



FARNET TRANSNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR FLAGS Bantry (Ireland), 2-4 April 2019

Smart coastal areas: Resourcefulness and innovation in FLAG communities

Expert Bios



Valerie CUMMINS

Senior Lecturer at School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University College Cork, IE

Valerie Cummins is senior lecturer at the School of Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences of the University College Cork. Being a marine geographer and zoologist by training, her research is in coastal resource management and environmental governance. It draws specifically on concepts from across: - Action research, the systems field, innovation, and organisational development. She is co-founder of the Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster (IMERC), concerned with building excellence in research, entrepreneurship, training and innovation via an emerging maritime campus with a Blue Growth agenda.



Smart Partnerships



Tony O'ROURKE

Former Professor of Banking & Finance and Director of Continuing Professional Development, UK

Tony O'Rourke was from 2001-2011 at the University of Stirling as director of Continuing Professional Development for Banking & Finance, also a professor in that area with specialism in small business financing and mutual/co-operative financing of small-scale local enterprises. Before that, 1996-2001, he was Chief Executive of a Brussels-based association of European regional financial centres, focused on innovative methodologies for micro & small business financing. Since his retirement in 2011, he has worked with cooperatives in the UK on mutual guarantee loan societies for small tourism enterprises and the concept on mutual ownership.



Smart Financing



Vilhjalmur Jens ARNASON *Smart Resource use*

Project manager at Icelandic Ocean Cluster, IS

Vilhjalmur Jens has an extensive experience in the fisheries and seafood sector which he has been involved in for more than 20 years. He has in recent years worked as a project manager for the Iceland Ocean Cluster whose mission is to create value by connecting entrepreneurs, businesses and knowledge in the marine industries. During this time, Vilhjalmur Jens has worked on various projects mostly associated with mapping different industry sectors and industry clusters but also on projects associated with green marine technology, seafood innovation.



Smart Resource use



Suzanne KEARNEY

Assistant Chief Executive Officer with SECAD, IE

Suzanne Kearney is Assistant Chief Executive Officer with SECAD Partnership CLG based in the South East of Cork County. Suzanne is a Board member and Technical Evaluation Committee member of the South FLAG (IE) in the current funding period (2014-2020). Previously she served as a Member of the National Implementation Board for Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund in Ireland and ILDN (Irish Local Development Network). Suzanne has experience managing various aspects of the SECAD mission, which provides a range of innovative and effective rural development and social inclusion supports to motivate and enable communities to create a more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive society.



Smart Services