



European Union
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Action Plan for County Tipperary



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

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Sharing solutions for better regional policies

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General information

Project: SWARE (Sustainable heritage management of Waterway REgions)

Partner organisation: Tipperary County Council

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): All partners (through knowledge sharing)

Country: Ireland

NUTS2 region: Southern

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Foreword, incl. Policy Context

Tipperary County Council (TCC) is a partner in the EU INTERREG EUROPE part-funded “SWARE” (Sustainable heritage management of Waterway REgions) project (www.interregeurope.eu/sware/).

The overall objective of the project is to foster integrated management of natural and cultural heritage within inland waterway regions by improving the partner regions’ related policy instruments in order to create a better balance between the protection and sustainable exploitation of the natural resources and the built heritage sites.

There are five (5) other organisations involved in the project from Netherlands, Italy, Slovakia and Latvia. Project activities include analysis of situation in each partner region, good practice and knowledge transfer and development of Action Plans to improve respective partner policy instruments.

SWARE project activity in Phase 1 (ending September 2018) will be accomplished through exchange of experiences and practices; stakeholder & institutional learning; benchmarking and analysis of challenges and needs; which will culminate with the development of an Action Plan in each participating region. Phase 2 (to March 2021), the remainder of the project, will revolve around implementation of the Action Plan.

This document constitutes the SWARE Project’s Action Plan for County Tipperary.

Background to Tipperary County Council and SWARE Project

Tipperary County Council

Tipperary is the 6th largest county in Ireland with a land mass of 4,303 km sq. The county is centrally located, is bounded by eight counties and no part of the county touches the coast. The county adjoins three of the provinces of Ireland and has high quality linkages (i.e. road and rail) to all of the major cities, airports and ports. Tipperary sits within the Southern Regional Assembly area.

Tipperary with a population of 160,441 is one of the most populated rural counties nationally. The settlement pattern is based on a strong network of vibrant and robust towns and villages with service centres provided at strategic locations throughout the county. The towns of Thurles (7,940) and Cashel (4,422) in the centre of the County provide a strong urban link between the major centres of Nenagh (8,968) and the largest town in the county, Clonmel (17,140). The towns of Roscrea, Tipperary, Carrick-on-Suir, Templemore, and Cahir function as District Towns for their local hinterlands and combined, provide a good basis for ensuring strong social, economic and community linkages within the county.

The county is part of the central plain of Ireland, but the diversified terrain contains several mountain ranges. The southern portion is drained by the River Suir (184 km in length); the northern by tributaries of the Shannon which widens into Lough Derg (measuring 118km²). The economy of Tipperary is based primarily on agriculture, manufacturing, services and tourism. Like Ireland as a whole, a high proportion of the county's manufacturing industry is foreign-owned. Over 90% of enterprises in the county are micro in size, with less than 10 persons employed. Disposable Household Income in the county is below the state average.



SWARE Project

The waterway regions involved in SWARE all share unique natural and cultural heritage: protected areas with rich biodiversity and a collection of enticing historic cities and buildings connected to water. These amenities make them more and more attractive for leisure activities resulting in an ever growing number of visitors which may cause tensions with heritage conservation practices.

All SWARE partners recognize that the socio-economic future of their regions is fundamentally dependent on finding the synergies between preserving the cultural and natural values for the next generation and, at the same time, "opening their gates" with controlled visitor management. By demonstrating the economic value that a "green" leisure industry can bring to a region, it can build strong public and political support both for heritage protection and sustainable valorisation thereof. What SWARE strives for is achieving a better balance between protection and sustainable exploitation of the valuable natural and cultural resources through improving the development programmes and policies of the partner regions, based on the transfer of good practices of other participating regions. Partners share the common bottleneck of fragmented governance structures without proper cooperation forms, therefore SWARE will stimulate the establishment of new participatory governance schemes having a much better potential to implement efficient policies contributing to the sustainable regional development. As a result, decision-makers, public and private players, as well as inhabitants, will gain a better knowledge and commitment towards protecting and sustainably "utilising" their environmental and cultural assets.

Summary of SWARE Interregional Learning and Findings

In the course of the project, practices from the regions were explored and discussed by the partners and their stakeholders. Themes, issues, learning and findings which have been identified by the partners, and which are of relevance to Tipperary County Council, are described in the following tables.

Themes

- Governance I: top-down involvement;
- Governance II: bottom-up involvement;
- Connecting infrastructure with tourism;
- Marketing, PR and destination development;
- Financing;
- Usage of IT, open-data;
- Other, such as Green and Blue Infrastructure

Issues

- Time between EU plans and actions is too long
- Awareness at the 400 million EU citizens is too little
- Differences between infrastructure which hinder seamless travel between all member states
- There is no destination management on a EU level
- More work has to be done to a sustainable development
- Put together different points of view
- Municipalities find common language -> waterfall effect
- The existing cooperation between small level governments
- Follow up projects more focused on approach -> flagship initiatives
- Elimination of seasonal effects
- Regulation selling food production
- Balance between protection and accessibility
- No communication between the local and the institutional
- Technology to use – no EU guidelines or model

Possible Solutions

- Actors have to be balanced – between private and public – good actors and people will guarantee the sustainability of a project
- Guidelines from EU level should give an impulse to cross sectoral approaches
- A different approach: move from projects to a long term process.
- More decision making rights to the regions – EU level sets the goals – Empowerment of the regions – Less regulations save time
- Examples of best practices should be transmitted through media – clear message.
- Setting a goal of collaborations in regions to access new funding
- New programs for SMEs to promote cooperation between the different seasonal SMEs
- Form networks (like Eco-museo in Milan)
- A portal of information
- More attention to people
- Common projects between regions from a shared vision
- Use existing networks
- EU has to implement standardization

The project held three inter-regional Knowledge Exchange Sessions, one of which was organised by Tipperary County Council. The main lessons learnt from the other two Knowledge Exchange Sessions that have been reflected generally in the development of this Action Plan are:

Interregional Exchange Session - Province of Zuid-Holland

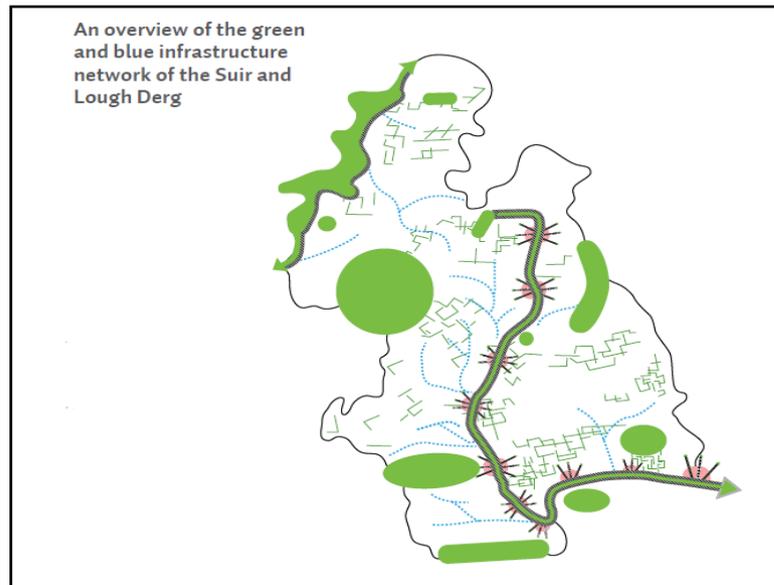
- The Cooperation on cultural heritage presentation was particularly interesting in the development of a museum in a very specific type of heritage building with limited space, the curator approach to this and use of outbuildings and plans for further development in the town and potential connections was most interesting. From our perspective here there similar situation arising with development of heritage buildings in conjunction with the County Museum.
- Biesbosch Park and Kinderdijk mills were very interesting to see from the point of view of a UNESCO site and a natural reserve. The interpretation centre/education facilities in Biesbosch were most interesting and something to refer to in other work in Tipperary going forward.
- Seeing the reuse of older heritage listed buildings.
- ‘River as a tidal park: how the metropolitan region rediscovers the Delta’
 - Dutch Model of Planning
 - Bottom-Up Planning – Influencing Management and Politicians.
 - Use of Flood Defences as a Urban Recreation Feature.
 - Creating new Parks and Enhancing Bio-Diversity in an Urban Context.
- Recreation Park with Ski Slope
 - Inspiring use of former landfill as a recreational facility.
 - Supporting entrepreneurship / working in partnership.
- Presentation on Community Mapping
 - Great use of IT systems for communication between stakeholders and data gathering and presentation of projects etc.
- Aquapuncture model as a methodology to use in planning for future projects.
- More co-operation between all the stakeholders in promoting regions and more support from regional and national governments.

Interregional Exchange Session - Milan

- Idroscalo: wealth of sports offering all located in one area close to city, challenge of collaboration and maximising the site.
- Panperduto: Very interesting site, found the very visual interpretation, the educational play area and the development of the hostel and coffee dock very engaging and fresh, would love to see something like this emerging in Tipperary. Learned good examples of BP and alternative methods of implementing amenity services.
- MUSA: very interesting site in terms of the story of agriculture and Italian food, the presentations from local providers was also very interesting and the challenge of how to keep traditions alive.
- Villa Dacco, very interesting site, great enthusiasm and passion which highlights the importance of ‘Local champions’.
- The difference in how partners work with key partners and stakeholders.
- The development of Panperduto was extremely interesting and very relevant to the work being done in Tipperary. The signage and interpretation was unobtrusive and a learning to bring back to our own projects. It is encouraging to see how quality tourism products were developed in rural areas particularly Villa Dacco and the session on Naviglio of Paderno.

List of Priority Actions for County Tipperary based on SWARE Findings

1. Implementation of the actions (framework; project; and policy) contained in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways which was developed from the SWARE interregional exchange and approved/adopted by members of Tipperary County Council at their September 2018 meeting.



2. Develop and Implement further Partnering and Community Engagement Programmes/Activities.
3. Local Authority staff capacity building.
4. Integrate green and blue infrastructure principles into Development Plan policy and land use planning/zoning.
5. Dissemination of the baseline data of the River Suir and Lough Derg Heritage Audits.

Detail of Actions

Action 1: Implementation of the actions contained in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways	
Linkage to SWARE interregional learning	<p>The interregional learning from the SWARE project that contributed to this action includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practice, “Development of water tourism as nature and active tourism component in Latvia and Estonia”; • Good practice from Netherlands, “Waterdriehoek (Water icons)”; • Good practice, “The use of natural heritage for cultural tourism in the Pons Danubii area”.
Background	<p>Arising from the exchange of experience and participation in the SWARE project, a Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways was developed in 2017/2018 by Tipperary County Council (G&B Masterplan) to enhance green and blue infrastructure within the county and maximise the environmental, social and economic benefits to be gained from the increased protection and management of the environmental resource.</p>
Actions	<p>An indicative series of 87 wide ranging actions (Projects, Plans or Frameworks) have been identified in Section 2.4 the Roadmap across a range of subject matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Digitising and database building; <input type="checkbox"/> Bio-security & invasive species management; <input type="checkbox"/> Protection & enhancement of biodiversity; <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation, amenity & tourism enhancements; <input type="checkbox"/> Education & awareness; <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of cultural, built and industrial heritage.
Policy Context	<p>County Tipperary Development Plan; Heritage Strategy for County Tipperary; Sports Strategy for County Tipperary; Local Economic and Community Plan for County Tipperary; Tourism Plan for County Tipperary; Local Development Strategy for County Tipperary; Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework; Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region.</p>
Players Involved	<p>The players involved are diverse and many and include public authorities; Government Departments and agencies; NGO’s; business interest/commerce groups, community groups; and special interest groups.</p> <p>The indicative actions put forward in the Roadmap are supported by the identification of bodies that will oversee the implementation of the actions.</p>
Timeframe	<p>The indicative actions in the Roadmap are prioritised into immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term. Not all can be progressed together and will happen at variable timeframes.</p> <p>Roadmap actions <u>progressing at this stage (March 2019)</u> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 66 – River Ara Project. Grant aid of €200,000 received from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the terms of the Outdoor Recreation Scheme to complete first phase of this project in 2019. • Project 87 – Development of Greenway along old rail-line route.

	<p>Meeting held in Q1, 2019 with community group. Community Group to submit application by Q3, 2019 to Rural Development Programme (LEADER) for funding to undertake feasibility study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 43 – Water Activity Hub. Grant aid of €156,000 received from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the terms of the Outdoor Recreation Scheme for enhancement works in 2019 to River Suir Canoe Trail.
Costs	Not quantified in the Roadmap. Will need to be done for each individual action as it is progressed. A number of the actions will not require any significant resourcing; however, others will require capital investment, for which applications to appropriate funding programmes will have to be made.
Funding Sources	Section 3.2 of the Roadmap deals with funding. Possible funding is available from a range of EU, national and private sector sources.
Expected Impacts	<p>The enhancement and expansion of green and blue infrastructure, and the associated networks will have broad positive environmental, social and economic impacts, thus contributing significantly to health, well-being and quality of life.</p> <p>The Roadmap actions cover a wide range of ecological, heritage, recreation, amenity and tourism areas to maximise the promotion and development of green and blue infrastructure, including protection, conservation, awareness, education and accessibility.</p>

Action 2: Develop and Implement further Partnering and Community Engagement Programmes/Activities

Linkage to SWARE interregional learning	<p>The interregional learning from the SWARE project that contributed to this action includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on Community Mapping during the Interregional Exchange Session in the Province of Zuid-Holland; Initiative presented during the Interregional Exchange Session in Milan “Villa Dacco” which highlighted the importance of ‘local champions’.
Background	Promote, incubate and foster increased knowledge amongst members of the public.
Actions	<p><u>During Q2/3 2019</u>, a Communal Art Project along the river will be undertaken as part of the River Suir Blueway enhancement. This will engage the local community and highlight local biodiversity.</p> <p>A range of other initiatives are also possible, including for example, building and strengthening existing networks of River Suir and Lough Derg communities (sharing of best practice amongst community groups); preparation of a pull-out map of the full river; working with Tidy Towns groups to undertake “Tidy River” projects; and disseminate information to the public about current and upcoming projects, workshops, publications and how members of the public can contribute.</p>
Policy Context	Local Economic and Community Plan for County Tipperary; Local

	Development Strategy for County Tipperary.
Players Involved	Tipperary County Council (Environment & Heritage sections), Local Authority Water and Communities Office, Environmental Protection Agency, IFI, Community Wetlands, Irish Rural Link, Tidy Towns, Tipperary Public Participation Network, Waterways Ireland (Lough Derg); National Parks and Wildlife Service.
Timeframe	The Communal Art Project will be undertaken Q2-3, 2019. Other possible actions are short to medium-term in nature.
Costs	Communal Art Project – estimated cost €5,000. Other possible actions are not quantifiable at this stage. Each of these individually, though, is not likely to cost a significant amount.
Funding Sources	Funding is likely to be available through a number of local and central sources – government and non-governmental.
Expected Impacts	Enhanced linkages between amenities and identifying opportunities for synergy.

Action 3: Local Authority staff capacity building

Linkage to SWARE interregional learning	The interregional learning from the SWARE project that contributed to this action includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation given during the Interregional Exchange Session in the Province of Zuid-Holland that reflected on “Bottom-Up Planning – Influencing Management and Politicians”.
Background	Increase the knowledge, understanding and awareness of the interaction between natural and semi-natural areas and socio-economic development of localities and regions.
Actions	An interdisciplinary learning workshop will be held for staff of Tipperary County Council as a capacity building tool to stimulate collaborative learning around green and blue Infrastructure and encourage interdisciplinary thinking. This could involve practitioners from a range of backgrounds within the Council, and where responsibilities and resources in the context of enhancing and extending green and blue infrastructure throughout the catchments are discussed and agreed.
Policy Context	County Tipperary Development Plan; Local Economic and Community Plan for County Tipperary; Heritage Strategy for County Tipperary; Sports Strategy for County Tipperary; Tourism Plan for County Tipperary; Local Development Strategy for County Tipperary.
Players Involved	Staff from various directorates of Tipperary County Council.
Timeframe	<u>Workshop will be held Q3 2019</u> . The need for further workshop(s) will be examined following this.
Costs	€1,000 per workshop
Funding Sources	Funding will need to be made available from the County Council’s own resources. It is possible that some assistance may be obtainable from grant sources.

Expected Impacts	Greater linkage between policy-making and implementation/practice, collaborative learning and identifying opportunities for synergy.
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Action 4: Integrate green and blue infrastructure principles into Development Plan policy and land use planning/zoning

Linkage to SWARE interregional learning	<p>The interregional learnings from the SWARE project that contributed to this action includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practice, “The use of natural heritage for cultural tourism in the Pons Danubii area”; • Model of Planning in Netherlands presented during the Interregional Exchange Session in the Province of Zuid-Holland.
Background	<p>There are currently two County Development Plans in effect in Tipperary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009 (as varied), and • North Tipperary County Development Plan 2010 (as varied). <p>The County Development Plans set out the statutory framework for the future planning and development of the County, in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and address relevant issues such as water quality, river basin management planning, tourism and infrastructure etc. Following the publication by the national Government of ‘Project Ireland 2040’, the National Planning Framework Directive, a new County Development Plan for Tipperary will be produced over the coming years. Planning has a key role in the delivery of green and blue infrastructure projects within County Tipperary. State and semi-State bodies, together with private land owners should be encouraged to host improved green and blue infrastructure benefits, and planning by way of the County Development Plan is to ensure improved environmental coherence when planning.</p>
Actions	<p>As part of the review of the Development Plans, it will be necessary to ensure that the new Plan supports and promotes the enhancement of green and blue infrastructure through the incorporation of relevant land use policies and objectives that facilitate the protection, enhancement and management of environmental resources and expansion of green and blue infrastructure networks. The work of the SWARE project provides a framework which will support planners in the development of green and blue infrastructure planning and identify new land use opportunities.</p> <p>Land use zoning is a key element as it indicates the planning control objectives of the local authority for all lands in its administrative area and, therefore, the incorporation of supportive green infrastructure zoning requirements lends very positively to the expansion of green and blue infrastructure networks. Green and blue infrastructure can be integrated into the Development Plan policies and objectives under a series of headings including: Leisure, Recreation and Open Space; Natural and Built Heritage; Community Development; Regeneration of Strategic Town Centre Sites, Integrated Land Use and Sustainable Transportation.</p>
Policy Context	Project Ireland 2040; National Planning Framework; Regional Spatial and

	Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region.
Players Involved	Tipperary County Council.
Timeframe	Anticipated Q4 2019 to Q1 2021. Development of the new County Development Plan will commence following completion this year by the Southern Regional Assembly of the RSES for the Southern Region.
Costs	Limited direct costs. Mainly will require staff resourcing by Tipperary County Council.
Funding Sources	Costs involved in the review and development of a new County Development Plan will be derived from the annual budgets of Tipperary County Council.
Expected Impacts	Improved integration of green and blue principles into Development Plan policy and land use planning/zonings and in the use of decision support tools to ensure greater environmental coherence when planning for future growth.

Action 5: Dissemination of the baseline data of the River Suir and Lough Derg Heritage Audits

Linkage to SWARE interregional learning	The interregional learning from the SWARE project that contributed to this action includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practice from Italian partner, “ubiGreen”; • The “cooperation on cultural heritage” presentation received during the Interregional Exchange Session in the Province of Zuid-Holland.
Background	Over the past 10 years Tipperary County Council has invested in carrying out Built and Natural Heritage Audits of its two most significant waterways and a large body of baseline data exists that can be utilised to inform future development, develop and enhance heritage tourism products and protect and conserve the rich heritage of our waterways.
Actions	Data will be provided for Interpretative Signage which will be erected along the River Suir in Clonmel and Thurles <u>during Q2/3 2019</u> . A broad number of other actions can stem from the utilisation of this data, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Publications; • Submit data to Heritage Councils data bank and Map Viewer; • Signage and Interpretation; • Educational resources; • Enhancements of tourist offering.
Policy Context	County Development Plan; Tipperary Heritage Plan; Tipperary Tourism Strategy.
Players Involved	Tipperary Heritage Office, Tipperary County Council, Inland Fisheries, Tipperary Tourism Company, Local Authority Water and Communities Office, National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service, Heritage Council, Department Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Local river stakeholders.
Timeframe	Interpretative Signage Q2/3 2019. Other possible actions are short to medium-term in nature.
Costs	Will vary depending on actions. Interpretative Signage circa €20,000.

Funding Sources	Heritage Council, Department of Culture Heritage and Gaeltacht, Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework, Fáilte Ireland.
Expected Impacts	Enhanced tourist offering; greater awareness of heritage and enhanced protection.

Monitoring of Action Plan

Successful delivery of the SWARE Action Plan will require a programmatic approach and committed resourcing and funding to ensure effective delivery and implementation. The delivery of the SWARE Action Plan can represent a transformation in ambition as regards a better balance between protection and sustainable exploitation of valuable natural and cultural resources in County Tipperary and the development of green and blue infrastructure in the county. Its benefits will be far reaching for the county’s biodiversity, recreation and tourism offerings and enhance health and wellbeing. Implementation of the SWARE Action Plan will also strongly contribute towards the EU's priority objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

Furthermore, the new County Development Plan for Tipperary will have regard to relevant studies and learnings, such as those carried out through the SWARE project, and these will assist in informing future policy and planning.

The SWARE Action Plan will protect and enhance the green and blue infrastructure in and around the main waterway resources of the county, the River Suir and Lough Derg, while contributing positively to the development of the tourism and recreation sector in a way that fully incorporates the principles of sustainable development, recognising the potential to grow and develop projects that respects the landscape character and ecological value of the waterways and their corridors.

The indicative actions put forward in Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways are supported by the identification of organisations/bodies that will oversee the implementation of the actions, as a key component to its successful delivery.

Increasing and maintaining stakeholder cooperation over the long term is also a key factor in the successful implementation of the actions. Stakeholder engagement and cooperation will be promoted and supported through these targeted actions, which includes the designation of responsibility for the delivery of each of the actions



Action Plan for County Tipperary

Signing Page

On Behalf of Tipperary County Council

Signature:

Name:

Pat Slattery

Title:

Director of Services

Organisation Stamp

Tipperary County Council

