



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



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

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>VALUE</b>	<b>THEME</b>
Lead Partner	£1,124,051	Collaboration
Innovation Enterprise Programme (IEP)	£3,873,630	Enterprise
Border Uplands Project	€3,183,804	Tourism
Higher Attainment Through Cross-Border Hubs (HATCH)	€1,000,000	Enterprise
Spatial Planning Initiative	£1,456,995	Collaboration
Harnessing Creativity	€799,880	Enterprise
Development of Workspace at St Angelo Airport	£1,476,333	Enterprise
Traded Services	€30,000	Enterprise

# Innovation Enterprise Programme (IEP)

IEP built on the relationship between Omagh Enterprise Company and the Leitrim Local Enterprise Office in working together to successfully deliver cross-border business support programmes. The IEP included the provision of technology enabled business workspace and cross-border business support services through the construction of the Innovation Growth Centre in Omagh and The Hive Technology Enterprise Centre in Carrick-on-Shannon.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)

Omagh District Council (Lead Beneficiary) – now Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Leitrim County Council

Leitrim County Enterprise Board - now Leitrim Local Enterprise Office

Leitrim County Enterprise Fund

Omagh Enterprise Company

## PROJECT VALUE

£3,873,630

## PROJECT PERSPECTIVE



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



## PROJECT OUTPUTS

- The official opening of a high quality, innovative and technology focused incubation unit totalling 7,500 ft<sup>2</sup> at The Hive in Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim
- 48 jobs supported through workspace in both the Innovation Growth Centre, Omagh and The Hive, Carrick-on-Shannon



## PROJECT PERSPECTIVE

The Hive officially opened in May 2014, with the aim of facilitating the growth of new and existing technology based-enterprises. The Hive provides modern telecommunications connectivity with 100mbps of connectivity and high quality workspace for up to 14 SMEs. The workspace is over 90% allocated at present, which is testament to the INTERREG IVA investment in the Innovation Enterprise Programme

**Mr Joe Lowe,**  
Head of Leitrim  
Local Enterprise Office



- Mentoring support to 93 businesses in the Central Border Region
- 14 collaborations with academic and research institutions

## 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.

# Spatial Planning Initiative



Central Border Region  
Working Together  
A Spatial Planning Initiative

The aim of Spatial Planning Initiative was two-fold: it was about developing a set of co-ordinated future investment priorities for the Central Border Region; as well as developing cross-border working linkages to promote greater collaboration and joined-up regional development.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)

All ICBAN Member Councils

## PROJECT VALUE

£1,456,995

## PROJECT PERSPECTIVE



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

## PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 1 Roads Study completed with Action Plan
- 1 Telecoms Study completed with Action Plan
- 1 Regional Strategic Framework (RSF) completed
- 1 Data Profile completed
- 1 DataCentral Web Portal created
- 1 Civic & Political Collaboration Programme (9 conferences & 14 seminars)
- 1 Census Implications Study completed
- ICLRD External Engagement Support Contract being delivered
- 1 Communications Strategy being implemented

## INTERREG PROGRAMME

# 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.



Fiona McCarthy, creator of 'Mabel and Arnt' and participant of the Harnessing Creativity Project

### 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

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.



# Border Uplands Project



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 PERSPECTIVE



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**



Before...

Work underway... Completion

## 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 the Rock Detectives Clubs and Earth Science Labs
- 11 publications developed and disseminated to visitors, tourists, outdoor recreation enthusiasts and members of the public



Cuilcagh Mountain Park,  
Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark



## 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)

