



# Interreg IVB NW Europe: Canal Connections

*Developing the not-for-profit educational, therapeutic and social enterprise potential of the green and blue infrastructure for cost-effective resource management*

# AIM

- ▶ Use the therapeutic effect of the green/blue infrastructure to create a sense of place and optimism that will engage hard to reach groups in caring for it
- ▶ Link the infrastructure to business, education, health and social care through a social enterprise framework
- ▶ Use the learning potential of the infrastructure to generate social and employment outcomes for local communities, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable

# Partners

- ▶ Canal Connections – social enterprise
- ▶ LEAF Academies Trust – educational charity
- ▶ LS14 Trust – local community organisation
- ▶ Leeds City Council – local authority Museums and Childrens Services Departments
- ▶ Yorkshire Water – corporate employer
- ▶ NCBA – national community boating association
- ▶ ‘Business in the Community’ – charity based business connector

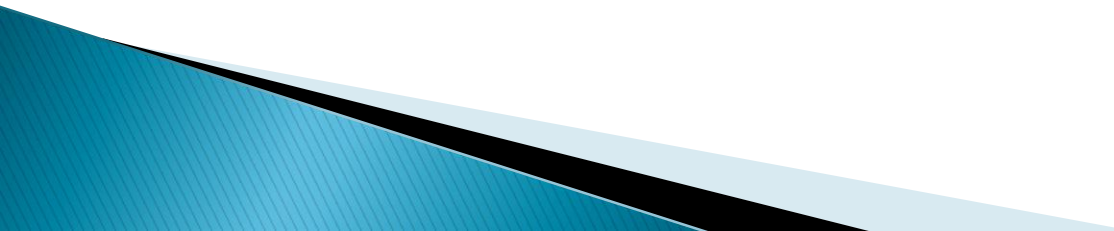
# Output 1

## Better, more cost-effective management of the infrastructure:

- ▶ Pool of volunteers from disadvantaged communities delivering routine, non-skilled maintenance rewarded by a learning and qualification framework that meets their individual needs
- ▶ Reducing levels of neglect and vandalism by creating a sense of place and optimism thus lowering maintenance and repair costs

# Output 2

## Creating and sustaining a number of not-for-profit businesses

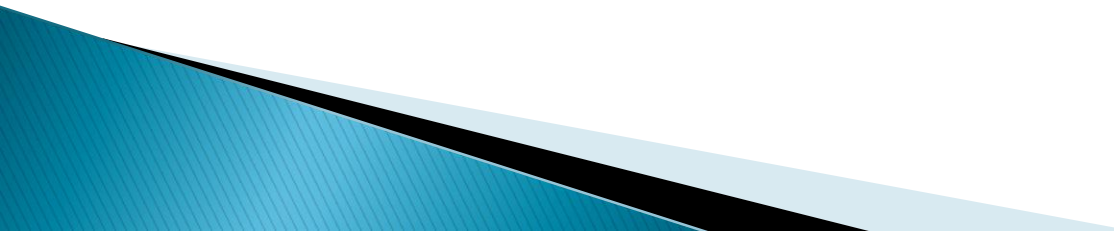
- ▶ Develop 3 social enterprise businesses based on the green/blue infrastructure
  - ▶ Provide a series of events to generate and amalgamate social enterprise resources around the infrastructure
  - ▶ Establish partnerships with stakeholder bodies to support a learning and social enterprise employment framework
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# Output 3

## Improved employment prospects for a range of disadvantaged beneficiaries

- ▶ Create a multi-generational learning portfolio linking green/blue infrastructure to heritage, arts, crafts, science, literacy and numeracy
- ▶ Generate local public awareness by orchestrating a range of strategically focused media opportunities through local, national and transnational partners

# Contribution to project

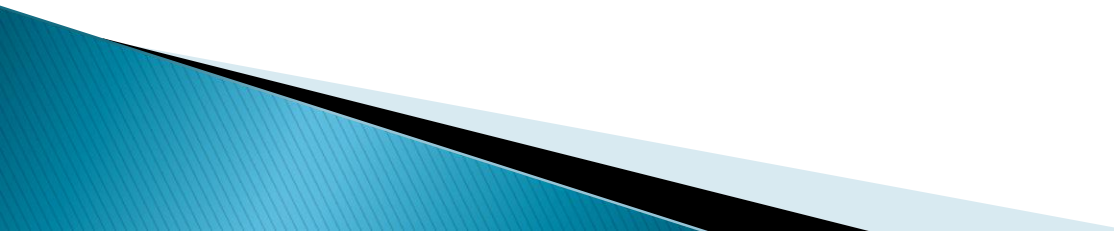
- ▶ Identifies the role of both formal and informal education as a driver for creating a sustainable synergy with the green/blue infrastructure
  - ▶ Uses the infrastructure to provide a social and economic destination for disadvantaged communities as well as individuals
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# Co-operation topics

- ▶ role of social enterprise in creating a sustainable social economy approach
  - ▶ nature and needs of various beneficiary groups
  - ▶ qualification needs of beneficiaries to achieve employment potential
  - ▶ role of community representative groups in supporting engagement
  - ▶ role of schools in building sustainability through curriculum engagement
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# Transnational added value

- ▶ Establishes a model for linking green/blue infrastructure to business, education, health and social care through a mixed, social economy framework
  - ▶ Illustrates the potential of the infrastructure to provide a positive social and economic destination for disadvantaged individuals and communities at a much earlier and culturally significant stage of the employment cycle
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