



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projecks

# ***INTERREG Funding - “Opportunities & Challenges”***

**Pat Colgan,  
Chief Executive  
Special EU Programmes Body**



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund  
Investing in your future

# INTERREG IVA PROGRAMME



A €256 million cross-border programme which aims to:

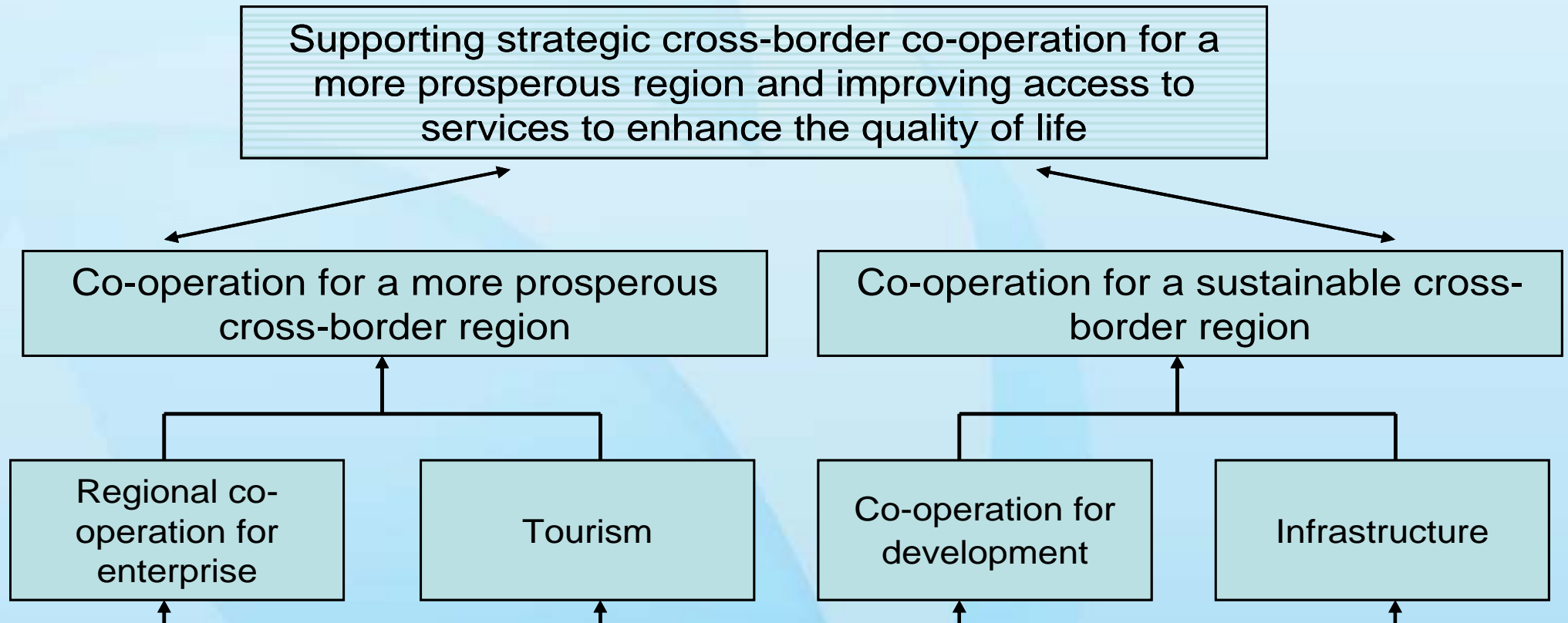
- Strengthen and deepen cross-border cooperation by supporting strategic plans and projects which maximise the impact of the funds.
- Support strategic cross-border cooperation for a more prosperous region.
- Improve access to services to enhance the quality of life for those living in the eligible area.

# INTERREG IVA - Eligible Area

- Northern Ireland
- Border Region of Ireland
- Western Scotland



# INTERREG IVA - Programme Structure



# INTERREG IVA - Infrastructure theme

## Infrastructure

- **Aim:** Support cross-border infrastructure in the areas of telecommunications, transport, energy and utilities and the environment.
- Will address **environmental protection** issues, the development of **alternative energy** sources and the **reduction of carbon** emissions.
  - **Value of theme:** €75m
  - **% Committed:** 79%
  - **Value remaining:** €15.8m



# BioMara

- **BioMara:** Research project to investigate the potential of sea algae as a source of renewable bio-fuel.
- Project being led by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).
- Huge implications for the renewable energy market.
- ERDF Assistance: €6m



Michele Stanley, lead scientist on the Bio-Mara Project at SAMS

# ISLES Project

- **ISLES Project:** (Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study) a feasibility study on the creation of an off-shore energy grid.
- Investigate the use of wind, wave and tidal energy based off the cost of Western Scotland and the Irish Sea.
- Project will identify the challenges in creating, storing and transporting the electricity created from these renewable sources.
- ERDF Assistance: £1.6m



# Tellus Border

- **Tellus Border:** a scientific assessment and management of wetlands, soil-carbon and ground-pollution.
- The project will improve cross-border collaboration in the management of earth resources and the environment.
- The project area includes Northern Ireland, and the Border Counties of Ireland.
- ERDF Assistance: £4m



# C.I.R.B. Project

- **C.I.R.B:** (Controlling priority Invasive species and Restoring native Biodiversity) is an environmental protection project.
- It will control or eradicate invasive plant species such as giant hogweed, rhododendron, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam.
- ERDF Assistance: £2.6m



# INTERREG IVB and IVC

- SEUPB facilitates North/South participation in all:
  - Interregional Programmes
  - Transnational Programmes
    - North West Europe Programme
    - Atlantic Area Programme
    - Northern Periphery Programme
- Programme results to date:
  - 38 approved transnational and interregional projects (€7m ERDF)
  - 19 projects have Northern Ireland / Ireland partners
  - Projects include RASLRES; MICRe and IMCORE.



# Europe 2020 Strategy

## EU-wide objectives:

- Employment
- R&D / innovation
- **Climate change / energy**
- Education
- Poverty / social exclusion



**National plans and objectives currently in development**

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# Climate Change / Energy

## EU - “20-20-20” Targets:-

- **20%** reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- **20%** of energy consumption from renewable resources.
- **20%** reduction in primary energy by improving energy efficiency.

Potential to increase the emissions reduction to 30%, if other countries in the developed worlds commit to a global climate agreement.



# Challenges for New Programmes

- Key Strategic Fit with new EU policy priorities
    - Globalisation
    - Demographic Change
    - Climate Change
    - Energy Supply
  - Address specific needs of the region
  - Demonstrate impact and added value of initiatives
  - Stricter controls and evaluation in place
  - Consideration given to long-term sustainability of the initiatives
  - Imminent **President Barroso** EC Taskforce visit to NI offers new competitive funding opportunities.
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**Thank you**

**Any Questions?**



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