco.ie Tel.: 074 9153900



ERNACT Success in Atlantic Area's first call for projects

ERNACT have two project proposals selected for the second stage of the Atlantic Area's first call for projects. This is a great achievement considering 425 applications were received by the Atlantic Area programme. Work will now commence on the second stage application process and successful applicants will be notified in February 2017. More information about the Atlantic Area Programme can be found at <http://www.atlanticarea.eu/>



Donegal hosts IMPROVE events in October



Donegal County Council has hosted a number of events on behalf of IMPROVE in October. These included a seminar entitled 'Open Data as a source for digital public services co-production'.

A transnational meeting also took place in the county. The IMPROVE project is led by ERNACT, with Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council being full partners.

It is part-funded project by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-

2020, has a total budget of €1.5 million, with €60,000 specifically benefitting the North West region.

IMPROVE aims to increase innovation in the area of technology-driven public service solutions. One of its goals is to maximise knowledge transfer through a living labs-driven approach.

Project partners are now designing services using a co-production methodology defined in the project. The co-production process is led by local digital champions.

More information can be found at www.facebook.com/ImproveNPA





SECURE's Launch Conference to be held at Glenveagh National Park

The second meeting of the SECURE project was hosted by Donegal County Council in Letterkenny on the 8th November. An International Conference also took place at Glenveagh National Park on 9th November. This conference gave attendees an opportunity to learn about renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency solutions. It is also a key hub for stakeholders from Northern and Arctic areas of

Europe, and Atlantic Canada, to make valuable contacts and explore areas for cooperation.

Speakers include Duncan Stewart from RTE's Eco Eye programme and the Sustainable Energy Authority for Ireland. This is an ideal opportunity to promote Glenveagh National Park to a host of international delegates. SECURE (Smarter Energy Communities in Northern & Arctic

Regions) is part-funded by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020.

Check out the agenda and other relevant information at <http://bit.ly/2co2u5x> and connect with SECURE at www.facebook.com/SECUREnpa/



ERUDITE project to meet in Italy

The ERUDITE project (Enhancing Rural and Urban Digital Innovation Territories), of which ERNACT is a partner, is part-funded by Interreg Europe. The project kicked off in September and will provide input into the Donegal Digital Action Plan.

The main goal of ERUDITE is the design of new public services using open innovation with participation from businesses, citizens and public authorities. Development will be supported by socio-economic data to support investment, job creation, quality of life and to improve the attractiveness of partner regions.

More information can be found at www.facebook.com/InterregErudite.



CLEAN Project

The Interreg Europe monitoring committee has approved the CLEAN (Technologies and Open Innovation for Low Carbon Regions) project, which was submitted by ERNACT to the second Interreg Europe call in May 2016.

CLEAN is a €1.6 million project which addresses the common challenge of meeting EU energy efficiency targets for buildings in Europe's regions. This project is particularly relevant for Donegal County Council who have a national obligation to achieve a 33% reduction in energy consumption by 2020.

CLEAN was one of 66 projects approved from 211 application submitted. The project will be led by ERNACT with partners from Sweden, Spain, Romania, France, Italy, Greece, Finland and Slovenia. For further information please contact: ianire.renobales@ernact.eu



HERICOAST Project



HERICOAST is an Interreg Europe funded project that aims to improve the management of coastal heritage to help achieve a better balance between exploitation and preservation measures in the development of coastal landscapes.

The opening conference of the HERICOAST project took place in Vest-Agder, Norway in June 2016 that examined the commonalities of coastal development and management of the varying coastal landscapes of each partner region. A presentation was given by Donegal County Council that set out the unique, diverse and complex nature of the Donegal coastal landscape and its rich built, natural and cultural heritage (a copy of the poster presented below).

The first project steering committee meeting agreed the path to progress the project, and the next steering group meeting and project workshop are scheduled to take place in Tulcea,

Romania at the end of October. A presentation shall be made by each partner region at the workshop concentrating on the digitization of various heritage elements within the coastal landscape of Donegal.

For Further information please contact:
Alana Green
Hericoast@donegalcoco.ie
www.interregeurope.eu/hericoast/
Tel: 074 91 53900



Photograph of the archipelago, Vest-Agder, Norway, the project focus of the lead partner.



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LADDER Project

The Ladder Project aims to inform EU citizens about development issues, mobilise greater public support for actions against poverty, give citizens tools to engage critically with global development issues, to foster new ideas and ultimately to change attitudes.

In June, Donegal County Council coordinated a national training event in Galway for Local Authority and Local Development staff from around



the country which focused on local to global connections and how these can be incorporated into the workplace. Also in June, a Ladder workshop event in Letterkenny was organised for Elected Representatives of DCC which was attended by Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Joe McHugh TD. The minister launched the Ladder re-granting scheme which aims to fund local grassroots projects that raise awareness and promote engagement with global development issues.

DCC are also inviting submissions from citizen journalists who wish to write about global development issues such as migration, human rights, poverty, climate change etc. for a chance to join the Ladder network of citizen's journalists and have their articles circulated to a wide audience.

For more information on these activities please contact Bobby on bobbysmith@donegalcoco.ie Tel.: 074 9153900 website: www.ladder-project.eu

Interreg VA Sustainable transport Call - North West Greenways Network

The Stage 2 business case for this project was submitted on the 22nd April 2016. The SEUPB held the Steering and Monitoring committee Interreg VA Programme meetings on the 7th and 8th of September. Derry City and Strabane District Council has been advised that the SEUPB component of the assessment is now concluded.

The project will now be presented to the relevant Government departments

dealing with Interreg for a final decision. The aim of the North West Greenways Network (NWGWN) Project is to develop a number of cross-border Greenways and cycle networks to reduce car journeys in cross border transportation, based on the routes set out in the Interreg VA Operational Programme.

The lead partner is Derry City and Strabane District Council, with project partners Transport NI, Sustrans and Donegal County Council.

The Interreg VA programme result is to generate new cross-border Greenways to facilitate cross-border mobility with an overall target of 80km.

For more information please contact: Eunan O'Donnell, Donegal County Council, Tel.: 0749153900.



ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK - Local Enterprise Office

Enterprise Europe Network has entered the final quarter of its first two year programme. Events have taken place in many counties around the country with a few more coming up before the year end leading to a greatly increased profile for the network around Ireland.

3 Irish Micro Breweries from Limerick, Louth and Meath took part in a very successful Beer Mission to the Funen region of Denmark from 12th to 15th June 2016. They visited a number of breweries in the region and gained significant insight and knowledge from the trip on how to improve their own brewing techniques. They also learned how they could develop and grow the Irish microbrewery sector based on the Danish experience.

Cavan and Monaghan Local Enterprise Offices have recently ran an event to recruit businesses to participate in Enterprise Europe Network with a view to producing profiles which will help them to expand into international markets. A similar programme is planned for a number of other LEO's in the coming months including Carlow and Kilkenny on 16th November and you can book your place by e-mail enterprise@carlowcoco.ie or phone 059 91 29783.

Mayo, Galway and Roscommon LEO's are busy working on a brokerage event attached to the forthcoming MeetWest event which takes place in Claremorris, Co Mayo on 24th November and provides an excellent opportunity to meet established businesses in the West of Ireland. Bookings can be made on www.meetwest.ie for this event.

The Donegal Local Enterprise Office team held their first brokerage event on 28th September in the Co-Lab at LYIT where a selection of local food business interests meet with some international colleagues who visited from Estonia, Finland, Greece, Northern Ireland, Poland and West Romania.

An Intellectual Property event took place in the Local Enterprise Office in Letterkenny on Thursday 13th October where information was available for small businesses and entrepreneurs on IP, copyright and patents.

Enquiries to Eileen Kelly, Enterprise Europe Network Co-ordinator by e-mail eileen.kelly@leo.donegalcoco.ie or by phone 074 91 60735. Sign up for our newsletter on our Irish consortium website <http://www.een-ireland.ie/>



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NICHE Project Launch

Donegal recently welcomed European delegates and guest speakers to a unique food conference in Letterkenny.

Hosted by Local Enterprise Office, Donegal County Council, the conference marked the launch of NICHE, a European project which aims to develop innovation in the food industry in seven European regions where food has been identified as key for jobs and economic growth.

The conference included a series of key talks as well as workshops and Q&A sessions. The next stage of the NICHE project will be to assess the current level of innovation among food businesses in each of the project partner regions, including Donegal.

Following this, the project will aim to facilitate collaboration among the project partners to further develop the level of innovation in the food sector in these regions.

For more information on the NICHE Project and to improve the level of innovation in your business, contact Patrick Devine, Local Enterprise Office, Donegal County Council.

For further information please contact: Eileen Kelly, Enterprise Europe Network Co-ordinator on 074 9160735, eileen.kelly@leo.donegalcoco.ie



Speakers at the NICHE conference included (l-r):

*Dr. Nils Dülfer - IMP³rove – European Innovation Management Academy,
James Burke – James Burke Associates, Brian Boyle – Donegal County Council,
Eve-Anne McCarron – Local Enterprise Office Donegal, Eunan Cunningham – WESTBIC,
Raluca Cibu-Buzac - Regional Development Agency West Region, Romania,
Dr. Séan Duffy – Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Pauline McGrellis – Nvolve Group,
Cathaoirleach Cllr. Terence Slowey – Donegal County Council
and Michael Tunney – Local Enterprise Office Donegal.*



Network meeting with Cultural Services Team

The EU unit met with the Cultural Services team in July 2016 to discuss opportunities to develop networks, funding and policy areas of relevance. The broad areas of the Museum, Libraries, Heritage, Archives, Arts and Regional Cultural Centre, are all areas where opportunities exist to explore new partnerships in the EU in relation to funding and also learning of best practice models and partnerships of value.



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The new Strategy launched by Cultural Services in 2016 and the projects and proposals contained therein were also discussed and will provide a useful information resource and tool for EU partners who are trying to locate and identify suitable Irish partners.

AER announces funding from the Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation

Donegal County Council is a member of the AER (Assembly of European Regions).

AER is the partner chosen by R20 and the Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation to select approximately 10 energy, waste and energy efficiency projects from AER member regions that require technical and financial support to be developed. This is part of a bigger initiative, aimed to identify 100 projects worldwide surrounding Financing Green solutions and AER has the opportunity of promoting the projects coming from European regions.



Donegal County Council in partnership with LYIT submitted two projects for consideration by AER:

- LED Street Lighting
- Tidal Energy and Renewable energy

Further information is awaited on these proposals from AER.

Please contact Agnese Pantaloni at a.pantaloni@are.eu for additional information on AER.

Mayo County Council and Local Enterprise Office meeting

The EU unit met with representatives from Mayo County Council earlier this year to share the experience of Donegal County Council in the EU unit. The meeting proved valuable in exploring common challenges in accessing EU funding and developing partnerships and networks of common interest. Sectoral interests including tourism, enterprise, culture and marine based developed are all examples of project areas which Mayo County Council are working on.

Donegal County Council and Mayo County Council are also partnering in a bid for funding for the EuroVelo Atlantic on Bike project, which has successfully passed the Stage 1 assessment process under the Interreg VB Atlantic Area programme.

For further information please contact EU unit Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9153900

PEACE IV Programme

The approval of the PEACE IV Action Plan by the Special European Union Programme Body (SEUPB) is a two stage process.

The Donegal PEACE IV Action Plan (Stage One Submission) was approved by the SEUPB Steering Committee on 12th September and subsequently Donegal County Council was invited to submit the Stage Two application. The Donegal Peace IV Action Plan (Stage 2 Submission) was submitted to the SEUPB on 23rd September by Donegal County Council.

The PEACE IV Action plan was prepared by the PEACE IV Partnership committee and informed by public consultation held during 2016. The PEACE IV Programme will build on the progress of previous Peace Programmes and the overall priority of the PEACE IV Programme is to promote social and economic stability by actions that promote cohesion between communities in Northern Ireland and the Border Region. The overall funding available for Donegal is €5.5 million divided over three themes:

Children and Young People	€1.17m
Shared Spaces	€0.97m
Building Positive Relations	€0.42m

For further information please contact Donegal County Council Peace IV office Tel.: 074 9153900



Online Survey

The EU unit recently took part in an online good practice guidelines survey for the EAGLE project. EnhAnsed Government LEarning (EAGLE) develops a digital learning solution for local authorities. This solution includes:

- a computer-aided learning platform that local authorities can use to acquire and share knowledge - with less constraints of time, place and costs than existing training courses entail
- a concept for learning that is tailored for local governments and makes use of the learning platform

- a plan of how to best introduce this concept and the learning platform in local governments.

The computer-aided learning platform is based on open source software and open educational resources (OER), which allows for easy use and re-use of material and generates relatively low costs for access to high- quality learning material. Within the learning platform, employees of local governments can search and find the learning material they need, it helps them to learn what they find and, eventually, also allows them to share their knowledge with others. EAGLE is eager to involve more local governments, particularly in the

validation phase. As part of the survey, platform users had to discuss the good practice guidelines for cross-EU collaboration. Participants rated the structure, detail, clarity and usability of the guidelines. Over the coming months, participants will also take part in an online forum to discuss their views.

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