

Measure:

Business & Economic
Development

Promoters:

Derry City Council

Title:

North West Economic
Partnership

The North West Economic Partnership represented a collaboration of local authorities and enterprise agencies in Derry & Donegal, in conjunction with the main players in the area of economic development, to pilot a new cross-border initiative aimed at stimulating enterprise and economic activity in the region

The project had a strong regional focus and sought to add significant value to the regional economic development and business development activities throughout the two counties and in all the local authority areas of Derry, Donegal, Limavady & Strabane.

The overall aim of the project was to increase competitiveness and sustainability of the North West economic development function by promoting a partnership approach to regional enterprise development on a cross border basis.

The project activities included the following programmes:

Entrepreneurship Programme:

The aim of this programme was to promote entrepreneurship and create new business starts in the region. This element of the project sought to implement the actions on a regional cross-border basis thus providing a significant additional programme element that was integrated with, and co-ordinated as part of, current actions on the ground.

Business Growth Programme:

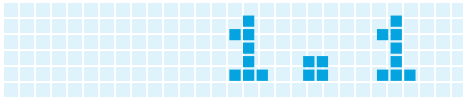
This element of the overall project targeted potential Invest NI and Enterprise Ireland clients in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland. The aim of the programme was to increase the number of growth-orientated and export –oriented micro businesses in the region and to provide 40 businesses with associated assessment mentoring training and business information events.

It was also intended that at the end of each programme, participant businesses would be signposted to additional programmes, supports and interventions from other agencies.



Members of Ireland Northwest Management Team at the Diaspora event in Boston





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Diaspora Project:

In a partnership arrangement involving the respective Councils within the region and all relevant economic development actors the following actions were carried out:

- Establishment of a North West based Diaspora focused on graduates from the area who have a propensity to return to establish knowledge businesses. (Leads identified were to be passed on to the respective state agencies so that they could follow up on them).
- Development of a company database of persons in knowledge based businesses, which would facilitate further linkage between Economic Development organisations and targeted business start up.
- The identification of key influencers / champions in the targeted areas to play an ambassadorial role in local development and investment.

Regional Capability:

For the project to work effectively, the capacity and capability of all the project partners needed to be developed further, in particular regarding their ability to work meaningfully on a cross-border basis. This element of the project contained a cross cutting horizontal programme of group facilitation and capability building.

Furthermore, a Collaborative Enterprise Framework was produced in consultation with all agencies involved in regional development. The aim was to facilitate more coordinated and seamless enterprise development activity by key partners, to ensure provision of support is not duplicated or indeed, missing from the available range of services.

Total Project Cost: €1,052,600

Grant Awarded: €789,450

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