

Interreg IVB Atlantic Area Programme 2007-2013

Project Development Workshop

DFP, Longbridge House, 20-24 Waring Street,
Belfast

Thursday 29 July 2010



Interreg IVB Atlantic Area Programme 2007-2013

Introduction and Programme Outline

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July 2010



What is INTERREG?

- INTERREG is a European Territorial Cooperation programme that aims to stimulate interregional **cooperation** in the European Union.
- Started in 1989, it is financed under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- The current programme is Interreg IV, covering the period 2007-2013

What is “Territorial Cooperation” ?

- Third structural funds objective (Convergence, Competitiveness, **Cooperation**)

All EU cooperation programmes have a common aim – to help the implementation of the European policies such as:

- Lisbon Agenda (economic competitiveness)
- Gothenburg Agenda (environmental sustainability)
- EU Cohesion Policy (reducing regional disparities)

What is INTERREG?

There are three strands:

A. Cross Border Cooperation

B. 13 Transnational Cooperation Programmes

C. Interregional Cooperation – Exchange of Experience Programme

plus

Networks ESPON, URBACT and INTERACT

Total of 1.8 billion Euro ERDF



What are the 13 Transnational Programmes?

- **Northern Periphery**
- Baltic Sea
- **North West Europe**
- North Sea
- **Atlantic Area**
- Alpine Space
- Central Europe
- South West Europe
- Mediterranean
- South East Europe
- Caribbean
- Azores – Madeira – Canaries
- Indian Ocean



INTERREG is all around !



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



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund
Investing in your future

What are the eligible regions of the Atlantic Area Programme?



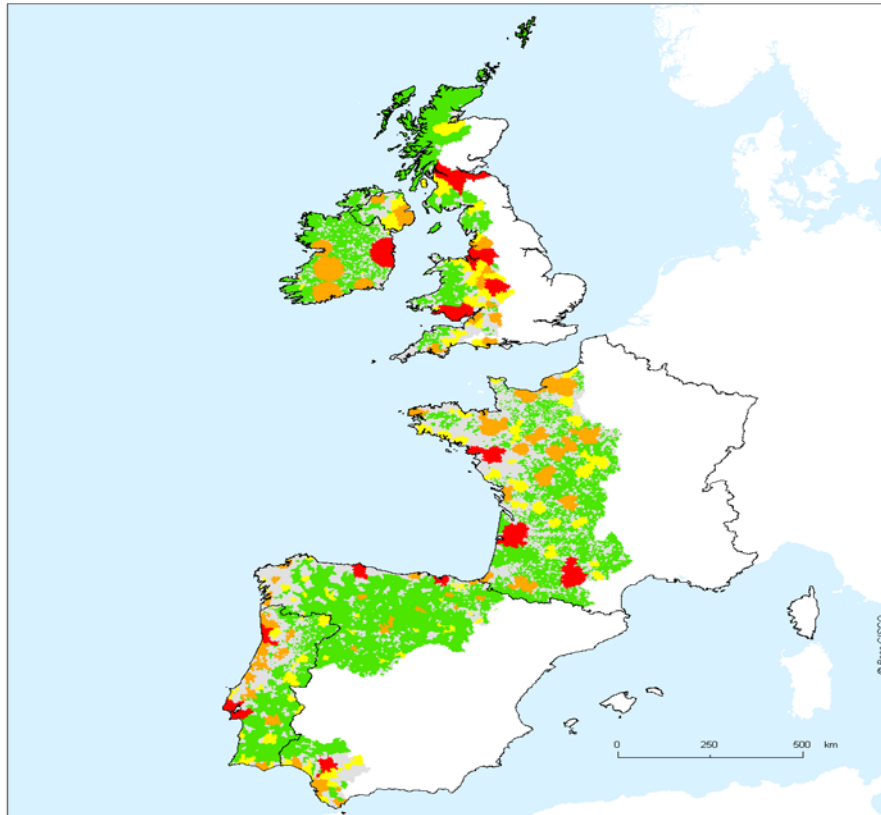
Eligible Regions:

**Northern Ireland,
Ireland**

**Atlantic areas of:
Spain,
France,
Portugal
Mainland UK**

What Area does this INTERREG Programme cover?

ESPACE ATLANTIQUE



Map of the different territorial and urban systems in the Atlantic Area

Metropolitan Areas (500 000)

Intermediate Urban Areas

Average size Towns

Rural but populated

Rural and sparsely populated

Population of circa 58 million

Total ERDF 104 million

Intervention rate of 65%



© IAAT 2005

Major UK and Ireland Issues

- Large variance in RDI of the AA space and growth centres
- Accessibility deficits throughout the territory
- Research and development penetration low (compared to EU average)
- Challenges posed by Maritime sector
- Natural Hazards posed – Flooding, forest fires, pollution
- Climate Change & Coastal erosion
- Urban Sprawl & its effects on the area
- ICT penetration (Broadband/e-commerce etc)

INTERREG Atlantic Area Objectives

Strategic objectives of the Programme

“To contribute to the territorial cohesion of the Atlantic Area by strengthening transnational co-operation which generates concrete progress in terms of fair development of the knowledge economy, promotion of maritime heritage and balanced polycentric development”

Tangible transnational cooperation

Cohesive, balanced and **sustainable** territorial development considering maritime heritage

The 4 Programme Priorities

1. To develop transnational networks of entrepreneurship and innovation

- Encourage transfers between companies and research centres (diminish negative environmental impact)
- Stimulate maritime economy
- Promoting the regional endogenous potential

2. Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment in sustainable way

- Maritime safety
- Management of the resources of marine spaces
- Exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the marine and coastal environment
- Protection and promotion of natural spaces, water resources and coastal zones

3. Improvement of accessibility and internal links

- Interoperability and continuity of existing transport networks, and sea/road/rail/air intermodality
- Short-sea shipping and cooperation between ports

4. Sustainable urban and regional development

- Pool resources and skills in the field of sustainable urban and rural development
- Making cities and regions more influential and attractive through networking
- Conservation and promotion of Atlantic cultural heritage of transnational interest

UK and Ireland participation in the Atlantic Area Programme to date

- There are currently 48 Approved projects in the AA Programme totalling €74.6m
- The UK has 37 approved projects with 69 partners and 14 associate partners worth a total of €68m
- Ireland has 35 approved projects worth €13.27m
- NI has 9 approved projects with 12 partners worth a total of €2.26m

Financial Overview by Call

First Call	M€	Second Call	M€
Priority 1	11.9	Priority 1	13.5
Priority 2	13.7	Priority 2	13.6
Priority 3	7.8	Priority 3	-
Priority 4	6.0	Priority 4	8.1
	39.4		35.2

Programme
ERDF 97.8 M€

Remaining
ERDF 23 M€

Financial Overview – Remaining Budget

Distribution of Remaining Funds			
	Total Approved	OP Total	Remaining
Priority 1	25.5	27.3	1.8
Priority 2	27.2	37.7	10.5
Priority 3	7.8	18.4	10.6
Priority 4	14.2	14.3	0.1
Total	74.8 M€	97.8 M€	23 M€

How we are Organised



INTERREG Atlantic Area Management in the UK

Overall Responsibility for financial issues re UK involvement/partners

Department of Communities and Local Government

On-going Management and representation on Committees

Territorial Cooperation Unit Welsh European Funding Office

- Leads UK delegation on Programme Monitoring Committee
- Responsible for UK Contact Point
(assist with project development and publicise programme in UK)
- Liaison with Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat in Porto

INTERREG Atlantic Area Management in Ireland

- Department of Finance has overall responsibility for INTERREG in Ireland
- BMW Regional Assembly is the National Contact Point for Atlantic Area Programme responsible for promoting the programme in Ireland and helping promoters develop transnational projects
- Member of the Programme Monitoring Committee
- Responsible for First Level Control in Ireland
- Liaises with Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat on Programme and project related matters



Northern Ireland participation in the Atlantic Area Programme

- INTERREG IVB and IVC in Northern Ireland
- New area of work for SEUPB
- Project advice and guidance for all INTERREG IVB and IVC programmes
- Facilitate partner searches / programme information / communication
- Promotes North/South participation
- Acts as 1st Level of Control for all Northern Ireland partners transnational and inter-regional projects

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Getting Involved

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What is Transnationality?

A Transnational issue is a Challenge...

... that goes beyond national or regional borders;

... for which a satisfactory solution at a local, regional or national level can **only** be found through co-operation.

The Added Value of Transnational Cooperation.....

efficient and innovative solutions for common problems..

use of knowledge from other countries and regions...

participation in transnational exchange networks...

What do INTERREG projects do?

- Support cooperative action between partnerships of more than 2 member states
- Ideally team public, academic, NGO and private organisations
- Quantifiable outcomes – Test new approaches in reality, sometimes as pilot or demonstratable projects
- Involve their partners from outset in the design, implementation and dissemination of projects

INTERREG projects – the reality

- Minimum of 2 partners in 2 member states

The average is 8-9 partners in 4-5 countries, partners are allowed from outside of the eligible area

- Average budget is €2.75M of ERDF

- Grant rate is 65%

- Average project duration

- Preparation costs are eligible

Costs can be included up to one year before the call closure date and can be at a rate of 5% of the partner budget up to a maximum of €20,000

Why participate in EU funded projects?

- To help contribute to the implementation of policies through your own experience and expertise.
- To get seedcorn funding for risky projects, or to help advance their implementation.
- To build partnerships and critical mass for R&D projects, especially where EU standards would be beneficial.
- To help staff development by exposing them to new ideas and different ways of doing things.

Why participate in EU funded projects?

- To give a project focus to the development of measures or policies, thus helping efficient implementation and evaluation.
- To network and exchange experience with others with a common professional background but different history, culture and institutional environment.
- To gain added value from the political profile of being involved in a European project by establishing a reputation as an innovator by stimulation of tourism and trade linkages etc

Who is eligible to be a partner in INTERREG projects?

- National, Regional and Local Authorities – public agencies
- Transnational bodies and partnerships, Universities, research and development agencies
- Voluntary sector organisations including NGOs
- Certain profit-distributing enterprises like SMEs, start-ups etc

Who's eligible to be a Lead partner in INTERREG projects?

- Any organisation which is eligible to be a partner

AND

- Is sited within the Programme area
- Can give guarantees regarding the project management and administration
- Can provide solvency guarantees

What does a Lead partner do?

- Submits the application
- Signs the subsidy contract with the MA
- Is responsible for the implementation of the **whole** project
- Signs the Partnership Agreement with all partners
- Collates claims and submits reports
- Receives and distributes ERDF to partners
- Ensures communication (both internal and external)
- Manages the project and monitors delivery
- Likely to be the organisation that has generated the idea – but doesn't have to be!
- Need certain level of administrative and financial capacity

Possible Challenges

- Timescales
- Language
- Culture
- Politics
- Writing by committee
- Ensuring local value
- Keeping all the partners engaged
- **But there are many advantages...**

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From Idea to Project – Stage by Stage

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From Idea to Application

- **Key Features of Programme**
- **Key Documents**
- **Principles of Project Development**
- **Generating Project ideas and building a partnership**
- **How to find Partners**
- **Setting up a Partnership**

Key Features in the New Programmes

- **The Lisbon Agenda**
- **The Gothenburg Agenda**
- **Greater strategic focus**
- **Partnership as the core principle**
- **Tangible project results**
- **Greater emphasis on plans beyond the life of project**

Key Documents

Application Documents

- Operational programmes
- Application Forms
- Guidance notes / handbooks

Policy and Programme background

- EC Regulations
- Project ideas on website

www.coop-atlantico.com

Principles of project development

- **Do you want to do this anyway?**
- **What value would transnational collaboration add?**
- **Look at approved projects and project ideas on programme websites**
- **Read the operational programme; Does your idea fit?**
- **European policies and strategies**
- **National and Regional strategies**

Generating Project Ideas and building a Partnership

- Defining a good project idea
- Does the idea define the partnership or does the partnership define the idea?
- Is the project idea the right idea?
- Is somebody else already doing the same thing?
- Building on past experience
- How far should you take the idea before involving others?
- Have you spoken to your contact point?

How to find partners

- **Identify partners through existing contacts**
- **Identify partners without previous contact**
 - Initiate a partner search – use SEUPB, Regional Contact Points, Programme websites and Secretariats
- **Respond to a partner search**
- **Specialisation – what type of partner do you need to make the project successful?**
- **What about private sector partners?**

Setting up the Partnership

- **Meetings – Get to know your partners**
- **Information – Exchange of information, building trust, shaping the idea**
- **Coordination / Representation – joint structure, allocation of roles**
- **Strategy / Planning – defining joint objectives and developing concrete project**
- **Decision – binding commitment of partners**
- **Implementation – joint implementation of project**

Project Development

- **Building a partnership into the proposal**
 - Joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing
- **Defining the content**
 - Common understanding, realistic, share responsibilities, ownership and commitment
- **What are the project objectives?**
 - Outputs, Results, Impacts
- **Who is the Lead partner**
- **What are the responsibilities for partners and Lead Partner**
- **What is the budget for the project**

Budget

- **Resource Planning**
 - What do you want to achieve and how do you plan to do it
- **Cost Estimating**
 - Keep estimates as accurate as possible and agree a small surplus to meet unexpected problems
- **Cost Budgeting**
 - Think Carefully about how you spread your budget over the lifetime of the project

Eligible Costs

- **Check the relevant programme for eligible costs**
- **Ensure all partners are aware of eligible costs**
- **Questions normally arise around:**
 - Staff Costs
 - External Experts
 - Travel and Accommodation
 - Meetings, Conferences, Seminars etc
 - Investments in Equipment
 - Overheads
 - VAT
 - In-Kind Contributions
 - Revenues

Defining Work Packages

- **Work packages are detailed in plans of core tasks which define the outputs and activities that will deliver the strategic objectives**
- **All partners need to be clear about common project objectives**
- **All partners need to fully understand their responsibilities and the resources required**

Work Package checklist

- ✓ Split of work packages is logical and serves to achieve all project objectives
- ✓ Tasks and sub-tasks are complete and implement the work package
- ✓ Non-thematic work packages are included – such as publicity
- ✓ Tasks are distributed among partners according to resources they can provide
- ✓ Measurable outputs are defined for each work package
- ✓ Each work package highlights main milestones in the project and the means to delivery them
- ✓ Time and budget have been allocated to each work package

Outputs, Results & Impacts

- **Outputs – products of the activities funded**
(number of reports, seminars held, innovation centres opened)
- **Results – immediate advantages of carrying out these activities**
(number of regional policy changes, number of new business start ups etc)
- **Impacts – Sustainable long term benefits of any activity**
(fall in number of long term unemployed, increased regional GDP etc)

Tips – Outputs, Results & Impacts

- Can seem very complicated
- Link your project indicators to the indicators in the Operational Programme
- Key Question: Do the indicators you have selected give a fair picture of what you hope to achieve?
- Remember that you cannot and should not try to measure absolutely everything
- Focus on the logical link between outputs and results
- Results are particularly important – they are the best way of showing what the programme gets for its money
- Ensure all partners can and will collect indicator information
- Use indicators to demonstrate your project's quality
- Big is not always beautiful!!!

Process and Timetable

- Allow six months to develop application
- Submit application to Programme Secretariat
- Admissibility check
- Assessment check
- Selection decision at Monitoring Committee
(approval, approval with conditions, rejection)
- Allow 4-6 months from application to approval

Tips – Common reasons for Rejection

- Project did not provide required documentation
- Project idea does not fit the programme
- No demonstrated need for cooperation
- Planned project results did not justify the budget requested
- Partnership and/or management structures are weak
- No clear description of activities
- No logical link between activities and intended results
- Project is a repeat of existing activities
- Project does not fit with local/regional/national policies

Successful Applications

- Make sure that objectives, activities, results and budget are presented clearly and logically
- Make sure they are realistic – input from *all* partners
- Programme decision is based on what is included in the application. Make sure to include all relevant information
- Make sure you understand what is wanted in each section – ask the programme
- Check the programme selection criteria – have you provided the information needed?
- Writing the application is not a big job – Preparing it is!!!

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Selection Methodology

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July 2010



Admissibility

Admissibility criteria

- The application is submitted before the closing date
- The project has not been completed before the date of submission of the application
- The electronic application form is valid, all compulsory sections are completed and all declarations are presented, signed and dated
- The lead partner is an organisation within the programme area
 - The project deals with transnational issues
 - The project has quantifiable outputs

Selection Methodology

Overall Selection – Criteria Weighting

1	Intensity and added value of the Transnational Cooperation	24
2	Contribution to the Atlantic Area Strategy and coherency with European and national, regional and local policies	18
3	Quality of the working and communication plans and degree of tangibility, transferability and sustainability of project results	24
4	Quality of the partnership organisation and of the management and control system	16
5	Consistency and soundness of budget	18
		100

Selection Methodology – detail 1

1.Intensity and added value of the Transnational Cooperation

Criteria n°	Selection Criteria	Weight	Application Sections
1	Degree by which the project demonstrates, through relevant information, how the issues and challenges of the project correspond with a common concern or objective across the Member States / regions of the Atlantic Area.	5	4
2	Transnational relevancy of the project issues. Extent to which the project addresses common challenges across all of the territories of the Atlantic Area	7	4
3	Degree of innovation of the project in relation to the issues and the development of new processes and/or products. Extent to which the project implements any key lessons learned from previous engagement and its eventual complementarities with other projects and/or programme of the period 2007-2013.	5	3 - 9
4	Positioning of the project in the four-step scale of ascending cooperation intensity: exchange of experience, transfer of know-how, pooling of a critical mass of means, tackling transnational issue	7	5 - 6

(24)

Selection Methodology – detail 2

2. Contribution to the Atlantic Area Strategy and coherency with European and national, regional and local policies

Criteria n°	Criteria	Weight	Application Form Sections
5	Clarity of the proposal and rationale of the project in relation to its contribution to the Atlantic Area strategy and to the priority and objective under which it is applying.	5	4
6	Clarity and rationale of the project in relation to the contribution to a balanced territorial development and the lessening of regional development disparities	4	4
7	Fit with relevant European, national, regional or local policies related to the issues tackled by the project	4	4
8	Fit with the Lisbon Agenda priorities and the Gothenburg Agenda priorities	5	4

(18)

Selection Methodology – detail 3

Section 3. Quality of the working and communication plans and degree of tangibility, transferability and sustainability of project results

Criteria n°	Criteria	Weight	Application Form
9	Quality and clarity of the work plan, including the methodology, the balance of the partners' involvement and practicality for delivery against set objectives	6	6
10	Relevance, realism, tangibility and value of output and result indicators and their relationship with project objectives. Relevance of the follow-up indicators presented	6	7
11	Demonstration of the sustainability strategy of the project to continue project activity beyond the funding period including any leverage effects through the involvement of new players, sectors or regions	6	8
12	Relevance and realism of the communication plan and of its contribution to the transferability of project results including transfer of knowledge and good practice more widely within the Atlantic Area (new audience, sectors or geographical areas)	6	5 - 11

(24)

Selection Methodology – detail 4

Section 4 Quality of the partnership organisation and of the management and control system

Criteria n°	Criteria	Weight	Application Form Sections
13	Quality of the partnership, in terms of the diversity and nature of the organisations involved and the relevance and capacity to deliver the objectives and the expected results	4	10
14	Quality and transparency of the internal organization management and control system, in terms of its clarity and effectiveness	4	10
15	Capacity and experience of the Lead Partner to effectively manage and co-ordinate a transnational project and of the other project partners to deliver their element of the work plan	4	10
16	Degree to which the project promotes and allows for knowledge and know –how transfers and exchange of experiences within the partnership	4	8 - 10

(16)

Selection Methodology – detail 5

Section 5 Consistency and soundness of budget

Criteria n°	Criteria	Weight	Application Form
17	Extent to which the overall project budget provides explanations and justification on budget construction and budget lines in relation to the project work plan activities	6	10
18	Extent to which the overall project budget is consistent with the work plan and reflects value for money as well as costs in line with market prices	6	10
19	Extent to which the budget lines are respecting the eligibility of expenditures rules	3	10
20	Degree of how the budget reflects the involvement of partners in the working plan, the extent to which it is globally balanced between them and ensures the allocation of resources which is coherent with their financial capacity	3	8 - 10

(18)

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Pitfalls

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Application Weaknesses

- Lack of clarity in the presentation of the issues
- Territorial imbalance
- Incoherence between objectives and the real possibilities (time, resources, dissemination ...)
- Inadequacy of partnerships concerning the tangibility and perpetuation of results
- Lack of information on sustainability
- Difficulties on going further than an exchange of experiences – not reaching higher degree of cooperation according to the defined strategy
- Lack of clarity and logic on how the project fits with or will affect European, national and local policies

Application Weaknesses

- “Partnerships not adjusted to the needs of tangibility and perpetuation of the results”
(direct quote from JTS)
- Insufficient and “fragile” information regarding sustainability
- Difficulties in demonstrating innovation - in implementation methodology, partnerships and project results: adaptation of previous projects rather than innovative
- Management system not detailed concerning execution, follow-up and financial management
- The budget is not sufficiently justified/unbalanced. Too much bias towards HR and Services Supply
- Work programmes unclear regarding the allocation and coordination of functions
- Communication Plans unclear and inconsistent with goals

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Exploring ideas

Presentation of your project ideas

Group Session

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Project Idea

AQUACULTURE LOUGHS AGENCY

Project Idea

BATTERIE

ACTION RENEWABLES

Project Idea

SHORELINE SEDIMENTS

UNI OF ULSTER

Project Idea

RAPIER

RECYCLING INSTITUTE

/ UNI OF ULSTER

Project Idea

LAGAN RESTORATION

CRAIGAVON

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Project Idea

QUEST ADVANTAGE

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*Some Projects Looking for Partners
and
What to do Next*

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Partner Searches

Priority 1.2 Enhance competitiveness and innovation capacities in maritime economy niches of excellence

FISH-NET aims to support the partners' territories to maximise their natural potential to become "angling hot spots". The project's activities will include: promotion of a transnational "Fisherman Welcome" touristic label, development of a 'Fishing Passport'

Contact: **Gaelle.Croisier@conwy.gov.uk**

Partner Searches

Priority 2.1 Improve Maritime Safety

The development of a Civil Society at Sea involving the yachting fraternity as well as fisherman in an exchange of information leading to the identification and dissemination of good practice aimed at creating a greater level of crime prevention and drug misuse at sea. A coastal initiative.

Contact: Brian Doyle

comhariascaire@eircom.net

Partner Searches

Priority 2.3 Exploit the renewable energy potential of the marine and coastal environment

This project is looking at the potential for tidal energy sources to be integrated into the design of the breakwater structures. Turbines could be used to create energy and power local lighting, etc.

Contact: Sally Nelson

nelson@northdevonplus.co.uk

Partner Searches

Priority 2 Protect, Secure and Enhance the marina and coastal environment sustainability

SUSTAINABLEQUALITYNET

To preserve the Atlantic, as much as possible, fighting against anthropogenic pollution to prevent deterioration of a common resource such as water and to prevent any damage to environmental life.

Contact: **deuro-douro@duero-douro.com**

Partner Searches

Priority 3 Improve accessibility and internal links

RAPIERS

An application to Intelligent Energy in the SAVE priority relating to “Energy efficiency and the rational use of resources” concerned with the action “Energy efficient buildings” for a project to expand the use of renewable energy in remote airport terminals.

Contact: Nick Lyth info@recyclinginstitute.org

Remember

Allow plenty (that's plenty) of time to develop project

Visit the programme website

Contact your Contact Point – lots more project ideas

Take care with the budget – involve your finance managers in budgeting and finance planning!

Understand the rules - Biggest single fault in project finances relates to procurement

Don't wait for a Call for Proposals - **Start now**

Budget to spend time and money on bids

Consider 3 stages:

Preparation
Partnership
Proposal

The Atlantic Area Programme

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