

# Paper 2



**To:** Nature Connected  
Local Nature Partnership Board

**Meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Topic:** Non ESIF EU Funding opportunities - Paper 2

## 1 Purpose

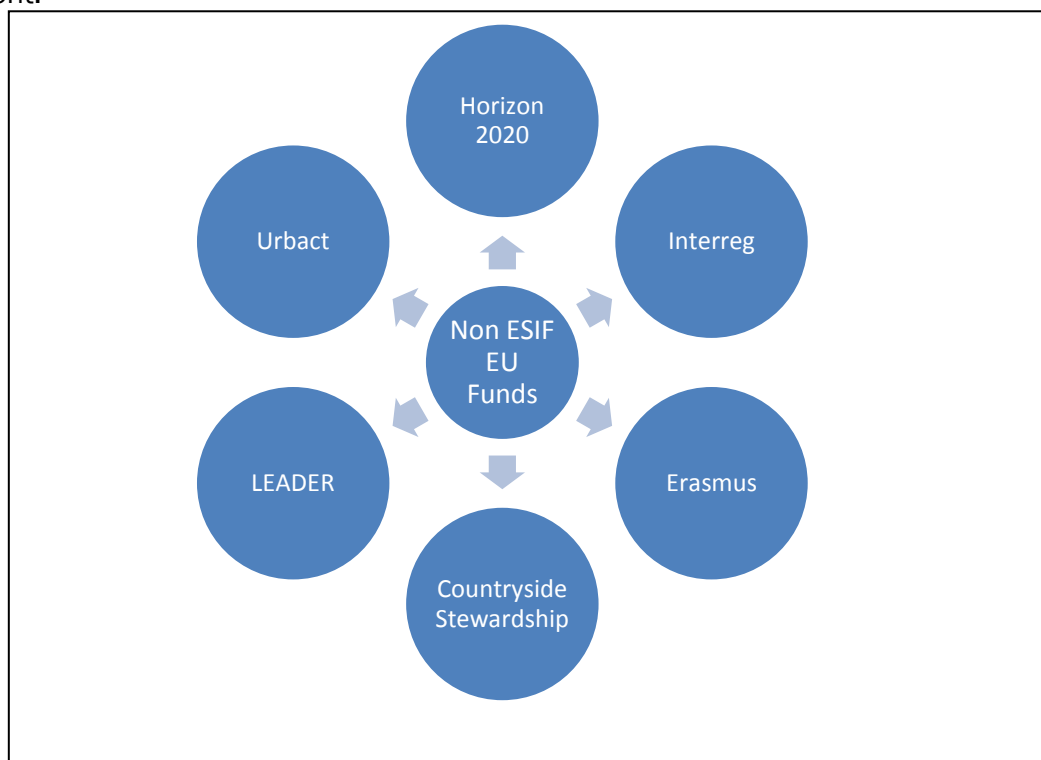
This short paper provides a very brief overview of some of non ESIF EU Funding opportunities that may relate to issues of interest to Nature Connected. It is not meant to be comprehensive! There are several organisations across the Liverpool City Region developing bids for some of these funds.

## 2 Background

Alongside ESIF, there are a range of EU Funds that can be accessed for projects that either focus on, or include the natural environment.

Liverpool City Region has a good track record of winning resources from similar funding streams.

Through the Merseyside Brussels office, there appears to be an increasing amount of coordination and information sharing about opportunities that these non-ESIF funds present.



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**Horizon 2020** - <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.

**Interreg** - [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/)

Interreg is a series of five programmes to stimulate cooperation between regions in the European Union, funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

**Erasmus** - [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of €14.7 billion will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train gain experience, and volunteers abroad.

**Countryside Stewardship** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management>

Countryside Stewardship (CS) provides financial incentives for land managers to look after their environment through activities such as:

- conserving and restoring wildlife habitats
- flood risk management
- woodland creation and management
- reducing widespread water pollution from agriculture
- keeping the character of the countryside
- preserving features important to the history of the rural landscape
- encouraging educational access

**LEADER** - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-development-programme-for-england-leader-funding>

A total of £138 million is available in the England between 2015 and 2020 under the scheme. LEADER is part of the RDPE. It is a French acronym (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale) which roughly translates as 'Liaison among Actors in Rural Economic Development'.

A LAG is made up of people from the local community and the local public and private sector. Each LAG decides which projects they will fund in their area. This depends on

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their priorities but all projects must support one or more of the 6 LEADER priorities. These are to:

- support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- boost rural tourism
- increase farm productivity
- increase forestry productivity
- provide rural services
- provide cultural and heritage activities

**Urbact** - <http://urbact.eu/>

Urbact helps cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable and that integrate economic, social and environmental urban topics.

## 3 Discussion

Is there a role for Nature Connected in supporting bids to these various strands of funding?

What value can Nature Connected add?

Are there opportunities for Nature Connected itself to make a bid?