

Interreg Women in Public Life project

Project Aims

‘More women living on the periphery of Europe can impact positively on the planning and delivery of public services’

The project aims to impact on **public service delivery** by increasing the number of women engaged in **decision making** at all levels. By increasing women’s skills, engaging women in **civic networks** and strengthening women’s voices. The project aims to increase the number of women in public life thus enabling effective targeting of public services.

The project aims to provide opportunities and encouragement to women living on the periphery of Europe away from the centers of power, in the North West of Ireland and the West Coast of Scotland to become engaged with political processes at local, national and European level and to develop mechanisms and networks by which grassroots women can impact on national, regional and European policy issues.

The project aims to engage with public bodies, women’s organizations and networks to develop a common approach to engendering public life.

The project aims to create a debate within the region regarding women’s continued exclusion from public and political arenas. To disseminate examples of good practice from other European states and to create opportunities for learning and networking.

Project Objectives

1. To create a sustainable North West Ireland cross border Women into Public life Forum.

To bring together a wide range of public bodies and women’s organizations in the NW to research models of best practice and adopt new ways of working to ensure an equitable gender balance in decision making fora in the North West.

2. To promote and increase the number of effective women leaders in key decision making roles

To bring together 24 women community leaders from north west Ireland to engage in cross border skills training, gender analysis and research. To promote these women as potential leaders and decision makers within public and political fora.

3. To build the capacity of grassroots women across the region to find their voice, begin to engage in public life and impact effectively on public service delivery

To develop and deliver leadership training to 108 women across the region. To bring together local women's sector organizations to address policy issues and strengthen civic networks, developing and strengthening mechanisms by which grassroots women can impact on national policy agendas. To support women to take up leadership roles in their communities.

4. Exchange information, expertise and best practice in cross border and regional cooperation

To establish a regional management process for the project which allows for maximum learning from partner organizations. To deliver a series of 9 seminars and events across the region in response to policy issues as they emerge from project activities. To host a regional conference which captures the learning from the project and further disseminates best practice across the region on engendering public and political life and creating a true democracy.

5. To support women to engage in civic networks at national and European level

For project partners to develop an understanding of civic networks at national, regional and European level and to create opportunities for women from the geographic periphery to engage in national and European policy forums.