

TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Website: www.bftrade.travel.ie/product_development/

The overall objective of the Tourism Product Development Scheme funded under the National Development Plan 2000-2006, is to develop the tourism product in a sustainable way that widens the spatial spread of tourism, diverts pressure from highly developed areas and increases under-performing Regions' share of overseas tourism revenue.

Grant funding of up to €94 million, including €55m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is available from Bord Fáilte for tourism product development under the following headings:

- Development of Major Attractors
- Clusters of Existing Attractions
- Special Interest Pursuits
- Tourism/Environment Management

MARINE TOURISM GRANT SCHEME

Website: <http://marine.gov.ie/display.asp?action=sitetext/loc=538>

The Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, Mr. Frank Fahey, T.D., invites applications for funding under the Marine Tourism Sub-Measure of the National Development Plan (NDP), 2000-2006.

The programme provides grant aid to support a total investment over the lifetime of the NDP of up to €25.4 million, which is made up of €17.78 million for the Border, Midlands and Western (BMW) Region and €7.62 million for the Southern and Eastern (S&E) Region. This funding will be made available through the Marine Tourism Sub-Measure of the Tourism Measure of the Border, Midlands and Western Regional Operational Programme, and the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme.

The objective of the Marine Tourism Sub-Measure is to support the development of the marine tourism sector by improving the quality and capacity of the resource in a way which is sustainable environmentally, socially and economically. The Marine Tourism Sub-Measure is specifically targeted at improving marine tourism access infrastructure, and integrated development and co-operative partnerships, particularly in relation to networks and clusters.

The eligible areas for funding will be:

- Improvements in marine access infrastructure;
- Feasibility studies in respect of marine access infrastructure projects;
- Pilot marine tourism and leisure projects for integrated community or partnership development;

- Information, education, interpretation and promotion material in respect of marine tourism and leisure activities (including marine access information material such as signage); and
- Limited technical assistance for specialised training courses for marine tourism and leisure service providers (in conjunction with CERT funded training courses).

Applications for funding will be assessed in accordance with the project selection criteria for the Marine Tourism Grant Scheme, details of which are available in the guidelines for the scheme.

Completed application forms for consideration in the first tranche of grant aid must be received at Marine Leisure Division, Department of Marine and Natural Resources, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 28th February, 2002.

SPORTS CAPITAL PROGRAMME - (LOTTERY)

Name of fund: Sports Capital Programme (National Lottery funded)
Recreational Facilities Scheme (grants of £50,000 or less) Major Facilities Scheme (grants greater than £50,000) (Ongoing Programme) Where to contact: Sports Section Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation Setanta Centre South Frederick Street Dublin 2 Phone: 01 662 1444 (ext. 3944) Fax: 01 678 92 61

Website: www.irlgov.ie/tourism-sport

Types of project funded:

The Recreational Facilities Scheme assists voluntary community organisations in the provision of, improvements to, and equipping of recreational, leisure and community facilities (excluding swimming pools and environmental works). The scheme does not assist the purchase of sites or premises.

The Major Facilities Scheme is a multi-annual capital programme for major sports facilities at national, regional and local level. The terms and conditions of the Recreational Facilities Scheme also apply to the Major Facilities Scheme, except where otherwise stated.

Criteria for eligibility:

- The site or property where the proposed development is to be undertaken must be owned or held under lease for a term of generally not less than 25 years.
- A local financial contribution of at least 30% will be required. In exceptional circumstances a local contribution of 20% may be accepted on receipt of an application outlining all the relevant factors. The level of grant-aid will, however, be at the discretion of the Department, but expenditure of the grant plus the local contribution must result in a completed usable facility. The maximum grant under the Recreational Facilities Scheme will be £50,000.

Projects are considered for assistance under the Major Facilities Scheme where the grant sought is generally greater than £50,000. Where new facilities are proposed such as leisure complexes, community centres and community halls, it will be necessary to undertake a feasibility study to confirm that the proposed facility will meet the needs of the catchment area. Such a study should clearly identify the demand for the facility, the most suitable site and the appropriate scale and mix of facilities.

The criteria for the selection of projects for assistance under both schemes include:

- The priority of the proposed improvements/facility in relation to the organisation's existing facilities
- The amount of local funds available The ability of an Organisation to undertake the project
- The availability of other facilities in the area · The need to achieve an equitable geographical spread of funds
- The need to achieve an equitable spread of funds among different sports and community groups.

More detailed criteria on plans, drawings and tenders; contractors, tax procedures and voluntary labour; commencement of building work and insurance management; and use of the facility are available from the above address.

Deadline(s):

Annual fund. Applications are taken all year round but grants are distributed only once a year. Contact the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation for further details.

COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARDS

Name of fund:

Operational Programme for Local, Urban and Rural Development Sub-Programme 1: Local Enterprise

Where to contact:

Your local City or County Enterprise Board

Types of project funded:

- Individual, group or community projects providing products or services that have the capacity to achieve commercial viability and which do not displace existing business.
- The preparation of feasibility studies and business plans aimed at assessing the viability of projects.
- Target projects are those with the potential to employ up to 10 people.

A project will not qualify for grant-aid - if it is too big, e.g. with investment costs of over £100,000 - if it is already working with other public agencies, e.g. - Forbairt, IDA - if it is covered by an existing European Union grant scheme.

- Examples of water-based tourism projects already funded include capital, feasibility and employment grants for: marine development, cruise hire operators, fishing stands, boats for anglers, walkways, ferries, new quay development, adventure centres, water sports centres, angling centres, boat repair service, boats, activity centres, ferry operators, passenger vessels, canoe centre, outdoor pursuits, boat hire, tour rowing, water bus, underwater services, marine study, angling school, marina and marina jetty.

Criteria for eligibility:

- Criteria for eligibility may vary slightly from County Enterprise Board to County Enterprise Board.
- In general, projects which will be assisted must be in the commercial sphere and be capable of attaining economic viability (without ongoing Exchequer or European Commission assistance).
- There must be a market for the proposed project or service to be produced.
- Adequate overall finance must be available to fund the project.
- Applicants must possess the management and technical capacity to implement the proposed project. * Applicants for feasibility grants must have carried out sufficient preliminary research to establish that a full feasibility study is worthwhile.

Detailed guidelines for criteria for eligibility are available at your local City or County Enterprise Board office.

Deadline(s):

Check with your local City or County Enterprise Board for details.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Name of fund:

International Fund for Ireland (Ongoing Fund)

Where to contact:

Joint Director General International Fund for Ireland PO Box 2000 Dublin 2

Phone: 01 478 0655

The International Fund for Ireland Information Pack is available from the above address. This identifies the relevant bodies which administer the various programmes in the scheme.

Types of project funded:

- Projects which promote economic and social advance in both parts of Ireland and which encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation throughout Ireland.

- Preference is given to projects which stimulate private investment, enterprise and job creation.

The Fund also supplements public programmes and supports voluntary efforts including self-help schemes. The Fund has a number of programmes.

- Business Enterprise aims to stimulate local enterprise and self-employment awareness and to encourage businesses to grow, develop and seek new markets.
- Tourism covers marketing, human resources and capital development. Urban Development includes grants to County Councils for environmental improvements.
- Rural Development focuses on the regeneration of the rural areas of the six border counties of the South. The Communities Initiative includes a number Of sub-projects which aim to improve community relations.

The Disadvantaged Areas Initiative has a number Of sub-programrnes including the Community Economic Regeneration Scheme (CERS), the Community Regeneration and Improvement Special Programme (CRISP) and the Border Towns and Villages Scheme.

Investment Companies consist of two venture capital companies, one in Northern and one in Southern Ireland, which provide venture capital, on normal commercial criteria, to start-up projects and existing businesses. Enterprise Equity (Irl) Ltd in Dundalk is the company in the South.

Wider Horizons Programme develops mutual understanding and reconciliation and promotes economic and social advance through vocational preparation, training, development and work experience for disadvantaged Young people, aged 16-28 years, either in Ireland or overseas.

Science and Technology Programme aims to nurture innovation and technological change with special emphasis on transfer of technological partnerships and on support for local technologically-based economic development.

Flagship Projects were established because of their capacity to contribute significantly to economic and social regeneration and because of their immense symbolic importance. The Erne-Shannon Waterway (Ballinamore-Ballyconnell Canal) is one such project.

Specific examples of water-based tourism projects which have been funded are as follows:

Tourism Sea angling, angling centres, a holiday village, guesthouse improvements in angling areas, provision of unique tourist boat complete with disabled facilities for use on the Shannon-Erne waterway, programme of joint training for tourist information staff and skills development, range of marketing initiatives.

Wider Horizons Training and work experience programme in travel and tourism skills, tourism training and marketing programme to develop a tourist amenity route between Counties Fermanagh and Leitrim, vocational and work experience programme in leisure and coaching skills in Pennsylvania and Boston.

Criteria for eligibility:

Each programme has specific criteria for eligibility. Check with the International Fund for Ireland.

Deadline(s):

Check with the International Fund for Ireland.

INTERREG - EAST / WEST

Name of fund:

Ireland/Wales Maritime INTERREG Programme

Where to contact:

INTERREG Development Office St Manntan's House Kilmantin Hill Wicklow
Town Phone: 0404 66058 Fax: 0404 66057

Types of project funded:

The Programme comprises two sub-programmes: Maritime Development

1. Transport
2. Transport information systems and facilities
3. Marine and coastal environment and marine emergency planning.

General Economic Development

1. Economic development co-operation
2. Tourism and cultural co-operation
3. Human resources co-operation (education and training)
4. Technical assistance.

Examples of the type of projects include:

Joint research and development of a database monitoring the coastal and marine environment on both sides of the Irish Sea. Collaboration and action regarding any changes in terms of the delicate marine ecosystems.

Joint development of a service to assist small and medium-sized organisations, with regard to sales and marketing, to allow them to export their goods, both to one another and also to the rest of Europe.

Joint tourism packages including the production of brochures and advertisements focusing on the cultural and Celtic links between Wales and Ireland.

Cross-border training in the area of information technology, tourism and communication skills, which combine facilities and expertise from both partners.

Criteria for eligibility:

- All projects must be joint, cross-border initiatives involving a partnership between eligible organisations located in the Irish and Welsh regions covered by the programme, i.e. Ireland: Dublin, the Mid-East (Meath, Kildare and Wicklow), and the South-East (Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary South and Kilkenny). Wales: North West Wales and West Wales.
- Applicants, with the exception of Maritime Development Sub-Programme applicants, must demonstrate the additional benefits to be derived from the proposed project for the INTERREG 11 area, and the need for funding.
- Eligible organisations include public bodies, educational establishments and voluntary organisations including local action groups and rural collective bodies. Joint public/private sector projects are eligible.

Deadline(s):

Six weeks prior to the Programme's Joint Working Group meetings (which are held quarterly). Check with the INTERREG Development Office for further details.

INTERREG - NORTH/SOUTH

Name Of fund:

INTERREG Programme Ireland and Northern Ireland

Where to contact:

INTERREG Development Office Courthouse Monaghan Phone: 047 71251

Fax: 047 71258

Types of project funded:

The Programme comprises five sub-programmes:

Regional Development: co-operation links; tourism; local community development; technical assistance.

Human Resources: incentives for schemes in education and training; product development; quality control; Support for the other sub-programmes.

Infrastructure: transport; energy and telecommunications networks.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry: production; marketing; health; protection of the marine environment; co-operative forestry projects.

Protection of the Environment: water quality; tourist development of natural resources

Under Tourism the types of action which might be funded include:

Natural resources and activity tourism/supporting facilities Heritage/cultural tourism Joint/co-operative marketing/visitor services.

Under Fisheries the type of projects which might be funded include:

Aquaculture development Development of fishery harbour facilities

Research and development in marine and inland fisheries Conservation and development of the marine and coastal environment Infrastructure development of fishery harbours.

Examples of water-based tourism projects which have already been funded are:

The Shannon-Erne project Marketing programmes for angling holidays Cruise initiatives and the provision of marine facilities.

Criteria for eligibility:

The project has to be located in the region covered by the Programme, i.e. all of Northern Ireland except Belfast, and the counties of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo.

Priority will be given to viable, worthwhile projects which are cross border in nature.

All projects must show the degree of cross-border economic impact envisaged.

Projects must contribute towards the economic development of the border regions and the generation or stabilisation of employment. Projects must demonstrate a strong prospect of viability, i.e. become self-sustaining.

Projects must be compatible with the Common Fisheries Policy and EU environment policies.

Projects must, where appropriate, contribute towards the protection/improvement of the environment.

Deadline(s):

Check with the INTERREG Development Office for details.

INTERREG WALES IRELAND

Name of fund:

Ireland/Wales Community Initiative Programme

Where to contact:

INTERREG Development Office Courthouse Monaghan Phone: 047 71251

Fax: 047 71258

Website: www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/newprogs/interreg/

Types of project Funded:

- Priority 1 Measure 1: Business and enterprise development
- Priority 1 Measure 2: Rural development and diversification
- Priority 1 Measure 3: Education, training and human resource development
- Priority 1 Measure 4: Communications in technology and transport
- Priority 2 Measure 1: Marine and coastal development and the environment
- Priority 2 Measure 2: Culture, heritage and tourism

Who can apply?

- National, Regional and Local Authorities.
- Public supported agencies.
- Universities, Colleges and Research Institutions.
- Private enterprises, Voluntary sector organisations.

How to apply for funding?

A standard application form will be included in the information and application pack. This will be widely circulated and available from the secretariat and the web site. The pack will also contain all the necessary guidance to assist the project partners. Applicants will be encouraged to seek the assistance of the local facilitators, liaison officer and secretariat as appropriate which will be essential to avoid the risk of rejection for lack of compliance with eligibility criteria. Prior to the applications being put on the agenda of the Joint Working Group's they will undergo a comprehensive technical assessment this will reduce the time delays and allow the Joint Working Groups to operate at a more strategic level. A timetable of the Joint Working Groups will be available and applications will be placed on the agenda if there are received within six weeks before the next meeting.

How will projects be selected?

In accordance with Article 7 and 25 of the INTERREG Programme Guidelines, a joint assessment and selection procedure will be established. The selection procedure will be set out in the Programme Complement

THE IRELAND FUNDS

Name of fund:

The Ireland Funds (Ongoing Fund)

Where to contact:

Director Ireland The Ireland Funds Oscar Wilde House 1 Merrion Square
Dublin 2 Phone: 01 662 7878 Fax: 01 662 7879

Types of projects fund:

Projects which advance the cause of peace, culture and charity throughout Ireland.

The Funds support four programme areas:

Peace and Reconciliation Education Arts and Culture Community
Development.

Under Community Development the Funds focus on the following issues:

- Rural development
- Cultural development
- Environmentally sustainable economic development, particularly in tourism projects which will be of a scale and type to preserve the environment and involve local communities.
- Training and support for community and local development

- Women and development
- Urban environment initiatives Local economic development.

Examples of water-based projects which have been funded include: Rowing clubs, a seaworld project and the Irish Lifeboats.

Criteria for eligibility:

A number of eligibility criteria apply to each Programme area. These are outlined in the Grants Policy and Guidelines available from The Ireland Funds.

In view of limited resources, grants are unlikely to be given for:

General appeals Individuals

One-off events

Purchase of buildings/land

Other grant-making trusts

Purchase of vehicles

Debt repayment

Tuition or student expenses

Travel or transport costs

Commercial trading businesses Projects not based in Ireland

General administration of national or provincial organisations.

Deadline(s):

Notices appear in the national newspapers which outline specific closing dates for applications. Contact The Ireland Funds for further details.

LEADER

Name of fund:

Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU LEADER Initiative in Ireland

Where to contact:

Your local LEADER office.

Types of project funded:

Funding is provided to selected groups throughout Ireland to implement multi-sectoral and broadly based business plans for their areas.

Investment in the following areas is funded:

Technical support for rural development, e.g. surveys, feasibility studies

Training and recruitment assistance

Rural tourism Small firms, craft enterprises, local services

Local exploitation and marketing of agricultural, forestry and fishery products including the development of aquaculture and noncommercial sports fishing

Preservation and improvement of the environment and living conditions

Technical assistance, e.g. feasibility studies, consultancies Grants on capital

investment Grants for marketing Grants for training Interest/rent subsidies

Employment grants.

Examples of water-based tourism projects which have been funded include:

Pontoons, inland fisheries jetties, fish stocking programme, pleasure boats, hire boats, boat builder and angling club.

Maximum grant rates vary from 20% to 100% on different projects. A full list of aidable activities/projects and maximum grants is available from your local LEADER office.

LEADER is not intended for major development projects. An overall ceiling of £50,000 per project applies. In exceptional circumstances and subject to the prior approval of the Department, aid of £100,000 may be granted.

Deadline(s):

Check with your local LEADER office for details.

LIFE PROGRAMME

Name of fund:

EU LIFE - Environment Programme

Where to contact:

Environmental Awareness Section Department of the Environment and Local Government Custom House Dublin Phone: 01 679 3377 Fax: 01 874 2423

Types of project funded:

· Although open to any natural or legal person established in the EU, LIFE is primarily geared towards the industrial sector and local authorities, particularly those responsible for land use development.

* Projects must be innovative, be able to be used as a model, and be past the research stage, but not yet widely in use.

LIFE-Environment finances preparatory, demonstration, technical assistance, support or promotional measures designed to:

- promote sustainable development and integration of the environment in industrial activities

- help local authorities to integrate environmental considerations in land use development and planning - strengthen the link and complementarity between environmental regulations and structural financial assistance, in particular from Community funds and financial instruments concerning the environment.

The types of measures funded include the protection and rational management of coastal areas, of rivers which flow into coastal areas, their possible wetlands and the sustainable management of those areas and rivers.

Specific examples of marine projects funded include:

- Management plan for the sustainable use of Lough Gill
- Tourism eco-labeling plan
- ECORPO
- Environmentally Friendly Coastal Protection
- Bantry Bay Coastal Zone Management Project

Criteria for eligibility:

A detailed list of criteria is available from the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Deadline(s):

Annual deadline - normally in December. Check with the Department of the Environment and Local Government for further details.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**Name of fund:**

Operational Programme for Local, Urban and Rural Development Sub-Programme 2: Development of Designated Disadvantaged and other Areas

Where to contact:

Your local Area Partnership Board Types of project funded:

Eligible community and group initiatives in the following areas:

Activities to support enterprise creation and development Environmental and infrastructure works Transport services to isolated communities Activities to support education and training Services for the unemployed Community development.

Criteria for eligibility:

There are two classes of eligible communities and groups:

Partnerships in designated disadvantaged areas (See Appendix 1)

Organisations representing or working on behalf of travelers and selected organisations with the capacity to make a significant contribution to the achievement of the sub-programme's objectives.

Deadline(s):

Check with your local Area Partnership Board for details.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR TOURISM**Name of fund:**

Operational Programme for Tourism Sub-Programme: Product Development Measure 4: Special Interest Holiday Facilities

Where to contact:

Your Regional Tourism Office.

Types of project funded:

- Provision of good mooring facilities in a number of small coves and inlets, with appropriate onshore facilities, particularly on the South/West coasts. Marina developments on East/South-East coasts. Encouragement of yacht chartering, sail training, etc.
- Purchase of new lake and sea angling boats, the provision of access to angling waters, the development of angling centres, including bait rooms, tackle rooms, visitor changing and drying room facilities.

Conversion/upgrading of suitable boats, of less than 15 years old, for sea angling.

- Development of new cruising bases in selected inland waterways, additions to the cruising fleet and the upgrading of cruisers of less than 10 years old. The purchase of water buses or passenger ferries for use in certain environments.

Examples of projects which have already been funded include the:

Purchase of a variety of types of boats and cruisers, the upgrading of boats, upgrading of a yacht club and cruise hire base.

Criteria for eligibility:

Contact your Regional Tourism Organisation or Bord Failte for details.

Deadline(s): Rolling deadline

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR TOURISM

Name of fund:

Operational Programme for Tourism 1994-1999 Sub-Programme: Product Development Measure 5: Specialist Accommodation Related Developments

Where to contact:

Your Regional Tourism Office

Types of project funded:

Assistance is available for the development of certain specialist accommodation needs for overseas visitors, including the provision of new and improved accommodation at approved outdoor pursuits centres.

Criteria for eligibility:

- A minimum investment of £100,000 will be required
- The project must be located in a remote area
- The applicant(s) must co-operate in trail development. **Deadline(s):** Rolling deadline.

PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Name of fund :

Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

Where to contact:

Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Ballagh House 73-79 Lower Mount Street Dublin 2 Phone: 01 676 7571 Fax: 01 604 5735 The Department of Finance has overall responsibility for administering the Programme. However, several Government departments have responsibility for administering the various sub programmes.

Sub-Programme 1: Measure 1: Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment; Department of Education and Science. Measures 2 and 4: Department of An Taoiseach; Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment. Sub-Programme 2c: Measure 1 a: Department of the Environment & Local Government; department of Tourism, Sport & Recreation. Measure 1b: Department of Agriculture and Food; Department of the Environment and Local Government; Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation. Measure 2: Relevant Government departments.

Sub-Programme 3: Measure 1: Co-operation North. Measures 3a and 3b: Department of Foreign Affairs. Measure 3d: Department of the Marine and Natural Resources.

Sub-Programme 5: Measure 1: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation; Department of Finance. Measures 2 and 3: Relevant Government departments.

Types of project funded:

There are seven sub-programmes, four of which are applicable to the Water based tourism and leisure sector

Sub-Programme 1: Employment

There are three relevant measures:

Measure 1: Boosting Growth and Re-training for Peace

- Training and vocational education, aimed at upgrading skills and improving quality in relation to sectors where the peace process opens up opportunities including the development and promotion of tourism.
- Activities designed to strengthen innovation and RTD, especially among small and medium-sized enterprises; developing cross-border research co-operation and building closer links between educational establishments, research centres and firms.

Measure 2: Action for Jobs Local employment initiatives, entrepreneurship and co-operatives.

Measure 4: Accompanying Infrastructure and Equipment Support The development of tourism facilities related to training Development of small business incubation units.

Sub-Programme 2 Sub-Programme 2 is split into three further sub-programmes, a, b and c. A and b relate to Northern Ireland only and c relates to the Border Counties only.

There are three relevant measures under Sub-Programme 2c

Measure 1a: Urban and Village Renewal and Tourism Projects involving heritage and cultural tourism, water-based tourism, sports and activity-based tourism and improvement of tourism accommodation Redevelopment of derelict buildings.

Measure 1b: Village Renewal and Tourism Projects involving agri-tourism and nature-based tourism. Measure 2: Community-led Development Projects

involving heritage and cultural tourism, water-based tourism, sports and activity-based tourism and improvement of tourism accommodation
Development of new small businesses.

Sub-Programme 3: Cross-Border Development

There are four relevant measures under Sub-Programme 3. Measure 1:

- Business and Cultural Links
- Joint venture companies
- Cross-border linkage programme
- Cross-border studies related to economic development.

Measure 3a: Co-operation between Public Bodies

- Co-operative arrangements between agencies on environmental research and development
- Integrated marketing of eligible area.

Measure 3b: Co-operation between Public Bodies

- Co-operative arrangements between education and training providers.

Measure 3d: Co-operation between Public Bodies

- Co-operative actions in fishing and aquaculture.

Sub-Programme 5: Productive Investment and Industrial Development

There are three measures under this sub-programme.

Measure 1: Investment Promotion

- Tourism sector
- Development of innovative or non-displacing services

Projects with commercial linkage to the peace process.

Measure 2: New Industrial Development Services

- Support for high-technology start-ups
- Innovative projects to promote development of new tourism or service jobs.

Measure 3: Trade Development

Actions to promote growth in trade in key sectors including food, support to develop business contacts and networking in key markets.

Criteria for eligibility:

Each sub-programme has specific criteria for eligibility. Check with the relevant Government department.

Deadline(s):

Check with the relevant Government department for details.

SHANNON DEVELOPMENT

Name of fund:

Shannon Region Enterprise Fund (Ongoing equity funding and loans as opposed to grants)

Where to contact:

Investments Division Shannon Development, Park House National Technological Park Limerick Phone: 061 336555 Fax: 061 336545

Types of project funded:

Funding is provided for companies undertaking tourism projects which are in the early stages of development and which require equity capital for expansion, product adaptation or market penetration. The equity is for investment in export oriented companies capable of achieving sustainable growth.

Funding up to £50,000 is provided. Shannon Development takes a minority share (up to a maximum of 30%) in a company. The Fund seeks to realise its investment within three to five years. This is typically achieved by refinancing into a venture capital fund, a trade sale, a sale to a larger corporation, or a buy-out of Shannon Development's share by the company's management. Examples of water-based tourism and leisure projects which have been funded include yacht and boat hire and a water sports centre.

Criteria for eligibility:

Projects must be located in the Shannon Region. Each project is evaluated ,on its merits. Companies seeking equity investment must have a proven record of success and demonstrate the potential to achieve further increases in profit growth and performance. A business plan is required.

Deadline(s):

No specific deadline. Check with Shannon Development for details.

UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA

Name of fund:

No specific fund name (Ongoing support given)

Where to contact:

Udaras na Gaeltachta Udaras na Gaeltachta Udaras na Gaeltachta Furbo, Co. Galway Dingle, Co. Kerry Bunbeg, Co. Donegal Phone: 091 503100 Phone: 066 50100 Phone: 075 60100 Fax: 091 503101 Fax: 066 50101 Fax: 075 60101

Types of project funded:

Funds are granted for the preparation of feasibility studies and business plans aimed at assessing the viability of projects; research and development; and training. Equity funding is also available and premises can be provided for projects with subsidised rental.

Examples of water-based tourism and leisure projects which have been funded include a deep sea diving school, angling centres, traditional boat building training and skills development, and a sea life visitor centre.

Criteria for eligibility:

Each project is evaluated on its merits. Projects must be located in a Gaeltacht region and have:

The capacity to become commercially viable

A cultural dimension

The potential to create employment.

Projects must not displace existing business.

Deadline(s):

No specific deadlines. Contact Udaras na Gaeltachta for details.

WESTERN INVESTMENT FUND

Name of fund:

Western Investment Fund 1997-2003

Where to contact:

Western Investment Fund Western Development Commission

Ballaghaderreen Co. Roscommon Phone:0907 61441/61442 Fax: 0907 61443

Types of projects funded:

Long-term venture capital is provided for commercial projects in Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare not attracting venture funding from other sources.

Projects in five key areas will be considered, two of which are relevant to the water-based leisure sector.

- Tourism, Art and Heritage
- The Marine

Criteria for eligibility:

Each project will be evaluated on its merits. All projects must be commercially viable. Further details are available from the Western Development Commission.

Deadline(s):

No specific deadlines. Contact the Western Development Commission for details.

YOUTH AND SPORT GRANT SCHEME

Name of fund:

Youth and Sport Grant Scheme (Ongoing Scheme)

Where to contact:

Your local VEC office.

Type of projects funded:

Small grants (£50-£150) given to sports clubs for:

Purchase of equipment
Administration costs
Special projects, e.g. water-based projects for the disabled.

Criteria for eligibility:

Any sports club is eligible to apply.

Deadline(s):

Annual grant given out once a year. Each VEC has its own closing date.

MARINE ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Name of fund:

Marine Enterprise Investment Programme (Pilot Project for Western and Shannon Regions)

Where To Contact:

Frank O'Brian
Programme Manager
Business Development Centre
Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Co. Donegal
Tel: 0704 64320
Fax: 074 64111
Mobile:087 2330212
Email: fobrian@meip.ie

Pat O'Riordan
Programme Manager
Kerry Innovation Centre
Institute of Technology
Tralee Co. Kerry
Tel:066 7145611
Fax:066 7145636
Mobile:087 223 2336
Email: priordan@meip.ie

Aim Of the Project:

The objective of the MEIP is to assist Marine Companies to gain access to the existing sources of finance within the state and private sector, The MEIP will endeavour to facilitate access to access to seed and early stage development capital through, private, venture capital and state agency funds.It is often the case that no one source of support can meet all the needs of any one company. The added value of the MEIP is that the programme will be able to negotiate access to a range of complimentary services and funds that are available through a variety of sources. This will save time and money for the project promoter.

Criteria for Eligibility The Programme is open to:

- Both existing and new marine businesses interested in the development of innovative products and services
- Marine Companies that are interested in persuing high growth and value added market opportunities · Technology based marine businesses are particularly encouraged.

Deadlines:

Ongoing pilot project with no specific deadlines.

WEBSITE FUNDING

Name of fund: Empower, Information Society Fund

Where to Contact:

Venture Point or Your Local Enterprise Board Dundrum Office Park Dundrum
Dublin 14 Tel: 205 1100 Web: www.empower.ie

Types of project funded:

Technical grants (50%) for software applications and e-commerce set up costs (£450max)

Website Development grants (max 50%) for third party fees for the development of a website (£1,250max)

Criteria for Eligibility:

Any business/employer

Deadlines:

No specific deadlines. Contact your local enterprise board for details