



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

HERICOAST Project Underway

The HERICOAST project officially started on the 1st April 2016; the project will identify coastal settlements in County Donegal of unique character and examine the built, cultural, non-renewable, manmade & natural resources, traditions & lifestyle that form an essential part of the coastal landscape to encourage growth, particularly in the tourism sector. The project will build on the County's location within the wider maritime & fluvial regions of Europe that also exist in great diversity, yet show parallels in spatial & political challenges to Donegal.

The opening conference was held in Vest-Agder, Norway from the 21st to the 24th June; Donegal County Council have prepared and will be presenting material on the heritage value of the coastal region and are on the project steering committee that will set out the course of the project across the partner regions.

For further information please contact:
Clare McCallan / Alana Greene at the
Central Planning Unit Donegal
County Council Tel.: 074 9153900

Donegal Ireland
'Contae Dhún na nGall'

- Donegal is the most northerly county in Ireland with 1114km of Atlantic coastline.
- 4th largest of the 32 counties in Ireland.
- 180,000 population.
- Donegal shares a border of 140km with Northern Ireland and 51km with the Republic of Ireland - forming a unique cultural identity.
- Mountainous, wild and coastal, primarily a rural and diverse landscape.

Lough Bivv Castle Donegal informs the social, cultural, political, historical and built heritage of the county and region.

O'Donnell's Kings of Tyrconnell - Historic Region of the County.

Flight of the Bards Plantation of Ireland 1607 (following occupation of Ireland by the English).

Brooke family granted the title by the English and rebuilt Lough Bivv Castle 1858.

Castle was damaged by fire and restored as 5 star Hotel 2007.

Elizabethan style/Tudor Revival architectural style.

Stakeholders - private enterprise, community and statutory bodies.



Posters prepared by Donegal County Council for the opening conference in Vest-Agder, Norway

Interreg VB Atlantic Area Programme

The first call under the programme closed on the 31st of May 2016. Donegal County Council is lead or project partner in 5 projects under this programme. Stage 1 Expressions of Interests were submitted on May 31st and the Atlantic Area Joint Secretariat is now assessing these proposals. Successful applicants at stage 1 will be announced in September and will be invited to apply for stage 2 of the application process. Stage 2 applications for successful applicants will be submitted by 4th November 2016.



EUROVELO 1 ATLANTIC ON BIKE PROJECT

Working with Mayo and Sligo County Councils, Donegal County Council is a partner in a bid for Eurovelo 1 (Atlantic on Bike), 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 Sligo and Mayo into one overall EUROVELO route.

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

TIDES OF TIME PROJECT

ERNACT in partnership with Donegal County Council and other EU partners has been collaborating with a number of Atlantic Area regions, including Atlantic Canada, to prepare an application for the programme. The 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 aim is to improve policies for natural and cultural assets in Atlantic Regions as a driving force for economic development. 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. Four hundred and twenty five proposals were submitted to Step 1 of this call for projects so competition is high.

For further information please contact: Barney Mc Laughlin, Tel.: 0749153900 Email: barney.mclaughlin@donegalcoco.ie

TRAIL GAZERS PROJECT

The Trail Gazers partnership set 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 consists of 7 distinct and interrelated Work Packages, which collectively measure the economic and social impact from investing and creatively promoting identified trails, in areas of rich, natural and cultural heritage. 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. By sharing of partner experiences and knowledge the project will develop Destination Management Plans to preserve natural and cultural assets for future generations.

Finally, the project will also impact on policy makers with a framework that identifies the required levels of investment, programming and management required to assist trails to become more economically and socially driven, thus increasing and attracting more visitors to the Atlantic regions. The total project cost is €2,330,000 & the level of ERDF requested is €1,747,500. The project budget will be spread across 4 Atlantic Area regions consisting of 10 individual partners.

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

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, 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

RECONET 2020 PROJECT

The aim of the ReCONET 2020 project is to improve the protection and connectivity of biodiversity and assess payment for ecosystems services to improve water quality and conservation status. This project will compliment many of the actions required under the Water Framework. Donegal County Council is a partner in this project working with cross border (AFBI) and EU partners.

For further information please contact: Eadaoin Healy, Donegal County Council, Tel.: 074 9153900.

OWLS - Older Women Learning and Sharing

Donegal County Council have recently submitted a bid to the DEAR funding call Lot 4 "Global Learning Education and Campaigning and Advocacy Projects led by a local authority". The OWLS Project (Older Women Learning and Sharing) proposal is focused on the role of older women in societies and development education.

The proposed activities include:

- Assisting networks of older people to influence policy that impacts them and the SDG agenda, at local, regional, national and global levels.

- Seminars and resource production to assist in policy influencing by older people.
- Establish a forum to investigate the role that older women can play in mentoring younger members of society, with particular emphasis on fostering social inclusive societies.
- Develop web resources for ideas exchange.
- Conferences on themes such as migration, climate change, gender.
- Develop practical actions with local and global influence, in respect of independent living in older age that make use of DEAR principles.

This project will compliment the LADDER project that Donegal County Council is currently involved in and, if successful, would see Council lead

a project that will be dealing with the issues of migration, gender equality and climate change in a way that highlights the way local actions can impact globally.

Along with the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the project consortium consists of partners from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Croatia, Belgium, Spain and Romania. Donegal County Council awaits feedback from the Commission and hope that we can achieve a successful outcome and have the opportunity to work on Stage 2 in September.

For further information please contact: Charles Sweeney, Donegal County Council 074 9153900.



Minister for State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Joe McHugh, T.D., with participants at the LADDER National Level Training session for Elected Representatives and members of the Strategic Policy Committee held recently in Donegal.

Enterprise Ireland Marine Campus Incubation Centre Funding Call

Enterprise Ireland has opened a competitive Call to Third-Level Institutions for Expressions of Interest for the establishment of a Marine (including maritime) Campus Incubation Centre.

Applicant institutions should have a strong track record in research, industry collaborations and infrastructure in marine sectors. Letterkenny Institute of Technology is leading a bid to this call with a stage 1 closing date of 30th June. Successful applicants will

be invited to submit a stage 2 full application by 23rd September 2016.

Donegal County Council has attended a number of meetings along with key local stakeholders to discuss the bid and to share plans, strategies and projects underway within the Council and across the North West and cross border regions.

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



Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Lettír Ceanainn
Letterkenny Institute of Technology

WaterPro Project Commences

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 on the €2m project with Savonia University of Applied Sciences Ltd, Finland, [Lead Partner], Geological

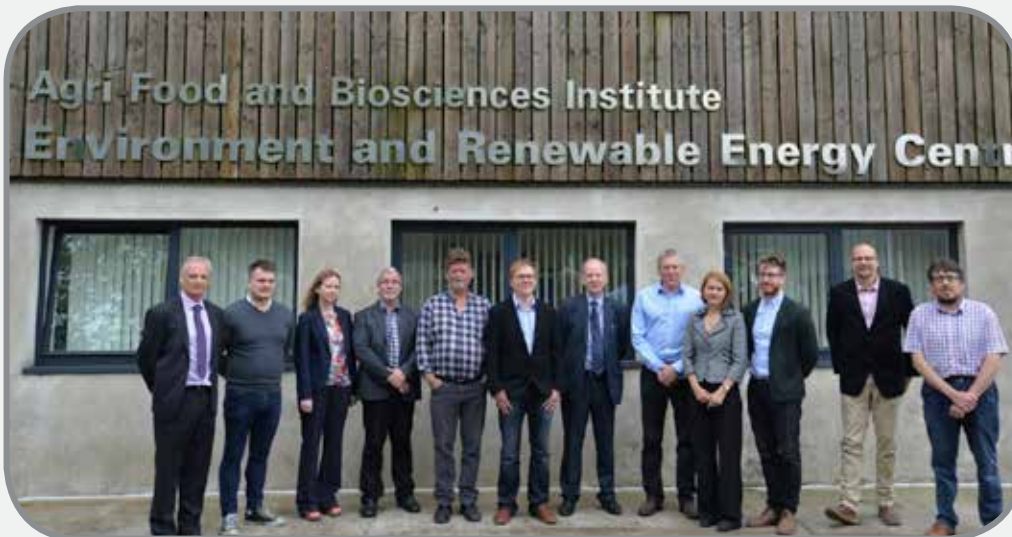


Survey of Finland, Agricultural University of Iceland, Lulea University of Technology, Sweden, Agricultural Agency, Faroe Islands, Lough Neagh Partnership, Magherafelt, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast and Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh.

Donegal County Council recently attended the WaterPro Project launch and first partner meeting at Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Hillsborough, Co Down and visited

the AFBI pilot site which aims to demonstrate the positive effects that SRC willow has on water quality when planted for riparian protection.

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



WaterPro Project Partners attend project launch in Hillsborough, Co Down



WaterPro Partners visit AFBI SRC Willow Pilot Site at Hillsborough

MalinWaters^o

The MalinWaters project continues to progress successfully with the delivery of the 2016 Marketing Plan well underway with important input from project partners.

A new and updated version of the MalinWaters map has been produced, which now includes new listings for facilities such as Killybegs and Bunagee, plus new tourist attractions in all other regions.

A Google Ad Words campaign rolled out by award winning agency Wolfgang Digital is delivering significant traffic to the website. Three new MalinWaters videos are in production and will be launched very soon and promoted via a YouTube campaign. Facebook continues to grow with over 8200 likes and a much larger reach of several thousand key target audiences.

A content creation strategy has been deployed with a view to providing new, updated, relevant and interesting content for the MalinWaters website that will engage audiences and nurture social sharing and brand awareness. MalinWaters is promoted at several key strategic events throughout the 2016 calendar including the Northern England Boat Show where MalinWaters took a promotional stand in conjunction with project partners Visit Derry. This event was a huge success with all regions promoted across the MalinWaters to key

marine tourism target markets. MalinWaters has also been promoted at events such as Sea Symposium, West Highland Yachting Week, Rosses Point Sea Shanty Festival and many more, with MalinWaters providing key marketing and financial support. A partner meeting will be held in the autumn and a full report on marketing results provided at that time.

For further information contact:
Joy Harron, Marine Marketing Development Officer, Donegal Tourism Ltd donegalmarinetourism@gmail.com



Joy Harron at MalinWaters promotional stand at the Northern England Boat Show 2016



Project partners at the steering group and partner meetings in Joensuu, Finland May 2016

SECURE (Smarter Energy Communities in Northern & Arctic Regions) is a €1.8 million euro project part-funded by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme.

It is led by ERNACT, with Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council as the other Irish and UK partners. SECURE also has project partners in Sweden, Finland, Faroe Islands and Canada.

The 3-year project officially kicked off in Joensuu (Finland) on 17-May. This brought the project partners together for their first steering group and partner meetings.

The project also hosted a seminar - Towards Energy Efficient Northern Societies - where participants shared knowledge, examined good energy practices and made transnational links on a number of key issues specifically related to awareness raising and societal support.

The project kick-off has equipped partners with practical strategies, verified techniques and transnational knowhow to ensure positive outcomes and results over the next three years.



European Union
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in your future



Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme
2014-2020

CAMBER Project (Centre for Advanced Marine & Bio-Energy Research)



Donegal County Council is a project partner in a bid for funding under the Research and Innovation measure of Interreg VA. The lead partner is CASE (Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy), located at Queen’s University Belfast.

The CAMBER project (and the five partner research institutions - Queen’s University Belfast, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, University of Highlands and Islands, Ulster University, Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute) along with Donegal County Council as project partner, will recruit 50 PhD students from across the cross border region (and 6 Post-Doctoral Research Associates).

CAMBER will support industry-led applied/pre-commercial collaborative research on a cross-border, interregional basis that is focused on two specific forms of renewable energy, which are considered to have the greatest sustainable potential & widest applicability in the region:

- Marine renewable energy
- Bio-energy

An expression of interest was submitted to the SEUPB on 6th May and the project has successfully been approved at stage 1 and has been invited to submit a stage 2 business case in August 2016

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

CatchmentCARE Project



Donegal County Council acting as the lead partner for the CatchmentCARE project recently submitted a Business Plan for Stage 2 of the Interreg VA cross-border funding programme with a decision expected from SEUPB by the end of July 2016.

The bid for funding is being made under the Environment measure, specific objective 2.4: To improve freshwater quality in cross-border

river basins. As Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland share three International river basins a coordinated, cross-border approach to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive is needed.

The CatchmentCARE project has identified actions that go above and beyond those that agencies already have a statutory obligation to undertake and 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, Email: jholmes@donegalcoco.ie



Donegal County Council - LADDER National Training Event

Donegal County Council held the first of its LADDER National Training Sessions in Galway on the 13th and 14th of June. The LADDER project is an EU funded project that aims to raise awareness about the role local communities can have in achieving more just and fair Global Development.

Donegal County Council have been undertaking a number of local training

sessions and issues such as water access, climate change, forestry, food waste, gender equality, environmental protection and promotion - are all concerns of local communities but also of the Global Community.

The programme seeks to investigate those links and promote action through community projects. Working with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which were launched by the United Nations in 2016, the training sessions investigate the current and potential links that Local Authorities and other Civil Society

Organisations can use to empower them you to take ownership of the SDG agenda.

The training was facilitated by Patsy Toland from Gorta Self Help Africa and the participants heard from a number of key note speakers including: Sara Bourke, Social Justice Ireland, Abe Jacob, a retired Acting Director of Service from South Dublin County Council, Ronan Scully, Gorta Self Help Africa and Elaine Nevin Eco Unesco.

For further information please contact Joanne Kilmartin, Donegal County Council, Tel.: 0749153900



Participants at the National Training Sessions in Galway



LADDER project Steering Committee Meeting Paris

Representatives of Donegal County Council recently attended the second LADDER steering Committee meeting held in Paris in May. The delegates were welcomed by Nikos Gamouras, project manager of LADDER, who presented to the committee the overall picture of implementation of the project activities.

Day one of the working meeting covered LADDER targets and the monitoring strategy and evaluation plan for the project. On day two the committee discussed the success of the local and national training events organised by the Local Authorities and allowed delegates discuss any pending issues regarding the implementation of the project and the LADDER Roadmap.

For further information please contact Joanne Kilmartin, Donegal County Council, Tel.: 0749153900



WILDSEA Europe information session

A WILDSEA Europe information session took place in the Carndonagh Public Services Centre where local stakeholders in the sector had the opportunity to find out more about the project. The feedback from the WILDSEA Europe Information Session was very positive in relation to the project with the majority of businesses going on to register their listing on the new WILDSEA Europe website at www.wildsea.eu

There was a lot of interest in wildlife watching as a tourism concept and as a means for local businesses to diversify their offerings for visitors to Donegal. The project partners also attended the session in Carndonagh and were delighted to meet with local providers and also enjoyed a tour of Malin Head and Inishtrahull Island with the National Parks & Wildlife Association. During this tour,

a lot of filming was carried out as a new video promoting the WILDSEA Europe project will be launched in early July. Businesses registered as part of WILDSEA Europe who are listed on the website will be promoted across Europe to a large target audience via promotional events, online marketing and collaboration with other EU project networks.

This project continues to progress successfully towards a common goal of increasing ocean literacy through responsible tourism. WILDSEA Europe is a joint initiative of European tourism operators, public administrations and NGOs, co-funded

by the COSME programme of the European Union through the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The lead partner for the project is Travelecoology – Breakaway Travel SL (Spain) and along with Donegal County Council, the project is made up of partners from Italy, Croatia, Spain and the UK.

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



Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union



Participants in the WILDSEA Europe information session in Carndonagh 2016



Cool Route Project meeting in Glasgow

Partners of the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme funded Cool Route project recently held a number of meetings hosted by the Moffatt Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development at Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland on the 21st and 22nd of April 2016. The two day Cool Route project event included in depth talks amongst project partners on day 1, and on day 2 a stakeholder workshop with open discussion around the project took place. Donegal County Council provided an overview of the ongoing work in communications and dissemination of project information, with particular emphasis on the utilisation of digital marketing channels to raise awareness of the NPA Cool Route project.

Overall the Cool Route project meetings were extremely productive and provided

partners with valuable partner, associate partner and stakeholder input, which will be of great assistance in the continued and ongoing development of the project. Dr Breda Kenny, Head of the Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence at lead partner educational institution CIT, said *“ongoing stakeholder engagement across the route is key to exploiting the economic potential of the Cool Route project. The focus is on bringing new business opportunities to a wide range of industries, ranging from operators of port facilities to local boatyards, cafes and restaurants, outdoor activity, heritage cultural and other visitor attractions throughout the Cool Route”*.

Donegal County Council continues to deliver a successful social media campaign with the growing influence and reach of the Cool Route Facebook and Twitter pages. PR campaigns, e-mail newsletters, press releases and blog articles also continue to be produced and are raising awareness of the Cool Route project across a wide audience. The next meeting is due to take place in Derry-Londonderry in October 2016.

For further information contact: Joy Harron, Marine Marketing Development Officer Donegal Tourism Ltd donegalmarinetourism@gmail.com



Cool Route project partners at the recent gathering at Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland April 2016

ERUDITE Project

This is a new project participated by ERNACT and that will directly input into the development of the Donegal Digital Action Plan.

ERUDITE undertakes the design of new services supported by open innovation processes involving and

empowering businesses, citizens and public administrations; thereby stimulating demand and local innovation capacity potential, enabling stakeholders to be partners in the creation and operation of services that improve territorial potential.

To increase understanding of the design, operation and impacts

of services, the Open Innovation process will be supported by Social and Economic Return on Investment (SEROI) studies providing data to illustrate global social and economic impacts and support more targeted investments.

The project has started in April 2016 and it's now defining the framework where the aforementioned processes will be developed in the partner regions.

For further information please contact: ianire.renobales@ernact.eu



This is a project led by ERNACT and with the participation of Donegal County Council and Derry and Strabane District Council that was approved in the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme.

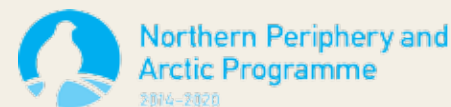
With a total budget of €1.5 million and €560,000 specifically ring fenced to benefit the North West region, **IMPROVE** aims to increase the level of innovation in the six partner regions in the field of technology-driven public service solutions.

It adapts a novel living labs-driven approach to maximise knowledge transfer between regions and stakeholders. The partners are currently using the co-production methodology defined in the project to identify and prepare their facilitators to lead the process to create the public services with their community. The partner regions will pilot these services mainly grouped under the planning and eHealth areas. The next project event is planned to take place in October 2016 in Donegal.

For further information please contact: ianire.renobales@ernact.eu



Vasternorrland (Sweden) partners and local champions 2016



Interreg VA Sustainable transport Call - North West Greenways Network



Donegal County Council along with lead Partner Derry City & Strabane District council have recently submitted a Business Plan for Stage 2 of the Interreg VA cross-border funding programme with a decision expected from SEUPB by the end of July 2016.

This project aligns with the Operational programme to develop physical cross border greenway and walking routes at three strategic locations; Derry- Letterkenny via Bridgend, Derry- Lifford via Strabane and Derry-

Muff. The project is the result of close collaboration with project partners including Sustrans and Department of Infrastructure (formerly Regional Development) NI.

The project aims to develop approx 40km of infrastructure utilising new lands, existing footpaths and old railways lines for the majority of the routes to affect a modal shift in cross border vehicular behaviour.

Additional benefits such a project will bring to the region in addition to sustainable transport & carbon reduction, is that Greenway infrastructure can contribute to other policy themes such as environment, civic pride, social community engagement, recreation, health & tourism.

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

ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK - Local Enterprise Office

Work is on-going on the publicity of the Enterprise Europe Network and training of staff. Some Donegal Local Enterprise Office executives have met with colleagues in Scotland for profile writing training and delivered that to most of their colleagues around the country while others have been to Brussels for finance training which will be passed on at the next Local Enterprise Network meeting.

Work is on-going with our Northern Ireland colleagues in Invest NI organising some cross border events for the mutual benefit of our clients. A project review was carried out last month and proposals have been submitted for the next 2 year programme. All the time, recruitment of clients is on-going along with looking

for business opportunities that might help some clients expand their existing business.

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



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Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office





**EUROPEAN FEDERATION
OF NAUTICAL TOURISM DESTINATIONS**



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



Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

FEDETON General Assembly Meeting takes place in Donegal

FEDETON (The EU Federation of Nautical Tourism Destinations) held their General Assembly Meeting in Donegal Town hosted by Donegal County Council and Donegal Tourism Ltd and attended by the FEDETON President, Mr. Bernard Faucon.

The General Assembly meeting took place on 7th July 2016 with delegates attending from France, Spain, Italy, Croatia and a number of other EU countries. Donegal Cathaoirleach Cllr.

Terence Slowey and Donegal County Council Chief Executive Seamus Neely welcomed the delegates to Donegal.

The event provided an opportunity to showcase County Donegal to FEDETON and promote the county as a marine tourism destination of excellence. This event also provides a platform to discuss potential future EU marine tourism projects and collaborations with important and

influential networks such as FEDETON. Delegates enjoyed a tour of Donegal's marine tourism assets including St. John's Point, Killybegs, Sliabh Liag, Glencolmcille and other hidden gems of our county.

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



Donegal Cathaoirleach Cllr. Terence Slowey with speakers and attendees at the Marine Tourism Seminar

Donegal Marine Tourism Seminar

On Friday 8th July Donegal County Council in association with Donegal Tourism Ltd hosted a marine tourism themed seminar with keynote speakers from the sector and attended by businesses from across Donegal who engage in marine tourism activities. The seminar was funded by Donegal County Council, MalinWaters and with support provided by the Marine Institute and funded under the Marine Research Sub-programme by the Irish Government.

Topics presented on the day included EU and other funding opportunities for tourism providers and a case study of local marine tourism business Inish Adventures. Dr. Peter Bolan from the University of Ulster talked about harnessing the power of digital for your marine tourism business and Alan Rankin from Clogach Consulting presented on the Scottish marine tourism strategy 'Awakening the Giant'. Other speakers included Olivia Crossan from An Taisce's Clean Coast initiative and Joy Harron, Marine Tourism Officer with Donegal Tourism.

A Q&A session took place at the end of the day offering attendees the opportunity to discuss marine tourism topics with the expert panel of speakers.

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

EUROVELO Workshop – Atlantic On Bike



Irish partners attending the workshop, Robert Coyne Mayo County Council, Michael Carty Sligo County Council Cllr. Michael Holmes Mayo County Council & Trevor Scanlon Donegal County Council 2016

On May 24th the EU unit attended a technical writing workshop along with fellow Irish partners Mayo and Sligo County Councils. The workshop took place in Biarritz and was attended by all the partners from Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland and Norway. During the workshop project partners developed each of the work packages in preparation for the stage 1 application deadline of May 31st to the Interreg VB Atlantic Area Programme.

The project focuses on the Eurovelo cycling route and provides opportunities to enhance the connectivity of the route from Portugal

through Norway. There exists a considerable tourism potential with a unique and untapped resource.

The project provides an opportunity to improve this situation and to diversify the tourism products and services on offer, while unlocking the huge potential in terms of natural and cultural heritage offered by the selected areas, by structuring a competitive offer, identifying the right demand and implementing an efficient business plan strategic approach to the route.

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

Meeting with Údarás na Gaeltachta

The EU unit held a meeting with Údarás na Gaeltachta on 16th June.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Údarás to learn of the model which been operated by the Council to attract EU funding, develop EU networks of benefit to the Council and inform EU policies and future funding programmes. Information on the range of social, cultural, community and economic projects underway was provided.

The meeting proved beneficial in providing an opportunity for knowledge exchange and collaboration around areas of common interest.

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



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Údarás na Gaeltachta

EU unit meeting with the Dolmen Centre Committee

At the request of the Water and Environment section of Donegal County Council, the EU unit met with representatives of the Dolmen Centre committee.

The Narin, Portnoo, Rosbeg Community Co-Operative Society Limited came into being in 1994, and through local fund raising and several grants, constructed the Dolmen Centre in 2000.

When the Dolmen Centre was constructed in 2000 it hosted a number of novel technologies namely, Solar Panels, Geothermal underfloor heating, a Reed Bed sewerage treatment system, and a 5Kw wind turbine.

The EU unit had been asked to provide information to the centre on potential EU funding sources under the theme of energy efficiency, carbon reduction and

sustainable development. Arising from the meeting links are being established between the group and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly with a view towards identifying potential EU funding and partner networks of interest.

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



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Donegal EU unit attendance at SPC meeting

On 21st June 2016, the EU unit was invited to attend the Community, Social and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee meeting. Members of the SPC requested that the EU unit provide summary reports of activity and work programmes to their meetings.

A detailed report was provided to the members with an update on the work of the EU Unit during Quarter 2 2016 under the three headings of:

1. External Funding
2. Networks/Collaboration, and
3. Policy work.

Information was provided to members on the funding bids underway, recent approvals and plans for the second half of 2016. Important and valuable

networking and policy work was also highlighted to the committee. The EU unit acknowledge the role of the SPC and the elected council in supporting the ongoing programme of work being undertaken by the EU unit. The next report on activity will be submitted in October 2016.

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

PEACE IV Programme

The recently established LCDC PEACE IV Partnership is as a sub-committee of the Local Community Development Committee and has been tasked with leading the development and implementation of a two stage Peace IV Action Plan for County Donegal. This Plan will address a targeted and locally based response to the needs that have been identified in the PEACE IV Cooperation Programme 2014 – 2020. The Donegal PEACE IV Action

Plan has been given an indicative figure of €5.5 million to deliver a range of actions under the following 3 objectives:

- Children and Young People
- Shared Spaces & Services
- Building Positive Relations

A stage 1 application has been developed and submitted to the Special EU Programmes' Body (SEUPB) in response to the need to build upon the success of the PEACE III programme and further embed Peace and Reconciliation within the ever changing demographic and dynamic within and beyond County Donegal. In order to ensure that the indicative actions are representative of current and anticipated community needs and aspirations, six public consultation events were delivered at the end of June to refine proposals and seek feedback on intervention options for inclusion within the plan. These events are being supported by an online

survey providing additional opportunity for feedback on community priorities and needs for future activities.

The survey is available at the following link until 22nd July 2016:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B2P99NF>

Following this process, a Stage 2 application will be developed in conjunction with the PEACE IV Partnership and submitted to the Special EU Programmes' Body for consideration in early September 2016.

For further information please contact:
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Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council



Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014 - 2020 Programme – Fourth Call Announcement

1st May – 30th November 2016

The Fourth Call for main project applications is open from the May 1st 2016. In connection to the outcome of the UK referendum, it has been decided to extend the Fourth Call deadline by 2 months, from September 30th until November 30th 2016.

The call is open for all 4 Priority Axes. However, Terms of Reference have been formulated encouraging applicants to address specific actions, target groups, and sectors.

The Monitoring Committee will decide on Fourth Call applications approximately 2-3 months after the call deadline has been agreed. Details about the call including the Terms of Reference can be found in the Fourth Call Announcement, which applicants must read carefully.

Applications must be submitted through an electronic monitoring system (eMS), which is available on the link: www.ems.interreg-npa.eu. The application pack with all necessary supporting documents can be found on the right-hand side and in eMS.

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



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014-2020



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund

Atlantic Stakeholder Conference, Dublin, 27 September 2016

The third Atlantic Stakeholder Conference will be held in Croke Park, Dublin on the 27th September 2016. This annual conference aims to bring together stakeholders for the Atlantic Strategy to make contacts and explore areas for cooperation, share information and best practice, and identify possible project ideas and funding opportunities.

The conference will be focused on Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Atlantic area in line with Priority one of the Atlantic Area Strategy and it will also seek to

give prominence to the international dimension of the strategy and its potential for the Blue Economy.

This year's conference will be opened by Mr. Michael Creed, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Mr. Karmenu Vella, the EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

The conference agenda also includes the presentation of the Atlantic Project Awards which will recognize outstanding achievements in the field of sustainable "Blue Growth".

Registration for attendance is free and is now open at the following link: <http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/news-and-events/news/atlantic-stakeholder-conference-dublin-ireland>.

For more information please contact:
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