



INTERREG IVB

Progress Report April 2014 (Long) - **Not yet submitted**



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. General Project Data

Project title	The social economy and the management of green infrastructure				
Acronym	Green And Blue Futures	Project Number	264I	Priority	P4 - Strong & prosperous communities
Nationality of the Lead Partner	UK				
Start date	01/07/2011	End date	30/09/2015	Duration in months	51
Total eligible project budget	3,241,288.01	Total ERDF funding	1,620,644.01		

1.2 Details on reporting period

Official reporting deadline	30/04/2014	Date of submission	
Reporting period from	01/10/2013	To	30/04/2014

Contact details of the person responsible for the report

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1.3 Summary description of project in English

The Operational Programme for North West Europe recognises that the quality of places and environmental and cultural assets is important for creating strong and prosperous communities. Europe's green & blue infrastructure (nature sites, parks, open space, woodlands & waterways etc.) forms an important part of these assets, which is often managed by local authorities or other public agencies. With the current financial crisis however there is increasing pressure on public sector funds. Therefore new, more cost-effective models for resource management need to be developed. An opportunity for doing this is through increased involvement of the social economy in resource management via not-for-profit organisational structures. Such an approach can have the added benefits of achieving greater involvement of local stakeholders with the resource & delivering social outcomes, such as employment for disadvantaged groups.

The aim of G&BF is to develop a strategic framework for doing this in an effective way that can be promoted throughout North West Europe with the aim of widening adoption of such approaches. Lessons learnt through the project will also feed into furthering European policy (particularly Europe 2020) and input to future delivery of the European structural funds. The project will also develop an approach for assessing the benefits of such schemes, by relating cost savings to the public sector (through the more efficient management of the infrastructure) to the wider benefits delivered to society (through, for example, increased employment amongst target beneficiary groups). Finally the project aims to develop opportunities for transnational labour mobility both for social entrepreneurs and for stakeholders and beneficiaries of schemes.

1.4 Changes in the contact details (if any) of the Lead Partner organisation and/or project management team

As reported previously, Chris Barnett is responsible for co-ordinating the project, delivery of Progress Reports and Finance Claims and providing liaison with partners, the FLC and the JTS.

Chris Bailey is overseeing the CRT activities locally – and since Nov 2012 has been engaged to oversee delivery of project activities across the partnership

Steve Higham has been appointed as European Funding Manager. He assumes overall responsibility for this project. Contact details are
Enterprise North Team Manager / European Funding Manager
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Formal correspondence should be addressed to him. Day to day correspondence regarding the running of the project should continue to be emailed / sent to Chris Barnett with cc to Steve

II. OVERALL CUMULATIVE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Brief account of the main achievements to date

The project is making steady progress towards achieving the project's aim. Local activities and investments took place as planned and are building towards the series of outputs set out.

The work required from all partners to deliver the Framework and Policy Recommendations has been clarified and partners assessed the actions required from them to get to that point. At the SG meeting in Tipperary in October 13 a methodology framework SWT created for Canal College (to assess the quality and impact of their activities) was shared and discussed by all the project partners. This was agreed to be adopted (further to partner updating) as a model to be used to feed the next stage Evaluation Report.

Partners have been working well to deliver local outputs and gather the information and results from these. The results from pilot activities to populate the initial methodology report and assessment of each activity are of good quality.

An encouraging feature has been the interest shown by partners in other WP's than they are directly or originally involved in. An example of this is the exposure to volunteering opportunities/benefits experienced by West Flanders. This has seen them initiate development of this approach in their region – and has the added benefit to the project of being able to add their findings as 'pioneers' in that region.

Other good examples of the transnational benefits brought by the project are the live case studies partners have been able to witness and hear about (during the SG Meeting in Hainaut in April 13, and the SG Meeting and Conference in Tipperary) and the first completed Canal College courses in Scotland. These exchanges provoked much interest and discussion and has gone some way to shaping the content of the Framework and subsequent policy recommendations.

The diversity of social enterprise types has proved interesting and was something initially highlighted in the "Review of existing practices and trends in relation to the social economy in North West Europe." Partners agreed that the Framework may not necessarily feature just one type of 'template' social enterprise.

Other important features have been stakeholder's involvement which is clearly of benefit to keep momentum going. Allied to this is the networking the project has facilitated and we have already made connections from outside the project partnership to extend involvement in work and to promote findings to a wider European audience.

III. PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT - LAST 12 MONTHS

3.1 Activities of the last period

WP1A8 Project start-up & pilot action definition - All partners

Presentations were made by partners at SG Meetings in Lichfield, Hainaut and Tipperary to ensure other partners were aware of the activities and approaches being taken by other partners. At the South Tipperary SG meeting in October 2013 the project conference "Developing the Social Economic Potential of Waterway Corridors" added to the build up of knowledge.

Partners were able to re-assess their initial planned activities based on the experience gained by the discussions with other project partners and in West-Flanders for example more attention is being focused on working with volunteers.

Partners discussed the Methodology report on outcome measurement at SG Meetings, initially at the Hainaut meeting in April 2013. A workshop was held in Birmingham in March 2014 where CRT, SWT, South Tipperary and Hainaut agreed the basic structure of the methodology and how it fits into the schedule of Activities forming part of WP4

An outline proposal for transnational virtual Social Enterprise Zone was discussed and ideas for the format of and what to include in the virtual SEZ took place at SG meetings and the Birmingham workshop.

WP2A1 Social enterprise incubation – Scottish Canals, Hainaut, West Flanders

Hainaut set up 3 social enterprises and these are up and running well. Ferme Delsamme, Charleroi and Forestaille investments progressed and all three pilots are delivering outputs and content much as planned.

Two of SWT's Canal College courses were completed and G&BF partners have gained valuable insights into the recruitment, social, and motivational issues faced by organisers of such courses.

The LP also visited West Flanders to assess their work in the region and to talk with them about increasing the local Belgian (with Hainaut) and Northern France (Sambre) collaboration that could be relatively easily organised.

WP2A4 Social economy networking - South Tipperary County Council

The work carried out by South Tipperary was reported at SG meetings and was expanded on at the 'Developing the Socio Economic potential of waterways' Conference in October 2013. The conference not only showcased the work being carried out by all G&BF partners but allowed the public and partners to hear about wider initiatives and work promoting engagement with waterways. Another key development we will take account of is the way that various projects are starting to link up and co-operate with each other in a joined up overall vision for the river. Local community's engagement with volunteers is linking well to the work carried out in both WP2 and 3 and this adds to the interchange between Work Packages.

WP2A5 Social outcomes through organic food production - Hainaut & Succeed in Sambre

West Flanders looked at the potential of EU accreditation, recognised and transferable between partner countries. Local Social Employment organisation(s) were enthusiastic about transnational visits and setting up training to be transferable to Partners (particularly in Hainaut) and are keen to involve the regional government in developing this.

Hainaut's work with their three 'enterprises' Ferme Delsamme, Charleroi and Forestaille went very well and all three pilots are progressing much as planned.

WP3A2 Access, heritage & environment pilot, Staffordshire – CRT

CRT's work has progressed, albeit slower than envisaged. CRT and SWT liaised regarding volunteer training and accreditation and through the LP visits in June and September 2013 these partners were able to update G&BF group at the Tipperary SG meeting in October 2013. This work is continuing and will be further summarised as an official output. The LP visit to West Flanders in Nov 2013 helped to further their knowledge about volunteers and the social development / training opportunities that such schemes run by CRT / SWT and other organisations can offer.

WP3A3 Canal College, Scotland - SWT

Two of SWT's Canal College 13 week courses took place and the findings from the first completed course was fully reported and discussed with partners at the Tipperary SG Meeting. Some very interesting outcomes and observations regarding the selection, motivation and suitability of trainees were explained and these were important stages in developing firm conclusions for the template we are going to deliver.

WP4A7 Framework for the development of the social economy for managing green & blue infrastructure – All partners

SWT created an evaluation framework for Canal College which is being used to monitor the outputs and outcomes of all the funding partners including Interreg specific outputs and outcomes. CRT and Scottish Canals added input to the format at the LP visits in June and September 2013. At the SG meeting in Tipperary in October 13 this framework was shared and discussed by all the project partners and this is being adopted (further to partner agreement) as a model to be used.

3.2 Partnership development

SG Meetings in Hainaut (April 2013) and Tipperary (Oct 2013) facilitated very good exchanges between partners and the opportunity to see first hand the work and types of issues face by partners in those Regions. The Tipperary meeting was followed by a 'waterways conference' which enabled partners to get an additional understanding of work being carried out the economic development of Waterway Corridors. G&BF partners also presented at this conference and again this helped other G&BF partners understand their work. Other meetings or workshops were held, including LP visits, and the workshop in Birmingham in March 2014 to develop the methodology and Evaluation reporting.

The training skills group which formed and communicated with each other to enable them to consolidate knowledge and understanding of what's on offer in each country – and start to work towards agreeing the wider European 'standard' qualifications we want to offer to trainees. Hainaut are leading on this action and working up the report we will produce, primarily with CRT, SWT and STCC.

The LP has encouraged other small groupings of geographically close partners to discuss commonalities (e.g. Sambre/Hainaut) and (CRT / Scottish Canals / SWT) This has improved lately and Sambre and Hainaut have set up and held meetings to support their work in WP's 2 and 3.

The group has been linked by normal means of communication and key decision making has been done through SG meetings, e.g. agreeing the format for the Methodology Report (WP1), Evaluation and Framework in WP4 and the format for the virtual Social Enterprise Zone (WP2). These were complex issues requiring face to face discussions and clarification - and SG meetings and sub group workshops have been very effective in helping make such decisions.

Partners worked together to build up the branding and the range of communications for the project, PR materials and the format for the website www.greenandbluefutures.eu Opportunities were taken to meet up with G&BF partners 'outside of the project' and widen co-operation with other organisations. This was done through attendance at other meetings and events

such as the NWE Annual event in Roubaix and the World Canals Conference in Toulouse in September. Partners were invited to join the Network of Inland Waterways Europe (NIWE) meetings to give their input to the roles and status of this group. Another event attended which helped communicate the project was the North Sea Region Annual Conference in Halmstad, Sweden last summer.

CRT and STCC agreed to take part in a German funded co-operation in and around the Finow Canal in Eberswalde working with KAG Region Finowkanal project "Cast off Jobs Motor" These G&BF partners act as international partners (Swedish and Italian waterway/tourism interests were also involved) to share G&BF concepts and advise on best practice. They travelled to Eberswalde recently to participate in meetings and a conference with politicians, waterway managers, and enthusiasts, etc. and advised on a range of issues. Our work with stakeholders, community engagement and volunteering in G&BF was seen as being particularly relevant to the current (under-utilised) status of the Finow Canal. Both CRT and STCC will host reciprocal visits from Finow Canal project team later in 2014.

The Laggan Canal Trust and Lisburn Council (Northern Ireland) visited the Canal College project in Scotland to see if the project can be replicated in Northern Ireland and to find out how the college works and its funding.

STCC hosted a study visit from Telemark Council in Norway, focusing on local authority system in Ireland and highlighted waterway projects and the G&BF project work.

The efforts partners have made to extend co-operation has been very worthwhile and we are hoping to extend this further during the remaining time and to widen the knowledge gathering and sharing it can deliver for the partnership.

3.3 Major changes experienced or anticipated (e.g. concerning implementation schedule, partnership, budgeting)

No major changes are planned

Hainaut are proposing minor adjustments to the detail of their investments but these will not materially affect the work carried out in these and the outputs they produce and contribute to the projects findings.

STCC have had problems with the Suir Island feasibility study – so hope to utilise this budget for another piece of work which will enable and facilitate greater use and engagement with the River by installing landing stages for canoes.

3.4 Elements to improve in the next phase and potential solutions (problems encountered, difficulties in communication between partners, administrative barriers, difficulties in attracting relevant actors, etc.)

Scottish Canals have not reported any spend as yet and Progress Reporting was poor. However they have contributed to the project and attended the SG Meeting and Conference in Tipperary, where very effective contributions were made and their role / work in G&BF and developing the Social Enterprise Zone in Falkirk is expected to be of great interest and relevance to the partnership. Their work has been discussed with SWT and the Lead Partner but we want them to get more closely involved in the transnational working of the group. This will accelerate as a result of the forthcoming SG meeting in Falkirk in June and sub-group exchanges set up by Hainaut to advance the virtual social enterprise zone topic.

Succeed in Sabres' (SIS) involvement has been hindered by delays researching the feasibilities connected with Spirulina production (reported elsewhere) They have however worked to stay involved as best they can and taken part in all meetings and visits. The LP visits to them clarified the work of SIS and we observed some very important and complementary differences in the approaches they take to delivering employability 'coaching' and this will also be featured at the forthcoming SG meeting.

The frequency of exchanges between partners is increasing but this has had to be encouraged by the LP. The successes of the meetings and exchanges we have had demonstrated the value of these so we will keep pressure on all partners to make sure they continue to take place as required.

The quality of progress reporting needs to improve. The LP put in place a template based around the Application's work packages, actions, outputs etc. but proper use of this by partners was variable. Timings of reporting was good though, but the LP underestimated the time required to complete the project level report – hence the delay in submitting, for which we apologise.

Communications for the project has been slower than expected. The LP is sourcing someone with PR expertise to improve promotion to our target audiences and achieve the NWE wide coverage we seek. They will liaise with partners to assist and check on their local PR work. Implementation and further development of the website will help to promote the work of the project. Population of the website will increase in the next phase. This will be particularly important as it will host project outputs and related documents in addition to 'publicity items' which should be of greater public interest.

3.5 Supporting annexes - submitted together with the report

The following annexes will be submitted to the JTS on a USB memory stick.

(WP1) (MEETINGS) G&BF Hainaut MEETING NOTES
(WP1) (MEETINGS) Lead Partner Visits Report GBF – 2013
(WP1) (MEETINGS) G&BF South Tipperary MEETING NOTES
(WP1) (MEETINGS) GBFOct'13 Conference Brochure
(WP2 A4) Carrick on Suir River Festival Poster
(WP2 A4) Kilsheelan Tidy Towns brief
(WP2 A4) Newsletter - Inside STCC
(WP2 A4) Rural Arts and Culture Press Release
(WP2 A6) (Link to) E-zine 'Stad-land-schap'
(WP2 A6) (Link to) 'Keep on knotting in 't West-Vlaamse hart'
(WP2 and WP3) G & BF Skills development
(WP3 A3) (Link to) Invite - Canal College Celebration - Tuesday 3rd September 2013
(WP3 A3) Canal College Progress Report Programme 1 June - September 2013
(WP3 A3) Canal Employability Skills Presentation 2013
(WP3 A3) Falkirk Herald Article (07/11/13)
(WP3 A3) SRUC & Canal College Qualifications & Certificates
(WP4 A7) EXAMPLE Copy of CRT Outputs and Outcomes - Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix
(WP4 A7) GBF monitoring sub group March 2014 (CBAILEY notes from meeting)
(WP4 A7) Methodology, Evaluation & Framework flowchart
(WP4 A7) STCC presentation - G&BF Monitoring and Evaluation

3.6 Reporting per Work Package

Title	Total Budget in €	Status
Project & pilot action definition	324,128.80	Ongoing

Planned Outputs

(1) Report on external review of existing practices & trends; (2) Workshop presentations & result summaries; (3) detailed project briefs / specifications for the pilot actions; (4) Methodology report on outcome measurement; (5) Outline proposal for transnational virtual Social Enterprise Zone.

This WP will also deliver:- 1 workshop round involving all partners, with documentation / reports.

3.6.1 Main objective of the WP

The main objective is to understand and agree with partners what are (1) existing approaches and their experiences in involving the social economy in managing & developing green & blue infrastructure; (2) existing good practices & approaches, (3) the best ways to successfully deliver the pilot actions to be carried out within the project e.g. the means of delivery via the third sector and the intended beneficiaries and outcomes.

This stage then agrees the detailed implementation of the actions, drawing upon good practice elsewhere and the experiences / expertise of partners, both from the public and third (not-for-profit) sectors.

Partners will identify the social outcomes expected from the pilot actions and how these might be recorded and measured, so that the concrete results of Green & Blue Futures can be evaluated at the end of the project. The concept of a Social Enterprise Zone, creating an on-going platform for public & social actors related to green infrastructure in the partnership area will be investigated in detail.

3.6.2 How did the actions progress in the last period?

(1) Report on external review of existing practices & trends - Action complete

(2) Workshop presentations & result summaries - Presentations were made by partners at SG Meetings in Lichfield, Hainaut and Tipperary to ensure other partners were aware of the activities and approaches being taken by other partners. At the South Tipperary SG meeting in October 2013 the project conference “Developing the Social Economic Potential of Waterway Corridors” added to the build up of knowledge.

(3) Detailed project briefs / specifications for the pilot actions - Partners were able to re-assess their initial planned activities based on the experience gained by the discussions with other project partners and in West-Flanders for example more attention is being focused on working with volunteers. West Flanders will now also establish a system of recognized system of certificates for work experience as a result of discussions with the G&BF group.

(4) Methodology report on outcome measurement - Partners discussed this at SG Meetings, initially at the Hainaut meeting in April 2013 A workshop was held in Birmingham in March 2014 where CRT, SWT, South Tipperary and Hainaut agreed the basic structure of the methodology and how it fits into the schedule of Activities forming part of WP4

(5) Outline proposal for transnational virtual Social Enterprise Zone - This Action has been discussed and ideas for the format of and what to include in the virtual SEZ took place at SG meetings and the Birmingham workshop. However no concrete outputs are available yet.

3.6.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

(1) Brighton University completed the Review of existing practices across Europe – and all partners discussed and commented on this report at the Lichfield meeting and afterwards.

(2) All partners attended SG meetings and the Conference in Tipperary.

(3) All partners contributed to this

(4) All partners contributed to this initially. Partners from CRT, South Tipperary, SWT, and Hainaut developed this at the workshop in Birmingham to further define the requirements and format of the methodology as well as how it should feed into the rest of our work to measure outcomes / lead to the later Evaluation, Framework and Policy recommendations that follow on from this stage.

(5) CRT and SWT have been the most active in the planning stage of this and the concept was discussed at the LP visits to Scotland to visit SWT and Scottish Canals. The format for the Scottish Canals work re the enterprise zone at the Helix/Falkirk was discussed and this will feed into the wider 'virtual' zone. The concept was explained and discussed further at the Birmingham workshop.

3.6.4 What outputs were accomplished?

- (1) The external review of existing practices & trends;
- (2) Workshop presentations & result summaries; All available now and will be made available via the website shortly
- (3) Project briefs / specifications for the pilot actions; are available locally at partner level – we will work to gather these for placing on the project website.
- (4) The methodology report on outcome measurement is not yet available;
- (5) Outline proposal for transnational virtual Social Enterprise Zone is not yet available.

The Tipperary Conference outputs are all available via this link <http://www.southtipperheritage.ie/greenandblue/>
These will also be made available via the project website along with all other outputs from SG meetings and workshops.

3.6.5 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

No. As a result of work taken place in SG meetings workshops and visits as part of (2) some Activities may alter e.g. West Flanders greater focus on volunteering – these will be reported on separately.

Title	Total Budget in €	Status
Development of not-for-profit structures	1,296,515.20	Ongoing

Planned Outputs

4 pilot actions, with summaries & evaluation. These will deliver a range of activities on the ground that will result in:- (a) improved and more efficient management of green infrastructure in the participating areas; (b) the creation of stakeholder networks; (c) the creation of new and innovative not-for-profit businesses and the better and more sustainable management of existing ones. The target is to establish or secure the sustainability of at least 25 not-for-profit businesses / structures in the partner regions through this WP. Lessons learnt through the actions will feed into the overall framework for managing & developing green & blue infrastructure in WP4.

It is envisaged that the WP will also deliver a structure, based on the virtual Social Economy Zone concept, that can be taken further forward after the end of the project. This will bring together the various network components developed through the actions, including the resource centres in Hainaut & West Flanders and the stakeholder network in South Tipperary. This WP will also deliver 3 workshop rounds with field visits to facilitate exchange / develop policy between partners, with associated documentation / reports; and 4 rounds of staff exchanges, which will assist with the transfer of ideas between partners and help with the development of the Framework in respect of WP2 activity.

3.6.1 Main objective of the WP

This WP aims to consolidate the emerging results from the pilots that are investigating ways of stimulating and securing the on-going sustainability of not-for-profit structures in managing green & blue infrastructure.

The pilots look at;

(1) development of social enterprises and social entrepreneurship and the role of the public sector in promoting opportunities; (2) ways to bring together stakeholders to generate new ideas for public service delivery, efficiency improvements and new business concepts; (3) ways to develop entrepreneurship & business models (4) potential barriers to enterprise development, (5) innovative approaches to secure the long-term financial viability of the structures. Through this work the concept of the Social Enterprise Zone will be taken forward and piloted in Scotland and rolled out to other partners on a virtual basis as the WP is taken forward.

3.6.2 How did the actions progress in the last period?

WP2A1 Social enterprise incubation – Scottish Canals, Hainaut, West Flanders

Hainaut set up 3 social enterprises and these are up and running well. Partners saw two of these during their SG meeting in April 2013 and as part of this process partners put their questions to the local staff and volunteers/trainees working in these.

In addition to attending the SG meetings the LP visited Scotland to discuss Scottish Canals Enterprise zone at Falkirk as well as SWT's trainees work and their ceremony passing out of the Canal College to receive accredited certificates. SWT's Canal College courses have gone well and G&BF partners have gained valuable insights into the recruitment, social, and motivational issues faced by organisers of such courses.

The LP also visited West Flanders to assess their work in the region and to talk with them about increasing the local Belgian (with Hainaut) and Northern France (Sambre) collaboration that could be relatively simply organised. Findings from their early work indicated that a strong focus will need to be made to involve local inhabitants with tasks such as maintenance of their neighborhoods to ensure their continued enthusiasm for such work.

WP2A4 Social economy networking - South Tipperary County Council

The work carried out by South Tipperary was reported at SG meetings and was expanded on at the 'Developing the Socio Economic potential of waterways' Conference in October 2013. The conference not only showcased the work being carried out by all G&BF partners but allowed the public and partners to hear about wider initiatives and work promoting engagement with waterways. This stakeholder involvement proved very important as it not only added to partner's knowledge but showed how important their involvement is.

Locally the conference contributed greatly to enhancing STCC's existing network and prompted a number of new partnerships, namely the sub committee with stakeholders and Inland Fisheries to develop a youth fishing hub and also with The National Trails office in the advancement of a potential canoe trail between Cahir and Carrick on Suir.

Another key development was the way that various local projects are starting to link up and co-operate with each other in a joined up overall vision of the river. Local community's engagement with volunteers links well to the work carried out in both WP2 and 3 and this adds to the interchange between Work Packages.

WP2A5 Social outcomes through organic food production - Hainaut & Succeed in Sambre

Hainaut's work with their three 'enterprises' Ferme Delsamme, Charleroi and Forestaille went very well and all three pilots are progressing much as planned.

Succeed in Sambre's (SIS) work in WP2 Action 5 has been restricted due to delays in completing the feasibility studies into the commercial feasibility of the spirulina production, Land issues, resources and energy needs, crop types, distribution channels, social impacts, etc.

The Lead partner visited SIS to understand the issues regarding the delays and to establish a way forward. Conclusions that will feed into the Action however were that SIS is very different from the volunteer based projects in Ireland and the UK. They are driven by getting local communities into employment and use a wider ranging and streamed approach to help get people jobs e.g. from a simple chat on the phone or drop in centre to a college being constructed to train and up skill apprentices.

They were encouraged to take up invitations from the Hainaut partner to meet and discuss ways to deliver their joint tasks and outcomes and to build on this work and to speed up joint working during this 'waiting' period.

WP2A6 Water corridor management - West Flanders

Work progressed with maintaining the water buffers in West-Flanders. Public procurement was carried out and the existing providers were appointed. The partner felt the tenderers took note of the proposed nature maintenance plan, and this illustrated to all social economy companies which tasks will have to be carried out in future if they wish to be considered for these. This is an important finding for the project.

Elsewhere WF had issues with procuring seeds to grow plants put forward a proposal to the LP to use the budget for education of young unemployed people instead. The LP responded that the education they were proposing met the criteria in Action 6 Output 2 (training & skills development and employment) and that they would write a proposal for consideration / submission to the JTS.

A discussion took place around the potential of EU accredited training, recognisable and transferable between partner countries. A member of the Social Employment Collaboration was enthusiastic about transnational visits and setting up such training to be transferable with Partners (particularly in Hainaut) and may invite the regional government to participate.

3.6.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

WP2A1 Social enterprise incubation - Scottish Canals, Hainaut, West Flanders

In Hainaut – all 3 social enterprises were set up and running

SWT Canal College was established and successful candidates passing out of from the training courses and receiving accredited certificates

Scottish Canals are involved with– Helix Project Social enterprises which were established outside of G&BF but looked at analysis/grouping of these to include as template enterprises for the Social Enterprise Zone.

West Flanders finalised collaboration protocol with the city of Roeselare, and started on the maintenance of neighbourhood green space. Although regular maintenance of the area is priority. As the project progresses, a stronger focus will be made to involve local inhabitants with the maintenance itself.

WP2A4 Social economy networking - South Tipperary County Council

South Tipperary (STCC) integrated social economy network along the River Suir, particularly focusing on larger urban areas of Carrick-on-Suir and Clonmel.

Their work was particularly highlighted at their Conference which contributed greatly to enhancing STCC's existing network and prompted a number of new partnerships, namely the sub committee with stakeholders and Inland Fisheries to develop the youth fishing hub and also with The National Trails office in the advancement of a potential canoe trail between Cahir and Carrick on Suir. The route was assessed by the National Trails Office and Canoeing Ireland in April and it is likely that a trail will be developed between Cahir and Clonmel initially.

Their various sub projects are starting to link up and co-operate with each other in a joined up overall vision of the river. The Art project engaged with communities young and old along the river. The final exhibition will culminate in a series of installations in fishing huts along the river this summer with interpretative walks being facilitated by the artists to strengthen people's links to the river and create a greater sense of community ownership.

WP2A5 Social outcomes through organic food production - Hainaut & Succeed in Sambre

Hainaut organised or participated in a number of activities to progress their understanding of bio gardening and management of green infrastructure. This included;

Meetings between (1) Province departments on the "better eat in Hainaut" theme aiming to develop a local food system, (2) Hainaut towns to list potential bio gardening projects (3) Proxial team : a project with Hainaut province schools to develop local produce for schools

Visits with sub-partners to (1) social inclusion actors and an agriculture fair, (2) to Ferme Delsamme to understand legal sanitary constraints set up by AFSCA (the Sanitary agency in Belgium). (3) to a business incubator on bio gardening in Liège to study potential employment development. (4) a pilot site in Bons Villers to share good practices (5) to Avomarc a social economy structure dedicated to help people start their business. Discussions were held on methodologies to help start their bio gardening business.

In addition they supported a Walloon region project dealing with social economy issues and contributed to a feasibility study of a business incubator on bio gardening and a vegetables transformation unit in La Louvière next to the G&BF Ferme Deslamme pilot.

This partner set up a 'Resource center' where they produced and updated blogs - with content regularly added to share good practices. See;

<http://maraichonspourinsertion.wordpress.com/> <http://maraichonsetdocumentation.wordpress.com>

WP2A6 Water corridor management - West Flanders

Work progressed with maintaining the water buffers in West-Flanders. Public procurement was carried out and the existing providers were appointed. Providers took note of the proposed nature maintenance plan, and this illustrated to all social economy companies the tasks to be carried out in the upcoming years if they want to be considered for these.

3.6.4 What outputs were accomplished?

The four pilot actions progressed well though none can yet be deemed to be finally accomplished. These will take further time to complete and are being reported on as 'work in progress'.

The same applies to;

- (a) improved and more efficient management of green infrastructure in the participating areas;
- (b) the creation of stakeholder networks;
- (c) the creation of new and innovative not-for-profit businesses and the better and more sustainable management of existing ones.

Of these (b) is the nearest to being accomplished as stakeholder networks certainly have been successfully set underway in Ireland and Scotland and Hainaut in Belgium. We expect these to evolve further as the project proceeds so will not report as being accomplished as yet.

No specific workshops (outside of Steering Group meetings) have taken place but the lead Partner visits to Scotland (with Scottish Canals and SWT) West Flanders, Hainaut and Sambre enabled CRT's experience and expertise particularly with volunteering and stakeholder involvement, to be passed on. The LP was also on hand to explain further the need to improve the partners joint working.

The SG meetings did allow two specific exchanges – in Hainaut, where partners visited the social enterprises set up in Forestaille and Delsamme and In Tipperary where partners visited the sites and stakeholder organisations working with STCC to develop greater engagement with the River Suir.

3.6.5 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

Sambre's progress is delayed due to their reliance on results of studies.

West Flanders have had issues with procuring seeds – but agreed verbally a potential way forward, which will be formally notified to the JTS further to receiving a revised plan from the partner.

Suir Island Feasibility Study has not gone ahead. STCC have had problems with funding for this – so hope to utilise this budget for another piece of work which will enable and facilitate greater use and engagement with the River by installing landing stages for canoes.

The rounds of staff exchanges, to assist with the transfer of ideas between partners have proved difficult to arrange. We will review this and whether it is realistic to continue to pursue these.

Title	Total Budget in €	Status
Social outcomes	810,322.00	Ongoing

Planned Outputs

2 pilot actions, with summaries & evaluation. These will deliver actions on the ground that will result in:- (a) employment experience & training for beneficiaries, leading to improved long-term job prospects in "green" employment sectors; (b) improved management arrangements for both social & public sector organisations for the delivery of employment-related initiatives; (c) increased volunteering throughout the project area. Lessons learnt through the actions will feed into the overall framework for managing and developing green & blue infrastructure in WP4. Also the WP will deliver - 3 workshop rounds, with associated documentation / reports; 2 rounds of staff exchanges between partner organisations.

3.6.1 Main objective of the WP

WP3 concentrates on delivering social outcomes through the involvement of the social economy in managing the green & blue infrastructure and draws together the emerging results from Action 2 & 3. – whilst taking account of social outcomes also delivered through the other pilot actions.

Summarised, Objectives are to:- (1) investigate the needs & requirements of long-term unemployed, unemployed young people, ex-offenders, young people with special needs, and volunteers (often older citizens) (2) investigate the training & skills needs of these groups (3) develop appropriate structures / arrangements for managing the beneficiaries, including skills training; (4) investigate opportunities for community & special interest groups to become directly involved in the management of the infrastructure (5) develop appropriate measures to assess the social impact of actions through evaluation of the pilots; (6) identify innovative practices from the pilots.

3.6.2 How did the actions progress in the last period?

These two Actions are closely linked. CRT and SWT liaised regarding volunteer training and accreditation and through the LP visits in June and September 2013 these partners were able to update G&BF group at the Tipperary SG meeting in October 2013. This work is continuing and will be further summarised as an official output. The LP visit to West Flanders in Nov 2013 helped to further their knowledge about volunteers and the social development / training opportunities that such schemes run by CRT / SWT and other organisations can offer.

WP3A2 Access, heritage & environment pilot, Staffordshire - CRT

CRT's work progressed locally though slower than planned as the 'supply' and aptitude of volunteers did not fit the type of work to be carried out particularly well.

WP3A3 Canal College, Scotland - SWT

Two of SWT's Canal College 13 week courses took place and the findings from the first completed course was fully reported and discussed with partners at the Tipperary SG Meeting. Some very interesting outcomes and observations regarding the selection, motivation and suitability of trainees were explained and these were important stages in developing firm conclusions for the template we are going to deliver.

West Flanders commented that SG Meeting presentations and discussions "... illustrated how the work of volunteers or people working in the social economy get translated into a recognized certificate. Thanks to these examples (and the very similar system in which the province of Hainaut is working); a study will be performed to elaborate a similar system in West-Flanders." They also commented that "different site visits and presentations of the project partners opened our eyes for a more professional way of working with volunteers. Based on their examples, we are trying to improve our way of working with volunteers."

They have identified a partner that clusters various social enterprise initiatives from the region. That partner will bring in funding and will develop a system of valuing experience and training of people working in the social enterprises. (This idea and the working principles were discussed with the Lead Partner during the visit to Roeselare.)

3.6.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

CRT managed and supervised volunteer programmes on the Caldon Canal, and worked with the Churnet Valley Living Landscape Partnership (CVLLP) to agree the standard and level of certification volunteers/trainees should gain as a result of their training. The City and Guilds, London Institution (a UK recognised qualification) have now agreed a Level 2, work based environmental / conservation accreditation. The value of such qualifications will form a key part of our recommendations from this WP)

Two of SWT's Canal College 13 week courses took place – one on Edinburgh and one in Falkirk. They worked with a number of local partner organisations including: - Landscape Architects, Archaeology Scotland, social enterprises (who provided land, facilities, floating classroom etc.) Local Canal Societies, the Historical Society in Falkirk. (Full list of those involved and findings from the courses can be seen in the Canal College reports)

Certification was presented trainees completing the courses. This included Discovery Level Certificates to participants and volunteer mentors who fulfilled award criteria, Saltire Award Certificates to participants who fulfilled award criteria, and Youth Achievement Awards from Falkirk Council

Scottish Canals worked with SWT, providing permission to work on their land; lent key technical personnel and expertise; free use of classroom at The Falkirk Wheel which also hosted project launch and first celebration event and identified tasks for projects to be worked on by trainees.

West Flanders involvement included working with a local organisation to identify of which social enterprises they could involve, volunteers training needs and in addition, the ways they could source, retain and motivate them for the agricultural/maintenance tasks and the amphibian welfare work. These issues are similar to those experienced by SWT in Canal College and will also be incorporated into reporting/recommendations. They also worked with volunteers on supporting amphibians and willow coppicing was further professionalised. They publicised this including pages on their website, and produced e-zines for these volunteers (sent to over 1500 people), stimulating a group feeling and enhancing the involvement of the volunteers.

As an addition to their actions in WP2 it is worth mentioning Hainaut's introduction of a small school syllabus "certificate of proficiency in horticulture and market gardening". This is organized under a school network called "promotion sociale" Agreement between the school and Ferme Delsamme was approved in May 13. Other participants signed an agreement with the school, which widens Hainaut's G&BF network. Theoretical courses in Horticulture in November 2013.

3.6.4 What outputs were accomplished?

WP3A2 Access, heritage & environment pilot, Staffordshire - CRT)
(WP3A3 Canal College, Scotland - SWT)

These actions are continuing so no final summaries and evaluations are ready yet. Regarding:

(a) employment experience & training for beneficiaries, leading to improved long-term job prospects in "green" employment sectors

In CRT this has certainly happened through the first volunteer work parties, but we expect the later groups organised through CRT and "vInspired Talent" (a government funded initiative to help vulnerable and disengaged young people) to provide training for this younger demographic. CRT tried recruiting via project management teams and the local volunteer coordinating team but take up was limited and not enough to make a sufficient impact on set outputs. CRT are currently collaborating on vInspired Talent and this will deliver the training and outputs as set out in the G&BF Application

SWT have definitely accomplished this output. Further Canal College courses will build on this.

(b) improved management arrangements for both social & public sector organisations for the delivery of employment-related initiatives;

CRT have not accomplished this yet - The process CRT will be using through the vInspired Talent programme may well be the template for this.

SWT's Canal College demonstrates how training of less enthusiastic, socially disadvantaged young people can gain training 'outside' of the normal means. These types of courses will form part of the recommendations from G&BF so this can be considered partly accomplished.

(c) increased volunteering throughout the project area.

In CRT yes – volunteering in CRT is on the increase. Programmes such as vInspired Talent should facilitate an increase in the target area for volunteers such as vulnerable and disengaged young people along with others wishing to use the training/courses as an opportunity to enhance their employment chances.

In SWT yes – though at a smaller scale. In their case there has been an increase though mainly in those people giving up their time to help deliver Canal College courses.

West Flanders involvement will enhance the outputs from all outputs in (a) (b) and (c)

3.6.5 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

No significant deviations.

CRT's recruitment for volunteers accreditation has slipped and will now take place in earnest from January 2014. This is being addressed further to the Vinspired Talent initiative which will guarantee the level of volunteers needed to complete the tasks.

West Flanders have invested more staff time in these projects than foreseen in the original application.

No significant deviations for SWT though they experienced some delays as some of their NEET target group, already the farthest from the job market for various reasons, proved difficult to

engage and retain throughout A number of issues delayed the commencement of some built heritage and signature project tasks.

Title	Total Budget in €	Status
Evaluation & framework development	486,193.20	Ongoing

Planned Outputs

(1) Evaluation report on the pilot actions; (2) Report - Framework for the involvement of the social economy in managing & developing green infrastructure; (3) Policy recommendations; (4) Recommendations for transnational mobility between actors; (5) Report on innovative practices identified; (6) Recommendations for an on-going network after the project end. 2 workshop rounds to develop the framework & recommendations (with documentation / reports); 1 Final Conference, including conference proceedings.

3.6.1 Main objective of the WP

The main objective is to evaluate the results of the pilot actions undertaken drawing out lessons learnt & examples of good practice to be taken forward through the “Framework for the development of the social economy for the management of green & blue infrastructure”

Results & outcomes will be measured through the process developed in WP1. An evaluation will be undertaken by independent experts leading to development of a strategic framework for growing the role of the social economy in managing & developing green & blue infrastructure within the region. This will take account of the scoping work from WP1 and the pilot actions carried out in WPs 2 & 3. Furthermore it will identify implications for EU policy.

3.6.2 How did the actions progress in the last period?

SWT created an evaluation framework for Canal College which is being used to monitor the outputs and outcomes of all the funding partners including Interreg specific outputs and outcomes. CRT and Scottish Canals added input to the format at the LP visits in June and September 2013. At the SG meeting in Tipperary in October 13 this framework was shared and discussed by all the project partners and this is being adopted (further to partner agreement) as a model to be used. The workshop to build on the work undertaken by SWT was held in Birmingham in March 2014. CRT, SWT, South Tipperary and Hainaut agreed the basic structure of the methodology and how it fits into the schedule of Activities forming part of WP4. The flow of actions leading from the Methodology Report (Evaluation feeding the Framework from which we take Policy Recommendations) was clarified (see Annex) and this sets out the tasks ahead very clearly and concisely.

An interim evaluation report of Canal College is due to be completed by the end of June 14. This will include an interim evaluation of their performance against the G&BF Work Programmes and will be shared with the Green & Blue Futures partners as an early example of how we want to use this in the partnership.

In West Flanders agreements were made to set up a system of certificates to value experience and training of people working in the social economy. This will add to the overall framework and to policy recommendations for the region.

3.6.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

(1) Evaluation report on the pilot actions;

All partners took part in initial discussions. SWT were proactive taking this forward in connection with CRT and Scottish Canals and it was agreed at the SG Meeting in Tipperary to adopt the methodology they had set up. Hainaut and Tipperary joined these two partners at the Birmingham workshop.

(2) Report - Framework for the involvement of the social economy in managing & developing green infrastructure;

This is only at an early stage. Partners discussed the broader aspects of this in Tipperary and the sub-group meeting held Birmingham in March 2014 started to elaborate this.

(3) Policy recommendations;

No progress as yet

(4) Recommendations for transnational mobility between actors;
No progress as yet

(5) Report on innovative practices identified;
No progress as yet

(6) Recommendations for an on-going network after the project end.
No progress as yet though work is taking place to consider the means of establishing this.

2 workshop rounds to develop the framework & recommendations (with documentation / reports); 1 Final Conference, including conference proceedings
One workshop round was held in Birmingham in March 2014 (in addition to smaller size meetings/visits from the LP)

3.6.4 What outputs were accomplished?

(1) Evaluation report on the pilot actions;

Not completed but partners will adopt the methodology initiated by SWT and agreed by partners.

(2) Report - Framework for the involvement of the social economy in managing & developing green infrastructure;

Not completed yet

(3) Policy recommendations;

No progress as yet

(4) Recommendations for transnational mobility between actors;

No progress as yet

(5) Report on innovative practices identified;

No progress as yet

(6) Recommendations for an on-going network after the project end.

Not completed yet

2 workshop rounds to develop the framework & recommendations (with documentation / reports); 1 Final Conference, including conference proceedings

Part accomplished - One workshop round was held in Birmingham in March 2014 (in addition to smaller size meetings/visits from the LP)

3.6.5 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

No.

3.7 Reporting on Investments

Code	Title	Total Budget in €	Status
WP311	Access, heritage & environment pilot, Staffordshire	180,000.00	Implementing

3.7.1 Investment's planned outputs

The main output is delivery of an apprenticeship programme for young unemployed people, whereby they will gain training & skills in access, environment & heritage management to enable them to secure on-going employment.

The purchase of materials will allow the delivery of this action by beneficiaries & volunteers. As the partner in this action will directly manage the beneficiaries itself, there is a requirement to provide materials for the beneficiaries to work with in order to deliver the action. It will allow the beneficiaries to gain experience & skills in a range of fields, including woodland management, chainsaw use, boat handling, use of machinery and disability awareness. It will therefore help establish & deliver the needs & requirements of the target beneficiary groups, including skills training and thus help deliver the objectives of the Work Package. It will also ensure that a lasting legacy is delivered on the ground, through an improved environmental resource; and help secure local publicity and promotion of the project.

3.7.2 How did the investment progress in the last period?

Work took place on the investment – but not on the scale and speed originally expected. The type of volunteers that came forward were mostly older than expected and more suited or interested to the vegetation works than the more physical works such as towpath, access route construction, wall repairing, etc. However work did take place and outputs were;

- 23 volunteers, 106 volunteer days took part
- 206 m of towpath improved and 4 accesses onto the Canal improved
- 35m of soft , environmentally friendly , bank protection installed, 500 m of invasive species removed,
- 4125 whips (trees) planted and 1424 m of was Hedge laid.

These numbers (and expenditure) will increase significantly in the next reporting period further to the involvement of Vinspired Talent to help recruit volunteers/trainees to carry out the (investment) work. These younger people will be more able to carry out the more physical tasks required.

3.7.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

CRT managed the local volunteers with the CVLLP

3.7.4 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

No – apart from delays reported elsewhere.

Code	Title	Total Budget in €	Status
WP212	Materials for business development - traditional boat building, South Tipperary	19,200.00	Completed

3.7.1 Investment's planned outputs

The particular focus of this investment will be to help businesses concerned with traditional skills.

3.7.2 How did the investment progress in the last period?

This investment is not going ahead due to lack of match funding or resources to carry this out.

3.7.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

As above

3.7.4 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

Currently this is unlikely to take place

Code	Title	Total Budget in €	Status
WP213	Materials for business development - arts & culture business, South Tipperary	16,000.00	Implementing

3.7.1 Investment's planned outputs

The purchase of the materials will kick-start and support the delivery of the social enterprises to be delivered through this Action and WP2. It will ensure that the project delivers a lasting legacy on the ground, through the creation of new social enterprises and help secure local publicity and promotion of the project.

3.7.2 How did the investment progress in the last period?

Materials for traditional crafts and skills aspect of Tidy Town Network project such as willow and stone were sourced locally where possible. The Garden of Remembrance is almost complete in Kilsheelan. Two other villages are also looking to use wood and stone in their projects, all of which it is hoped to source locally.

3.7.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

STCC worked on this with local communities and community groups such as Tidy Towns entrants. G&BF Partners saw examples of the work during the SG Meeting / Conference in Oct 2013.

3.7.4 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

No.

Code	Title	Total Budget in €	Status
WP214	Materials & equipment for Charleroi pilot action, Province de Hainaut, Belgium	46,000.00	Implementing

3.7.1 Investment's planned outputs

This investment will allow the delivery of the urban pilot action in Charleroi, related to training & skills for unemployed people in organic fruit and vegetable production and other "green" activity. The action involved will demonstrate how social enterprises can deliver training to target unemployed groups, while using green infrastructure to deliver high quality organic food for local people. It will deliver extension of an existing social business and contribute to the establishment of a wider resource centre to exchange best practice / advice in this field for the wider partnership. Within the project, particular areas to be investigated include legal & management structures, funding & procurement, marketing, branding, standards and distribution.

3.7.2 How did the investment progress in the last period?

All required fitting out of the site, purchase of vehicle(s) and equipping trainees / trainers took place and the fruit and vegetable production is underway. Hainaut had to obtain formal approval from the Walloon Region for individual purchases but all were accepted.

3.7.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

Hainaut delivered this themselves

3.7.4 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

No – though it is possible that not all the allocated budget will be spent

Code	Title	Total Budget in €	Status
WP215	Materials & equipment for Delsamme pilot action, Province de Hainaut, Belgium	114,000.00	Implementing

3.7.1 Investment's planned outputs

This investment will facilitate the delivery of one of the rural pilot actions in Hainaut related to training & skills for unemployed people in organic fruit & vegetable production. The actions will concentrate on specific fields of activity related to seed production and organic compost production & use. It will extend the existing social activity undertaken at the farm and establish an organic seed resource that will be available for use by the whole G&BF partnership.

3.7.2 How did the investment progress in the last period?

The Investment is in operation – partners visited the enterprise in April 2013. A new greenhouse and repairs to old ones public were sourced and installation took place in January 2014.

3.7.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

Hainaut delivered this themselves

3.7.4 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

No – though it is possible that not all the allocated budget will be spent.

Code	Title	Total Budget in €	Status
WP216	Investments & equipment for Forestaille pilot action, Province de Hainaut, Belgium	114,000.00	Implementing

3.7.1 Investment's planned outputs

The investment will facilitate one of the rural pilot actions in Hainaut related to training & skills for unemployed people in organic fruit production. The action will concentrate on developing training & expertise in relation to a particular type of organic farming involving the rehabilitation and management of "forgotten" orchards, which also form a valuable community and heritage resource for the locality. The equipment will allow the development of training & skills in relation to fruit production, harvesting, processing, storage, hygiene & distribution. This will feed into the resource centre bringing together activity from the three pilot actions in Hainaut.

3.7.2 How did the investment progress in the last period?

The Investment is in operation – partners visited the enterprise in April 2013. Main spend was on the Tractor (May 13) Cold room (Oct 13) Greenhouse (Nov 13).

3.7.3 Who was involved? Which partner contributed what?

Hainaut delivered this themselves

3.7.4 Has there been any deviation from the planned activities (content and/ or finance)? Has the JTS been notified? Please justify.

No – though it is possible that not all the allocated budget will be spent

IV. MONITORING OF OUTPUT, RESULT, TOOLS AND IMPACT INDICATORS

Increasing awareness Indicators (impact)	Target value project level	Cumulative value for project so far	Attained value in this period	Comments
N° of people reached by activities focusing on involving local communities	5,000	1356	1256	
N° of copies printed of publications targeted to specialist audiences	500	475	450	Include 200 Tipperary Conference brochures distributed to potential participants
N° of incidences of TV or radio coverage (count every incidence, incl repeated)	20	5	4	
N° of people potentially reached by Media coverage (readership and viewership measures: press coverage / TV or Radio appearances)	2,000,000	650000	650000	Estimates.
N° of press articles which mention the Project (all included)	100	13	11	
N° of press articles which give credit for the Project to the European Union (within total number)	50	8	6	
N° of press articles mentioning Project financing by the INTERREG IVB North West Europe Programme (within total number)	20	8	6	
N° of people reached by activities focusing on changing policy				
N° of people reached by activities focusing on maintaining or increasing funding				
N° of people reached by transnational events (participants)	500	121	61	
N° of people reached by national events (participants)				
N° of people reached by regional/local events (participants)	5,000	970	570	Includes Tipperary Conference and local stakeholder/community events
N° of people participating in study visits / exchange activities	150	118	78	
N° of people reached by website (unique visitors)	500,000	0	0	Website not formally launched before reporting period end.
N° of copies printed of publications targeted to the general public	5,000	76150	75950	Includes 75,000 copies of amphibians actions in West Flanders mag. For 75000 households.

Increasing awareness Indicators (tools)	Target value project level	Cumulative value for project so far	Attained value in this period	Comments
N° of activities focusing on involving local communities	5	11	7	
N° of awareness raising campaigns launched	1	0	0	
Amount of additional funding leveraged by Project beyond initial Total Budget.	200,000	103000	103000	Possible double counting of Ireland Sportsnation funding. Other funding for Finow Canal project resulting from G&BF (and Numericanal) contact.
N° of best practice manuals and/or guidelines published	1	0	0	
N° of academic articles published based on the findings of the Project or thanks to the Project	3	0	0	
N° of publications targeted to the general public	20	4	2	
N° of publications targeted to specialist audiences	6	3	3	
N° of press releases sent to regional/national/EU press	50	3	2	
N° of multimedia tools produced (eg Videos)	6	4	4	Hainaut local TV station videos / Ireland videos produced.
N° of visual identities produced	1	1	0	
N° of project documents translated (only count a document once)	1	0	0	
N° of activities focusing on changing policy	1	0	0	
N° of networks supported/promoted involving governmental actors	1	0	0	
N° of networks supported/promoted involving non-public sector organisations	1	0	0	
N° of transnational meetings organised at governmental level				
N° of transnational training/education courses developed				
N° of activities focusing on maintaining or increasing funding	1	0	0	
N° of transnational events organised	20	3	1	
N° of national events organised	5	1	1	
N° of regional/local events organised	20	5	5	
N° of full partnership meetings	7	4	2	
N° of commemorative plaques displaying EU participation	2	0	0	
N° of study visits / exchanges organised	12	8	7	

Project RESULTS	Target value project level	Cumulative value for project so far	Attained value in this period	Comments
N° of transnational strategies established to promote economic and social assets				
N° of transnational strategies implemented to improve economic and social assets	1	0	0	
N° of measures adapted that address demographic change and migration processes				

Project OUTPUTS	Target value project level	Cumulative value for project so far	Attained value in this period	Comments
N° of transnational actions to promote economic performance of cities and towns	1			
N° of transnational actions to promote social performance of cities and towns				
N° of transnational actions to promote economic performance of rural areas	1			
N° of transnational actions to promote social performance of rural areas				
N° of transnational actions to improve environmental quality of cities and towns				
N° of transnational actions to improve attractiveness of cities and towns	1			
N° of joint schemes/solutions/applications to respond to demographic changes and migration				
N° of joint schemes/solutions/applications to respond to the needs of labour market and education	1			

V. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS

5.1 What will be the project's focus for the next 12 months

The main aim will be for partners to complete the bulk of their actions in the various Work Packages and Investments by the end of 2014 ready for summarising and reporting in the various formats set out by April 2015.

The Lead Partner will co-ordinate the production of the Methodology report. Once that stage is completed and populated with partners information partners we will work with experts/consultants to produce the Evaluation Report, and the Framework. This phase may just slip outside of April 2015 but we will aim to get the majority of these outputs ready by then. Policy Recommendations will follow by Sept 2015 and will be launched at the Final Conference around that time.

The LP will focus on progress chasing the partners to ensure activities take place in time. We will also facilitate the smaller exchanges between partners and stakeholders to guarantee that joint working takes place and all results are truly transnational.

Another key focus is to strengthen the knowledge base developed through the project. This will all feed into the final Framework (and build up to that) but the website will be utilised fully to host the project documentation that can also be used in isolation.

Communicating the project will also be key and we will work with PR/European Marketing specialists to make sure we reach our target audiences during the final year. This will be particularly important with regard to promotion of our final Framework and Policy Recommendations.

5.2 What outputs do you expect to accomplish?

The majority of outputs should be accomplished by April 2015.

The number of smaller enterprises / not-for-profit businesses / structures in the partner regions may not be achieved or fully functioning by the end of the period but we are confident that those that are up and running will provide the necessary evidence and examples of our approaches.

The Framework and Evaluation may extend past this period slightly but we aim to have to period from May to Sept 2015 to draw together all the conclusions ready to produce the Framework / Policy Recommendations for public release.

Some actions have proved very difficult to deliver. These will be reported elsewhere but the impact on the project is thought to be very slight and replacement activities should accomplish equally relevant results.

IV. DATE AND SIGNATURE OF THE LEAD PARTNER

The information and documentation in this report and its attachments give a fair and correct description.

Name (in capitals)

CHRIS BARNETT

Date and signature

Position in the Lead Partner
organisation

Economic Development Officer

Date and signature of the Lead Partner