**Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)**
**INTERREG IVA Projects (2007-2013)**

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<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
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<th>THEME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lead Partner</td>
<td>£1,124,051</td>
<td>Collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation Enterprise Programme (IEP)</td>
<td>£3,873,630</td>
<td>Enterprise</td>
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<td>Border Uplands Project</td>
<td>€3,183,804</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
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<td>Higher Attainment Through Cross-Border Hubs (HATCH)</td>
<td>€1,000,000</td>
<td>Enterprise</td>
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<td>Spatial Planning Initiative</td>
<td>£1,456,995</td>
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<td>Harnessing Creativity</td>
<td>€799,880</td>
<td>Enterprise</td>
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<td>Development of Workspace at St Angelo Airport</td>
<td>£1,476,333</td>
<td>Enterprise</td>
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<td>Traded Services</td>
<td>€30,000</td>
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The opening of the Innovation Growth Centre helped fulfil the company’s mission of promoting enterprise and support start-up and growth businesses. The enterprise centre currently provides accommodation for 65 businesses providing 300 jobs which will now increase to 85 businesses providing 420 jobs.

Dr Nicholas O’Shiel, Chief Executive, Omagh Enterprise Company

The official opening of a high quality, innovative and technology focused incubation unit totalling 7,500 ft² at The Hive in Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim

Mentoring support to 93 businesses in the Central Border Region

14 collaborations with academic and research institutions

Mr Joe Lowe, Head of Leitrim Local Enterprise Office
INTERREG PROGRAMME

Higher Attainment Through Cross-Border Hubs (HATCH)

The HATCH project supported and developed entrepreneurship in the Central Border Region and delivered targeted accredited training to three key groups which were displaced due to the downward trends in economic performance:

- Construction and Engineering Sector
- Foreign Nationals
- Female Entrepreneurs

PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)

Cavan County Enterprise Board – now Cavan Local Enterprise Office (Lead Beneficiary)

Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre (Project Management)

South West College (Programme Delivery Partner)

Business Institute Ulster University (Programme Delivery Partner)

PROJECT VALUE

€1,000,000

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE

The HATCH programme was both challenging and rewarding for the partnership. We were challenged to develop bespoke programmes to match the needs of the people from across the three benefiting groups – the construction industry, female entrepreneurs and foreign nationals. We had to deliver to the needs and the wants of individuals and businesses; we had the additional challenge of working cross-border and across a wider geographic area. Working together gave us all an insight into the workings of each other’s jurisdictions and made our outputs much stronger and relevant as a result.

The outputs from the programme across the Region speak for themselves. It has been a privilege to work with the HATCH students and project partners.

Dympna McCarron, Manager, Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 457 students trained
- 90% retention rates
- 85% accreditation rates
- 24 jobs created within new and existing companies
- 26 businesses assisted
- Business productivity improved and cross-border collaboration enhanced

Pictured L-R: Fiona Brazill, tutor; Garvan Haley, HATCH student; John Moore, South West College.

Seated L-R: Liam Mathers, HATCH student and Dympna McCarron, Manager, CITC.
The central piece of the Spatial Planning Initiative was the Regional Strategic Framework; which outlined the development of the Central Border Region. The Framework was developed through extensive stakeholder engagement to influence the Governments of Ireland and Northern Ireland and to consider the area as an investment priority. It also highlights and yet at the same time seeks to address the inequalities and social outcomes between the Central Border Region and other regions of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Alongside addressing inequalities that exist within the area, the Regional Strategic Framework will ensure that this Region plays a more involved role within Europe through networking and engaging, as well as securing investments for key initiatives and projects.

Colin McKenna, Development Manager, ICBAN
Harnessing Creativity

Over 440 participants from Counties Leitrim, Tyrone, Fermanagh and the wider Central Border Region have received assistance from the Harnessing Creativity Project; the largest ever creative project undertaken in the North West. Participants have availed of masterclasses in new and emerging digital technologies, mentoring and business development training.

PROJECT PARTNERS
ICBAN (Lead Partner)
Leitrim County Enterprise Board (Lead Beneficiary) – now Leitrim Local Enterprise Office
Fermanagh District Council – now Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Leitrim County Council
Leitrim Design House
Omagh Enterprise Company
Tyrone-Donegal Partnership

PROJECT VALUE
€799,880

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE
One of the participants is Fiona McCarthy who has created the characters Mabel and Arnt – a range of high quality clothing and homewares, based on two adventure-loving characters. Fiona took part in three strands of the Harnessing Creativity project: the Masterclass Programme, Business Development Training and the Creative Labs and Showcase. As a result of participating in the Harnessing Creativity Project, Fiona was accepted onto the New Frontiers Enterprise Ireland Programme 2015-16.

Harnessing Creativity did exactly what it said – it enabled me to collaborate with other creatives and allowed me to bring my concept and ideas to the prototyping stage. By participating in the Creative Labs and having access to the resource allocation fund, I was able to employ the services of a professional writer to create three stories for Mabel and Arnt. We continue to collaborate and I have had an offer for a book from a publishing house in Scotland.

PROJECT OUTPUTS
- 165 businesses assisted
- 55 creative sector businesses assisted
- 58 broader Economy businesses participating in creative cluster groups
- 23 new concepts developed for showcasing
- 8 new products/services ideas introduced into the market

Fiona McCarthy, creator of ‘Mabel and Arnt’ and participant of the Harnessing Creativity Project
Tourism is a vital economic industry in Fermanagh and the Central Border Region and the completion of the Border Uplands Project has enabled us to provide a range of new sustainable tourism facilities based on our unique and spectacular countryside and landscape. In the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, a section of the long distance Cuilcagh Waymarked Way walking route has been reinstated on Cuilcagh Mountain and an inclusive walking trail has been developed in Ely Lodge Forest as well as a cycling trail in Castle Archdale Forest. We have been able to make significant investment in our recreational infrastructure which will attract more visitors to the Region while offering improved recreational opportunities for local people and help people to experience the uniqueness and beauty of our countryside.

The Border Uplands Project has been an excellent example of cross-border collaboration and joint-working. There is an abundance of geological and natural resources in the Border Uplands area and we have only scratched the surface of the true potential of the Central Border Region. We will continue to work hard in the future to ensure that this potential is achieved.

Richard Watson, Geopark Manager, Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE

The Border Uplands Project aimed to use cross-border co-operation approaches to strengthen and develop the Central Border Region as a world class geo-tourism and recreational destination. Joint marketing, education and management structures were put in place to successfully deliver the project.

PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)
Fermanagh District Council (Lead Beneficiary) – now Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Cavan County Council
Leitrim County Council
Sligo County Council

PROJECT VALUE
€3,183,804

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 21,000 visitors to the Cavan Burren Park in 2014-15
- 26% increase in paid visitors to the cave tour in 2014-15
- 894 attendees at project events
- 921 children participated in the Rock Detectives Clubs and Earth Science Labs
- 11 publications developed and disseminated to visitors, tourists, outdoor recreation enthusiasts and members of the public
INTERREG PROGRAMME

St Angelo Airport, Enniskillen

PROJECT PARTNERS
- ICBAN (Lead Partner)
- Fermanagh District Council (Lead Beneficiary) - now Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

PROJECT AIMS
- Construction of 37,000 sq. ft. of workspace at St Angelo Airport, Enniskillen
- Securing a fixed-wing aircraft service and maintenance firm to locate at the airport
- Creation of 20 jobs within aviation, technical, engineering and mechanical disciplines
- Provide the infrastructure to enhance development of the tourism sector

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:
- Construction work on the 37,000 sq. ft. of workspace at St Angelo Airport, Enniskillen completed

PROJECT VALUE
£1,476,333

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE:
The development of this new hangar at St Angelo is seen as a significant boost to both the airport and to the area. It will assist the airport to better deliver services to the wider region and the provision of more hangar space will lead to the airport being more sustainable in the future.

Robert Gibson, Fermanagh District Council (2014)