



**Welcome** to 'INTERREGional News' from the Special EU Programmes Body. This newsletter aims to bring you up to date with developments on the **INTERREG VB Programmes** (the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme, the North West Europe Programme and the Atlantic Area Programme) as well as the **INTERREG VC 'EUROPE' Programme** for the new programming period from 2014-2020. All of the programmes are at varying stages of development and implementation but we would encourage you to begin thinking about project ideas and discussing these with us at the earliest opportunity.



- The **North West Europe Programme Monitoring Committee** will meet on 13th, 14th and 15th of September to take decisions on the 1<sup>st</sup> Step applications submitted under the Third Call and also any outstanding Step 2 Applications under the second call.

- The **Atlantic Area Programme Monitoring Committee** met in Dublin on 7th and 8th September to take decisions on 412 Expressions of Interest submitted under the 1st call for applications. Decisions will be communicated to Lead Partners within 1 week. The deadline for Stage 2 applications is 4th November 2016.

- The **Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme** deadline for applications into the 4th call is **30th November 2016**. It is anticipated that decisions on funding will be taken in late February/early March 2017.

- Eligible 2nd call applications into the **Interreg Europe Programme** are currently being assessed with decisions on funding taking place by the end of 2016. Non-eligible applicants were informed by 24 August 2016.

### Upcoming events

**North West Europe Programme—[Project Ideas Lab](#)** (for 4th call) - 6 October, Dublin

**Interreg Europe Programme—[Communications and Finance Seminars](#)** (targeted at Lead Partner Comms & Finance Managers) - 29th—30th September, Athens

The annual **Atlantic Stakeholder Conference** will take place in **Dublin (Ireland) on 27 September 2016**—see details on page 2.

**Application clinics for Atlantic Area Programme** (1st call, Stage 2) & **Northern Periphery Programme** (4th call Applications) - **DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

### PROJECT FOCUS - CLUSTERS3



'Clusters3 launch in Bilbao: Invest NI taking part in panel discussion with other partners.'

The **Clusters3 project** which has been approved under the **Interreg Europe Programme** will explore new opportunities in cluster policy within the framework of regional innovation and smart specialisation strategies, with the aim of enhancing competitiveness, growth and participation in global value chains amongst local SMEs.

Officially launched in Bilbao, Spain at the end of May, the project, which will run for 4 years, features representation from regional and national governments in Spain, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and the United Kingdom, in the form of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and **Invest NI**.

The project recently launched the Clusters3 website which gives further information on project activity;

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/clusters3/>



## Atlantic Strategy—Atlantic Action Plan

The Atlantic Action Plan, which follows from the [Atlantic Strategy](#) adopted by the Commission in 2011, aims to revitalise the marine and maritime economy in the Atlantic Ocean area. It shows how the EU's Atlantic Member States, their regions and the Commission can help create sustainable growth in coastal regions and drive forward the "blue economy" while preserving the environmental and ecological stability of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Action Plan encourages Member States to work together in areas where they were previously working individually. They will now be able to share information, costs, results and best practices, as well as generate ideas for further areas of cooperation of maritime activities. This includes both traditional activities, such as fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and shipping, as well as emerging ones such as offshore renewables and marine biotech.

### Priorities

The Action Plan considers responses to the challenges of delivering growth, reducing the carbon footprint, using the sea's natural resources sustainably, responding effectively to threats and emergencies and implementing an "eco-system" management approach in Atlantic waters. The priorities are to;

- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity; and
- Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.

### Get involved — 3rd Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (27th September 2016), Dublin

This event is the central hub for stakeholders of the Atlantic Strategy to make valuable contacts and explore areas for cooperation, share information and good practices, promote and identify interesting project ideas as well as funding opportunities and partnerships for their projects.

The **3rd Atlantic Stakeholder Platform conference** will focus on topics related to **Priority 1 of the Atlantic Action Plan**; to **"Promote entrepreneurship and innovation"** emphasizing on project development so as to promote activities linked with the Atlantic Best Practices.

[For further information or to register](#)



**DON'T FORGET**



North West Europe Programme  
4th call applications due by  
**18 November 2016**  
[NWE 4 Call](#)

Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme  
4th call applications due by  
**30 November 2016**  
[NPA 4th Call](#)

To discuss INTERREG VB or VC in further detail or any specific project ideas that you have please contact:

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