



Lead Partner Visits 2013

Province of Hainaut , Scottish Canals , Scottish Waterways Trust , South Tipperary County Council , Succeed in Sambre and West Flanders



Discussions on work package and actions progress and site visits

Report – December 2013

Partner visit – Green & Blue Futures

Groupement d'Interet Public Ressuir en Sambre

Public Interest Group - Succeed in Sambre

Meeting 23rd Sept 2013

Chris Bailey – Canal & River Trust – Lead Partner (CB)

Mr Benjamin Saint-Huile, President of Succeed in Sambre;

Mr Thierry Herbet, Managing Director of Succeed in Sambre;

Ms Séverine Bak, administrative assistant at Succeed in Sambre;

Mr Olivier Lemaire, Director of Evoli Conseil;

Mr Gérard Maton, Project Engineer at Evoli Conseil.

Ms Emma Simmons , Project Manager at Evoli Conseil

Overview from the President of Succeed in Sambre

The River Sambre is the backbone of the region and is the foundation for local industry and economic activity.

It is very important forming the region in the past , to its present day usage and we need to reinvest for the future.

Overview from the Managing Director of Succeed in Sambre

Reinvesting in the River Sambre as the main basis of a new mode of territorial development organized around three pillars

- Economic Development
- Sustainable Development
- The Social Economy

Succeed in Sambre (SIS) is very different from the volunteer based projects in Ireland and the UK- SIS is driven by getting local communities into employment

SIS use a wider ranging and streamered approach to getting people back into employment from a simple chat on the phone or drop in centre to a college being constructed to train and up skill apprentices

Scale – Industrial scale is not a barrier to skills investment and some of SIS operations are on an industrial scale

Overview from Project Manager and Project Engineer

Work Package 2 , 3 and action 5

- To develop a new economic activity on the banks of the river through intensive farming of crops in greenhouses

- To develop greatly economic inclusion through this new activity as a means of sustainable employment
- To create the right conditions so that local inhabitants might reconnect to the waterway

Why soil-less crop production

- Two advantages:
 - River water, essential for watering soil-less crops
 - Heat produced by industrial sites (incineration plant) can be harnessed together with a geothermic or other process (a technical study and analysis of hypotheses are included in the provisional budget)
- An activity that is undeveloped in the Sambre-Avesnois area

Focus on

- Product quality (applying for a label...perhaps organic agriculture)
- Channels of production and distribution on an industrial scale
- Suitable training in the form of a job integration programme in the field of crop cultivation and commercialization

Action plan

- Studies into the economic and commercial feasibility of the project, including:
 - Land analysis (flood zone, etc...) and study of soils
 - Analysis of resources and energy performance
 - Type of crop to produce
 - Channels of distribution
 - Margins and rates of return
 - Social impact (job creation ...)
- Pooling of results with local and national partners
- Communication and synergy with INTERREG partners

Economic and Commercial feasibility studies

The study will be organised into two segments:

- The cultivation and sale of vegetables , giving priority to short supply chains
- The cultivation, transformation commercialisation of a fresh-water alga: spirulina

Spirulina is:

- (a) A rich and balanced foodstuff with great nutritional value
- (b) Used to fight world hunger and junk food in the West
- (c) Sought after and used by the pharmaceutical et cosmetic industries

(d) A component of very high nutritional value for livestock feed

Time scales

	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13	July 13	Aug 13	Sept 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	July 14	Aug 14	Sept 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	
Contract 1: Administrative & legal support																								
Contract 2: Project management support																								
Contract 3: Economic & commercial feasibility																								
Contract 4: Land study & soil analysis																								
Contract 5: Optimisation & energy performance study																								

Budget

Costs		Resources
1	SIS Staff costs : 90,000	European funds: 208,700
2	External consultants and experts: 280,600 a/ Legal and technical support: 8,372 b/ Project management: 56,212 c/ Economic and commercial feasibility: 89,700 d/ Land study and soil analysis: 50,849 e/ Energy performance: 75,467	Succeed in Sambre: 133,700 Nord-Pas de Calais regional council (according to Local Economic Development Plan): 75,000 Of which axe 3: 50,000 axe 4: 15,000 axe 5: 10,000
3	Transport and accommodation: 19,300	
4	Mission expenses: 9,800	
5	First-level control accountant: 7,800	
6	Administrative costs: 9,900	
	Total eligible costs: 417,400	Total eligible resources: 417,400

Further discussion took place

- SIS could have an outstanding contribution to WP 2 3 and 4 make to the GBF partnership
- SIS are keen to share knowledge and activity case studies , visits with all partners
- Discussion about transnational exchanges following the production of the feasibility studies
- Discussion took place about audit control and potential budget movements – discussion link via phone with Chris Barnett – Canal & River Trust – Project Coordinator

Points to note

- SIS President is very supportive of GBF Project
- CB will put a half hour slot on the steering group meeting agenda to explain SIS organisation and to debate what they could potentially offer

*Actioned

- SIS requested they hold the last steering group meeting

*Agreed

Meeting was followed by a very informative site visit

Partner visit – Green & Blue Futures

Province de Hainaut

Province of Hainaut

Meeting 25th Sept 2013

Chris Bailey – Canal & River Trust – Lead Partner (CB)

Stephane Ramu – Chef de Projet (SR)

Julia Bailly – Conseillere Technique (JB)

Work package 2 and action 5 and 6

We held the steering group meeting at Delsamme (La Louviere) the working farm and witnessed the operation as well as speaking to the operational managers , supervisors and operatives

Progress so far has been fantastic and it is highlighted on this regional TV report – which show cases Delsamme and has reference to Green and Blue Futures in the dialog as well as an excellent shot of the logos on the working tractor

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcuX5_2ZyiQ&feature=c4-overview&list=UUBEGbYnaFb4TZ8WVUQiJvKq

September's discussions

Accredited training – a discussion took place around the potential of EU accreditation, recognised and transferable between partner countries

SR/JB have already got some local accreditation from a local group of schools / colleges

We also discussed Succeed in Sambre and the benefits of transnational cooperation

We looked at “Jardins de Cocagne” which is a similar scale to that of Succeed in Sambre – but is Belgium based , I was also made aware of a similar (but larger scale) project in West Flanders

We looked at their project website

<http://maraichonspourlinsertion.wordpress.com/>

An excellent demonstration of what the project is about and good acknowledgment of Interreg funding

We discussed potential changes to the budgets and debated what our definition of “resource centre” and what a “general framework”

Conclusions and Actions

- CB to consider all the organic farms/social enterprises and to consider the value of exchange visits
- To discuss potential budget movements at the next steering group meeting
*Actioned
- To discuss “resource centre and general framework” at next steering group meeting
*Actioned
- CB to investigate the potential of EU transferable accredited training

Partner visit – Green & Blue Futures

Provincie West-Vlaanderen

Province of West Flanders

Meeting 6th November 2013

Chris Bailey – Canal & River Trust – Lead Partner (CB)

Jasper Dugardeyn – Province of West Flanders (JD)

Pieter Bekaert – Province of West Flanders

Luc Maertens - the social employment collaboration (LM)

Discussion

Work Package 2 and actions 1 , 5 and 7

JD is having issues with procuring seeds to grow plants and wanted to use the budget for education of young unemployed people instead

I suggested that the education they were proposing met with the criteria in action 6 concrete output (2) training & skills development and employment (both temporary and long term) for target beneficiaries, and that JD would write a proposal for our consideration / submission to the JTS

Accredited training – a discussion took place around the potential of EU accreditation, recognised and transferable between partner countries

LM was keen on transnational visits and setting up the training to be transferable with Partners in Hainaut and wanted to invite the regional government to participate

Action

- JD to produce a proposal

Site visits

Chris Bailey – Canal & River Trust – Lead Partner (CB)

Jasper Dugardeyn – Province of West Flanders (JD)

Pieter Bekaert – Province of West Flanders

JD / PB took CB to see a social enterprise that runs an organic farm and organic farm shop – although the scale is greater than Hainaut it is worth considering an exchange visit to see what can be learned

Chris Bailey – Canal & River Trust – Lead Partner (CB)

Jasper Dugardeyn – Province of West Flanders (JD)

Bart De Witte - Head of the External Relations and City Policy department

Ellen Coghe - Coordinator Werkwinkel (work shop)

Joachim Maertens – Operations Manager - workshops

CB / JD met Bart De Witte - Head of the External Relations and City Policy department and Ellen Coghe - Coordinator Werkwinkel (work shop)

We visited a recently refurbished community park and visited the operational site of the social enterprise that manages some of West Flanders public open space

Partner visit – Green & Blue Futures

South Tipperary County Council

Meeting 8th October 2013

Chris Bailey – Canal & River Trust – Lead Partner (CB)

Róisín O' Grady - Acting Heritage Officer - South Tipperary County Council
(RO)

Alan Walsh – Executive Technician, Planning, South Tipperary County Council

Ann Ryan – Administrative Officer, Community and Enterprise, South Tipperary County Council

Marie Phelan – Public Awareness Officer – South Tipperary County Council

Valerie Connolly – Sports Co-ordinator, South Tipperary Sports Partnership

Kathleen Prendergast – Economic Development Officer, South Tipperary County Council

Work Package 2 and 4 and actions 4 and 7

RO introduced the project and its action 4 – to establish an integrated social economy network along the River Suir – particularly focusing on larger urban areas of Carrick – on – Suir and Clonmel.

- 6 main projects
- Access
- Canoeing
- Clonmel to Carrick towpath
- Youth connect project
- Sounding lines Arts Project

We visited site and had conversations with project delivery teams , volunteers and interested local communities

- We met Simon Molloy of FAS at the Ashdown Stud who brought us down to the riverbank to see work on re-enforcing the bank with Willow, he also spoke about their work with invasive species and fishing stocks
- We moved on to Kilsheelan Village, where we went down to the river and met Fiona Crotty from Kilsheelan tidy towns committee and also members of The Carrick on Suir River Rescue, who did some manoeuvres for us and spoke about their organisation which is a voluntary body. Fiona then brought us down to their Garden of Renewal to see the work taking place with the traditional crafts demonstrated by FAS team and gave us an overview of the tidy towns work.
- We then saw a kayaking demonstration by the Clonmel and Waterford Youth Services Garda Diversion project on the river
- We then went to the Community Centre for tea provided by Tidy Town Committee, Fiona again spoke and Niall the leader of the Youth project also showed some slides of their work

Photographs of the visit are here

[Click here to view Clonmel, October 2013.](#)

A full steering group took place during the visit as well as a project conference “Developing the Social Economic Potential of Waterway Corridors”

Well attended by delegates and speakers from all across Europe

DAY 1: Wed 9th October 2013

Time Speaker

Welcome by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jimmy O'Brien,
South Tipperary County Council

Opening Address - Junior Minister Tom Hayes TD,
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

Chair: Ciarán Lynch, Development Manager, LIT Tipperary

Session 1: Setting the Scene

How can Waterways Deliver Social & Economic Benefits to the Nation?
Tony Harvey, Head of National Programmes, Canal & River Trust, UK

Setting the Scene in South Tipperary
Sinéad Carr, Director of Services, South Tipperary County Council

A Framework for Environmental, Social and
Economic Progress Across Europe
Gerry Clabby, Heritage Officer, Fingal County Council

Social Economy An Irish Context
Paul O'Sullivan, CEO, Clann Credo

Session 2: Economic Potential

Developing Canoe Trails - Key Steps to Success
Chris Scott, Activity Tourism Manager, Outdoor Recreation NI

Working Example: Canal Learning and Skills - How the Canal
Environment is being used as a College

Karen Moore, Canal College, Scottish Waterways Trust
Working Example: Developing the Economic

Potential of the Scottish Canals
Richard Millar, The Helix, Scotland

DAY 2: Thurs 10th October 2013

Session 3: European Perspective

Address & Chair - Pat Brown, Landscape Interface, Kingston University, UK

Social and Economic Benefits - A European Perspective
Andrew Stumpf, Head of Wales - Pennaeth Cymru, Glandw^ r Cymru -
the Canal & River Trust in Wales

Working Example: Festivals along Waterways
Pieter Bekaert, Province of West Flanders, Belgium

Working Example: More than a Boat Trip
Frida Sviland, Project Coordinator, Telemark Regional Park, Norway

Session 4: Landscape & Heritage

Address & Chair - Beatrice Kelly,

Head of Policy and Research, The Heritage Council, Ireland

Development of Recreational Trails, An Integrated Approach
Anna Connor, Walking Officer, Mayo County Council

Working Example: Grand Canal Green Route
Derek Higgins, BEng MIEI, Engineer, Operations, Waterways Ireland

Q&A

Session 5: Engaging through Sport

Address & Chair - John Treacy CEO Irish Sports Council

The Power of Trails
Dafydd Davis, Trails Consultant, Trails Wales

Working Example: Suir Valley Cycling Festival
Declan Byrne, Suir Valley Cycling

Working Example: Socio Economic Value of Recreational Angling in Ireland
Suzanne Campion, Inland Fisheries

Session 6: The Way Forward

How can Organisations access Future European funding -
What are the Opportunities?

Tony Harvey, Head of National Programmes, Canal & River Trust
Closing Remarks -

Sinead Carr, Director of Services, South Tipperary County Council

See photographs below

<http://www.southtipperheritage.ie/greenandblue/>

Partner visit – Green & Blue Futures

Scottish Canals

Meeting 3rd June 2013

Chris Bailey – Canal & River Trust – Lead Partner (CB)

Richard Millar – Enterprise Manager – Scottish Canals (RM)

Discussion around WP 1 and 2 – Actions 5, 7 and 8

- Creating a Social Enterprise Zone (SEZ)
- Bringing together stakeholders
- Partnership , stakeholder and community engagement

Outputs

- 40 awareness days
- 10 new social enterprise ideas- to start up
- 1 strategic public partnership set up
- 5 case studies

RM reported progress so far has been very good – with the hub of the SEZ being the 300 hectare site at the Helix Project in Falkirk, although there are lots of other activities on the Forth and Clyde and the Union Canals

Examples

Helix Project

Recyclebike - <http://www.thehelix.co.uk/things-to-do/a-place-to-cycle/cycle-shops-and-services/dawson-bike-club/>

Helix Honey - <http://www.thehelix.co.uk/get-involved/community-projects/beekeeping/>

Biochar - <http://www.thehelix.co.uk/go-beyond-green/biochar/>

Allotments - <http://www.thehelix.co.uk/get-involved/community-projects/allotments/>

Other examples on the Scottish Canals

Lambhill Stables - <http://www.lambhillstables.org/>

Reunion boats – Edinburgh - <http://www.re-union.org.uk/>

Under development

Cappercaillecruisers – Social enterprise running a fleet of hire boats from the Falkirk Wheel

White water rapids at Parkstone , Glasgow – Social enterprise setting up white water rapids in the city for canoeist / Kayaks

Partner visit – Green & Blue Futures

Scottish Waterways Trust

Meeting 3rd June 2013

Chris Bailey – Canal & River Trust – Lead Partner (CB)

Karen Moore – Scottish Waterways Trust – Chief Executive (KM)

Action 3

Lots of changes since the application was put in which has led for the need to adjust the delivery methodology and the outputs , the ethos of the programme is unchanged

Because of conflicting funding issues the approved qualification will be through Scottish Rural College (SRUC) and not Northern Council for Further Education

Boat handling skills will be replaced by built and cultural heritage skills

Beneficiaries will now gain a John Muir award, Saltire Award and Youth Achievement award

Outputs will now be 3 modules delivering 14 week placement , creating 144 placements in total

Action

KM to readjust action 3 and resubmit to lead partner to advise JTS

Monitoring and Evaluation

Discussion took place around WP 4 and KM agreed to develop a monitoring and evaluation matrix for the Canal College that would be transferable to other partners

This was tabled and well received at the steering group meeting

Budget changes

KM agreed to redraft projected budget and submit to Chris Barnett for consideration, tabled at steering group meeting

Canal College Celebrations of first cohort's success, and other recent press stories

<http://www.scottishwaterwaystrust.org.uk/news-and-events/news/canal-college-programme-1-celebration>

<http://www.scottishwaterwaystrust.org.uk/what-we-do/training-and-employability/our-current-initiatives/canal-college>

[Click here to view SWT Historic Falkirk Lock Flight Oct 2013.](#)