**PROJECT IDEA**

***IDÉE DE PROJET***

**The Project Idea Form is a public document, if you wish to keep it private between the JTS and your partnership please advise your Facilitator consequently/ *Le Document Idée de Projet est un document public, si vous souhaitez qu’il reste prive entre le STC et votre partenariat merci d’en informer votre coordinateur d’animation***

Project Name / *Nom du projet* : **Citizen finance infrastructure**

Contact / *Contact :*

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Specific Objective / *Objectif spécifique :*

Keep only one and erase the others/ *Garder un seul et effacer les autres*

*1.2 - Increase the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially disadvantaged groups through social innovation*

Summary description of the project idea (1 page max.) / *Description synthétique du projet (1 page max.)*

We are interested in building on the results obtained in FEED (a previous Interreg project). We ended the project with some specific ideas for further exploration, which included:

- establishing citizen finance partnerships to promote it through all agencies in a locality

- developing and enhancing local currencies

Since FEED, the 'Bristol Pound' has been successful in some respects and provides new opportunities for learning. Also, we have expanded our involvement with credit unions with innovative marketing and services – something that could be relevant in France. In France, the Cigales

The task of co-ordinating, regulating, promoting and resourcing activities including local peer lending, community shares, local currencies and social bonds must be entrusted to a broad based group, covering a well-understood local area, that connects the broader community and its agencies to the practitioners in the field.

A Citizen Finance Partnership (CFP) is a body that serves a geographical area within which people can easily interact; has a mission to promote personal economic investment in the fabric of that area; and focuses on balanced investments, where financial and social rewards are effectively combined. It is not concerned with local people as consumers or employees (these practices are already well catered for), but as investors, directors, visionaries and creators of liquidity.

A CFP will take the form of a broad-based committee in which the members are nominees of bodies that have a real stake in the development of these emerging practices:

- non-statutory development bodies and support agencies

- the community enterprises that require citizen finance

- local currency and social investment groups

- credit unions and local trading groups

- community councils, county and district councils

Local currencies should be central to any CFP, and cross border work will be particularly useful in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the very varied initiatives that are underway. The criteria for evaluation and goals for further support will be credibility and potential for mainstream adoption ; stability and resilience ; ability to accountably direct additional resources to sustainable community development ; and ability to generate counter cyclical and socially inclusive liquidity.

Different currencies have made progress on different goals, but none have succeeded in delivering on all of them – so there is much scope for innovation, cross-fertilisation and progress.

*Examples of concrete actions /**Exemples d’actions concrètes :*

- a set of benchmarks (la référenciation ou le parangonnage, si vous préférez) for citizen finance and local currency outputs

- development of strategies, capacity and skills for recruitment to local currencies and other citizen finance initiatives from a more diverse range of backgrounds

- training for participants in a CFP, or bodies providing some of the services of a CFP

- a one year pilot (of either a full CFP, or of collaborative activities that prefigure those of a CFP) in each country, and a report on outcomes

- IT solutions to enable quick and easy implementation of local currencies, and especially electronic transactions on mobile devices

- online tools to make CFP collaboration convenient, and relevant to local practioners (for example, websites that create single interfaces for multiple citizen finance activities)

- innovative tools that enhance the capabilities of local currencies

*Changes that the project will contribute to* /*Changements auxquels le projet contribuera :*

- improved flows of finance and resources to social enterprise and sustainable community development

- greater credibility and confidence for citizen finance initiatives

- more engagement of citizens (especially from diverse backgrounds) in economic development and the solidarity economy

- greater relience for local economies in the face of national and global economic stresses

Cross border added value / *Valeur ajoutée transfrontalière :*

Innovations on one side of the channel will be reproduced on the other; common practices and goals create further opportunities for European collaboration; building a cross border network of social investors and mutual aid relationships ; giving credibility to local projects by stressing their international success.

Capitalisation on previous initiatives/ *Capitalisation sur de précédentes initiatives:*

Follows directly from the main recommendations from the successful 2013-14 FEED project (Interreg 4).

Sustainability/*Durabilité :*

The partnerships should continue to be self-supporting after the project ends, and information resources will be disseminated for other areas to benefit from. Templates for the internet-based tools will be open source so that others can use them and build on them.

Partners (with their geographical areas) already involved in the project idea / *Partenaires (en précisant leur zone géographique) déjà impliquées à ce stade d’idée de projet:*

Somerset Co-operative Services (Somerset and East Devon)

Exeter Pound (Exeter City and Mid / East Devon)

Galleco (Rennes and Redon)

Potential partners sought (skills wanted) /*Partenaires potentiels recherchés (compétences recherchées) :*

England / *Angleterre :*

Local currencies, citizen investment groups and community development agencies

France / *France :*

Cigales, Social enterprises and agencies supporting social enterprise

Start date and end date of the project / *Dates de début et de fin du projet:*

2017-18

Estimated project cost / *Coût estimé du projet:*

E 200,000

Other comments / *Autres commentaires :*

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Has a programme facilitator from the InterregVA FCE Joint Technical Secretariat provided advice to the project applicant? / *Un coordinateur de l’animation du Secrétariat Technique Conjoint FMA a-t--’il conseillé le porteur du projet ?*

Keep only one and erase the others/ *Garder un seul et effacer les autres*

No / *Non*

If yes, facilitator’s name / *Si oui, quel est le nom du coordinateur de l’animation ?*

Name / *Nom:*