

At its meeting on 12 December, 2013 the ETI Committee considered a report from D'Arcy Smith Associates on Horizon 2020 in a North South context.

Members asked for the Department's comments on the report.

DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE

Comments on Observations

- The author should be aware that more recent data is available on the North South participation and drawdown in the FP7 programme. The most recent data, up to July 2013 shows that €80.5m has been distributed across 89 successful North South collaborative projects.
- The dedicated EU funding staff are located in Queen's University Belfast, University of Ulster and the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute.
- With reference to the observation that 'Horizon 2020 bids **from this island could have greater impact if made from Ireland as a whole**' it should be noted that InterTradelreland's remit in this area is **to increase the number of North South applications to EU research and innovation funded programmes**. In doing so, the opportunities presented by having two member states within the boundary of the island are widely promoted.

Comments on Questions

- Under the auspices of the All-Island Steering group, whose members are drawn from ITI, DETI, DEL, DARD, Invest NI, EU Commission in Belfast, NSMC and DJEI, InterTradelreland provide the following supports to foster and develop new North South partnerships and to support existing partnerships extend their reach across the EU.

These include:-

- **Cross-border Collaboration Voucher** – which enable cross-border meetings to take place to explore potential partnerships for EU R&D and innovation projects
- **EU Travel Voucher** - which enable North South partnerships to attend EU events and consortium meetings.
- **'Focus On' Horizon 2020 Workshop Series** – the objective of these workshops is to bring together companies and researchers from both jurisdictions to explore specific topics arising from the

Horizon 2020 work programmes to identify opportunities for collaboration.

- In preparation for the new Horizon 2020 programme, InterTradelreland has developed a **new App**. The App will facilitate:-
 - Development of North South Partnerships in Horizon 2020, whereby users can,
 - Find and link with Industry and Academic Partners
 - Communicate directly with potential partners
 - Submit Specific Partner Requests
 - Engage with the Support Network
 - Track the relevant Horizon 2020 Work Programmes and Calls, whereby users can,
 - Search Call Documents
 - Receive Alerts to Calls
- The **top 4 areas for successful North South cooperation in the FP7 programme are, Health, Security, Knowledge-Based Bio Economy and ICT.**

Comments on Suggestions

- InterTradelreland's '**Focus-On**' series addresses the issue of an **action oriented brokerage event**. Additionally, InterTradelreland has organised the '**Collaborate to Innovate**' all-island conference focussed specifically on encouraging and supporting North South activity in this area. The annual event has taken place over the last 3 years with a growing attendance. It has seen presentations from key European Commission speakers in the area as well as developing its format to allow for more focused sessions to take place. It is expected that a further '**Collaborate to Innovate**' event will take place in **2014**.
- In conjunction with the All-Island Steering Group, **InterTradelreland will set targets to achieve an increase in the number of North South applications to EU research and innovation funded programmes.**

Reply prepared by: **Policy Evaluation and Liaison Unit,**
Date: **9 January 2014.**