



THEME:

Research and Innovation

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€15,883,805.24

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland; the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland; and the Scottish Government

LEAD PARTNER:


InterTrade Ireland

PROJECT PARTNERS

Enterprise NI Ltd; East Border Region Ltd.; Local Enterprise Offices (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo); Scottish Enterprise; and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Start Date: 01/08/2016

End Date: 31/03/2023

 <https://co-innovateprogramme.eu/>

 @Team_COI

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Co-Innovate (The Innovation Pathway Programme)

The Co-Innovate project brings together the three regions' key development agencies to deliver a programme aligned with each government's strategic priorities, led by cross-border body InterTrade Ireland in partnership with Enterprise Northern Ireland, East Border Region, Local Enterprise Offices in the border region, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Co-Innovate gives companies the tools and tailored support to help businesses innovate, differentiate and compete successfully. The programme offers graduated levels of support including free workshops, individual business health checks, detailed innovation audits, R&I project funding, project management placements and one-to-one expert mentoring.

“This award under the EU INTERREG VA Programme is a good example of cross-border cooperation between the regions. These collaborative efforts will provide research, development and innovation opportunities to the SMEs of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland that will offer a shared long-term legacy in support of sustainable economic growth and prosperity.”

**Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
Keith Brown**





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Upon completion the project will increase the proportion of SMEs and micro-businesses involved in cross-border R&I collaboration within Northern Ireland, Western Scotland and the Border Region of Ireland from 22% to 33%.

With five distinct strands of support the project will provide education and capability support tailored to the needs of all participating SMEs and micro-businesses. It will deliver 469 separate innovation audits to support new product and process development and will give SMEs and micro-businesses access to up to 70 'innovation interns' to help implement enhanced R&I activity. The project will also increase the number of businesses actively participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects.

"This is a very positive development for SMEs in our border counties. Supporting SMEs is a key strategic priority for the government and it's crucial we continue to encourage and nurture innovation."

"Initiatives like Co-Innovate are central to this goal, providing one-to-one help and mentoring for smaller companies to help embed a culture of innovation in their businesses. I would like to acknowledge the work and contribution of the partnership of organisations that have come together to establish this important funding programme for the border region."

Heather Humphreys TD, Irelands Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation

