

Environmental Issues and NGO involvement in Structural Funds in Scotland

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Contents

- How does the Scottish System work?
- How have environmental issues been integrated?
- How have NGOs been involved:
 - as partners?
 - through funding for projects?
- What can we learn from the Scottish experience?
- Project examples

What is Scotland like?

- Many natural and mountainous areas, but also large cities with a history of declining heavy industry, social problems, and pollution
- Long history of voluntary sector activity, mainly in social issues, in urban areas
- Environmental NGOs more active in rural areas until recently
- Directly elected Scottish Parliament since 1999, now with 7 Green members. Big change!
- European Structural Funds Programmes since 1988 - 15 years experience

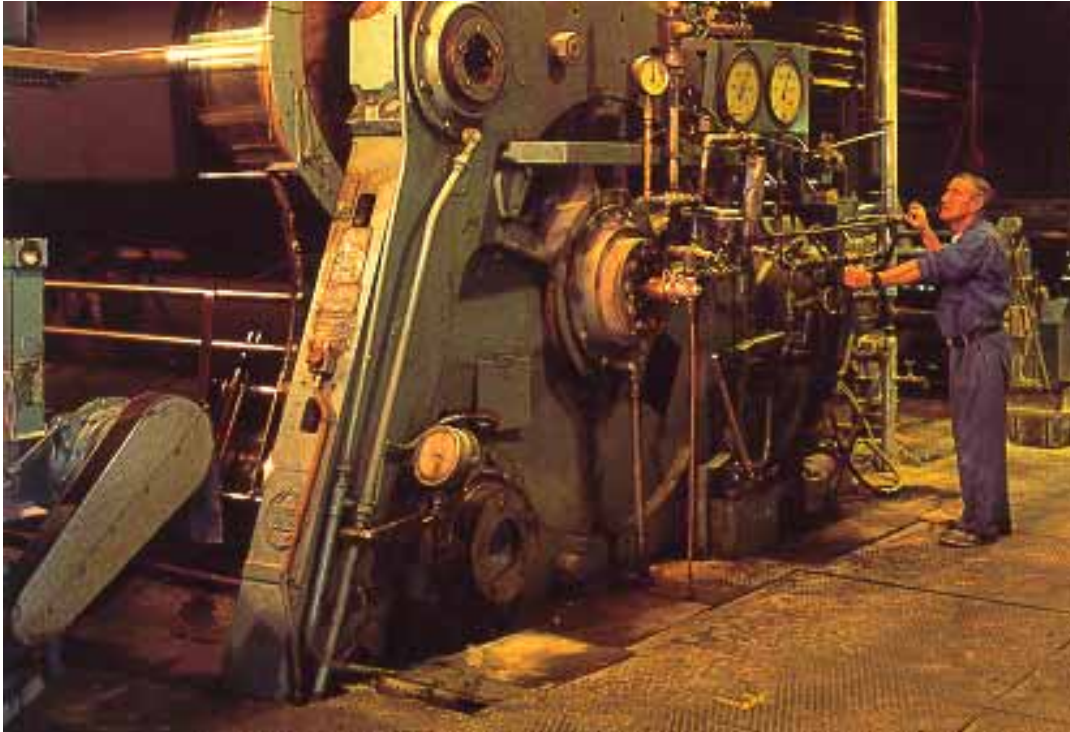
Environmental Issues in Scotland

- ***Past***: focus on pollution from specific sectors, site-specific nature conservation
- ***Now and Future***: Wider issues are:
 - Farming, nature conservation
 - (re-) use of land for infrastructure
 - energy, transport, use of raw materials,
 - local environment, health, quality of life
 - education and awareness
- Different NGOs focus on different issues - so a coordinating body was created (LINK)

Structural Funds

- We have four basic types of project:
 - Business Development (ERDF)
 - Infrastructure - roads, water, business sites, tourism (ERDF)
 - Community Economic Development (ERDF)
 - Training (ESF)
- ...And sustainable development, equal opportunities, and innovation as horizontal themes

Investing in SMEs



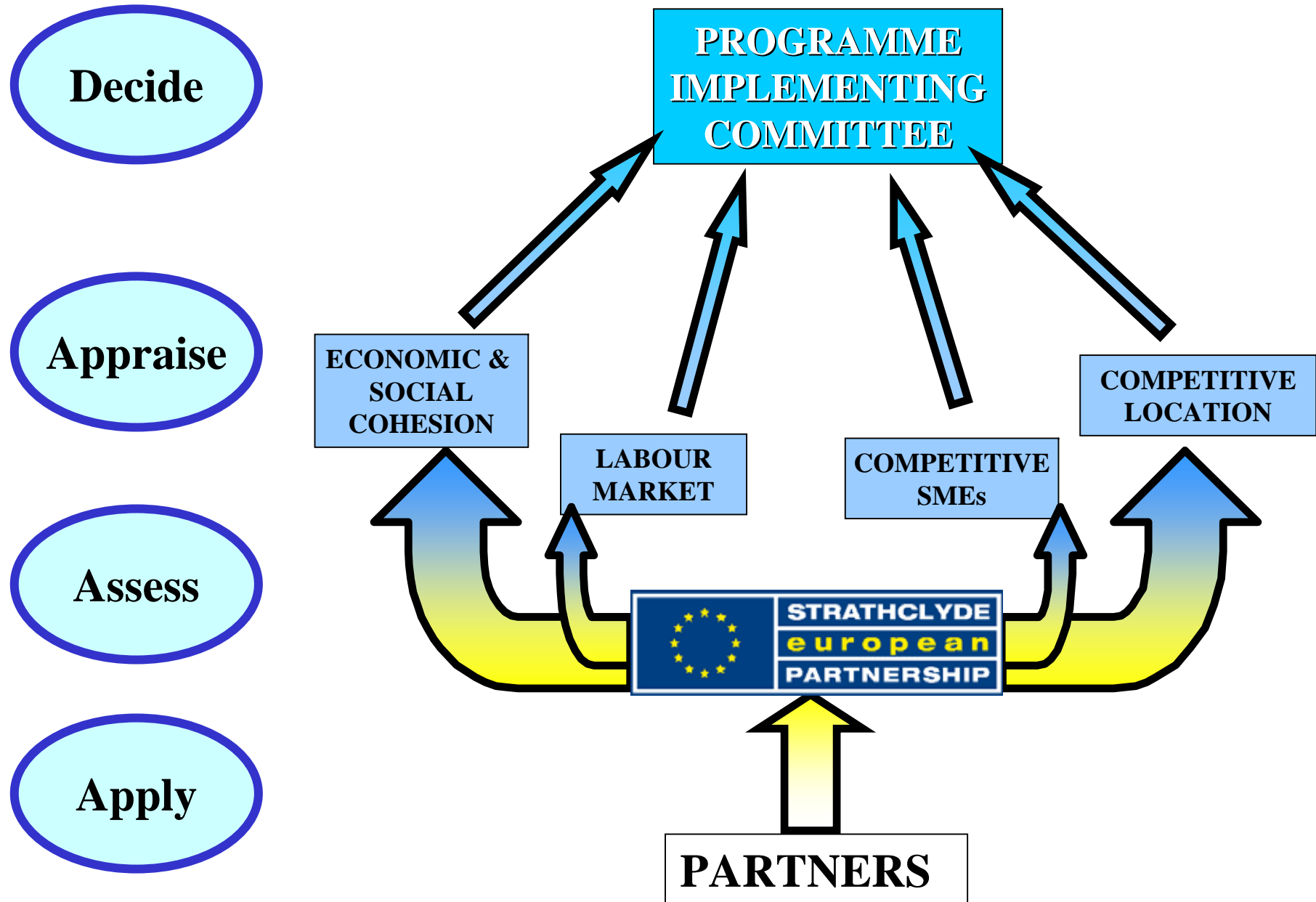
Investing in people



Investing in places



Application Process



Relating Environment & Structural Funds

Type of Support	Relevant Environmental Issues
Business Development	Environmental management in SMEs; Development of environmental technologies
Infrastructure	Site selection, transport implications, Building materials, energy efficiency, green tourism
Area regeneration	Local environmental projects, infrastructure as above
Training <i>European Social Fund</i>	Training in sustainable development as a component of mainstream courses; support for environmental training schemes

Implementation actions

Administration:

- Environmental section in application forms
- Environmental issues in all project level selection criteria
- Project-based guidance & good practice

Organisation & Management

- Environmental representation on all decision-making bodies
- Training & awareness seminars for everyone involved - over 65 events to date
- Working directly with project sponsors through conditions of grant

Some Environmental Indicators

- Number of organisations undertaking environmental management work, and financial/ environmental savings
- Land taken by projects split by brownfield / greenfield; land under conservation management
- People trained in environmental issues
- Jobs directly related to environment - recycling, green technologies, national park

NGO Experience: Strategy Level

- Everyone agrees NGOs should be involved in EU Funds - but:
- Very complex systems and rules
- Sometimes need to convince Government that NGOs should be invited to meetings at all!

Lessons from Scotland

- NGOs need dedicated staff time to engage properly in programming and decision making
- Technical Assistance can pay for NGOs to do this
- Concentrate on most important points

NGO Experience: Project Level

- Match funding is required for projects
- Funding is received up to 5 months after projects begin: issues about financial management

Lessons from Scotland

- Use staff and volunteer time and donations as match funding
- Get bigger organisations to provide 'banking' facilities
- Get devolved grant schemes set up

Project Examples

Heritage Tourism: New Lanark Conservation Trust

- Regeneration of a derelict former cotton mill into tourist attraction: 250 jobs, hotel, a visitor attraction, 400 homes
- Linked wildlife reserve has also received ERDF funding (Scottish Wildlife Trust)
- Latest building incorporates renewable energy & energy efficiency
- Co-marketing with public transport

East Ayrshire Woodlands:

East Ayrshire Council

- Environmental improvements to 30Ha of former mining area
- Wide range of partners, including environmental agencies & private sector
- Re-use of processed sewage as fertiliser
- Training qualifications linked to expanding forestry industry
- Community development & health outcomes: all the SIP aims in one

Key Funds: Available in Targeted Regeneration Areas

- Co-finance contributed at the start by larger agencies
- Provides grants for smaller NGOs, up to £30,000
- Application and payment systems much simpler
- Project development support provided
- Wide range of environmental and social projects supported - recycling, renewable energy, community radio, health....

Key Indicators

- No. of organisations undertaking environmental management work, and financial savings as a result
- Land take split by brownfield / greenfield, land under conservation management
- People trained in environmental issues
- Jobs directly related to environment - recycling, green technologies, national park

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Project Assessment Exercise

- These are typical projects from Scotland
- You have to assess and report on their approach to sustainable development issues
- You are not allowed to reject them! (but you can suggest conditions of grant)
 - *Leadership development Project*
 - *Business Units*
 - *Social economy support*
 - *Training in construction skills*