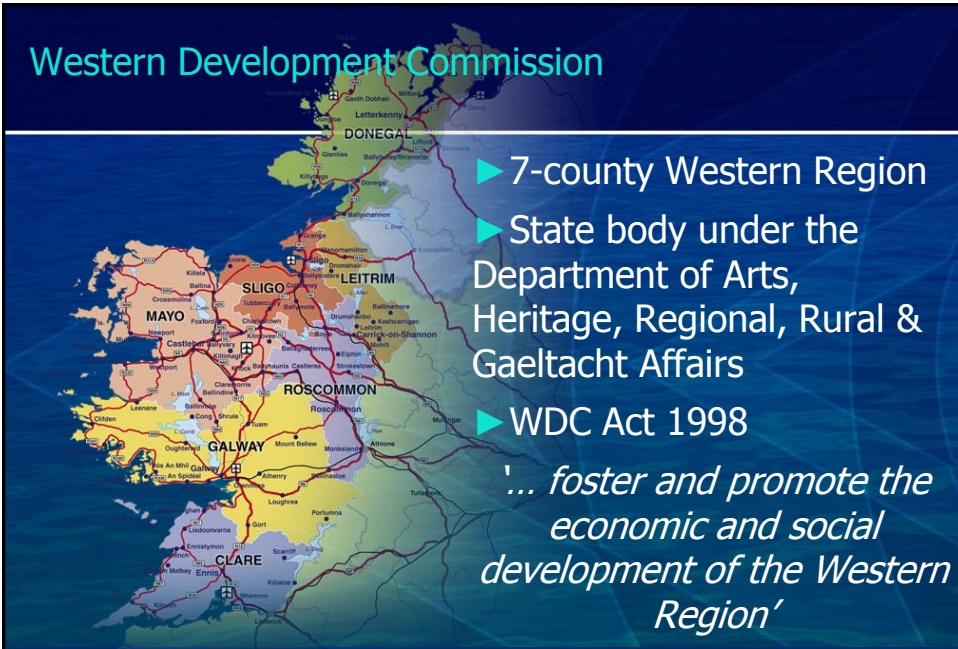**Western Development Commission**

Pauline White, Policy Analyst, Western Development Commission

Western Development Commission

►7-county Western Region

►State body under the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

►WDC Act 1998

'... foster and promote the economic and social development of the Western Region'

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What we do

1. Inform **policy**-making through **analysis** of region's issues & needs (e.g. labour market, infrastructure)

2. Promote living, working & doing business in Western Region – **LookWest.ie**

3. Support sustainable **development** based on region's resources (e.g. renewable energy, creative industries)

4. Provide risk capital to SMEs & social enterprises through **WDC Investment Fund**

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POLICY

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Policy Analysis:
Making the case for the Western Region

- ➢ Socio Economic Analysis
  - ➢ Analysis of a range of indicators for the Western Region – Demography, Labour Market, Income, Output, Sectoral, Enterprise
- ➢ Infrastructure
  - ➢ Transport: Rail, aviation, road
  - ➢ Energy: Electricity, Natural Gas, Renewables
  - ➢ Broadband
- ➢ Submissions & engaging with policy making process

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Clare's Population: 2016
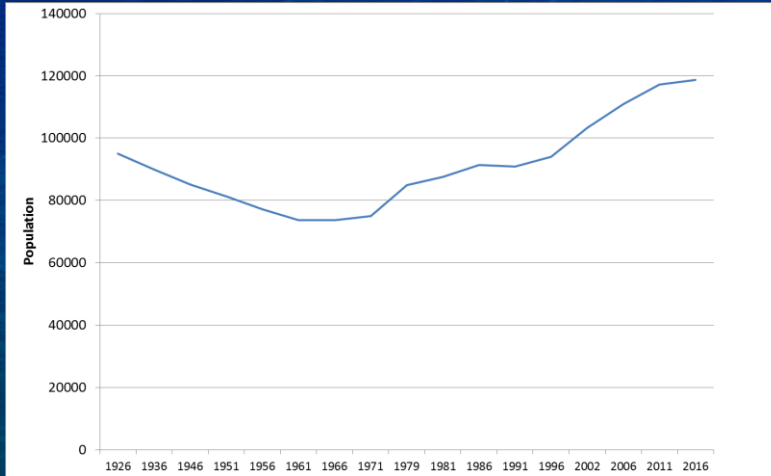
- ►118,627 living in Co Clare in 2016
- ►Pop. growth since 2011
  - ►**+1.2% Clare v +3.7% State**

- ►Clare's pop. increased by 1,431
  - ►**+3,934 natural increase**
  - ►**-2,503 net migration**

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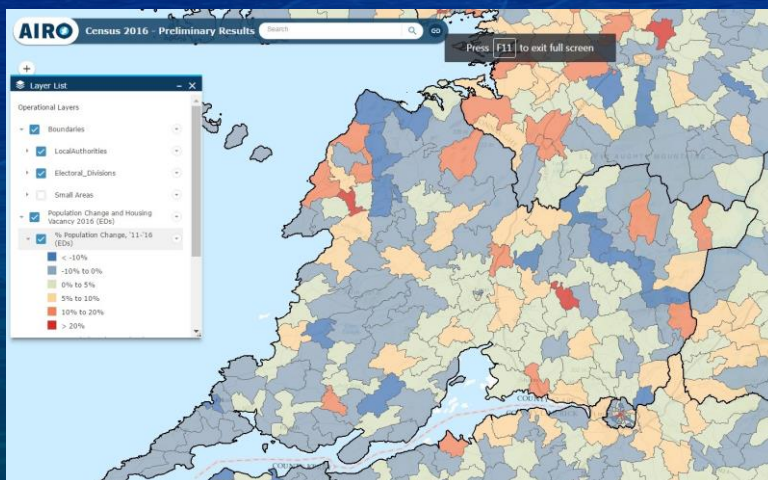
Clare's Population: 1926-2016

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Preliminary Census 2016
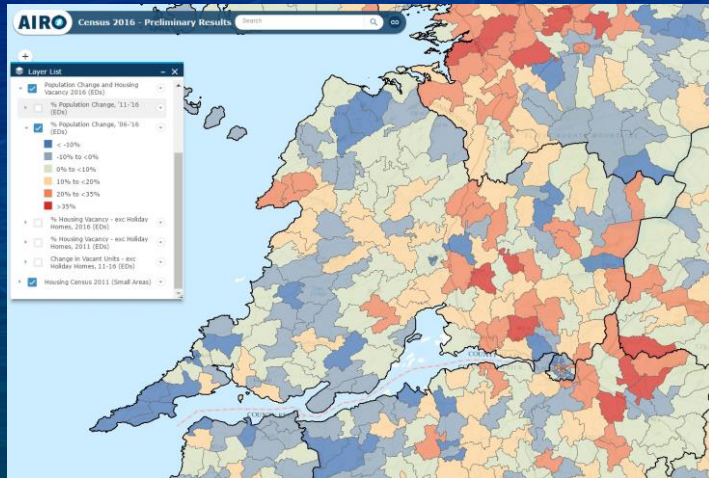Clare: % pop change 2011-2016

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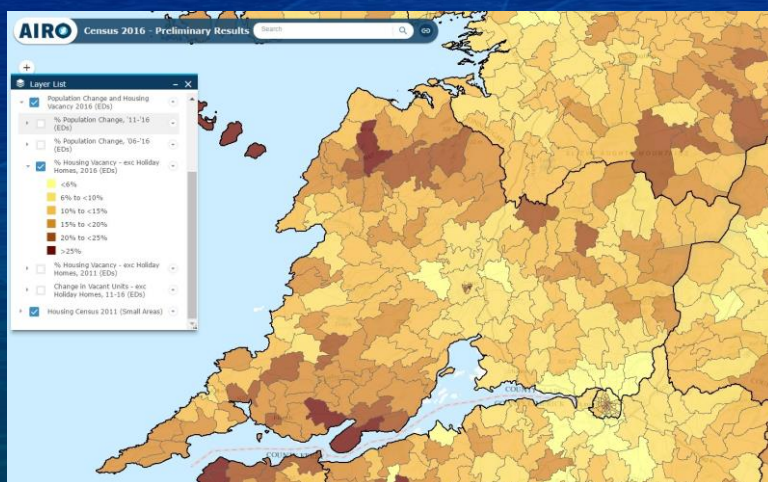Preliminary Census 2016
Clare: % pop change 2006-2016

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Preliminary Census 2016
Clare: % housing vacancy (ex holiday) 2016
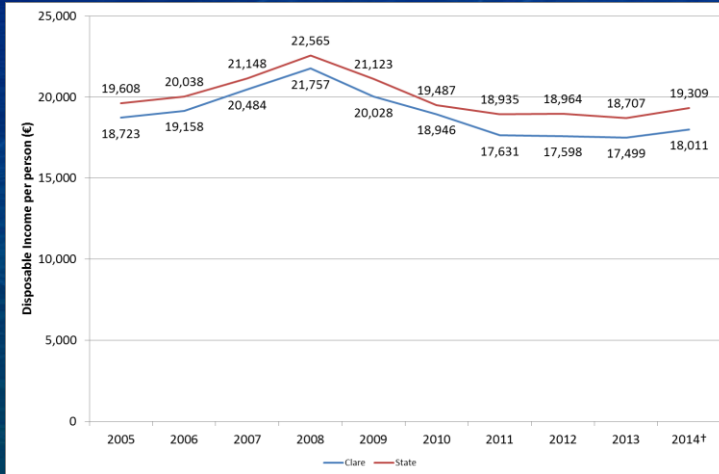
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County Incomes & Regional GDP
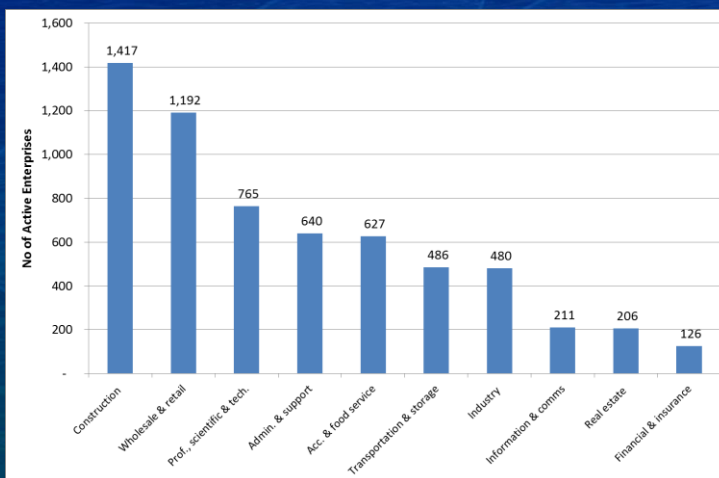## Clare: Disposable Income per person 2005-2014

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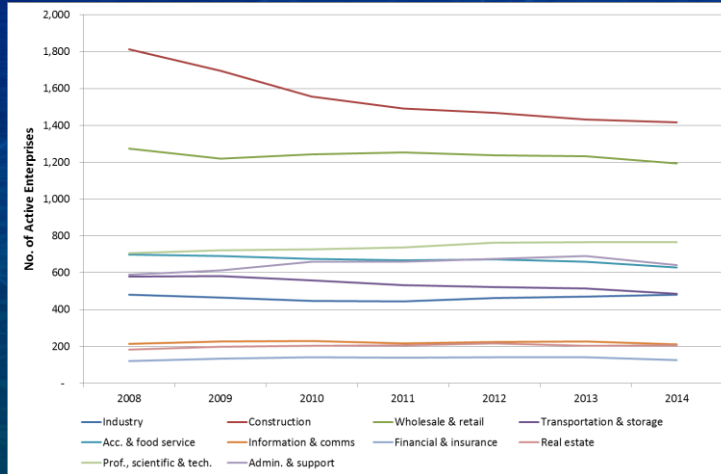## Business Demography 2014
Clare: Active Enterprises by sector

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Business Demography 2014
Clare: Active Enterprises by sector 2008-2014

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Infrastructure Priorities

► Broadband:
  ► WDC involved in making case for broadband since 2002
  ► *Connecting the West: Next Generation Broadband in the Western Region*
  ► WDC submissions to process to develop & implement National Broadband Plan
► Transport:
  ► Input on road priorities to **Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (2014)**
  ► Submission to **Draft Aviation Policy (2013)**
  ► Investment in Local & Regional Roads / LPT
  ► Recent report on potential additional demand for rail freight from the Western Region
► Energy:
  ► **Electricity**: transmission developments to capture renewable generation & support very large users in North West
  ► **Natural Gas**: extension of gas network to North West
  ► **Renewable Energy**: more focus on indigenous fossil free energy sources

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National Policy Submissions

Infrastructure	• Aviation Policy • Next Generation Broadband • EirGrid Transmission Development Plan • Capital Investment Framework
Regional & Spatial Development	• Spatial Strategies Framework for Collaboration • Mid-term Evaluation of BMW Regional OP • Regional Planning Guidelines (West, Mid-West, Border)
Sectoral	• Bioenergy Strategy • Energy White paper • Ocean Wealth • Framework for Sustainable Development

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Upcoming work

► National Planning Framework

► Regional Economic & Spatial Strategies

► Capital Investment Framework

► Action Plan for Rural Development

► Atlantic Economic Corridor

► Census 2016 analysis inc. travel patterns

► eWork

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Key Policy Outputs

- ► WDC Policy Briefings
- ► *WDC Insights*
- ► WDC Insights Blog
  https://wdcinsights.wordpress.com/
- ► Reports
- ► Policy Submissions

@WDCInsights

www.wdc.ie/publications/reports-and-papers/

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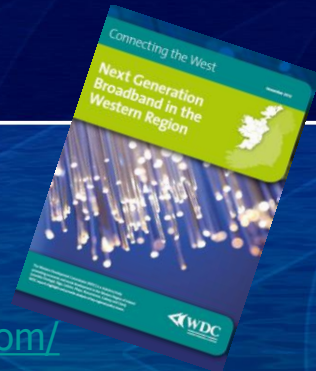
LOOKWEST.IE

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LookWest.ie: The online guide to Business, Work and Life in the West of Ireland
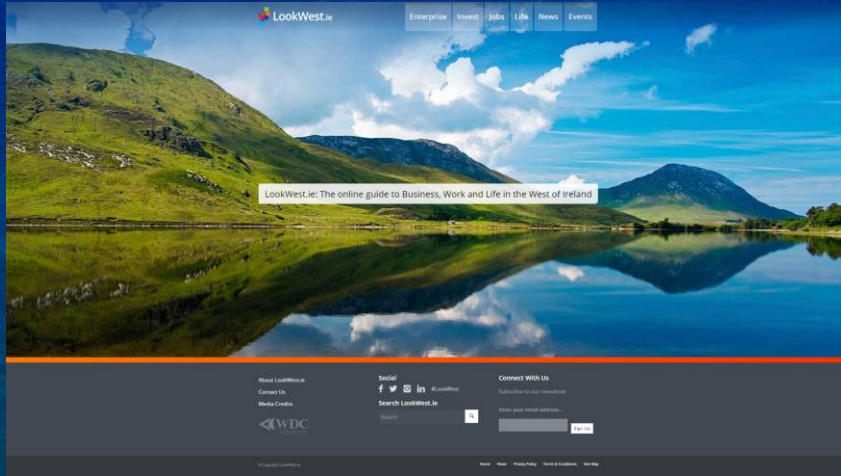
www.wdc.ie   LookWest.ie   WDC

Enterprise: West of Ireland Start Up Guide

www.wdc.ie   LookWest.ie   WDC

Jobs

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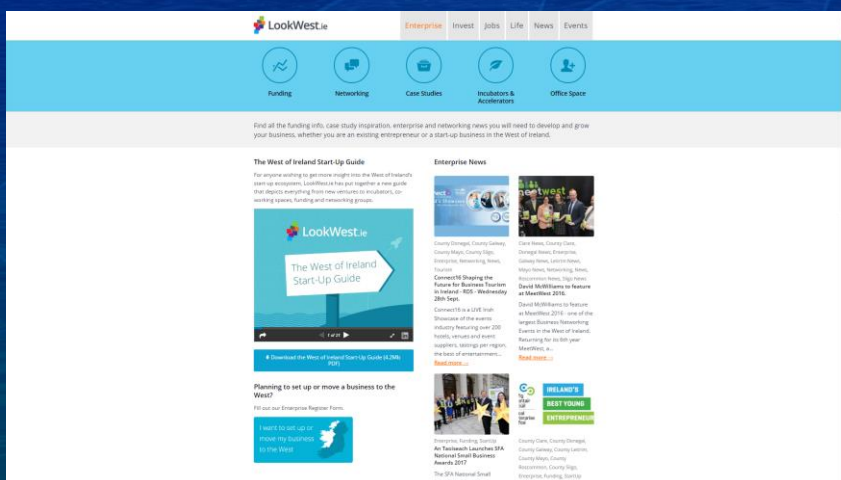
Let's Live in Clare

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Opportunities on LookWest.ie

- ► Become a case study enterprise
- ► Publicise Events
- ► Submit a Job or Job Search
- ► Promote events/opportunities on LookWest social media @LookWest
- ► Sign up for ezine
- ► Partnerships to support some events e.g. Fleadh

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

www.wdc.ie LookWest.ie **◄◄WDC**

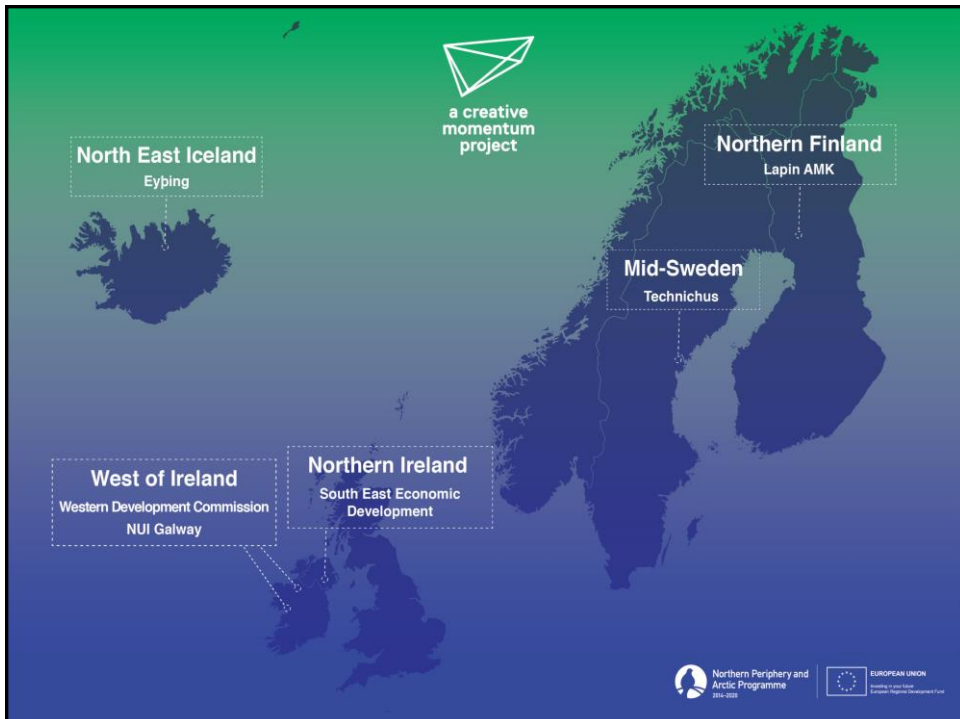## a creative momentum project

►3 year, €2m transnational project to support the development of the creative industries sector across Europe's Northern Edge

www.MyCreativeEdge.eu

@eucreative

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a creative momentum project

North East Iceland
Eyþing

Northern Finland
Lapin AMK

Mid-Sweden
Technichus

West of Ireland
Western Development Commission
NUI Galway

Northern Ireland
South East Economic
Development

Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014–2020   EUROPEAN UNION Investing in your future European Regional Development Fund

Opportunities for creative enterprises

► **Transnational partnering**
  ► peer-to-peer mentoring in internationalisation
    ► 2nd call now open – 30 Nov
  ► creative steps 2.0
    ► 3 more calls during '17
► **Funding**
  ► accessing international trade fairs
    ► 2nd call will open Nov '16
  ► video pitching toolkit & demos
    ► Call for applications early '17

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Opportunities for creative enterprises

► **Networking & information events**
  ► creative hotspots
    ► Arctic Design Week, Feb '17
    ► Vaka Folk Festival, May '17
  ► creative exchanges
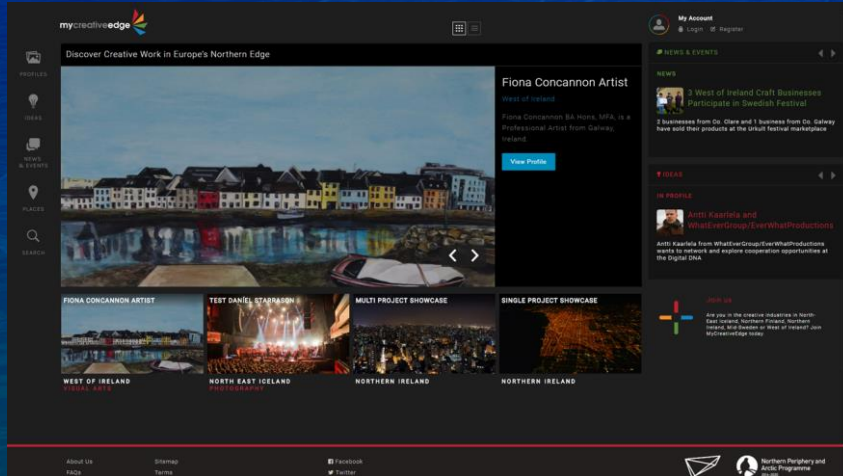► **MyCreativeEdge.eu - online showcase & networking**
    ► Re-development ongoing – beta site now accessible to create Profile http://beta.mycreativeedge.eu
    ► New 18 month online digital marketing campaign

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Re-developed MyCreativeEdge.eu

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GREBE: Generating Renewable Energy Business Enterprises

►€1.77m, 3-year (2015-2018) transnational project to support the renewable energy sector. 8 partners – 6 countries

►Challenges of peripheral & arctic regions as places for doing business

►Help develop renewable energy business opportunities provided by extreme conditions

www.grebeproject.eu

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Support for renewable energy start-ups & SMEs

- ► Support diversification of the technological capacity of SMEs & start-ups
- ► Provide RE tailored, expert guidance & mentoring to SMEs & start-ups
- ► Provide a platform for transnational sharing of knowledge to demonstrate potential of RE sector & showcase innovations in RE technology
- ► Access to expertise & business support
- ► Connect with other RE businesses to develop new opportunities locally, regionally & transnationally through the Virtual Energy Ideas Hub

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Support for renewable energy start-ups & SMEs

WDC will:

- ► Develop a **network** of renewable energy businesses
- ► Regional **training workshops** to meet the needs of the renewable energy businesses
- ► **Study tour** for SMEs to one of the countries in the NPA programme area
- ► **Entrepreneur Enabler Scheme** will provide business mentoring support to ten renewable energy businesses in our region in 2017

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Community Enterprise Centres

► WDC has commissioned work on Communications Support for Community Enterprise Centres

► Raise the profile & opportunities for Enterprise Centres across the region

   ► Situation Analysis: SWOT/PEST Workshops

   ► 10.00-2.00, 18 Oct, Boyle Enterprise Centre

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Thank You

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