Donegal County Council
EU Unit
Project Development Overview

24th November 2015
Glenlo Abbey, Galway

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Presentation Outline

1. Role and Function of Donegal County Council EU Unit
2. Our EU Networks and Collaboration work
3. Marine Tourism Objectives
4. Examples of Previous EU projects
5. Atlantic area programme planning 2014-2020
   - Tides of Time
   - Trailgazers
   - NEA 3
EU Unit Role and Function

Donegal County Council established a European Unit in 2009. The role of the Unit is:

1. To maximise all opportunities to attract external funding and resources to the County

2. To seek to develop Networks of benefit to Donegal County Council

3. To raise the profile of EU affairs

“External funding opportunities will continue to be pursued. A dedicated External Funding Unit is currently in place in the organisation and this Unit will have a key role to play in targeting and securing external funds that will contribute to the delivery of this Plan....The Council will continue to target external funding opportunities to improve quality of life opportunities and to support economic recovery in Donegal.”

Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2015 -2019
The EU unit has three Core Areas of Work as follows:

1. Networking and Collaboration
2. External Funding
3. Policy Work
OUR EU NETWORKS AND COLLABORATION

LADDER
Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Raising Awareness

Coral
Regional Policies for Active and Healthy Ageing
www.coral-europe.eu

Assembly of European Regions

Northern & Western Regional Assembly

European Federation of Nautical Tourism Destinations

Irish Regions Brussels Office

Southern Regional Assembly
Promoting our Region

Europe Direct

Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

ERNACT
Our Marine Tourism Vision

“County Donegal has significant potential to develop water-based tourism. The vision is to promote County Donegal as a Marine Tourism destination of excellence and develop a world class network of tourism activities and a unique total Marine Tourism visitor experience”.
Marine Tourism Objectives

- Implement our Marine and Coastal Tourism Strategy
- Implement our Marine Tourism Marketing Plan
- Scope out Marine Themed Projects
- Work with all Stakeholders in Coastal Communities
- Develop a Marine Tourism Network
- Undertake Tourism marketing - Advertising, Press Releases, Online PR
Our Marine & Coastal Tourism Strategy

- Develop Infrastructure, Facilities & Services
- Expand Cruise Opportunities
- Undertake Marketing & Promotion
- Provide Training & Support to SME’s
Marine Tourism Project Examples

- **Sail West Project** – capital investment in ports and marinas – 7mn – Ireland, N.Ireland and Scotland  INTERREG IVA
- **Sliabh Liag** – iconic tourism attraction 5mn INTERREG IVA and other funds
- **Atlantic Drift** - tourism promotional route linking N. Ireland Derry – Limavady and Donegal  INTERREG IIIA
- **Donegal Diaspora Project**- investment promotion of Donegal abroad INTERREG IIIA
- **River Links Project** –development of canals, waterways INTERREG IVA (N. Ireland Foyle Wetlands)
- **WILDSEA Europe** – biodiversity and marine life COSME EASME
- **Cool Route** – yacht and sailing routes – NPA programme
The **Sail West** project aims to develop marine tourism within the shared maritime regions of North West Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland. The project was funded by the EU INTERREG IVA cross border programme. It is led by Donegal County Council and partners in each of the three regions. Excellent progress has been made to date in promoting the **MalinWaters** brand, which emerged as a result of the Sail West project. Investment has been made across the region in maritime related infrastructure.
1) **Bunagee** – Safe Haven/Boat Station €1.6m
2) **River Foyle Access Study** €34k
3) **Portrush Harbour** – feasibility study €168k
4) **Ballycastle** – marina services building €696k
5) **Stranraer** – marina services building €597k
6) **Girvan Harbour**, pontoon/berths €462k
7) **Maidens Harbour**, technical study €60k
8) **Largs** – championship slipway €336k
9) **Campbeltown** – feasibility study €224k
10) **Loch Fyne, Strachur** – pontoon €120k
11) **L Fyne, Otter Ferry** – pontoon/bothy €132k
12) **Crinan Canal** – shore based facilities €246k
13) **Lochaber region** – feasibility study €47k
14) **Lochaline** – pontoon/berths €224k
15) **Mallaig** – pontoon/berths €671k
Marine Tourism Project Examples

- **Sail West Project 2010-2015** – capital investment in ports and marinas – 7mn – Ireland, N.Ireland and Scotland  INTERREG IVA
- **Sliabh Liag 2010-2015** – iconic tourism attraction 5mn INTERREG IVA and other funds
- **Atlantic Drift** - 2007 tourism promotional route linking N. Ireland Derry – Limavady and Donegal  INTERREG IIIA
- **Donegal Diaspora Project 2007** - investment promotion of Donegal abroad INTERREG IIIA
- **River Links Project 2013-2015** – development of canals, waterways  INTERREG IVA (N. Ireland Foyle Wetlands)
- **Wild Sea Europe 2015** – biodiversity and marine life COSME EASME
- **Cool Route 2015** – yacht and sailing routes – NPA programme
EU Projects In Development
Overview by Joy Harron
Donegalal Tourism Ltd

MalinWaters°
Tides of Time
Tides of Time - Programme Priorities

Priority Axis 4

Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.

Specific Objective 4 (d)

Preserving and promoting the Atlantic’s cultural heritage, combating seasonality, improving prospects for SME’s through diversification of maritime and coastal tourism products and development of niche markets by investing in:

Protecting & restoring tourist attractions including coastal and underwater cultural attractions, maritime heritage sites with archaeological, ecological or historical value.
Tides of Time - Project Vision

- To provide smart, sustainable and inclusive growth & development in the Tourism and Education Sector of coastal and insular destinations in the Atlantic Area.
- Support local, national and European policies & competitiveness in line with the Blue Economy and the priorities of the EU Action Plan for Maritime Strategy.
- Revitalisation of Coastal communities by providing a new means of stimulating economic and social improvement and job creation through tourism and education.
- Promote transnational co-operation and create a co-operative network of partners building relationships and understanding of maritime historic events in each region.
Tides of Time - Project Vision

- Research, identify, restore and conserve sites of maritime heritage, archaeological and historical significance with particular reference to maritime conflicts through the years.
- Develop a maritime heritage trail linking heritage sites, underwater attractions and coastal sites with historical and archaeological value and deploy a marketing campaign and reduce tourism seasonality by providing a wide range of activities.
- Develop a suite of technology elements to promote the trail i.e. website, interactive map and mobile app.
- Enhance skill levels, encourage inclusion and increase wellbeing of communities and private sector groups by providing an alternative source of employment in coastal areas and islands through new opportunities created by this project.
Tides of Time - Project Outputs

- Maritime History & Conflict Trail
- Island Heritage
- WW 1, WW2, Spanish Armada & other events
- Conservation of Historic Maritime Sites
- Marketing, Promotion, Signage
- Activities – boat tours, wreck diving etc.
- Community Ambassadors - Training
Trail Gazers Project
Led by Donegal County Council.

Project currently in development.

Aim to transfer the learning, technology and experience from the SPACEialNW project Spaceialnw.eu.

SPACEialNW a digital mapping tool developed in the North West region of Ireland.

Develop an online ‘Trail Gazers Application’.

Virtual tour of walking and recreational trails.

Action data capture and comparability across different jurisdictions.
Trailgazers - Project Vision

- Identify existing, planned and potential recreational walking routes.
- Explore the best approach to using technology to enhance activity.
- Identify approved accommodation, attractions and activities.
- Enhance the visitors experience of everything recreational routes have to offer.
- Promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.
CAPITEN 2020 (NEA3)
CAOITEN 2020 - Project Overview

- Lead partner Regional Council of Brittany, France.
- Project currently in development.
- Build on the success of first two NEA projects.
- Development of marine leisure industry.
- Encourage job creation and support SME’s.
- Local and regional initiatives.
Capiten 2020 - Project Work Packages

- Tourism, Water Sports and Beach Sports
  - Pooling Innovation and an Atlantic Destination Event

- Industry, Commerce and Services
  - Sharing good practice e.g. eco-design, demolition, construction

- Ports, Leisure Boating
  - Inshore and sea going navigation and port information points
Thank you

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