



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Source to Tap Update May 2020

THEME:

Environment

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€4,909,921.26

MATCH FUNDING:

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

LEAD PARTNER:

Northern Ireland Water

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), The Rivers Trust, East Border Region Ltd, Ulster University, Irish Water

Start Date: 01/10/2016

End Date: 31/03/2022

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The Source to Tap project aims to protect river water quality in the cross-border catchments of the Erne and Derg, that are a shared source of raw water for drinking water supply. Since the project's launch in late 2017 it's continued to protect the catchments of the Erne and Derg.

Land Incentive Scheme

Interest in the pilot Land Incentive Scheme continued to grow throughout 2019 and into 2020. Launched at the end of July 2018, this cross-border farming scheme aims to give landowners, who farm in the part of the River Derg catchment upstream of the Derg Water Treatment Works, grants of up to £20,000 for a farm business based in Northern Ireland; and €23,000 for a farm business based in Ireland. Such grants help farmers make small changes in farming practice that will make the farm business more sustainable whilst also helping to protect water quality in the River Derg.



After a busy period of farm visits the project decided to focus on underrepresented areas within the catchment. A series of information exchange events and drop-in clinics were held across counties Donegal and Tyrone to entice new applicants into the scheme. As a result, 72 farmers expressed either a new, or further interest in the scheme.

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, agricultural contractors remain active in the catchment following government guidelines around social distancing and safety precautions. Farmers who have already been given 'permission to start' letters are proceeding with work such as stock fencing and weed wiping following the good weather in April.

Outreach Work

2019 saw school visits and educational workshops continue across the length and breadth of the Derg and Erne Catchments. To date, approximately 1,636 children have taken part in some form of educational aspect. In response to Covid-19 the project took five of its educational units online, featuring teacher notes and instructional videos which you can find [HERE](#)

