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# **Welcome to the Irish Interreg NWE Call Launch**

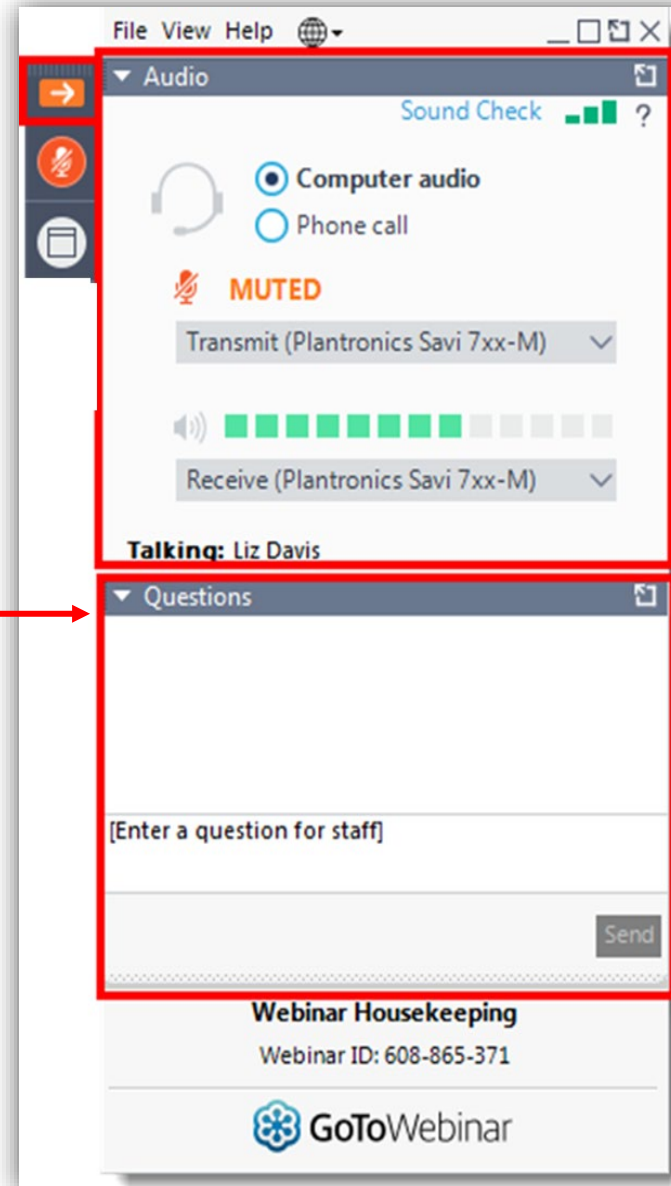
## **The event will begin at 9:00am Irish Standard Time**



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Southern Regional Assembly

# Housekeeping

- Audience is mute and camera off by default
- **Questions are welcome by chat:**
  - open and close your control panel using the **orange arrow** at the top of the panel.
  - type in the questions box **"enter questions for staff"**
- Please be aware this event will be recorded



# Irish Interreg NWE Call Launch

*Agenda Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022*

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**08:45 - 09:00**

**Webinar open**

**09:00 - 09:15**

**Welcome & Introduction to Cohesion Funds and Regional Development in Ireland**

*David Kelly, Director Southern Regional Assembly*

**09:15 - 09:30**

**Interreg NWE overview of 2021-2027 programme**

*Alexandre Colombani, Joint Secretariat, Interreg North-West Europe*

**09:30 - 09:45**

**What makes a good Interreg NWE project?**

*Sarah Davoren, National Contact Point, Ireland*

**09:45 - 10:00**

**Q&A**

**10:00 - 10:15**

**Coffee Break**

**10:15 - 10:35**

**Experiences from Irish partner**

*3 Counties Energy Agency, Michael Doran, EU Projects Director, Projects: Housing 4.0, RegEnergy, CanCAP, STEPs*

**10:35- 11:00**

**Experiences from Irish partner**

*University of Limerick, John Prendergast, Lead partner for BioWill project*

**11:00 - 11:05**

**Conclusions**

**11:05**

**End of webinar**

**11:30 – 17:00**

**One-to-One clinic sessions**

*6 x 20-minute slots available to discuss project queries with Alexandre Colombani & Sarah Davoren*



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# Irish Launch of NWE Call

Promoting a green, smart and just transition  
in North-West Europe

David Kelly  
Director



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# Southern Regional Assembly



regional  
economic  
and spatial  
planning

the  
management  
of European  
Regional  
Development  
Funding

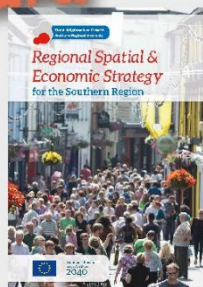
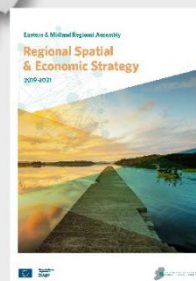
development  
implementation  
and promotion  
of regional  
development  
policy and  
activities

acting as  
the national  
contact point  
for EU-funded  
transnational  
programmes

The Assembly  
coordinates  
actions to support  
effectiveness in  
Local Government  
and public  
services



## Regional Assemblies Supporting the Regions



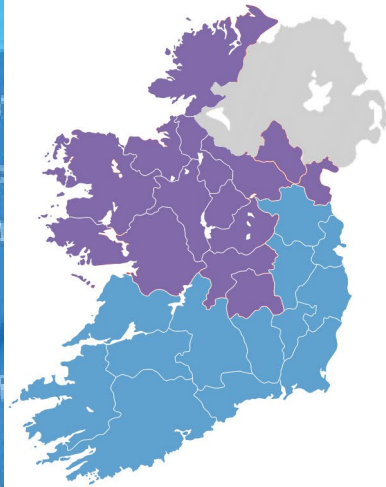
# Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies

# The Strategy



# Regional ERDF co-funded Programmes

Border,  
Midland  
& Western



Southern  
& Eastern

**200**

new researchers



**680**

new researchers

**144,000**

unserved households provided  
with High Speed Broadband access



**160,000**

unserved households provided  
with High Speed Broadband access

**3,600**

new jobs in micro-enterprises



**16,900**

new jobs in micro-enterprises

**10,000**

households with improved  
Energy Efficiency



**19,400**

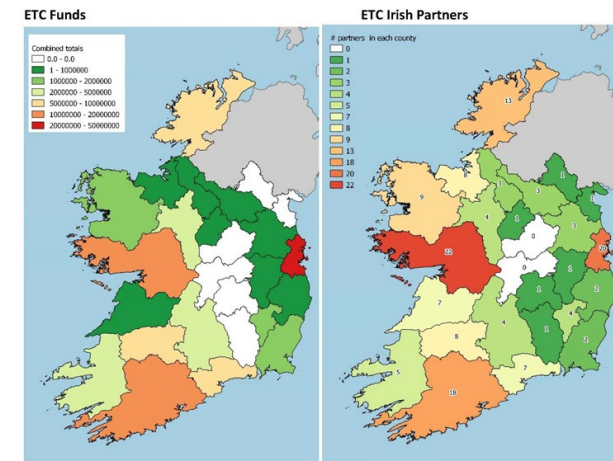
households with improved  
Energy Efficiency



# European Territorial Co-operation / Interreg

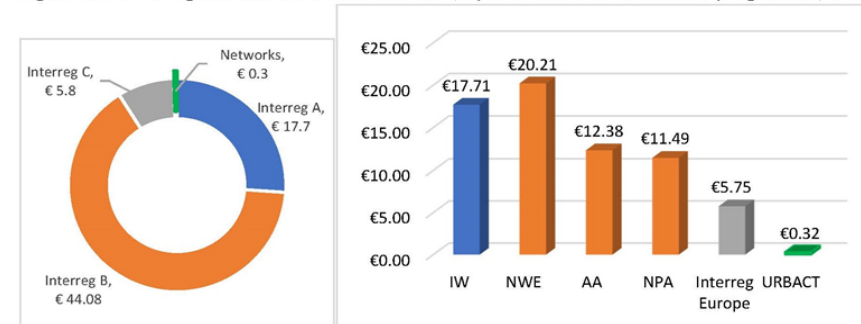


Geographic distribution of ETC funds and partners of programmes within the scope of this study



Note. Included programmes: Ireland – Wales, North West Europe, Atlantic Area, Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, INTERREG Europe and the, URBACT Network. Ireland/Northern Ireland/Scotland INTERREG, PEACE programme and ESPON network were beyond the scope of this study.

Figure 2: ERDF budget to Irish Partners 2014-2020, by ETC strand and INTERREG programme, € millions.



# ETC / Interreg



## 2021-2027

- Almost €10 billion
- One of the objectives of the EU cohesion policy
- 3 Strands:
  - Cross Border
  - Transnational
  - Interregional
- Partnerships
- Cooperation
- Shared issues



## EVOLUTION OF INTERREG 1990-2020

	INTERREG I 1990-1993	INTERREG II 1994-1999	INTERREG III 2000-2006	INTERREG IV 2007-2013	INTERREG V 2014-2020
LEGAL STATUS	COMMUNITY INITIATIVE		INTEGRATED INTO STRUCTURAL FUNDS REGULATION		OWN REGULATION
BENEFITING MEMBER STATES (INTERNAL BORDERS)	11	11 — then — 15	15 — then — 25	27 — then — 28	28
COMMITMENT BUDGET (IN CURRENT PRICES)	ECU 1.1 BN	ECU 3.8 BN	EUR 5.8 BN	EUR 8.7 BN	EUR 10.1 BN





**THANK YOU!**

Email NCP: [sdavoren@southernassembly.ie](mailto:sdavoren@southernassembly.ie)

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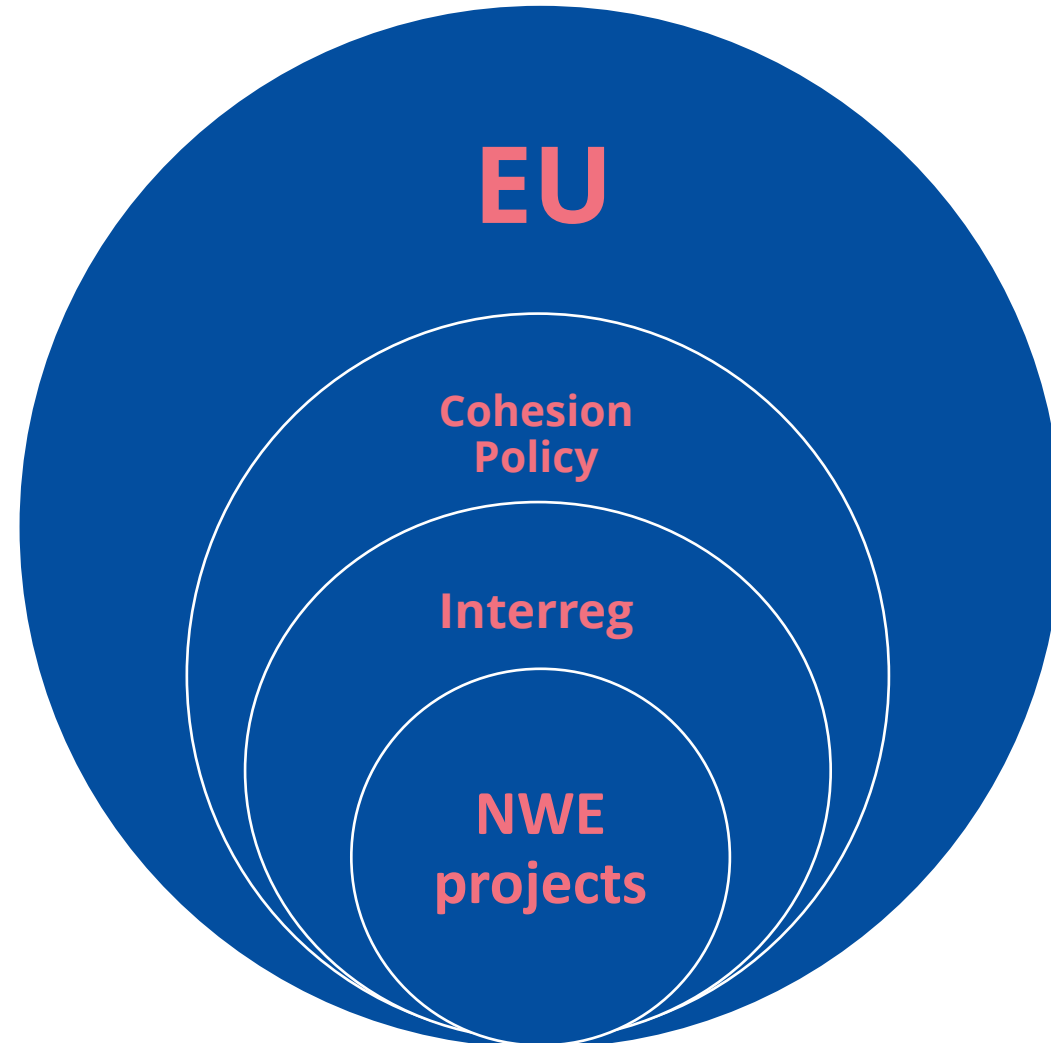


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## **Promoting a green, smart and just transition in North-West Europe**

# Interreg in EU territorial cooperation

- One of the objectives of the **EU cohesion policy**
- A framework for **transnational partnerships**
- Promoting economic, social and territorial development through **cooperation**





# The NWE Programme

## 2014-2020

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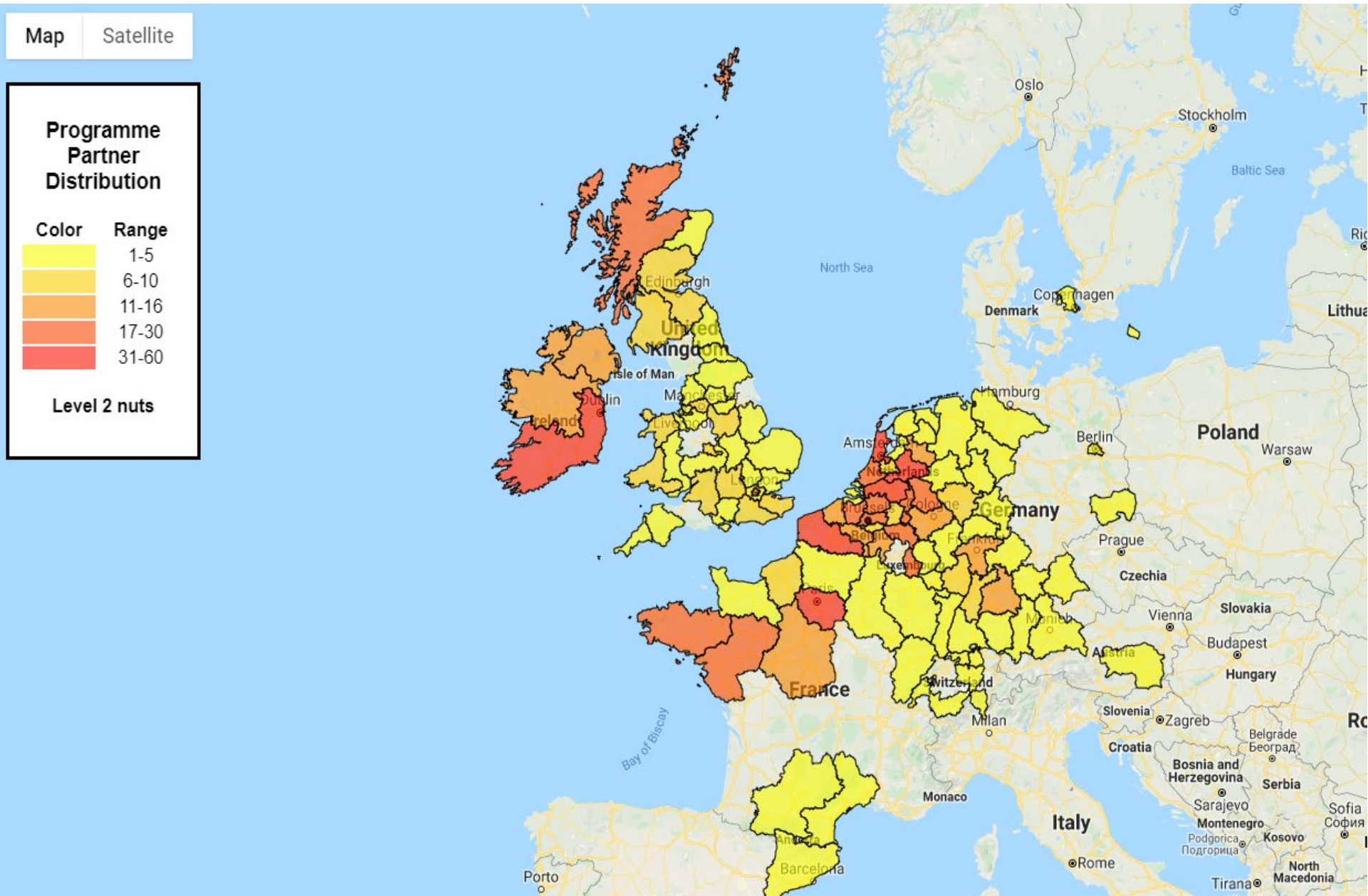
### Across NWE

- 102 financed projects
- 1078 project partners
- €378 million ERDF allocated

### In Ireland

- >€30 million directly to
- 88 Irish partners
- 52 projects
- 5 as lead partners

# Partner distribution (2014-2020)



# The NWE Programme

## 2014-2020

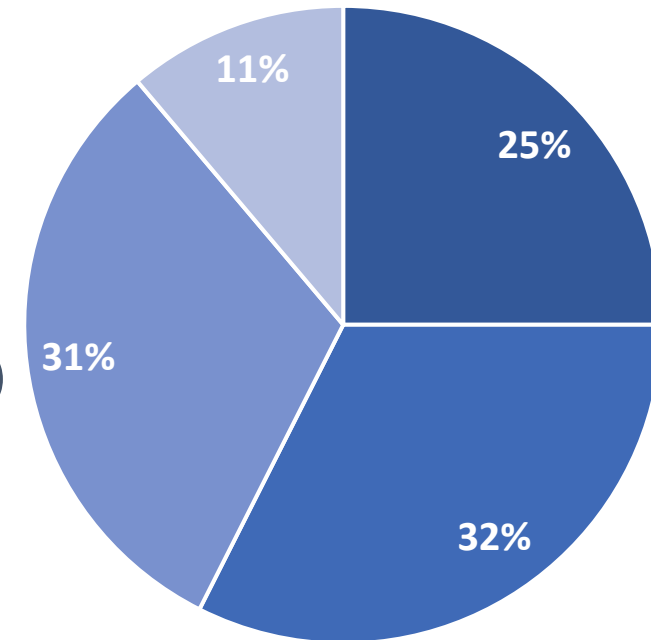
### Programme partner breakdown (all countries):

- 30% Higher education and research
- 24% SMEs/Enterprises
- 16% Public authorities (local, regional, national)

### Irish Partners Breakdown

### Type of partner breakdown (Ireland):

- 25% Higher education and research
- 32% SMEs, Private enterprises
- 31% Public authorities (local, regional, national)
- 11% Interest groups, NGOs, other



# The NWE Programme

## 2021-2027

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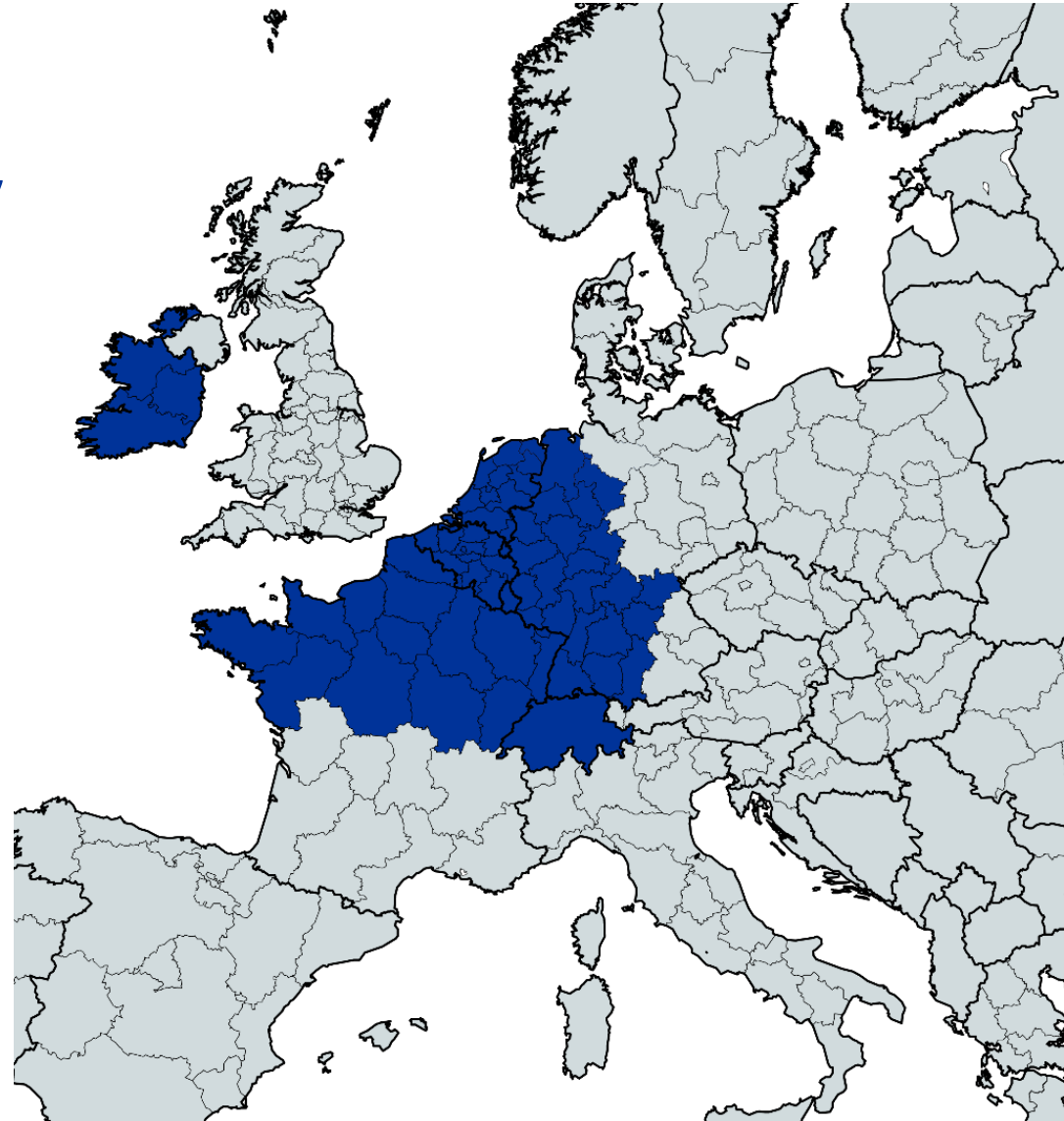
### 7 countries

Belgium, France, Germany,  
Ireland, Luxembourg, the  
Netherlands and  
Switzerland

### Overall budget:

310,480,455 € ERDF

**Co-financing : 60%**



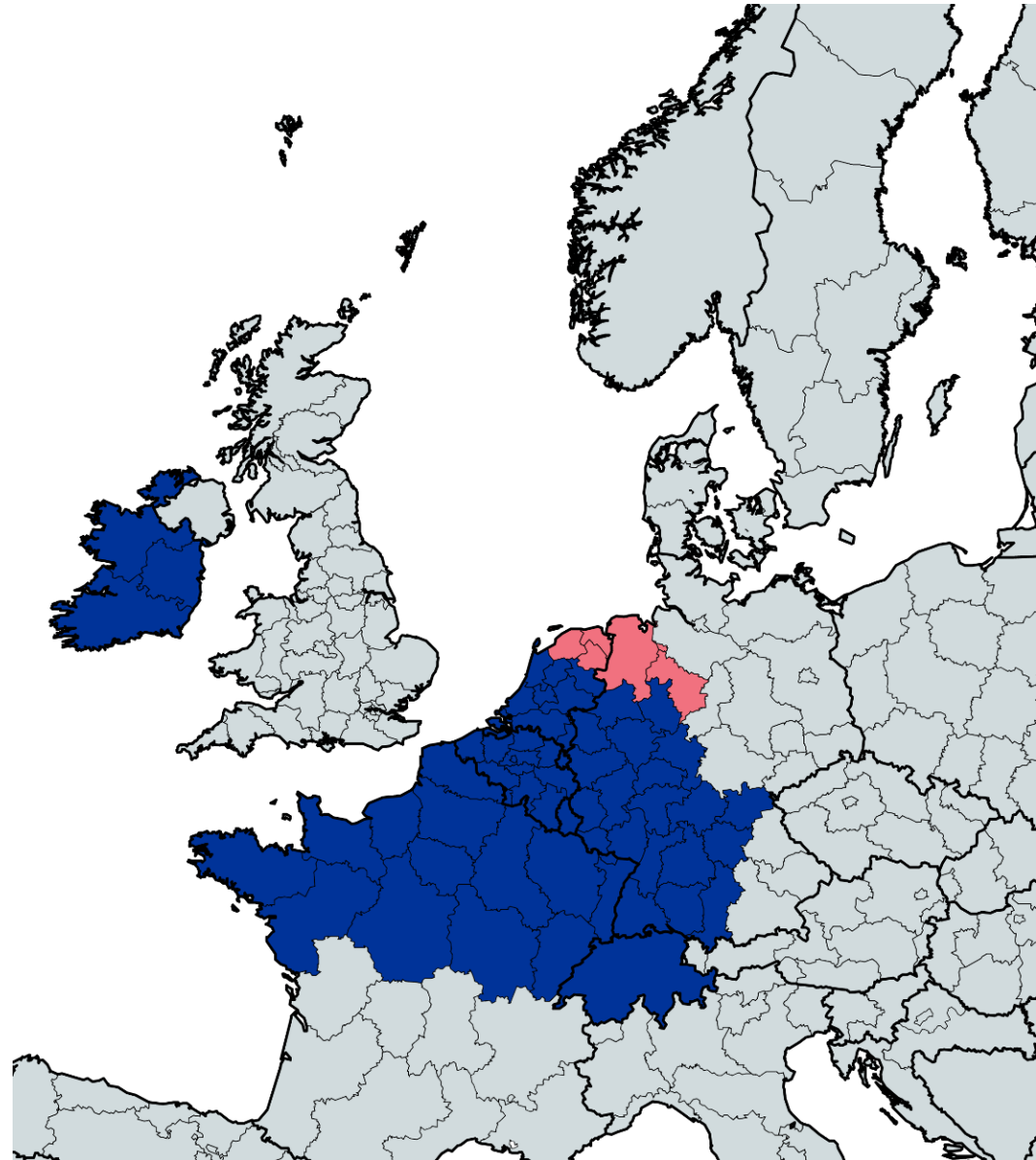


# The NWE Programme 2021-2027

## New regions :

- Germany (Bremen, Leine-Weser, Weser-Ems)
- NL (Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe)

**Irish area covered :**  
All counties are eligible





# The NWE Programme 2021-2027

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- **3 partners from 3 different countries**
- At least 2 partners from the NWE area
- Partners outside the NWE area can join if well justified



# The NWE Programme

## 2021-2027

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North-West Europe



## Process & planning call 1



# Thematic focus

## 2021-2027

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### Priority areas

1. Climate and environment
2. Energy transition
3. Circular Economy
4. Innovation and resilience
5. Inclusive society



# Thematic focus

## 2021-2027

### Priority 1

#### Climate and Environment

Enhancing **nature protection, biodiversity** and reducing all forms of **pollution** (SO2.7)

Promoting **climate change** adaptation and **disaster risk prevention** resilience (SO 2.4)

### Priority 2

#### Energy Transition

Promoting **energy efficiency** and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (SO2.1)

Promoting **renewable energy** (SO 2.2)

### Priority 3

#### Circular Economy

Promoting the transition to a **circular and resource efficient** economy (SO 2.6)



# Thematic focus

## 2021-2027

### Priority 4

#### Innovation and resilience

Developing and  
enhancing **research  
and innovation**  
capacities and the  
uptake of **advanced  
technologies** (SO 1.1)

### Priority 5

#### Inclusive society

Enhancing the **effectiveness and inclusiveness of  
labour markets** and access to quality employment  
through developing social infrastructure and promoting  
social economy (SO 4.1)

Ensuring **equal access to healthcare** through  
developing infrastructure, including primary care, and  
promoting the transition from institutional to family  
and community-based care (SO 4.5)

Enhancing the role of **culture and sustainable  
tourism** in economic development, **social inclusion**  
and social innovation (SO 4.6)



Available here for every SO: <https://www.nweurope.eu/programme-2021-2027/call-1-support-documents/>

## Example

### Objectives

Within this Specific Objective, the Programme aims

- Develop green/blue infrastructure to ensure ecosystems and prevent the loss of biodiversity
- Embed in strategic ecosystem-based approach corridors, biodiversity, and natural capital.
- Show the benefits of sound green/blue infrastructure effects e.g., heat stress.
- Reduce the incidence of human activities on air

### Target groups

- **Local/regional/national authorities, government organisations**, (including agencies or para-public relating to rivers, environment, natural protection, biodiversity protection and green/blue infrastructure more resilient regions.
- **Universities, public research centres, private education, training centres** are highly relevant

### Activities

Projects should implement a combination of activities, such as:

- **Elaboration and implementation of joint strategies and/or action plans**, for example, nature management plans for measuring, maintaining, enhancing, and valorising green/blue infrastructure, ecosystem services, biodiversity (e.g., invasive species); or adaptation and mitigation measures at local or regional level with the aim to reduce heat stress and air pollution in the NWE area.
- **Pilot actions for testing tools and/or solutions**, for example demonstration and joint implementation of scalable and replicable solutions to embed green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approach in relevant strategies and measures; or of innovative measures to reduce heat stress by enhancing and installing green and blue infrastructure for adaptation.
- **Capacity building and awareness raising activities** in the field of innovation for resilience, for example, training schemes related to biodiversity, promoting its management, or planning and implementation of environmental protection and nature-based solutions, green / blue infrastructure, etc.

### Results

The **combination of these activities** may lead to results such as:

- Key aspects of biodiversity preservation, green/blue infrastructure or heat stress and air pollution better embedded into territorial strategies and local initiatives.
- Increased knowledge and capacity of stakeholders about green/blue infrastructure and biodiversity-enhancing / nature-friendly practices.
- Innovative technologies, solutions, products, and services taken up aiming to prevent or reduce heat stress and air pollution, ensuring coherence between the proposed approaches and local/regional needs.

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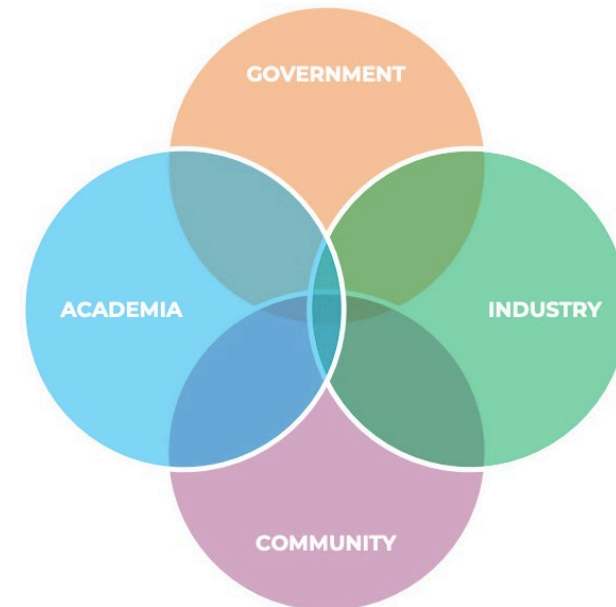
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## **What makes a good project?**

# What makes a good project

Who are we looking for?  
(beneficiaries/project partners)

- **Public:** Local/regional/national authorities, governmental agencies, public equivalent organisations
- **Private:** SMEs and business support organisations
- **Academia:** Universities, public research centres, private research units, schools and higher education, training centres
- **Civil Society:** Sectoral associations, NGOs, lobby organisations, citizens groups



# What makes a good project

## Type of projects:

Projects are expected to :

- Jointly tackle **common territorial challenges** and/or opportunities.
- **Develop / test / adapt new or existing approaches and implement** them in different contexts (e.g., regions, sectors, environments, etc.)
- Aim at the further **dissemination, uptake and roll-out** of the approach developed.



# What makes a good project

## Type of activities:

A **combination** of at least 2 of the following activities :

- Elaboration and implementation of **joint strategies and/or action plans**
- Joint development and implementation of **pilot actions testing tools and/or solutions**
- **Capacity building and awareness raising activities** (incl. joint trainings)





# What makes a good project

## Clearly defined needs and relevance

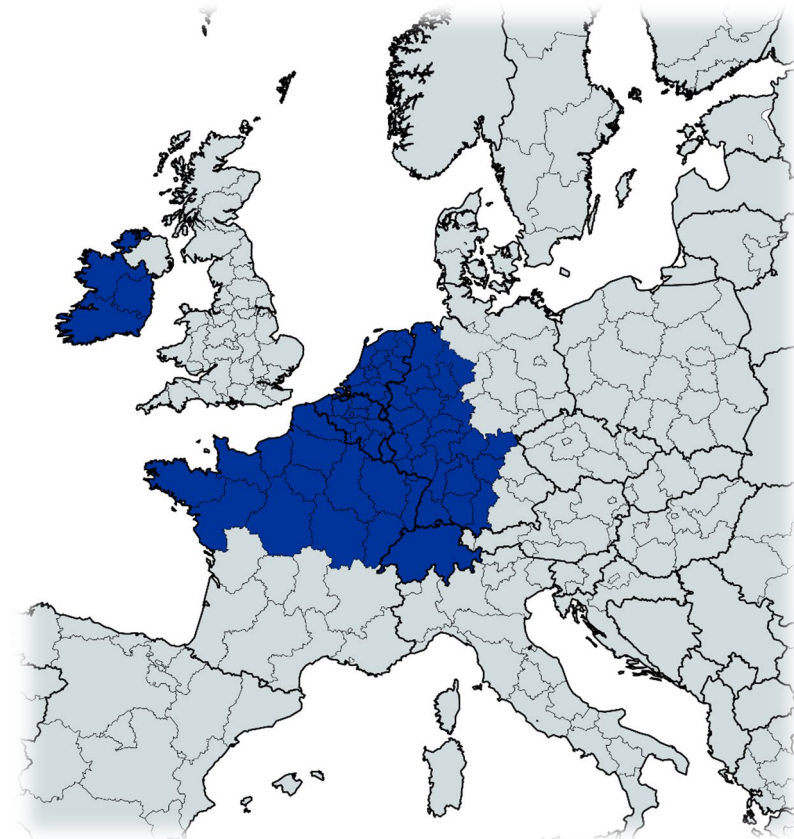
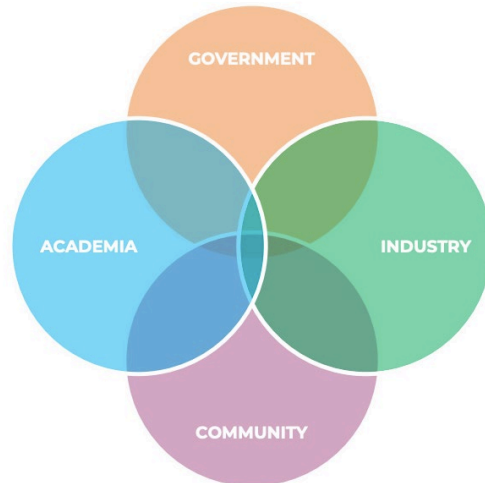
- Specifies why it is **needed**.
- What **territorial challenges and opportunities** it will address?
- What **change** (project results) in NWE territories?
- Identifies the **profile of the territories** it will intervene in (i.e., rural, peri-urban, urban...).
- Embedded in an **overall strategic framework**.



# What makes a good project

## A balanced partnership and transnational approach

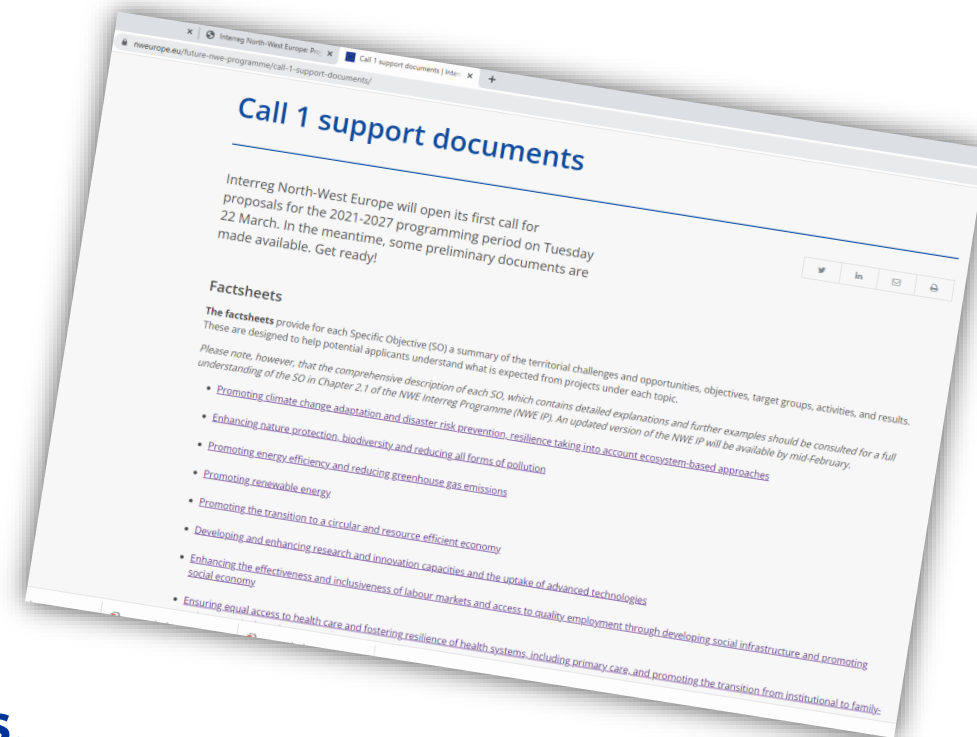
- Involves the right types of organisations
- Consider the **quadruple helix**
- IP text defines **target groups** per SO.
- **Transnational** nature



# What makes a good project

## Clear contribution to Interreg NWE objectives

- Needs to contribute to one of the **Programme SOs**.
- Clear **objective** that links to one SO – realistic and achievable.
- Up to **three project specific objectives** (*'foreseen project specific objectives' in Step 1*).
- Clearly defines and quantifies expected **outputs and results**.



# What makes a good project

Builds on and goes beyond existing approaches

- A good project **does not reinvent the wheel.**
  - Develop and test new approaches;
  - Adapt and implement existing approaches in different sectors/regions for further uptake (as defined in the NWE IP).

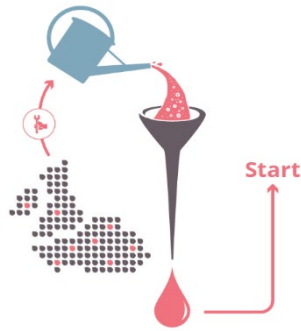
Long-term effects

- **Activities must be included** in the Work Packages.
- Clearly linked to activities and Work Package objectives.

# What makes a good project

A strong intervention logic

## STEP 1



- What **territorial challenges** will the project address (across NWE)?
- Is the project **a good fit** with the priorities and specific objectives?
- How will our project address the challenges?
- Who are the **key actors** we will involve?
- What are the **expected results**?

## STEP 2

- What are the phases of the project to ensure implementation?
- Is the budget well designed? Project duration?



# Application process

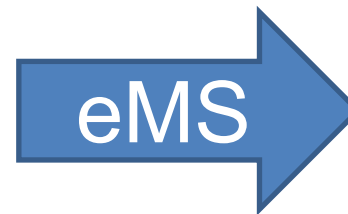
2 Step  
approach

Step 1: idea and main objective  
Step 2: detailed workplan

Appraisal at  
both stages

- Eligibility
- Quality

Online  
Submission  
only



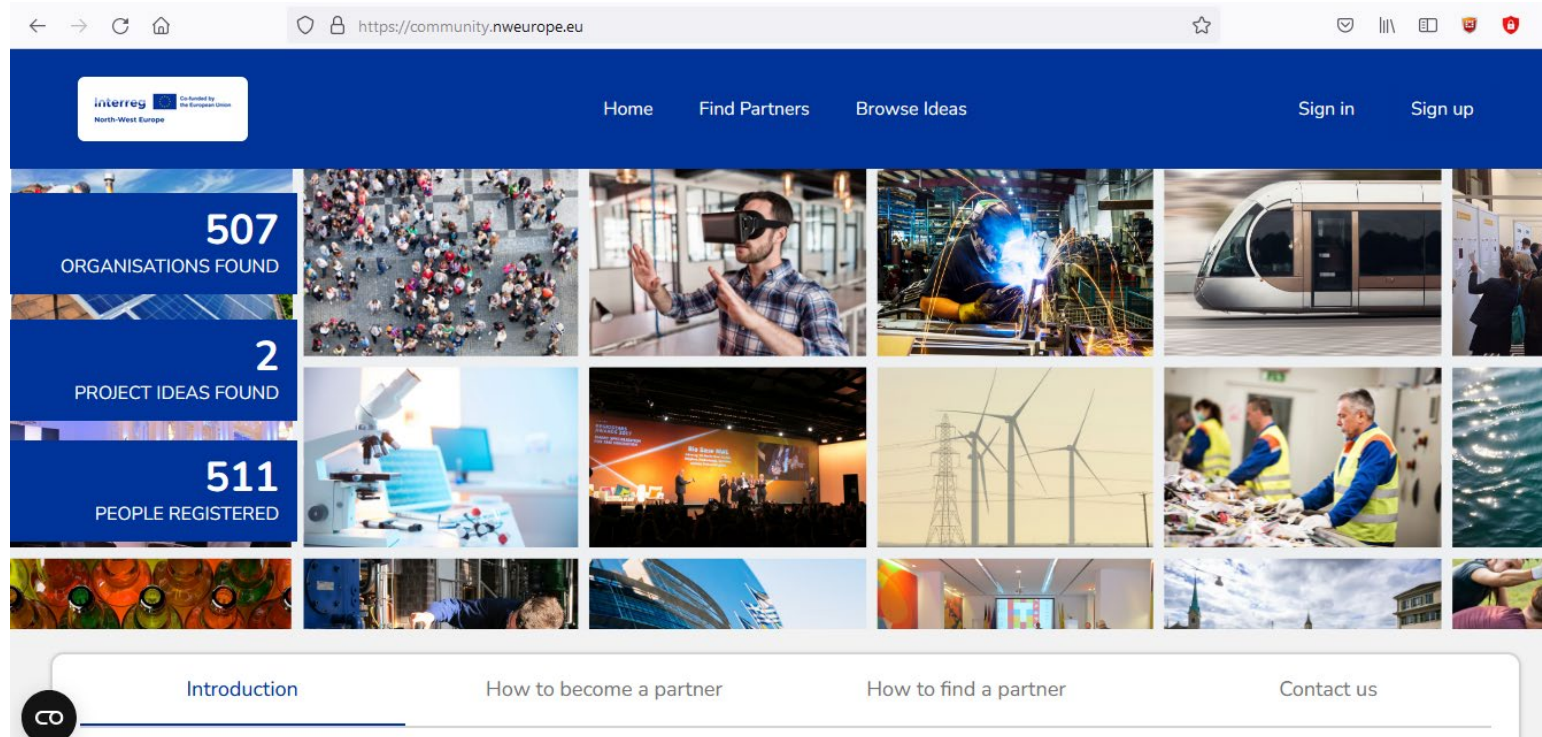
# Online Applicant community

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- Find international partners
- Float project ideas
- Browse ideas in the pipeline
- Centralised library of key call documents and guidance
- Click here to Register: [www.community.nweurope.eu](https://community.nweurope.eu)



# Prepare your application

## Key documents

- Word version of Step1 application form
- Assessment Criteria
- Eligibility Criteria
- [Visit website; Call 1 support documents](#)

## Advice, support, find partners, be informed

- Get first advice and support from the [NWE CPs](#)
- Use the « **Applicant community platform** »
- [Click here](#) for Joint Secretariat mailing list
- [Click here](#) for Irish partner mailing list



**THANK YOU!**

Email: [sdavoren@southernassembly.ie](mailto:sdavoren@southernassembly.ie)



Coffee Break

The Webinar will resume  
shortly.



# Irish Call Launch for Interreg North West Europe

Michael Doran 3cea

7 April 2022

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# Content

- **Who are 3cea**
- **Existing North West Europe Projects**
  1. REGENERGY
  2. STEPS
  3. Climate Active Neighbourhoods
  4. H4.0E
- **Applications**
- **Transnational Element & Long Term Effects**
- **Contact points**
- **Experiences**



- Regional Energy
- 3cea focus on Biogas, rural production, urban consumption
- Completion June 2022
- Series of Reports and infrastructure, gas installation
- Ormonde Organics Irish partner
- Total 3cea budget €650k



- Storage of Energy & Power Systems in NWE (STEPS) (NWE 1102)
- Promote adoption of innovative power storage
- Voucher 1 and Voucher 2
- Galway Energy Co-Op and NUIG
- Total 3cea budget €550k



- Focus on Energy Efficiency Audits in Nursing Homes, Shopping Centres, Commercial Offices and Manufacturers
- Capitalisation Project
- €1000 per audit
- Total 3cea budget €230k

# HOUSING 4.0 ENERGY

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North-West Europe  
Housing 4.0 Energy

  
3cea  
driving sustainability

SOCIAL HOUSING

CARLOW, KILKENNY, WEXFORD.

FABRIC FIRST APPROACH

CARBON CONTENT

DESIGN PLATFORM

PILOT SITES

3CEA BUDGET €380K

## What has Changed:

Wexford withdrawn.

Slow Progress

Extension of time

## Progress

- Wexford withdrawn
- Carlow and Kilkenny on site.
- Completion due December 2022
- Platform and Training

# Applications

- Relatively straightforward
- Window opens
- Lead Partner v Partner
- Forming a Consortium
- Tasks, Work packages
- Putting Application together
- Don't over commit
- Last minute panic



# Transnational Element & Long Term Effects

- Transnational Element
- Choose carefully
- Add value
- Balance between Mentoring and Learning.
- Fun
- Travel v carbon footprint
- Long Term Effects
- Sustainability

# Contact Points

- Irish Contact Point
- Joint Secretariat
- First Level Control, Audit Function
- Problem Solved

# Experiences

- Align Project with your Objectives
- Don't overcommit in the Application
- Acronyms
- 60% Funding
- Cashflow Issues
- 25% of overall revenue (anecdotal)
- Dependent on quality of partnership
- Fun
- Very Valuable



# Biowill Project – Salicin extraction

John Prendergast  
University of Limerick



# Context- The European Bioeconomy Strategy 2018



- to develop a **circular**, sustainable bioeconomy for Europe, strengthening the connection between economy, society, and environment.
- Driver - UN Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) & the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement.



# Life cycle assessment



willow

Farmers –  
grow willow



Digestate tested for  
fertilizer equivalence & soil  
carbon sequestration



Bark



Willow  
Debarking

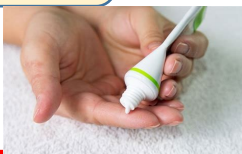


Salicin extraction

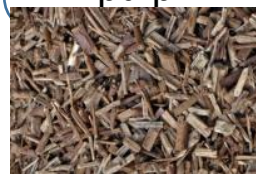


Topical ointments  
for dermatitis

Epitheel



Debarked  
Willow  
pulp



Biodegradable  
food catering  
products



Anaerobic co-  
digestion of used  
catering products  
with slurry



Biomethane  
for gas grid



# Stage 1

- Attended an Interreg NWE info session – program was suitable for our needs
- Project concept – Prepared a 3- page document with illustration
- Met with Interreg NWE NCP to review – suggested that we take a leader follower approach
- NCP helped in identifying potential partners
- Virtual meetings with partners and selecting most appropriate – budgets were not discussed at stage 1
- Submitted stage 1
- Outcome successful



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# Stage 2

- Attended meeting in Lille for successful stage 1 applicants and met with project officer – provided useful feedback on how to improve proposal for stage 2 preparation – particularly with respect
  - to a balanced consortium
  - Leader follower approach
  - budget breakdown
- Had meetings with partners – at this stage – asked them to develop their individual tasks and work packages.
- Some partners dropped out – including one who dropped out 1 week before submission
- NCP very helpful in finding alternatives

# Stage 2 submission

- During preparation of Stage 2 we had regular meetings with PO in Lille .
- She read updates on EMS and provided very useful feedback
- Matched funding required and confirmed for all partners – Gas Networks Ireland through the GNI Innovation Fund provided cash input for UL matching funds.
- HINT start early and communicate regularly with the PO and NCP



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# CONTRACT

- Interreg NWE supplied standard contract – terms regarding responsibility and liability had to be agreed by all partners.
- Definition of minimum and state aid declarations needed to be confirmed
- Our contract was delayed by 6 months –
- Kick off meeting March 9 & 10 2020 – and then Covid



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# Thank you



# ?

Contact: [j.j.leahy@ul.ie](mailto:j.j.leahy@ul.ie)

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***Q&A***



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# Conclusions



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# Thank you for joining us today



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