



Welcome

This is the third issue of the *Waterways for Growth* (WfG) newsletter. Our project is supported by ERDF funding from the European Union Interreg IVB North Sea Region programme. It brings together 15 partner organisations from 6 countries. We are investigating how the multi-functional use of our navigable inland waterways – canals, rivers and lakes – can be developed in a sustainable way to support economic activity. Three themes are being explored:--

Business and new product development

Waterway regeneration

The sustainable management of inland waterways

September update

We're now well into the middle phase of our project – and partners have been hard at work. Developing the Framework for Inland Waterways has continued, building on a series of Partner Meetings (in Telemark this June and Bremerhaven late September). The Work Package sub groups met to look in more detail at themes such as business development and waterway regeneration. In addition we've flown the flag at the Joint Annual Conference of the Programme and the North Sea Commission in Bruges in June.

Strong links continue with the Interreg IVC *Waterways Forward* project, with a number of WfG partners also participating in this project.

Coming soon..

WfG Partner Meetings & Workshops

Paddington (London) – Innovation Hub proposal
Date: 4 November 2011

Scheldeland (TBA) – Partner Meeting & Workshop
Date: 22-23 March 2012

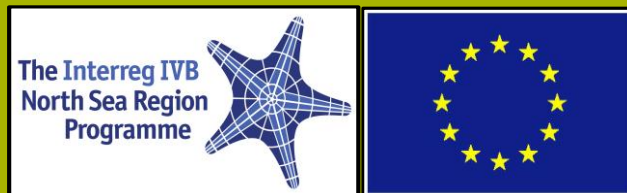


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Our partners

British Waterways (Lead Partner)
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Telemark Fylkeskommune
BIS Bremerhaven Touristik

Lansstyrelsen Varmland
City of Karlstad
Forshaga Municipality
Grums Municipality
Hammarö Municipality
Kils Municipality

Gemeente Emmen
Gemeente Langedijk
Stichting Recreatietoervaart Nederland (SRN)
Toerisme Scheldeland
Provincie West-Vlaanderen

Water based enterprises help to provide more jobs

WfG looks to social enterprises to deliver youth employment schemes

Europe's financial crisis had led to an accelerated focus on cost savings and job creation - and schemes based on our waterways can help with these aspirations.

Dream Achievers provide opportunities in the Bradford and Shipley area of West Yorkshire. They're working to enhance the natural environment of the canals and help deliver young people's personal development.

Using boats, manned by volunteers, they mix youngsters with older generations and host a Leadership Course covering safety, boat handling, waterway heritage, environment awareness and event planning. It's delivered in partnership with a local further education college.

They're using their experience within WfG to prepare a study on the potential for such social and community engagement and are trying to identify the role for a the social economy in delivering the Shipley Canal Regeneration Zone along the corridor of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in Bradford.



In Langedijk (above), we've seen the work of the *Veldzorg Foundation* which manages and maintains the historic

landscape of the 'Thousand Islands' and rents out the island plots to people – mainly on a hobby basis. Two types of social project are based there;

Re-integration schemes focusing on young offenders are managed by a social company (*WfG*), with a small financial contribution made to *Veldzorg*. Beneficiaries gain skills in using agricultural equipment through working on the plots. They also learn about vegetable growing and trading them through the BroekerVeiling Museum.

In addition, people with leaning difficulties live in homes adjacent to the site and work on the islands. In both these cases it is found that the beneficiaries enjoy working and learning new skills in this type of environment.

Tracee is an existing social enterprise in West Flanders employing some 300 people. They manage a range of businesses targeted at the long-term unemployed. Activities include second-hand shops, organic agriculture, bicycle rental, an ecological café and services for housing.

Bringing this wide range of activity together within one organisation improves workforce management and helps them find different ways to address a range of unemployed target groups – for example organic farming is specifically targeted at male unemployment.

Various activities are being looked at to focus activity in the Roeselare-Leie Canal corridor, including bicycle rental, selling services to office and factory workers based along the canal corridor and putting together a portfolio of simple tasks that skilled workers can offer to canal side employers.

It differs from other cases highlighted in that it doesn't work with volunteers and its activity isn't specifically based on the waterway itself. This social enterprise extends to the wider canal corridor and as such is interesting to WfG.

“Investing in the future by working together for a sustainable and competitive Region”

Over 200 Waterways experts from around the world attended the World Canals Conference in Groningen. On Monday September 19 delegates visited the completed section of the Erica-Ter Abel link..

STOP PRESS: British Waterways announces the organisation will be called the 'Canal & River Trust' from April 2012 when it formally begins life as a Charity..

European Union  The European Regional Development Fund

News + info

Waterways to take centre stage in Flanders planning

Canal zone developing with partners co-operation

Hosts Province of West Flanders presented their vision for the 'Canal Zone Roeselare-Ooigem' at our partner meeting in March. The vision aims to develop a programme of actions looking at economic, mobility, tourism, and environmental issues – and implementing them in partnership with large and small businesses, the unemployed, local authorities and the general public.

Specific tasks they will carry out include improving freight logistics integration, cooperation between service providers, and strengthening the social economy – a feature being developed in WfG (see page 1)

They're looking to improve the connection between the canal and Leie river to improve access for boaters. By doing this tourism and recreation opportunities should increase, creating more attractive places for visitors in future. Specific local projects will enhance the attractiveness of the canal zone. Industrial dust has been a past problem so in addition they will focus on the zones nature & environment to try and address this issue.

To complement all this they're developing a programme for the 150th anniversary of the canal Roeselare-Leie in 2012. It will look at the impact the canal had on the demographic and economic development, and landscape of this region in the past. They aim to promote a new regional identity, branding the canal zone as attractive, accessible, and part of a future oriented region - economically dynamic and as excited about it's potential as they are proud of it's industrial past.

She will join of some of the world's most exclusive super yachts along with tall ships and smaller leisure vessels, in taking the opportunity to moor in London Docklands.



Germans arrive early

Records go as ship moors at British Waterways Dock

On July 14th this year the German ship *MS Deutschland* arrived at West India Lock in London Docklands. It was the largest ship ever known to manoeuvre through the lock and into a berth on South Quay - near Canary Wharf in London's leading financial district. The lock is 178m long by 24.4m wide - just enough room to fit the ship in.

The 36hr visit was a test-run ahead of next summer when she will again moor at the Dock during the Olympic Games and play host to the German Olympic Committee.



12 points for Norway! Festivals are a big winner

Partners hear about Telemark business development

Our June partner meeting featured Telemark's priorities within the project. Business managers and entrepreneurs from the Region spoke about their strategies and their approach to developing visitor numbers to boost their own attractions and the local economy. We also heard about plans to develop the Telemark Regional Park and visited local businesses associated with the Telemark Canal.

The meeting was timed to co-incide with the annual Langesund Shanty festival which was officially opened by Project Manager, Glenn Millar - and attracted thousands of visitors. Once more it proved a big success and demonstrated the value placed on links between coastal and inland waterways and the cultural heritage story

At the northern 'spur' of the Telemark Canal lies the town of Notodden – which every year hosts it's famous Blues

Festival. Large crowds attend the event – all bringing their valued custom to the town – and waterside businesses.

Another event we heard about during our meeting was the *Telemark padler'n* – the annual kayak race which actually starts in Notodden and lasts for 23km until reaching the Norsjo Ferieland watersports centre further south. The race is gaining in popularity and attracts competitors, visitors - and their money from all over Europe.

