

North-South Seminar on European Funding for Environmental Science

Wednesday 9th March 2011

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Introduction

- Current Programmes
- Procurement
- Future funding and North South Cooperation

Cohesion Policy: Current EU Objectives

- Total available budget for 2007-13 = €347billion
- Convergence €282.8 billion and 81.5% share of Cohesion Policy Budget
- Competitiveness €55 billion and 16% share of Cohesion Policy Budget
- Cooperation (or “INTERREG”) €8.7 billion and 2.5% share of Cohesion Policy Budget
 - Comprises: Cross Border, Transnational, Interregional

Current Programmes

- Competitiveness and Employment €1028 million
- PEACE III €333 million
- INTERREG IVA Cross Border Cooperation €256 million
- Despite budget situation, there is no risk to the future of these programmes.
- We aim to maximum our drawdown of all available EU funding, especially under these programmes

Previous INTERREG Programmes

- Four years into our fourth Cross Border Cooperation Programme
- INTERREG I & II not as fully cross border as we would have wanted
- INTERREG IIIA – clearly cross border as is INTERREG IVA

INTERREG IVA

- Only NI EU funding Programme to have an increased budget
- £225 million (€256m) budget
- Participation of Western Scotland
- Focus on strategic projects
- Local element
- Environment
 - Environment Theme €20 million
 - Ex ante environmental assessment
 - Projects are assessed for environmental impact
 - Programme evaluation looks at environmental impacts

INTERREG IVB & C

- NI eligible for 3 EU Transnational Programmes (Atlantic Area, Northern Periphery & North West Europe) as well as INTERREG IVC Interregional Programme.
- Funds are awarded competitively to partnerships of organisations from at least 3 Member States.
- All these Programmes cover a range of themes which include the Environment.

INTERREG IVB & C

- Remaining funding is likely to be allocated in next 12 months. Most of the available funding remains in the North West Europe Programme with over €120 Million left to be awarded in this programme.
- NIEA are working closely with DFP and SEUPB in developing a project idea under the NWE Programme. It is expected that this will be submitted for approval under a future call for projects.

INTERREG IVB & C

Example Project already funded: IMCORE

Programme: NWE

Project partner: University of Ulster

Countries Involved :UK, Holland, Ireland, Belgium & France

Number of Partners: 17

Project Objective:

Innovative management to adapt coastal areas to Climate Change

The IMCORE partnership will promote a **trans-national, innovative and sustainable approach** to reducing the Ecological, Social and Economic impacts of climate change on the coastal resources of North West Europe by developing a methodology and templates to aid Coastal Managers across the region.

Procurement Principles

- Transparency in policy and its delivery.
- Integrity, fairness and consistency when dealing with suppliers and potential suppliers.
- Purchasing by competition unless there are convincing reasons to the contrary.
- Compliance with EU, national and other legal requirements.

Future EU Funding: Fifth Cohesion Report

- The Fifth Cohesion Report marks the formal start of the process which will set the rules and objectives for European Funding in the period 2014-2020
- Cohesion report and Budget allocations
- UK Government position on the Budget and potential sources of NI funding

Cohesion Policy & Europe 2020

- Cohesion Policy and link with the Europe 2020 economic strategy
- Europe 2020 aims to promote “smart, **sustainable** and inclusive growth”
- Environmental sustainability will remain an overriding or ‘horizontal’ principle of future Cohesion Policy
- Environmental Proofing

New Funding Round : Cross Border Cooperation (i)

- Securing a fifth round of EU Cross Border funding under the INTERREG / Co-operation Objective remains a priority of the Northern Ireland Executive
- While other forms of co-operation (transnational, interregional, macro-regional) are important, we believe that cross border cooperation should retain primacy and receive the largest share of the available cooperation funding.
- We will put the case at three levels: UK, EU Member State, and European Commission.

New Funding Round : Cross Border Cooperation (ii)

- All this is speculative!
- EU to agree a budget for Cooperation Objective before end-2012.
- Member states to receive details of their allocations by end-2012 or early 2013.
- Member states then allocate their allocations to their cross border programmes, probably first half of 2013.
- Regions like Northern Ireland develop their programmes, 2013 and early 2014.

Development Path Analysis

- Introduced in 2000-2006 Structural Funds Programmes and is implemented in the current 2007-13 Programmes
- Role of DPA within EU Funding Programmes
- Development Path Analysis - Development Paths
 - **Path A:** Actions that promote activities that simply meet environmental regulations.
 - **Path B:** Actions that clean up the mess from past activities or actions that promotes physical regeneration.
 - **Path C:** Actions that put in place environmental infrastructure to reduce the negative environmental impact of development activities.
 - **Path D:** Actions that help organisations to meet increasing environmental standards.
 - **Path E:** Actions that improve the resource efficiency (“eco-efficiency”) of existing activities.
 - **Path F:** Actions that support, as well as encourage, new types of activity or behaviour using fewer environmental resources, or producing less pollution, than existing activities in the area.

Conclusions

- Cohesion Report and EU Budget will form the basis for negotiations on next round of EU funding.
- Expect the EU to push for a stronger urban agenda and enterprise creation.
- But environmental sustainability will remain as an overarching priority.
- We will make the case for EU funding in Northern Ireland, including a further cross border cooperation programme.