

The New INTERREG Programme: Opportunities for 2014-2020



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Presentation

- Introduction to INTERREG
- The new funding round – 2014-2020
- Relevant examples of coastal access funding
- Introduction to Atlantic Action Plan
- Potential for coastal access?



What is INTERREG?

- Structural funding - ERDF
- Effectively 'Objective 3' – for Territorial Co-operation
- Underpinned by Lisbon Strategy and Gothenburg Agenda
- Lisbon Strategy (socio/economic) focuses on growth and jobs
- Gothenburg Agenda (environmental) focuses on protecting the environment and achieving a more sustainable pattern of development
- Fifth round of funding – 2014-2020

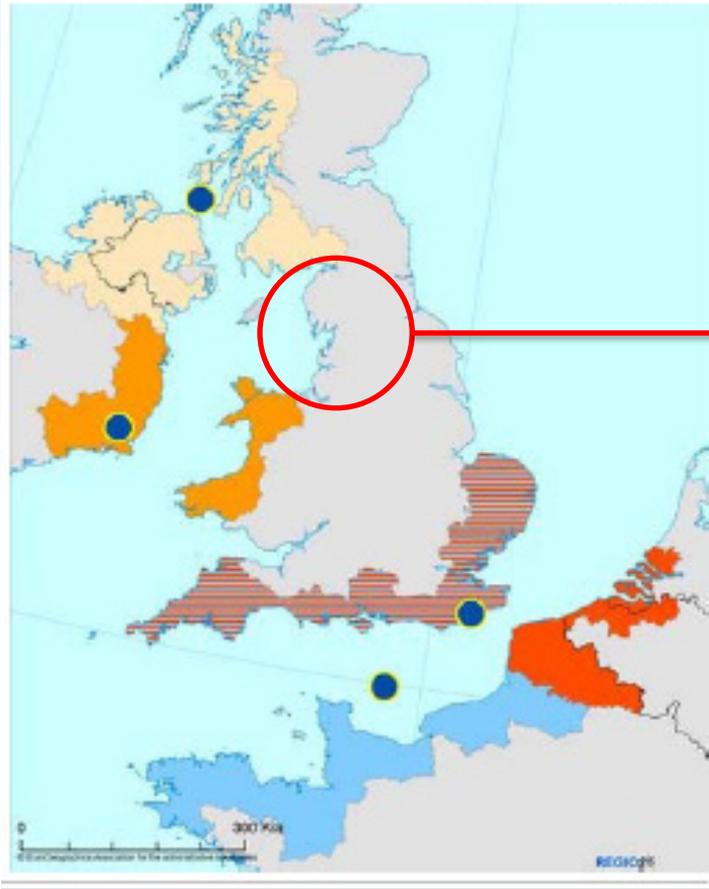


The INTERREG Programmes

- 3 strands:
- **A** – Cross-border co-operation
 - » needs an international border within 150km
- **B** – Transnational Co-operation
 - » several area-based programmes
- **INTERREG EUROPE (formerly C)** - Interregional Co-operation
 - » Whole EU covered
 - » Focus on networking and exchange of best practice

INTERREG A

United Kingdom: Cross-border co-operation programmes



North West England
not eligible under
previous rounds

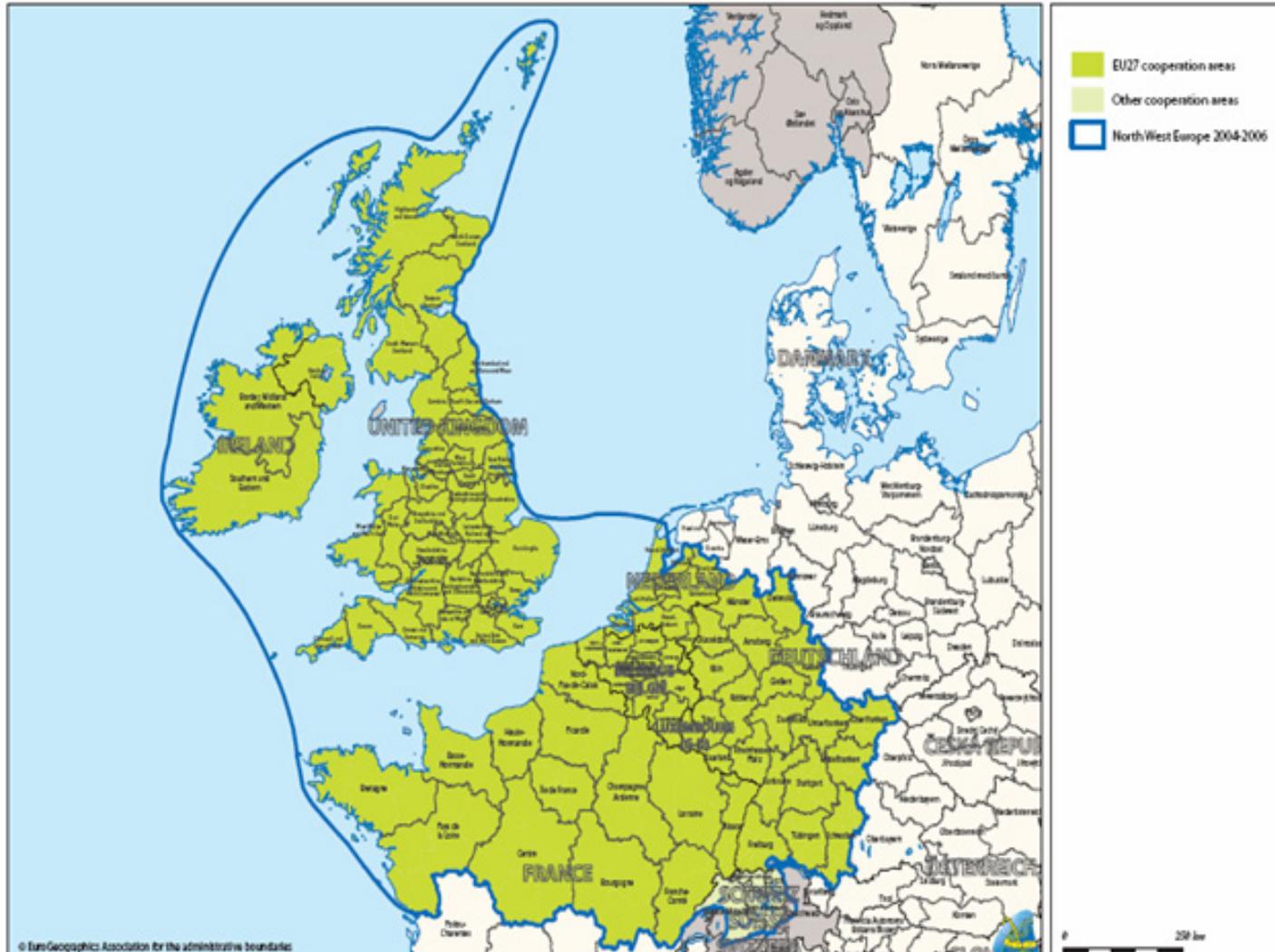
INTERREG VB

- Currently 13 area-based programmes
- North West England falls within 2 areas: North West Europe and the Atlantic Area
- Past funding rates have been 50% co-financing
- Past project sizes range from €0.2m – €16m with an average of €3m
- Large scale capital expenditure has been possible /expected in previous rounds

North West Europe Area



Transnational cooperation areas 2007-2013 North West Europe



INTERREG VB North West Europe

2014-20 thematic objectives agreed:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- Protecting the environment and promoting energy efficiency.

INTERREG VB North West Europe

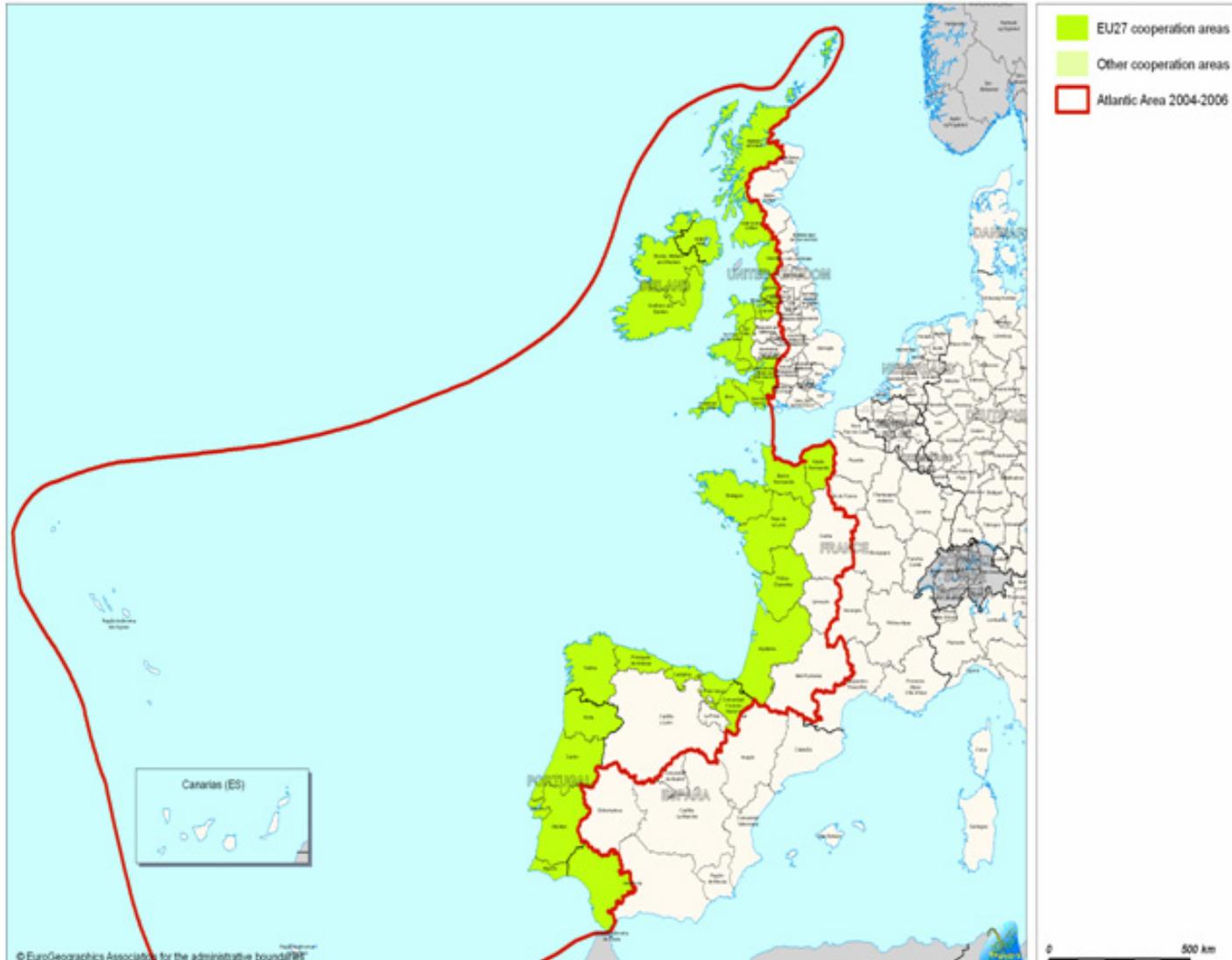
Timetable:

- Dec 13/Jan 14 - final agreement by Member States and submission of the Operational Programme to the European Commission.
- Before summer 2014 – approval by EC
- 2nd half 2014 first call for projects

Atlantic Area



Transnational cooperation areas 2007-2013 Atlantic Coast



INTERREG VB Atlantic Area

- Little detail available yet
- Website states 'The cohesion policy and the Programme future is being prepared in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy, i.e. for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'
- A working group is developing the first steps towards the drafting of the new Operational Programme (comprises all member states participating in the current Programme).
- Conducting a survey for stakeholders to collect opinion on major issues re the preparation of the next Programme.
- No timeline available yet but should be similar to NWE

INTERREG EUROPE

- Little detail yet available
- Draft regulation for cohesion policy (2011)
- two major 'goals' for ERDF: Jobs & Growth and European Territorial Cooperation.
- Interregional cooperation will continue to exist to "reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy"
- BUT unlikely to be a suitable vehicle as previous programme restricted capital spend to 10% of budget

INTERREG EUROPE

Timeline:

- Dec 2013 final draft of operational programme presented
- March 2014 stakeholder consultation results
- End of March 2014 OP presented to European Commission
- June 2014 Programme Manual and Application Form available

INTERREG Budget

- Overall €8.9 billion for European Territorial Cooperation for 2014 – 2020
 - » IVA: €6.6 billion
 - » IVB: €1.8 billion
 - » INTERREG EUROPE €500 million



Things to note 1

- “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”
- Strict requirements re:
 - » type of organisation eligible to be a partner
 - » finance and audit, other reporting (streamlined across all programmes for 2014-2020)
- Previous programme needs:
 - » Innovation!
 - » At least 2 member states (usually more)
 - » Transferability of knowledge, experience, policy, etc.

Things to note 2

Prospective partners need to have:

- Good bank balance as payments retrospective – can be up to a year
- Good management mechanisms built into the project
- A crystal ball (to predict your budget accurately, especially given exchange rate fluctuations)
- Patience and the ability to compromise 'for the greater good' of the partnership

Example: North Sea Trail

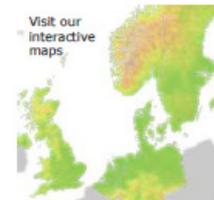
- NAVE Nortrail Project
- INTERREG IIIB North Sea Programme
- Aimed to create a series of footpaths around the North Sea Coast to enable people to
 - » enjoy walking in these special coastal landscape
 - » to discover the special things about these places
 - what makes them different and what gives them a common North Sea culture.
- Created / regenerated footpaths
- Improved access to heritage features
- Worked with business community/tourist industry to ensure areas benefited economically



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North Sea Trail Day
5th and 6th September

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0
articles



Walk a little way, walk far.

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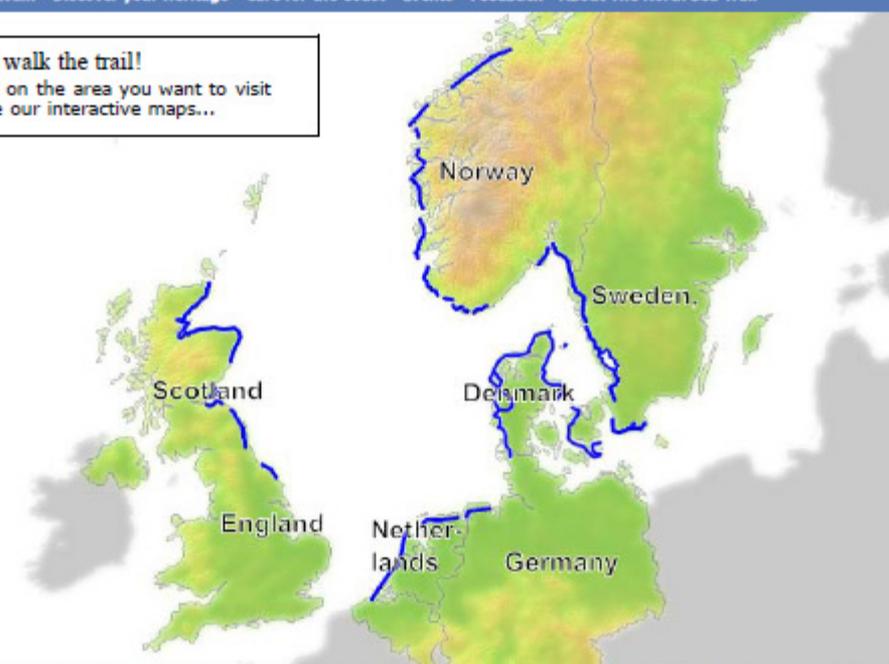
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www.northseatrail.org

Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area

'Delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'

- 5 Atlantic Member States: UK, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal
- Challenges:
 - » Delivering growth ('Blue Growth' agenda)
 - » Reducing carbon footprint
 - » Sustainable use of the sea's natural resources
 - » Effective responses to threats and emergencies
 - » Implementing an ecosystem based management approach to Atlantic waters
- Implementation through to 2020

Atlantic Action Plan Priorities

- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation
- Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment
- Improve accessibility and connectivity
- Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development...
 - » *Specific Objective: preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage*

Preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage

- Combating seasonality and improving prospects for SMEs through diversification of maritime and coastal tourism products and development of niche markets by investing in:
 - » marine sport, marinas and nautical leisure activities;
 - » identifying and promoting cultural and natural attractions of the Atlantic seaboard such as artisanal fishing, local cuisine and maritime heritage;
 - » protecting and restoring tourist attractions, including coastal and underwater cultural attractions and maritime heritage sites, with archaeological, ecological or historical value.

European Funding Relevance

- Timing fits with development of Common Strategic Framework (CSF) for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)
- Thematic objectives of CSF:
 - » Supporting shift to low carbon economy
 - » Increasing capacity for research and innovation through education & training, plus industry – research links
 - » Enhancing competitiveness of SMEs particularly tourism, fishing and aquaculture
- **ESIF includes INTERREG 2014-2020 programme**

Potential for Coastal Access?

Improving coastal access alone will NOT win funding

FOR INTERREG SUCCESS WE MUST THINK OUT OF THE BOX!

- Irish or Celtic Seas Trail? Atlantic Seaboard Trail?
Or some method to link with other areas in Europe?
- Linking maritime / cultural heritage?
- Sustainable transport (low carbon) linkages?
- Business diversification? Opportunities for SMEs?
- Health?
- Other???



Questions?

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