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1. STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the cooperation programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Introduction

INTERREG VA - United Kingdom - Ireland (Northern Ireland[1], Ireland[2] and Scotland[3]) is a European Territorial Cooperation programme that aims to promote greater economic, social and territorial cohesion.

This section sets out the background to, and the detail of, the INTERREG VA Cooperation Programme (CP) for the period 2014 to 2020, funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

The development of the CP is informed by the European Union's key policy instruments, namely the Europe 2020 Strategy (EU2020) and the Common Strategic Framework (CSF), and the European Commission's position papers on the UK and Ireland.

EU2020 outlines a ten-year growth strategy centred on five measurable targets to be achieved by 2020. The targets identified relate to expenditure on research and development; generation of renewable energy; working age employment levels; educational achievement; and reduction in poverty and exclusion. The achievement of these targets will be based on plans for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 identifies a framework of 11 thematic objectives that are designed to contribute towards the EU2020 targets. Member States are encouraged to identify those thematic objectives that are most appropriate to their own context as a basis for the design of CPs and the use of the ESIF. This framework is in line with imperatives identified for Cohesion Policy, i.e. thematic concentration, better co-ordination of funds, ex ante conditionalities and strengthened performance orientation.

Within the eligible region, Ireland and Northern Ireland share a land border, whilst the border between Ireland and Scotland is a maritime border. Northern Ireland and Scotland are also separated by the North Channel. In all cases the regions concerned are peripheral to the main economic centres of their respective Member States. The contrasting nature of the borders within the eligible area means that different approaches to promoting cross-border co-operation need to be adopted, depending on the nature of

the border and the sector involved. These issues are explored in more detail in Section 4.

The European Commission's Position Papers on the UK[4] and Ireland[5] identify a number of regional priority areas for European Territorial Cooperation across the programme area, including; sustainable use of the marine environment within the context of the Atlantic Strategy; and increasing collaboration within the private, public and academic sectors to promote research and innovation.

During the 2012 consultation a total of 20 events were held which over 1000 participants attended. Consultation was also held in the eligible jurisdictions with government departments and representatives of sectors including business, rural communities, agricultural representatives, community and voluntary sectors, trade unions and public sector organisations.

In 2014 a second public consultation was carried out utilising a summary of the INTERREG VA Cooperation Programme, the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the section 75 Equality Impact considerations.

A comprehensive summary of the public consultations held in 2012 and in 2014 is provided in Annex 1.

Based on the results of this public consultation exercise[6] and informed by the lessons of the INTERREG IVA Programme[7] and additional research of the needs of the region[8], the following strategic areas of investment have been prioritised by the member states for the 2014-2020 period:

- Smart Growth Priority: Thematic Objective 1 – Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation - The programme will contribute to the objective within EU2020 of increasing the spend on Research and Development (R&D) to 3% of GDP by 2020, by establishing increased cross-border R&D competence building, for Life and Health Sciences and Renewable Energy. Additionally, R&D into renewable energy technologies may contribute to EU2020 targets and lead to reductions in the use of carbon resources and emissions.
- Sustainable Growth Priority: Thematic Objective 6 – Preserving and Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency- The inclusion in the programme of the protection and preservation of habitats and species, an emphasis on water and marine management will contribute to enhancing the region's sustainability and is congruent with the priority for sustainable growth outlined in strategy EU2020.
- Sustainable Growth Priority: Thematic Objective 7 – Promoting Sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures – The promotion of electric vehicles; greenways; and multimodal transport links have the purpose of reducing the reliance upon carbon forms of transport in the region and underpins the EU2020 strategic objective of creating sustainable growth.
- Inclusive Growth Priority: Thematic Objective 9 – Promoting Social Inclusion, Combating Poverty and any discrimination. The needs analysis of the region has

identified inequalities in health care provision for those citizens living in the border area. The inclusion of improved access to cross-border health services is in line with the EU 2020 strategy to generate inclusive growth.

Background

Population

The combined population of the programme region is 3.18 million. This consists of 1.824 million[9] in Northern Ireland, 514,891[10] in the Border Region and 0.84 million[11] in Western Scotland. As a percentage of the respective national populations; Northern Ireland and Western Scotland account for 4% of the UK population. The Border Region accounts for 11% of Ireland's population. These statistics are reflected in comparatively low population densities and a dispersed business base, which have inherent implications for the economy in terms of public service delivery, and the ability to attract and retain high value graduates and jobs within a comparatively small and less competitive economy.

The Border Region and Northern Ireland have a largely young population. In the Border Region, 34.9% of persons are aged below 24. The corresponding figure in Northern Ireland is 33.5%. There is a relatively higher ageing population in Western Scotland with 20% of the population aged over 65. This compares with only 12.6% in the Border Region and 14.1% in Northern Ireland.

Governance

The Northern Ireland Executive sets out its aims and objectives in its Programme for Government. The second Programme for Government was agreed following the elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2011. Its stated aim is to grow the economy and tackle disadvantage through a focus on job creation, foreign direct investment, indigenous business development, tourism, skills development and modernisation of health and social care. Supporting the Programme for Government, the Economic Strategy[12] identifies an overall economic goal of improved economic competitiveness through a focus on exports driven by innovation, research and development, and the development of the skills of the workforce.

In 2002, Northern Ireland commenced a programme aimed at reforming local government. The intention of this reform was to replace the 26 local authorities created in 1973 with a smaller number of larger local authorities. The Programme for Government published in 2011 contained a commitment to reduce the number of councils in Northern Ireland from 26 to 11. The first elections to these new councils took place on 22 May 2014, with the new Councils to become fully operational in 2015. The reform also includes enhanced roles for the new councils in a number of areas, including community planning and community well-being and local enterprise development.

From 2007 to 2013 in Ireland, the main focus of attention for policy makers, officials and citizens has been the economic crisis. On 28 November 2010, the European Commission,

the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank (the Troika) agreed with the Irish Government an €85 billion rescue deal. The programme that accompanied this rescue deal involved a series of budgets containing austerity measures aimed at restoring stability to the economy. Ireland emerged from this programme on the 15 December 2013 having achieved all of the targets agreed with the Troika. A new government took office in Ireland in 2011 and published its programme for Government entitled: *Towards Recovery: Programme for a National Government 2011-2016*. The 2011 National Reform programme identified national targets in each of the five headline areas of the European 2020 Strategy and the 2013 update, provides a review of progress made in achieving national targets set in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

At local government level in Ireland, in 2012 the Government published a policy document[13] aimed at introducing a programme of reforms that takes account of the prevailing economic climate and addresses the need for improved efficiency. This programme is intended as a comprehensive mechanism for the reform of local government in Ireland. Local authorities will have enhanced roles in the development of regional and local economic strategies.

The Border Regional Authority[14] has identified a number of strategic goals for the region including: to promote innovation, economic growth, competitiveness and the development potential of the region; to facilitate emerging sectors in the region that will provide sustainable jobs for the future; to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment and built heritage of the region; to exploit the region's unique location at the interface between two economies, by putting in place the drivers for economic growth, through the development of the Eastern Corridor, Atlantic Arc and the Central Border Area.

In Scotland, the Scottish Government has identified a number of key commitments in the area of sustainable economic growth[15]. These include: to implement the Plan for Recovery for the Scottish economy detailed within its 2011 Economic Strategy. This - focuses on job creation, capital investment, access to finance and enhanced economic performance; to ensure the transition to a low carbon economy - with targeted investment in renewable energy as key to economic recovery; and to help young people into jobs as one of the key priorities, including guaranteeing all 16-19 year olds a learning or training opportunity.

Economic Profile of the Region[16]

The programming period 2007 – 2013 (INTERREG IVA) coincided with a period of global economic crisis. This crisis had a very significant impact on the economy of the region. As a result of the global economic downturn in 2008, almost all sectors experienced a contraction in output. Sectors most adversely impacted included construction, business and financial services as well as retail and manufacturing. Consequently, this led to large scale job losses and a rise in unemployment.

In terms of productivity per head of the population, Northern Ireland has been between 15% and 20% below the UK average since 2003. This is as a result of its historically low labour market participation rates, an industrial structure which has an under-

representation of higher value added sectors such as finance and business services and relatively low productivity on an individual sectoral basis. The picture is similar for Western Scotland where labour productivity lags the UK by around 30%. Labour productivity in the Border Region also lags the state average by around 30%, due principally to the large proportion of employees working in low value added sectors.

In Northern Ireland the slowdown in the private sector has had a significant impact on the local labour market, with the number of employee jobs falling by 40,000 since the employment peak in 2008. Sectors hit hardest in terms of the number of jobs lost include construction and manufacturing. Retail accounted for the largest decrease within services, followed by business and financial services. Over the same period Scotland lost 139,000 jobs, mostly from the business and financial services sector and construction, as well as agriculture, forestry and fishing. In Ireland, the number of people in employment fell from 2.1 million in 2008 to 1.8 million in 2012. Sectors most severely impacted included construction which shed 142,600 employees as well as the industry and retail sectors.

Northern Ireland's unemployment rate stood at 7.6% in September 2012. This was on a par with the UK average. The equivalent rate for Scotland was 8.1%. Figures for Western Scotland for 2012 show that unemployment stood at 10.4%. During 2012, unemployment in Ireland reached 15%, one of the highest rates in Europe. For the Border region, the equivalent figure was 17.7%, largely due to loss of employment in key sectors including construction, wholesale, retail accommodation and food from 2007 onwards.

The level of economic inactivity in Northern Ireland remains a major challenge for the region as 27.2% of the working age population are economically inactive. This is the highest of all UK regions and is well above the UK average of 22.6%. In Scotland and Western Scotland, the equivalent rates are 23.7% and 24.7% respectively. The figure for Ireland is 30.8%.

Competitiveness

The productivity per head in the region (ref. Para. 1.13) provides evidence of a lack of competitiveness. Some of the factors that contribute to this lack of competitiveness include:

- A high prevalence of SMEs[17] – the business landscape of the programme region is of three economies with a very high prevalence of micro enterprises employing less than ten people, and small enterprises employing less than 250 people. In Northern Ireland 98% of companies are in this category (of which, 89% are micro enterprises). The figures for Scotland and the Border Region are 99% each. This make-up of the private sector represents a potential weakness as SMEs make a lower contribution to the economy in terms of wages, productivity and investment in research and innovation.

- An under representation of higher value sectors- the businesses in the region tend to be concentrated in lower value sectors. In the Northern Ireland and Western Scotland economies there is a high dependency on the public sector, retail and hospitality. This is also the case in the Border Region, where the highest employment sectors are the public sector, wholesale and retail. In the Border Region, the high value sectors of ICT and Financial and Professional Activities account for only 8% of employment.
- Lower gross expenditure on research & development– Northern Ireland’s Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) was 1.6% of GDP in 2010. This was on a par with the UK average (1.77%). Western Scotland and the Border Region report similar low levels of expenditure on Research and Development. Further investment is required in order to meet the Europe 2020 target of 3% of GDP (public and private) invested in R&D.

Sustainable growth at a regional level is predicated on the capacity to innovate. Northern Ireland has one of the lowest levels of innovation active businesses amongst the UK regions – only 27% of businesses were classified as innovation active. In Scotland there is a higher proportion of businesses that are innovation active (29%); the level of business spend on R&D (0.6% of GVA in 2010) is much lower than the UK average and indeed is amongst the lowest in all UK regions. The overall spend in Scotland is considerably buffered by higher education spend on R&D, with Scotland reporting spend that is amongst the highest in Europe. In Ireland, the gross expenditure on Research and Development nationally is marginally better than the UK but is still below EU average levels. However, the percentage of R&D expenditure in the Border Region is very low.

In terms of existing research capacity, the region has a strong network of higher education institutions with four universities including a Russell Group institution. There are six further education colleges in Northern Ireland and three in Western Scotland. There are three institutes of technology based along the Border Region of Ireland.

There has been a high degree of regional research output in recent years, some of which has been classified as world leading or internationally excellent[18]. This, along with a high level of collaboration with other academic institutions across the programme area provides a strong base on which to build and is indicative of a strong capacity to form alliances with other educational institutions and businesses.

Environment

One of the key economic challenges for the programme region relates to how the governments in the three jurisdictions address common environmental issues. The regions' economies are operating in a highly regulated setting, with ambitious national targets set for improvements in areas such as water quality and the management of climate change.

This is particularly relevant for Northern Ireland and the Border Regions where joint approaches are required to deal with the preservation and exploitation of natural resources and key environmental assets. Northern Ireland shares three International River Basin Districts with Ireland with several major river systems flowing across the border.

River basin management is a key requirement of the EU Water Framework Directive. There are also shared transitional waters. The three jurisdictions share a number of key habitats and species, giving the opportunity for joint working and sharing of best practice.

The EU Atlantic Strategy advocates the sustainable development of the Atlantic region's natural resources. Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland share a maritime border and environment. There is an opportunity for the three regions to collaboratively develop marine management plans; which share experience, knowledge and best practice to maximise the economic and social potential of this important regional asset whilst protecting the environment.

Evidence from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Ireland 'Climate Change Research Programme' shows that Ireland's climate is changing in line with global patterns. This includes:

- Six of the ten warmest years in Ireland have occurred since 1990;
- A reduction in the number of frost days and shortening of frost season length;
- An increase in annual rainfall in northern and western areas with decreases or small increases in the south and east.

The EPA has also identified Ocean Acidification as another significant issue. These are not issues that are solely related to one jurisdiction or the other and therefore effective cross-border collaboration is required in order to meet the challenges of climate change and to contribute towards EU targets and the Marine and Water Framework Directives.[47]

Sustainable Transport

The EU 2020 strategy aims to promote sustainable growth by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20%. The Europe 2020 strategy requires member states 'To develop smart, upgraded and fully interconnected transport and energy infrastructures and make full use of ICT'. The Commission is providing seven flagship initiatives to catalyse progress under each priority theme. One of which is a "Resource efficient Europe" the intention is to decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernise our transport sector and promote energy efficiency. [19]

The development of transport in terms of infrastructure and services is one of the key priorities of the Executive's policy in Northern Ireland. Transport projects are recognized as being key economic rebalancing measures with '*enhancement of regional connectivity and the promotion of more efficient and sustainable transport*' identified as a key opportunity.

Transport is crucial to the economy providing businesses with links to their customers and markets as well as providing individuals with access to employment and services

such as education, health and leisure opportunities. However the transport sector is one of the largest contributors to green house gas and carbon emissions in NI. Whilst economic growth is a priority for the Executive looking forward, it is important to develop a more efficient, sustainable and environmentally friendly transport network in NI.

The Government for National Recovery in Ireland recognise the importance of the investment in transport especially in public transport and in the National Cycle Policy. There is also recognition that a rural transport network is vital for rural communities.[20]The increased provision of sustainable transport is a key priority for the Government of Ireland. The high level goal is to upgrade the transport network and ensure the delivery of public transport services with regard to economic competitiveness, social needs, and sustainability and safety objectives. The key aims include :

- To support sustainable transport;
- Work-related travelling by car will be reduced from a current model share of 65% to 45%;
- Car drivers to be accommodated on other modes such as walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing, which will expand the number of people using different modes to 55% by 2020[21];

The Government in Scotland recognise transport as a key element for sustainable growth. The Government will focus on investment to improve the service reliability and journey times, seeking to maximise the opportunities for employment, business, leisure and tourism. Amongst the stated key targets are:

- To provide fast and efficient transport to boost productivity, facilitate connectivity and promote the transition to a low carbon economy.
- To facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy by providing integrated and cost-effective public transport and better connecting people, places and work;
- The existence of land and maritime borders presents challenges for the effective operation of transport and communications networks. Coordinated responses to these challenges can assist with regional mobility and contribute to wide social and economic development, whilst contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions.

Health & Well Being

There is evidence in the region that health access inequalities exist and that these are closely related to levels of deprivation. For example, in the Northern Ireland Western Trust area, males from the most deprived areas live 4.4 years and females live 2.7 years less than those from wider non deprived Trust areas. The trend, deprivation and reduced life expectancy, is consistent throughout all the Health Trust areas in N. Ireland.[22]. In Ireland only 57% of those living in consistent poverty have good or very good health, the figure is 84% for those considered not to be in consistent poverty[23]. In Scotland[24] the life expectancy for women is 84.2 years and 81 years for men living in the least deprived areas. This is in stark contrast to citizens from the most deprived areas, where the life expectancy for women is reduced to 76.8 years and 70 years for men. The reports cited also indicate that people living in rural areas enjoy better health than their urban

dwelling counterparts. Despite this however, in both rural and urban areas, deprivation is a consistent indicator of inequality of health status. According to a CSO report in Ireland[25], in the Border Region 38% of people are in receipt of medical cards. A medical card entitles the holder to free medical care based on an assessment of need. [26].

An important recent development in the provision of health care is e-Health. In Ireland an ‘eHealth Strategy for Ireland’, published in December 2013[27], states national healthcare ICT spending will be “re-aligned” so that it reaches the “EU average of between 2-3%” from the current 0.85%. In Scotland, the Scottish Government has published an eHealth Strategy for Scotland[28]. This strategy has identified a number of strategic objectives for e-Health: supporting people to communicate with NHSS; contributing to care integration; improving medicines safety; enhancing the availability of information for staff; and improving information management for clinical and local managers. In Northern Ireland E-Health and Social Care[29] is delivering a programme of improvement for the Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland. The strategy emphasises the need for changes in the way the HSC delivers its services to patients and service users for the better by making the best use of information and communication technologies.

An opportunity exists for the INTERREG VA Programme to promote cross jurisdiction cooperation in the development and roll out of eHealth strategies across the region. This will be of particular relevance to older people’s access to health care services. It will also encourage a transition from institution based service provision to community based services, which will result in economic efficiencies and commercial opportunities across the programme region.

Justification of the Proposed Objectives

Translation of regional needs into priorities for results-driven actions

This section of the CP sets out the priorities selected to address the identified weaknesses in the programme region’s economy. These are considered to be congruent with the EU2020 priorities of Smart Growth, Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Growth and the priority areas identified for European Territorial Cooperation within the EU Commission Position Papers for the UK and Ireland.

Thematic Objective 1 – Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation

The key aim of this priority area is to encourage investment in sectors that offer the most growth potential, whilst building on existing strengths, and helping the region to become more competitive in a global marketplace. The CP will tackle two key weaknesses in the programme region’s competitiveness, namely the lower level of RD&I expenditure and an under representation of higher added value sectors and innovation inactive SMEs.

Investment Priority One: Enhanced Research and Innovation[30]

While Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) is a key policy objective for each jurisdiction comprising the region, the INTERREG VA Programme presents an opportunity to encourage the creation of new and the further development of existing cross-border RD&I partnerships. These partnerships will include representation from academic institutions, SMEs and Government agencies. The intention is to utilise cross-border collaboration to increase the level of research and innovation competence and activity across the programme area in a strategic way designed to contribute towards the development of a more competitive, high value added economy.

In order to achieve the aim of creating or enhancing research and innovation centres within the timeframe of the programme, the selection of sectors with an existing capacity and capability is essential. Therefore programme support will be directed towards two sectors: Life and Health Sciences; and Renewable Energy. This focused approach will further develop research areas in which there is existing critical mass and those where the region has distinct advantages. This approach aligns with the EU Smart Specialisation Platform[31];

Where assistance from the funds is granted to a large enterprise, the Managing Authority shall assure itself that the financial contribution from the funds does not result in a substantial loss of jobs in existing locations within the Union.

As part of the scoping work undertaken in the selection of the sectors for targeted growth, the following factors were taken into account:

- Scale of the Growth Opportunity – The size of the global market and the ability of the region to serve those markets was considered;
- Higher Education R&D Structures & Specialisations – A review of the structures and focus within the higher education sectors of the three regions and a focused consultation with key players led to the selection of sectors that are relevant to all three jurisdictions and provide the opportunity to build on the investment to date;
- Policy Priorities- the NI Economic Strategy identifies key sectors as being those of Telecommunications & ICT; Life & Health Sciences; Agrifood; Advance Materials; and Engineering. The Border Region Authority has stated its intention of focussing support on SMEs with Export Potential; Tourism & Heritage; Agriculture; Food and Fish Processing; and Low Carbon/ Renewable Energies. Scotland has identified its growth sectors as being in Life Sciences, Energy (including Renewable), Food and Drink, Creative Industries, Sustainable Tourism, and Financial and Business Services. In Ireland the fastest growing sectors include ICT, life sciences, high tech manufacturing and the green economy including renewable energy.

The regional economy is dominated by low value add, non exporting sectors.

The governments in the three jurisdictions have policy ambitions to transition the region into a knowledge based economy, characterised by increased research capacity and capability, which can produce new intellectual property, human capital and attract foreign direct investment.

Two sectors have been chosen for investment by the Programme: Life & Health Sciences and Renewable Energy.

Capacity for Life and Health Sciences

In Northern Ireland there are over 130 companies employing approximately 7,500 people. The R&D spends accounts for 12% of NI R&D expenditure. The aggregate turnover of these companies is close to £800 million. However the sector is dominated by 3 global indigenous companies, two of which were initially university spin outs, and a few large SMEs. The vast majority of the 130 companies are small SMEs.

There are two research intensive universities in Northern Ireland who work closely with the Health Trusts, the major indigenous SMEs and global companies external to the region. There are identified strengths in academic research in oncology (including tissue archives for research), cardiology, respiratory conditions, diagnostics, tele-monitoring and care for chronic conditions.

In Western Scotland the Glasgow bio-corridor extends in to Ayrshire with a concentration around Irvine. Currently there are a few hundred people employed in Life and Health Sciences. The ambition, endorsed by the Scottish Government, is for this area to become Scotland's leading innovation and industrial development zone for life and health sciences. In Dumfries and Galloway and in Skye there are small number of successful, technology based SMEs. In Western Scotland niche strengths exist in animal health, bio security, medical devices and digital health. Glasgow University, on the periphery of the INTERREG VA region, has significant research capability in Life and Health Sciences. Glasgow University and the University of Western Scotland have campuses in the region located at Crichton.

Ireland has a reasonably well developed Health and Life Sciences sector, providing valuable jobs and exports. The majority of which is based on foreign owned intellectual property and is located away from the border counties. There are only 23 companies located in the border counties. There are institutes of technology located in the region in Sligo, Letterkenny and Dundalk. These institutes work closely with industry to develop highly skilled scientists, engineers and technicians. However there is limited research capability in these institutes of technology.

Potential for Life & Health Sciences

The three governments have identified Life and Health Sciences as a priority sector for economic growth for the INTERREG VA region.

There is evidence in the region that initially small university spin-outs can be scaled to create global indigenous companies which can make a significant contribution to the regional economy. There is also evidence that significant research capacity and capability can attract investment to the region and create economic development opportunities for high value added jobs.

A well established academic research base exists in N. Ireland, with two research intensive Universities who have niche strength in a number of Life and Health Science areas. These Universities already interact with industry and there is significant evidence of spin out and licensing activity. However there is insufficient applied research capacity in the region as a whole to create new intellectual property which can be exploited to create or scale SMEs and attract inward investment.

Through cross-border collaboration between academic institutions and SMEs, the INTERREG VA programme seeks to build new applied research capacity throughout the region. Research indicates that the region has internationally significant capacity in nutrition, cancer, diabetes, age related diseases, connected health and the personalised medicine fields.

Capacity for Renewable energy.

In a recently issued report[35], the Renewable Energy Association stated that the UK's £12.5 billion renewable industry supports 110,000 jobs and has the potential to grow to 400,000 jobs by 2020. Further evidence of the high growth potential of this sector is evidenced in the rise in market value of the sector, which outperformed economic growth over the same period by a factor of eight. In addition to creating/supporting jobs and growth, it is vital that the renewable energy sector develops to mitigate against climate change impacts.

There are over 500 companies in the region involved in renewable energy generation, storage and connection. The vast majority of these companies are small SMEs and micro- businesses, 77% are in the wind, marine, bio-energy, and building technology segments. The governments in the 3 jurisdictions have selected the renewable energy sector as vital to the growth of a knowledge intensive, export based economy. There is an existing critical mass of scale-able SMEs in the region, operating as individual organisations or in small clusters. There are two research intensive academic institutions which currently provide high quality outputs, however to date they have limited capacity and impact on the renewable energy regional economy. There is a deficit of locally owned intellectual property, spin out or licensing activity.

Potential for Renewable energy

This INTERREG VA region has significant untapped renewable energy potential for generation, storage and connectivity from off shore wind, wave and tidal sources. However, there is currently insufficient applied research capacity, intellectual property and commercialisation activity to exploit the opportunity and transition from the policy aspiration to create a significantly enhanced economic impact. The Science Industry Panel for N. Ireland (Matrix) has identified the renewable energy sector as having high growth potential. Their report published in 2013 states that future opportunities will need to ensure the development of a sustained pipeline of human and intellectual capital, and a closing of the gap between research outputs and commercialisation. Emphasis is placed upon the importance for small businesses to adapt a collaborative approach, utilising existing and new clusters as a vehicle to enhance technological innovation and commercialisation.

Through cross-border collaboration between academic institutions and SMEs, the INTERREG VA programme seeks to build new applied research capacity throughout the region.

Investment Priority Two: Promoting Business Investment in Research and Innovation[37]

The programme region has a high level of innovation inactive SMEs. There is an opportunity to build a strong export based economy through increased awareness of, and engagement in innovation amongst the programme region which is dominated by SMEs. The CP offers the opportunity to increase investment in the creation of cross-border centres and projects designed specifically to strengthen the links between SMEs and Research Institutions.

Innovation is defined as the development of solutions that meet needs in new ways and it is considered to be wider than R&D in so far as it covers improvements to products, tradable services and processes. Despite the existence of significant competence and capability within the research institutions within the region, this does not translate to the business world where there is a minority of firms classified as being innovation active.

An OECD Regional Development Working Paper[38] provides a snapshot of the economic characteristics of the cross-border area and reviews the innovation potential for the area. The paper reports that both sides of the border face similar challenges in ensuring that the more peripheral parts of the island enjoy economic growth and notes that the six southern border counties are less advanced in the knowledge economy than the southern and eastern areas.

A CSO report in Ireland[39] identifies a lack of internal funds and a lack of external finance as being two of the three major barriers to innovation. SMEs tend to be more reliant on bank lending as a source of finance than large enterprises and have therefore been more impacted by the financial crisis. One measure of the impact is evident in a comparison of loan application success rates before and after the downturn; in Northern Ireland there was a drop from 95% in 2007 to 65% in 2010; whilst the corresponding figures for Ireland were 99% in 2007 falling to 52% in 2010. A similar pattern, though slightly less pronounced, is repeated in Western Scotland.

The cost of innovation has also been identified as a barrier to SMEs. Opportunities to overcome this barrier are presented by a number of knowledge transfer initiatives operated by the academic institutions in the region. These involve the transfer of research knowledge and outcomes to SMEs and the development of partnerships aimed at improving the levels of innovation within businesses.

Thematic Objective 6 – Preserving and Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency

The key aim of this priority area is to encourage investment to achieve a resource efficient, sustainable economy through the implementation of green infrastructure and

environmental risk management strategies. In delivering this sustainable growth, the CP will tackle two key challenges in the programme region, namely the integrity of its biodiversity and its water quality.

Investment Priority One: Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity[40]

Sustainable development and utilisation of sustainable resources will be required to balance social, economic and environmental interests to ensure that the drive for economic growth does not compromise the welfare and quality of life of current and future generations. Given the nature of the biodiversity within the region, there is an opportunity for enhanced joint management of the regions' ecosystems. Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland share a maritime border. This investment priority will provide opportunities for cooperation in the protection and recovery of habitats and species and the management and development of the marine environment.

There is a wide range of habitats and ecologically important sites within the programme region. This investment priority offers the opportunity to promote collaborative initiatives across the region aimed at protecting the integrity of the environment. Collaboration to protect the biodiversity of designated border area sites will facilitate the development of common approaches to addressing regional environmental challenges. It will result in an increased number of habitats in favourable condition and increased achievement in meeting the regional targets under the Birds and Habitats Directives.

This investment priority will also promote coordinated initiatives in the area of marine environmental protection and development. In addition to there being a social and environmental need for investment in this sector, there is also a very direct economic benefit to be derived from sustainable marine development. Studies illustrate that Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland are regarded as having one of the greatest wind energy resources in Europe from a renewable energy perspective, with the capacity to support economically viable wind, wave and tidal energy projects. According to an ESPON fact sheet on the region[41] the wind energy potential of the Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland programme area is characterised by a median value that is particularly high compared to the EU-27+4 and all CBC programme areas in Europe. The creation of cross-border marine management plans, incorporating climate change impact assessment, a network of marine protected areas, and the establishment of a regional marine centre will help develop this important emerging sector and contribute to the EU Atlantic Strategy.

Investment Priority Two: Investing in the Water Sector[42]

Close co-operation is required to ensure that activities in one jurisdiction complement water quality improvement activities in the neighbouring area. There is an opportunity to address the significant needs for investment in the water sector to meet the requirements of the environmental acquis.

Water is an essential natural resource, vital to maintaining bio-diversity, our health, social welfare and economic development. Water bodies including rivers, lakes,

estuaries, seas and groundwater provide water to sustain many of our core social and economic activities including the provision of drinking water. However, the region is experiencing challenges in meeting required water standards.

The EU Water Framework Directive requires statutory agencies to protect the status of water bodies from deterioration and, where necessary and practical, to restore water bodies to good status. It is clear from recently issued environmental reports, which detail progress being made in areas such as cross-border co-operation and river basin management, that substantial investment will be required to improve the classification[43] of many of our water bodies and facilitate increased levels of achievement with regard to the regional EU Water Framework Directive targets.

Given the fact that many of the water bodies located within the region straddle the border, it is essential that a cross-border management approach is adopted to ensure maximum environmental benefit and greater levels of public sector efficiency. The region shares three international river basin districts with several major river systems flowing across the border. The implementation of cross-border river basin management plans will result in an increased number of these water bodies achieving higher classifications. It will also result in an increased success in meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. The investment will provide an opportunity to maximise the cross-border benefits of existing water management expertise across the programme area including that located within the Scottish Centre for Natural Environment.

Thematic Objective 7 – Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

The justification for inclusion of sustainable transport in the CP is the reduction of CO₂ and other green house gas emissions associated with transport. There is recognition of the strategic importance of transport infrastructure and services to the future development and prosperity of the region. The region is highly reliant on car based transport, with resulting high carbon emissions. Increases in population and economic growth will further increase carbon emissions in the absence of steps taken to modify the pattern of transportation. The investment by the programme will assist in facilitating a move away from a transport system dominated by car use to a more balanced and integrated system, in which public transport and non-motorised transport are attractive options for many trips. The Programme will also assist in facilitating an increase in the use of electric vehicles, and so contribute to the development of options to reduce carbon emissions associated with car transport.

Investment Priority One: Developing and improving environmentally friendly and low carbon transport systems[44]

The eligible region has a limited network of cycleway and greenways which could provide attractive alternatives to road based transport. As well as delivering clear benefits in relation to transport, improved cycle infrastructure can contribute to other policies in a broad range of areas such as; community, recreation, health, and tourism.

Developing a unified infrastructure encompassing Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland will promote connectivity and will also be a powerful tool to promote modal shift at a local level, thus driving carbon reduction and social inclusion agendas. The proposal for the delivery of multiple cycle greenways will encourage the use of better travel options for people visiting or commuting between towns along all routes, thus contributing to the overall low carbon objectives at national and EU levels.

The regional transport strategies identify the key role transport plays in developing competitive cities and regions. A modal shift from private cars to public transport will address the continuing rise of road congestion and contribute to reduced carbon emissions. The development of multimodal hub in key urban areas can help facilitate the increased use of public transport which is central to bringing about this change.

Urban centres close to the jurisdictional border would benefit from an integrated approach to planning public transport a multimodal hub. This approach would ensure coordination of bus and train services and ensure adequate facilities and access for cyclists. An effective hub would also make adequate provision for “park and ride” to encourage the shift from car journeys to public transport.

The adoption of low carbon vehicles, including battery electric vehicles will be essential to achieving reduced carbon emissions of transport. To date the take up of such vehicles has been low due to a number of factors, including:

- Lack of confidence among vehicle owners about the availability of a fully operational rapid charging network;
- The need for a clearly identified interoperable network of rapid chargers;
- The cost of vehicles relative to normally aspirated vehicles;
- Lack of driver experience with electric vehicles;
- General lack of visibility of electric vehicles.

The issues of a fully operational network of rapid charging stations are accentuated by the issues of cross-border connectivity within the region. There is not a clearly articulated inter-operational network which drivers wishing to travel between these areas can utilise. Out of the total of 519 charging points in the region only 37 (7%) are classified as rapid.

Connectivity between jurisdictions is a key issue. Investment in a network to support travel by electric vehicles introduces a new dimension in this connectivity – a green road network. This would integrate many cross-cutting EU policies on a multi-regional basis and would be a major underpinning of the long term aim to decarbonise transport.

Across the transport sector, there is strong added value from working on a cross-border basis as it reinforces connectivity between the three jurisdictions, leading to a more coherent and better integrated network, which aligns public transport, cycling, and electric vehicle infrastructure. In addition, the shared learning from across the three jurisdictions will reinforce the behavioural change, support improved local connectivity and the development of more sustainable solutions.

Thematic Objective 9 – Promoting Social Inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

The key aim of this priority area is to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by targeting cross-border cooperation in healthcare access and supporting the social and economic regeneration of deprived and rural communities.

Investment Priority One: Investing in Health Infrastructure[45]

Research had shown that social economic and environmental conditions can influence an individual's health outcomes. Despite everyone in Northern Ireland and Scotland having access to the National Health Service, health inequalities exist.

Health outcomes are generally worse in the more deprived areas. Hospital admissions are higher in deprived areas in relation to mental health, and drug and alcohol related admissions. Despite improvements in health care provision, inequalities still remain. These inequalities tend to be highly localised and vary widely without health board areas. The average life expectancy in Scotland is still lower than in other parts of the UK and many Western European countries. Western Scotland accounts for a significant proportion of the health inequalities in Scotland with a close correlation between inequalities and economic deprivation.

In Ireland, there is a two-tier health care system with the existence of both private and public sector provision. While access to a range of health care facilities is funded by general taxation, a person may be required to pay a subsidised fee for certain health care received depending on income, age, illness or disability. A considerable proportion of the Irish population has private health insurance. However, in 2010, only 29% of the Border Region had private health insurance, compare to the national level of 41%. In the same year, 38% of all persons aged 18 and over in the Border Region had a medical card[46], compared to 30% nationally. Research undertaken by the Public Health Alliance in 2007, showed that in Northern Ireland and Ireland, people in the lower socio-economic groups have a higher incidence of cancer and a lower cancer survival rate, compared to those in higher socio-economic groups.

Improving the health of citizens across the programme area is important for the economic growth of the region; as keeping people healthy and active for longer will have a positive impact on productivity and competitiveness. The delivery of cross-border healthcare services offers the opportunity to achieve improved patient outcomes and increased public sector efficiencies.

This investment priority will provide opportunities for investment in the delivery of cross-border health care services which contribute to regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, and transition from institutional to community based services. The delivery of cross-border health care services will result in better patient outcomes and increased levels of public sector efficiency.

Access to healthcare and improvements in the efficiency of healthcare delivery can be enhanced by the increased use of information and communications technology (ICT) – e-Health. This has the potential to bring significant benefits to patient and clients of the healthcare services and to professionals involved in the delivery of services. Improved access to and use of information by healthcare professionals will result in greater patient safety and reduce inequalities across the region.

Healthcare intervention trials are an increasingly important feature of the healthcare development activities taking place across the region. This investment priority will provide the opportunity to invest in the creation of cross-border networks of health and social care intervention trials. This investment will contribute to the development of improved access to innovative, potentially lifesaving, healthcare treatments, that may otherwise not be available. This activity will provide the opportunity for new models of intervention and treatment to be robustly tested in partnership with the statutory healthcare providers. It will also facilitate increased interaction between statutory healthcare agencies and the substantial life and health sciences SME base across the region, while at the same time making the region an attractive location for inward investment. Activities funded under this investment priority may complement and enhance activities funded in the Life and Health Sciences investment priority in Theme 1 of this CP.

SWOT ANALYSIS

The following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified during the process of conducting a socio-economic analysis of the region in preparation for the planning and implementation of the new INTERREG VA programme.

STRENGTHS

- A strong network of existing social, economic, institutional and inter-governmental relationships between the three regions of the programme area, facilitated by a shared language and common history;
- An entrepreneurial culture, and a strong, indigenous SME base, which makes a large contribution to employment and regional output;
- Strong educational infrastructure including universities and further education colleges leading a realignment of skills to industry needs;
- Good regional telecoms connectivity;
- High levels of second level educational attainment and higher than average rates of people qualified to tertiary level (against EU and national levels);
- Good record of attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in manufacturing and services;
- Substantial natural resources, including high quality marine and terrestrial environment;
- Recent investment in road and rail infrastructure;

WEAKNESSES

- Lower levels of productivity, wages and living standards than national averages;
- Significant increase in unemployment since 2008, particularly among young people, contributing to lower regional productivity and high levels of poverty;
- A regional economy with a lack of large firms, which contributes to lower levels of investment in research and development;
- Very limited availability of bank finance which disproportionately affects an economy dominated by SMEs which rely on this type of investment;
- High level of economic inactivity;
- Some FDI has been in low value sectors across parts of the region;
- Large parts of the region are peripheral and rural in nature; rendering the delivery of core public services challenging;
- Low levels of sustainable transport infrastructure;

OPPORTUNITIES

- To enhance co-operation across the region, to share best practice to address common issues;
- To grow the economy and create high value jobs by focussing on growth sectors with existing capacity within the private sector and research institutions;
- To utilise the economic and job creation potential of maritime environment especially in relation to energy generation;
- To protect and enhance the quality of the terrestrial environment and contribute to a sustainable growth;
- Reduce carbon emissions by increasing the level of sustainable transport infrastructure across the region;
- Build upon existing levels of cross-border co-operation to increase the delivery of core services to remote and peripheral parts of the region;
- Opportunities for increased local level co-operation offered by the Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland and the Review of Local Government Administration in Ireland;

THREATS

- The region is vulnerable to external shocks linked to national economic policies, Eurozone stability, global market conditions, and global energy prices;
- Low levels of national economic growth;
- Impact of cuts in public expenditure and austerity measures disproportionately affect a region highly dependent on public sector;
- Continuation of reduced access to finance by the private sector, restricting growth;
- Reduced access to markets due to rising transport costs;
- Politically stability is an essential component of economic growth in Northern Ireland;
- Potential impact of climate change.

- [1] Comprises the entirety of Northern Ireland
- [2] Comprises Counties Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal
- [3] Comprises Lochaber, Skye & Lochalash, Arran, Cumbraes, Argyll, Bute, Dumfries, Galloway, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire mainland, South Ayrshire, Western Isles
- [4] Position of the Commission Services on the Development of the Partnership Agreement and Programmes in the United Kingdom for the Period 2014-2020, Ref Ares(2012) 1315758 – 08/11/12
- [5] Position of the Commission Services on the Development of the Partnership Agreement and Programmes in Ireland for the Period 2014-2020, Ref Ares(2012) 1320527 – 09/11/12
- [6] Preparing a new INTERREG VA and a new Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE) 2014 – 2020 – Summary of Consultation Responses, SEUPB, February 2013.
- [7] Mid-Term Evaluation of the INTERREG IVA Programme, SEUPB, 2013.
- [8] The development of a new INTERREG VA and a new EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE) 2014 -2020 - Socio-Economic Profile
- [9] Source: Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2012 - Statistical Report (published June 2013)
- [10] Source: 2011 Census from Central Statistics Office
- [11] Source Scottish Census 2011
- [12] Northern Ireland Executive Economic Strategy Priorities for Economic Growth and Prosperity – Building a Better Future, Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment, Belfast, 2011.
- [13] Government of Ireland, Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government, 2012
- [14] The Border Regional Authority (2010) Regional Planning Guidelines (2010-2020)

[15] The Scottish Government (2011) Renewing Scotland: The Government's Programme for Scotland 2011-2012, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/08102006/2>

[16] Statistics used in this and subsequent sections are based on the findings of the Socio-Economic Profile.

[17] For clarity SMEs includes micro-businesses in the Cooperation Programme.

[18] UK Research Assessment Exercise 2008

[19] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:2020:FIN:EN:PDF>

[20] <http://www.socialjustice.ie/sites/default/files/file/Government%20Docs%20etc/2011-03-06%20-%20Programme%20for%20Government%202011-2016.pdf>

[21] http://smartertravel.ie/sites/default/files/uploads/pdfs/NS1264_Smarter_Travel_english_PN_WEB.pdf

[22] http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/inequalities_monitoring_update4-2.pdf

[23] Layte, R., Nolan, A., Nolan B. (2007) Poor Prescriptions: Poverty and Access to Community Health Services, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin.

[24] Audit Scotland (2012) Health Inequalities in Scotland – prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission.

[25] CSO quarterly Household survey 2010

[26] CSO Quarterly National Household Survey 2010.

[27] HSE (2013) eHealth Strategy for Ireland.

[28] Scottish Government (2011; Revised 2012), eHealth Strategy for Scotland, Edinburgh, 2012.

[29] <http://www.ehealthandcare.hscni.net/>

[30] Enhancing research and innovation infrastructure (R&I) and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European Interest. (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013, Article 5)

[31]<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

[32] Matrix Report Volume 2 Life and Health Sciences

[33]<http://www.ipha.ie/alist/medicines-innovation.aspx>

[34]<http://www.sdi.co.uk/sectors/chemical-sciences/sub-sectors/pharmaceuticals-overview.aspx>

[35] Renewable Energy: Made in Britain, April 2013, Renewable Energy Association and Innovas

[36] Sustainable Energy Matrix, April 2013, DETI

[37] Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through SMART specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013, Article 5)

[38] Nauwelaers,C., K. Maguire and G. Ajmone Marsan (2013), The Case of Ireland-Northern Ireland (United Kingdom)-Regions and Innovation: Collaborating Across-borders. OECD Regional Development Working Papers, 2013/20

[39]Measuring Ireland's Progress 2011

[40] Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructure (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013, Article 5)

[41] ESPON Factsheet – Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland, November 2012.

[42] Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis; and to address the needs, identified by Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013, Article 5).

[43] In accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, water bodies are each classified as being one of the following; bad; poor; moderate; good; or high.

[44] Developing and improving environmentally friendly (including low-noise) and low carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013, Article 5).

[45] Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access through social, cultural and recreational services and transition from institutional to community-based services (source Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013, Article 5)

[46] The Medical Card Scheme in Ireland, operated by the Health Service Executive, entitles certain people to free public health services. It is distributed on a means tested basis.

[47] *EPA Website*

[http://www.epa.ie/climate/communicatingclimatescience/whatisclimatechange/whatimpactwillclimatechangehaveforireland/Ocean Acidification: An Emerging Threat to our Marine Environment](http://www.epa.ie/climate/communicatingclimatescience/whatisclimatechange/whatimpactwillclimatechangehaveforireland/Ocean%20Acidification%3A%20An%20Emerging%20Threat%20to%20our%20Marine%20Environment)

1.1.1bis Description of the expected impact of the operational programme on fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy.

1.1.2 Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation

Justification setting out the expected impact of the operational programme on fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy.

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection/Impact on fostering crisis repair
01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest	The economies of the region have a low proportion of high value sectors and have low levels of R&I. The three regions working together have the critical mass to pursue R&I of the scale and quality necessary to achieve impact. The research institutions in the region have complementary strengths and capacities. There is an opportunity to

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection/Impact on fostering crisis repair
		build effective Cross-border collaboration partnerships that significantly impacts on the overall regional capacity for R&I in targeted sectors.
01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services	SMEs characterised by low levels of innovation activity and low levels of R&I expenditure constitute a large proportion of local businesses. Cross-border co-operation presents opportunities to foster partnerships between SMEs and relevant research institutions, drawing upon the different research strengths across the programme area. The cross-border nature of the programme also facilitates networks between SMEs and contributes to building a culture of export orientation within SMEs.
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	The region shares three international river basins and transitional waters. Cross-border collaboration is essential to adequately address the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. The programme will facilitate the implementation of common approaches to the management of the water resources and the sharing of best practice and technical expertise across the eligible region, drawing on relative strengths of the three jurisdictions.
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	The three jurisdictions share habitats and marine resources. Cross-border collaboration is essential in order to adequately address the requirements of the Biodiversity Strategy, Birds Directive, Habitat Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The programme will facilitate the development and

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection/Impact on fostering crisis repair
		implementation of common approaches to the management of the environment. In particular the improved management of the marine resources will contribute to EU Atlantic Strategy and Action plan.
07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility	The transport of the region is dominated by the use of the car with resulting high carbon emissions. Demographics and economic growth will accentuate this trend unless actions are taken to facilitate a move towards more environmentally friendly forms of transport. Increased co-operation in this area can mitigate against climate change impacts. It has been identified that there are opportunities to increase the journeys taken by cycling, public transport and electric vehicles. There is strong added value from working on a cross-border basis as it reinforces connectivity between the three jurisdictions, leading to a more coherent and integrated network, which aligns public transport, cycling, and electric vehicle infrastructure. In addition, the shared learning from across the three jurisdictions will reinforce the behavioural change approaches that will support local connectivity.
09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services	The health and social care services across the region face challenges in meeting rising demand within a constrained budget environment. Cross-border co-operation can contribute to the more efficient delivery of health services in border regions, particularly with regard to co-ordination of services. Co-operation across the region is essential to obtain the necessary critical mass for healthcare trials. Co-ordination and sharing of e-health solutions can fast track implementation of this technology

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection/Impact on fostering crisis repair
		facilitating the delivery of high quality services.

1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (i.e. Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Justification for the financial allocation of the REACT-EU additional resources to the ERDF, the ESF or the FEAD and how these resources target the geographic areas where they are most needed, taking into account the different regional needs and development levels in order to ensure that focus is maintained on less developed regions, in accordance with the objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion set out in Article 174 TFEU.

The ERDF allocation for the programme is €240,347,696. The proposed allocation is as follows;

- Thematic Objective 1 – Strengthening research, technological development and innovation - €60,926,835 (25%);
 - €45,000,000 (19%) Investment priority 1.1; *Enhancing research and innovation*; and
 - €15,926,835 (6%) Investment priority 1.2; *Promoting business investment in R&I*.
- Thematic Objective 6 – Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency - €72,000,000 (30%);
 - €22,000,000 (9%) Investment priority 2.1; *Protecting and restoring biodiversity*; and
 - €50,000,000 (21%) Investment priority 2.2; *Investing in the water sector*.
- Thematic Objective 7 – Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructure ;
 - €40,000,000 (17%), Investment priority 3.1; *Developing and improving environmentally-friendly and low carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure*;
- Thematic Objective 9 – Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination;
 - €53,000,000 (22%), Investment priority 4.1; *Investing in health and social infrastructure*.

In addition, €14,420,861 is allocated to Technical Assistance, 6% of the total ERDF.

The allocation of funding is based on an analysis of the needs of the region and the potential to have an impact in addressing these needs. The main considerations taken into account in the allocation of resources is summarised as follows:

- Enhancing research and innovation:

The specific objective of this investment priority will be to increase business and industry relevant research and innovation capacity across the region within the two sectors: Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy. In order to achieve this objective, it will be necessary to invest over the life time of the Programme in areas such as the creation of high value add R&I employment and the creation of technical R&I capability. The scale of this investment will need to be sufficient to ensure that the cross-border co-operation envisaged will create the conditions necessary for sustainability beyond the lifetime of the Programme. The project pipeline that has been identified indicates that an investment of €45 million will be required.

- Promoting business investment in R&I:

The specific objective of this investment priority will be to increase the number and capacity of SMEs and microbusinesses engaging in cross-border, collaborative research and innovation activity aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradable services. In order to achieve this objective, it will be necessary to engage in an intensive programme of development with SMEs and microbusinesses within the region aimed at increasing their levels of innovation activity and cross-border networking. This investment will increase levels of participation in cross-border R&I development programmes in partnership with other SMEs and microbusinesses from across the region. The investment needs to be of sufficient scale to ensure sustainability beyond the lifetime of the Programme. The project pipeline that has been identified indicates that an investment level of €15.9 million will be necessary.

- Protecting and restoring biodiversity:

The first specific objective of this investment priority is the recovery of habitat and species of EU concern within protected areas in the eligible region. In order to achieve this objective, it will be necessary to invest in increased cross-border integrated planning and management of habitats and species, using best practice methodologies. This investment will lead to results beyond the lifetime of the Programme in the form of increased compliance with EU directives in the area of environmental protection. The project pipeline indicates an investment of €11 million.

The second specific objective of this investment priority will be to promote effective cross-border collaboration to ensure high quality coastal and marine waters across the region. In order to achieve this objective, it will be necessary to invest in cross-border data capture and mapping for the development of joint marine management and development activities. The sustainability of this activity beyond the lifetime of the Programme will be evidenced by the creation of a regional marine innovation centre that will provide a focal point for these activities. This will result in an increased contribution to the achievement of the targets associated with EU Marine strategies. The project pipeline that has been identified for this investment priority indicates that an investment of € 11 million will be required.

- Investing in the water sector:

The specific objective of this investment priority will be to improve water quality in cross-border river catchment areas and shared transitional and coastal waters in the region in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive. In order to achieve this objective, it will be necessary to invest in cross-border solutions and the joint management of water bodies that straddle the border. This will result in long term impacts on the quality of water in the region beyond the lifetime of the Programme. The project pipeline for this investment priority indicates that an investment of €50 million will be required.

- Investing in sustainable transport:

The specific objective of this investment priority will be to improve the environmentally friendly transport infrastructure in the region to promote the utilisation of low carbon transport. The project pipeline indicates that an investment of €40 million will be required to promote sustainable cross-border mobility including a shift to public transport, cycling and use of electric vehicles.

- Investing in health:

The specific objective will be, through collaboration on a cross-border basis, to improve health and well being of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs. In order to achieve this objective, it will be necessary to build on the progress that has been made by previous INTERREG Programmes. This will require investment in improving local community based access to services, taking advantage of the opportunities presented by developments in ICT, increased cross-border mobility of personnel, increased cross-border integration of professional development opportunities and the achievement of greater economies of scale and effectiveness in healthcare trials. This will result in increased cross-border access and provision of healthcare services beyond the lifetime of the Programme. The project pipeline for this investment priority indicates that an investment of €53 million is required.

- Monitoring, Evaluation and Communications:

Ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements will require an investment of €14,4 million, 6% of the value of the Programme.

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
P1	60,926,835.00	25.35%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO1.1 - To increase business and industry relevant research and innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy. ▼ 1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO1.2 - To increase the number and capacity of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation activity in the region aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradable services. 	[1.1.1, 1.2.1]
P2	72,000,000.00	29.96%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO2.3 - To improve water quality in shared transitional waters ▼ SO2.4 - To improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins. ▼ 6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO2.1 - To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species ▼ SO2.2 - To develop cross-border capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species in the region. 	[2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1]
P3	40,000,000.00	16.64%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO3.1 - Promote cross-border intermodal and sustainable mobility in the cross-border region 	[3.1.3, 3.1.A, 3.1.B]
P4	53,000,000.00	22.05%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO4.1 - Through collaboration on a cross-border basis, to improve the health and well-being of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs. 	[4.1.A]
P5	14,420,861.00	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<p>SO1 - To ensure that the programme is implemented, monitored and inspected in an efficient and effective manner.</p> <p>SO2 - To ensure that the programme is meeting its objectives by effective evaluation.</p> <p>SO3 - To ensure that potential beneficiaries are aware of the opportunities presented by the programme and that the general public is</p>	[]

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
					aware of the outputs and results of the programme.	

2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	P1
Title of the priority axis	Research and Innovation

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- The entire priority axis is dedicated to fostering crisis repair under REACT-EU

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not Applicable

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1a
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO1.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase business and industry relevant research and innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy.

ID of the specific objective	SO1.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase business and industry relevant research and innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The investment will be targeted at key sectors that have been identified as having a critical mass across the region with the potential for stronger market performance and a stronger innovation pipeline. In effect, the programme aims to create critical mass in the region by combining the research capacity across the three jurisdictions in one large super-cluster. Such critical mass would make the regional research clusters less fragile.</p> <p>The sectors: health and life sciences; and renewable energy; have been identified in consultation with national economic development agencies. The sectors build on existing strengths and offer potential for growth and are relevant to all regions within the eligible area.</p> <p>This intervention will increase the research and innovation capacity of the third level education sector by creating effective cross-border partnerships between those with existing capacity and those with more limited experience. This increased capacity will enhance the ability of partners across the region to access funding for additional research and innovation through Horizon 2020.</p> <p>The result indicator has been defined with a view to capturing the following key features: the drive towards research excellence; economic relevance; and the essential cross-border nature of the programme.</p> <p>The Result indicator for the specific objective will be:</p> <p>The annual number of peer reviewed journal and conference publications in two target sectors (Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy) with cross-border authorship and with the potential to create economic impact.</p> <p>The baseline for the above result indicator will be established by January 2015. The Managing Authority will carry out a survey-interview of higher education institutions in the region to establish the number of peer reviewed journals and</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO1.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase business and industry relevant research and innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy.
	<p>conference publications.</p> <p>The programme will not submit payment applications in relation to this priority axis before the modification of the programme to include the required adjustments to the result indicator and its baseline and target.</p> <p>(Note: Investment in research in the Renewable Energy sector will contribute to climate change objectives, however this is not included in table 18 of the Cooperation Programme as there is no suitable category of intervention code to capture its contribution to the climate change objectives).</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO1.1 - To increase business and industry relevant research and innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.1.1	The annual number of peer reviewed journal and conference publications in two target sectors (Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy) with cross-border authorship and with the potential to create economic impact.	Publications	4	2014	75	Self-report survey of participating high education institutions	2014 (baseline), 2018, 2020 and 2023 (closure value)

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiariesTTT

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>An increase in the capacity and activity levels for research and innovation in the region will make a significant contribution to the economy and will contribute to the achievement of the EU 2020 target of increased investment in R&I.</p> <p>This intervention by the programme will contribute to the creation of a more productive local economy, with high value jobs across the region, through increased commercialisation of innovation brought about by a partnership approach between the academic, private and public sectors. Research will be based on needs as identified by industry working in partnership with research institutions. The research undertaken will address market failure in the research landscape whereby the risk associated with the longer term nature of the research carried out cannot be addressed by private sector investment alone.</p> <p>The Programme will support the development of regional, cross-border research and innovation co-operation clusters involving partnerships between third level academic institutions, public sector development agencies and private companies.</p> <p>The creation of these clusters does not imply the need to invest in significant capital expenditure. These clusters are likely to be spread over a number of geographic locations, where participating institutions follow an agreed integrated research programme, and build on existing capacity and physical assets. The clusters will enable the development of centres of excellence within the region involving capacity and competence building, and will take the form of partnership arrangements between existing institutions in academia, public sector agencies and private sector companies. These clusters will complement existing R&I strategies within individual jurisdictions by promoting cross-border cooperation. Where appropriate, programme support will be provided for the further development of existing competence centres to facilitate increased levels of cross-border collaboration.</p> <p>The clusters will address market failure in RTDI landscape whereby the risk associated with longer term nature of strategic research carried out cannot be addressed by individual companies.</p> <p>All assistance given to companies will be within the framework of the relevant State Aid guidance for research and development.</p> <p>The following is an indicative list of the target research areas, though this should not be considered exhaustive, as the programme will be responsive to</p>	

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
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emerging needs within the sectors:

- Medical engineering related to connected health;
- Personalised medicine;
- Experimental medicine;
- Mass energy storage;
- Wave and tidal energy;
- Energy production;
- Advanced manufacturing research
- Projects within the above mentioned areas, which incorporate ICT as an enabler technology.

The programme will utilise the following common output indicator for this specific objective:

- **CO1 - Number of enterprises receiving support;**
- **CO2 - Number of enterprises receiving grants;**
- **CO4 - Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support;**
- **CO24 - Number of new researchers in supported entities;**
- **CO26 - Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions;**
- **CO41 - Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects;**
- **CO42 - Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects;**

This investment priority will be targeted at the following final beneficiaries:

- Universities and Institutes of Technology in the programme area;

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleges of Further Education in the programme area; • Health care sector partners including Trusts located across the programme area; • Private sector partners in the areas of health and life sciences; • Private sector partners in the field of renewable energy / energy storage; • Third level institutions and / or research centres outside of the eligible area will be eligible to participate, if their expertise and capacities are exceptional and essential for the successful delivery of the project; and • Appropriate public sector agencies. <p>The impact of the proposed competence centres will be further reinforced through the SME research and innovation capability activities incorporated within investment priority 2.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>The following selection criteria will be used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribution of the project to the defined results and outputs of the programme. 2. Quality of the project design: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstration of research being informed by industry; ○ Inclusion of industry partners, including SMEs in the project; ○ All projects must provide a strategy on how it is planned to disseminate and promote the business take up of research outcomes, and how capitalisation will contribute to delivering innovation across the region; ○ Research programme of high standard as determined by international peer review; 3. Quality of the project team and implementation arrangements; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstration of strong partnership between research institutions, relevant agencies and private sector on a cross-border basis; 4. Value for money; 	

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects must demonstrate market failure in the RDTI landscape, where risk associated with the long term nature of strategic research cannot be addressed by individual companies; 5. Quality of cross-border co-operation with demonstrable added value; 6. Contribution towards sustainable development; 7. Contribution towards equality. 	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
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ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	20.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	10.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	20.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	514.00	A report from higher education institutes who are supported entities	Annual
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	10.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	10.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	5.00	Self-report survey	Annual

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1b
Title of the investment priority	Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO1.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number and capacity of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation activity in the region aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradable services.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The Socio Economic Profile of the Region[1] has identified the need for an increase in the capacity of SMEs to engage in R&I activities that will lead to innovative product, process and service development. This investment by the programme will lead to an increased number of SMEs that are research and innovation aware. It will increase the number of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation activities and will build their capacity for cross-border collaboration in R&I. The investment in this activity will also increase the number of SMEs that are cooperating actively with research institutions.</p> <p>The result indicator for the specific objective will be:</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO1.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number and capacity of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation activity in the region aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradable services.
	<p>The percentage of SMEs in the eligible region involved in research and innovation involving cross-border collaborations.</p> <p>The baseline and target for the above result indicator will be established by March 2015. The Managing Authority will utilise InterTradeIreland surveys. The Managing Authority will commission a survey to establish the percentage of SMEs involved in cross-border collaborations.</p> <p>The programme will not submit payment applications in relation to this priority axis before the modification of the programme to include the required adjustments to the result indicator and its baseline and target.</p> <p>[1] The development of a new EU Programme for Cross-border Co-Operation (INTERREG) and a new EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE) 2014 -2020 - Socio-Economic Profile</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO1.2 - To increase the number and capacity of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation activity in the region aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradable services.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.2.1	The percentage of SMEs in the eligible region involved in research and innovation involving cross-border collaborations.	% of SMEs	22%	2014	33%	Research and Innovation cross-border regional survey	2014 (baseline), 2018, 2020 and 2023 (closure value)

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries TTT

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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The programme has been designed to provide support to companies at various stages of the research and innovation continuum. It is anticipated that the awareness raising activities will lead to increased demand for innovation support programmes, increased capability and improved understanding of the innovation process. The completion of an innovation capability audit and associated interventions will increase capability levels resulting in improved manufacturing processes, new products and tradable services. The creation and support of new research and innovation partnerships will result in increased levels of commercialisation across the programme region.

Whilst the programme will support SMEs from a number of sectors, SMEs from the Life and Health Sciences and Renewable Energy sectors will be identified specifically by the lead partner to the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority will ensure that SMEs from these two sectors will be introduced to the appropriate research institutions and clusters involved in Investment Priority 1a Enhancing Research and Innovation. This is to ensure that these SMEs receive the maximum benefit of the research activities funded under investment priority 1a.

Actions will target companies with growth potential to expand external sales and the ability to increase the value added to new products, processes or tradable services.

Indicative actions to be supported:

- Education and awareness building programmes aimed at SMEs;
- One to one mentoring and advice programmes for SMEs.
- Innovation capability audits within SMEs;
- Development and implementation of innovation actions plans tailored to the needs of the SME which addresses innovation capability

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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deficiencies;

- Innovation internship programmes incorporating technology job creation; designed to address the capability deficiencies;
- A collaborative research and development programme designed to create and support collaborative research projects between SMEs and research institutions.
- The Key Enabling Technologies, identified in the UK and Ireland Partnership Agreements, are priority technologies for programme support.

The cumulative number of companies involved in each of the five strands:

- **Strand 1 - Preparatory Interventions delivered via workshop**

An initial series of preparatory workshops for SMEs in the region, aimed at raising awareness of R&I and identifying those SMEs with potential to progress to more intensive development activities.

This element describes a series of workshops to educate and influence SMEs on the importance of the innovation ecosystem enabling them to leverage this on a cross-border basis to advance their business. It is anticipated that these will have cross-border participation and will serve to raise knowledge and awareness of other innovation actors and support systems across the border.

- **Strand 2 – Preparatory Interventions delivered on a one to one basis**

A more intensive preparatory intervention with individual SMEs, providing them with one to one advice and support in the identification of R&I opportunities.

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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This element describes an in-firm activity to assess their current approach to innovation and how the local and cross-border innovation ecosystem is utilised. The output will identify specific areas where cross-border collaboration will be beneficial and the appropriate cross-border intervention for each individual SME. Where progression to strands 3 or 4 or 5 is not appropriate, SMEs will be signposted to alternative local and cross-border support mechanisms.

- **Strand 3 – Innovation Capability Development Programme**

Engaging with a targeted group of SMEs in an intensive R&I capability development programme.

Participation in this element is optional and is dependent on the outcome of strand 2. Where participation does occur, the support provided will aim to address any internal barriers that will prevent the participating firms realising the full potential of the cross-border innovation providers and programme.

- **Strand 4 - Cross-border Innovation Internship Programme**

Providing selected and targeted SMEs with the opportunity to avail of a cross-border internship programme that will make available to them a qualified graduate with the necessary skills to contribute to the R&I activity within their company.

- **Strand 5 – Cross-border R&I Projects**

Engaging targeted SMEs in cross-border R&I projects that have been identified as having significant potential for economic impact within their

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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companies and within the economy of the region.

Strands 1, 2 and 3 are necessary to promote, identify and in many cases prepare businesses, in terms of developing innovative capability, to participate in Strands 4 and 5.

The Programme will utilise these tried and tested models of intervention to engage with SMEs across the eligible region and to support them to form effective collaborations both between SMEs, and between SMEs and research institutions. Whilst there has been some existing activity between Northern Ireland and Ireland, there is currently less collaboration with Western Scotland. The Programme will bring a new dynamic to this work by involving all three jurisdictions, facilitating the creation of new and relevant collaborations.

The programme will utilise the following common output indicators for this specific objective:

- **CO1 - Number of enterprises receiving support;**
- **CO2 - Number of enterprises receiving grants;**
- **CO4 - Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support;**
- **CO26 - Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions;**
- **CO41 - Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects;**
- **CO42 - Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects;**

The programme specific output indicators for this specific objective will be:

- **Number of enterprises receiving one to one innovation advice;**

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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- **Number of enterprises in receipt of an Innovation Capability Development Programme;**
- **Number of enterprises engaging an Innovation Intern;**

The beneficiaries of the programme will be SMEs and micro businesses within the region that have the motivation and the potential to trade outside the region. Other beneficiaries will be academic institutions.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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The following suggested selection criteria will be used:

1. Contribution of the project to the defined results and outputs of the programme.
2. Quality of the project design:
 - Programmes that support SMEs to participate in cross-border research and innovation activity;
 - Programmes must operate across the eligible area;
 - SMEs with export potential within manufacturing and tradable services only;
3. Quality of the project team and implementation arrangements;
4. Value for money;
5. Quality of cross-border co-operation with demonstrable added value;
6. Contribution towards sustainable development;
7. Contribution towards equality.

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
Not applicable	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
Not applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
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ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.22	Number of enterprises receiving one to one innovation advice	Number of SMEs	469.00	Self-report survey	Annual
1.23	Number of enterprises in receipt of an Innovation Capability Development Programme	Number of SMEs	94.00	Self-report survey	Annual
1.24	Number of enterprises engaging an Innovation Intern	Number of SMEs	70.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,408.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	19.00	Self-survey report	Annual
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,408.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	50.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	19.00	Self-report survey	Annual
CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	5.00	Self-report survey	Annual

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		P1 - Research and Innovation					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
CO24	O	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	0	514.00	A report from higher education institutes who are supported entities	The proposed measure is an accurate reflection of the level of cross-border research activity funded by the programme.
FI1	F	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	6,596,196.00	71,678,630.00	Certifying Authority	N+3 Profile
IS1.1	I	Value of letters of offer issued concerning projects intending to increase new researchers in supported entities	Euro	25,000,000		Managing Authority	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

Output indicators included in the performance framework correspond to more than 50% of the financial allocation to the priority.

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	P1 - Research and Innovation
Code	Amount (€)
060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	45,000,000.00
063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	15,926,835.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	P1 - Research and Innovation
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	60,926,835.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	P1 - Research and Innovation
Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	30,463,418.00
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	30,463,417.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	P1 - Research and Innovation
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	60,926,835.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	P1 - Research and Innovation
Not applicable	

This field is not required in the case of priority axes dedicated to thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy"

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	P2
Title of the priority axis	Environment

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- The entire priority axis is dedicated to fostering crisis repair under REACT-EU

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not Applicable

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	6b
Title of the investment priority	Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO2.3
Title of the specific objective	To improve water quality in shared transitional waters
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	Whithin the programme area, Ireland and Northern Ireland share the following transitional water bodies:

ID of the specific objective	SO2.3
Title of the specific objective	To improve water quality in shared transitional waters
	<p>1. Carlingford Lough - (between County Louth in Ireland and County Down in Northern Ireland) 2. Lough Foyle - (between County Londonderry in Northern Ireland and County Donegal in Ireland).</p> <p>Cross-border collaboration is essential to improve the water quality of these shared transitional waters and thus efficiently address the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>In particular this specific objective will seek to secure a good or high water quality status for these two shared transitional waters.</p> <p>Marine modelling of cross-border transitional and coastal waters can identify the sources of pollution and the optimum way to achieve and maintain good water quality status. Such modelling will identify the most effective interventions and improvements required for the sewage network and waste water treatment works that impact on the shared waters.</p> <p>The Result Indicator for specific objective will be:</p> <p>Percentage of shared transitional waters in the region with good or high quality.</p> <p>The baseline for the above result indicator will be established by January 2015. The Managing Authority will use Water Framework Directive 2014 returns to establish status for cross-border transitional water bodies.</p> <p>The programme will not submit payment applications in relation to this priority axis before the modification of the programme to include the required adjustments to the result indicator and its baseline and target.</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO2.3
Title of the specific objective	To improve water quality in shared transitional waters
ID of the specific objective	SO2.4
Title of the specific objective	To improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Within the programme area, Ireland and Northern Ireland share 11 cross-border river basins. Pollution related cross-border spill-over effects make essential the cross-border collaboration between both jurisdictions in order to improve their quality and contribute to the compliance with the Water Framework Directive requirements.</p> <p>The result that the programme seeks to achieve under this SO is to improve the percentage of these water bodies having a good or high quality.</p> <p>Appropriate interventions in water catchments can lead to an improvement in water quality which will mitigate against the need for capital investment and contribute to reduce operating costs whilst protecting and enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>The Result Indicator for specific objective will be:</p> <p>Percentage of cross-border freshwater bodies in cross-border river basins with good or high quality.</p> <p>The baseline for the above result indicators will be established by January 2015. The Managing Authority will use Water Framework Directive 2014 returns to establish the status of cross-border river basins.</p> <p>The programme will not submit payment applications in relation to this priority axis before the modification of the programme to include the required adjustments to the result indicator and its baseline and target.</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO2.3
Title of the specific objective	To improve water quality in shared transitional waters

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO2.3 - To improve water quality in shared transitional waters					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.3.1	Percentage of the shared transitional waters in the region with good or high quality	Percentage	0%	2014	100%	Water Framework Directive 2014 Returns from DOE NI and DECLG	2014 (baseline), 2018, 2020 and 2023 (closure value)

Specific objective		SO2.4 - To improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.4.1	Percentage of cross-border freshwater bodies in cross-border river basins with good or high quality	Percentage	32%	2014	65%	Water Framework Directive 2014 Returns from DOE NI and DECLG	2014 (baseline), 2018, 2020 and 2023 (closure value)

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries TTT

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
In order to improve water quality across the region it is necessary to promote the shared management of shared water resources and to invest in cross-border solutions to achieve the targets within the EU Water Framework Directive.	
The investment by the programme will lead to an improvement in the baseline condition of water quality, physical structure and habitat in a number of cross-border catchment areas. This will contribute towards the achievement of targets relating to good ecological status of all water bodies (rivers,	

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental <i>acquis</i> and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<p>lakes, groundwater, transitional).</p> <p>The investment will provide for an increase in the level of cross-border integrated management of river catchment areas and the development of shared solutions to meet EU targets with regard to water quality. There are also opportunities to share best practice approaches across the region. This will in turn lead to an increased number of water bodies with higher classification of moderate, good or high quality and a decreased number of water bodies classified as poor or bad quality, in line with the designations contained within EU Water Directive.</p> <p>Investment in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental <i>acquis</i> and to address needs, identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p> <p>The interventions will be focus on the following transitional and cross-border water bodies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carlingford Lough - (between County Louth in Ireland and County Down in Northern Ireland) 2. Lough Foyle - (between County Londonderry in Northern Ireland and County Donegal in Ireland). 3. The river catchment activities will be limited to river catchments where the area is on both sides of the Northern Ireland / Ireland border. 4. The location of the groundwater wells will be on both sides of the Northern Ireland / Ireland border to support monitoring and pollution of the river catchment activities. 5. The sustainable catchment area management modelling and plan will be a cross-border plan focusing on a freshwater capture area, encompassing activities in areas exclusive to some of the border counties of Ireland and the adjacent border counties of Northern Ireland. <p>Indicative Actions to be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and development in wastewater treatment technologies, including the use of sustainable technologies with direct relevance to the shared transitional waters; • Creation of demonstration sites in the catchment areas to illustrate best practice wastewater treatment methodologies. 	

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewerage network and wastewater treatment projects to protect and enhance the WFD classification of the transitional waters; • The development and implementation of integrated river basin management plans and actions; • The development and implementation of management plans and projects for designated drinking water protected areas so that Water Framework Directive(WFD) water, including any designated drinking water protected areas, classification can be maintained and improved; • Activities related to the improvement of river water quality; • Activities related to fresh water quality management research; • Activities related to ground water monitoring wells; <p>The programme will utilise the following common output indicator for this specific objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO19 - Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment; <p>The programme specific output indicators for this objective will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewage network and waste water treatment projects to improve water quality in shared transitional waters; • Cross-border drinking water “Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan”: Research and Pilot project; • Develop and implement cross-border groundwater monitoring wells; • Establish 3 river water quality improvement projects. <p>This priority will be targeted at the following beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector agencies; • Local Authorities. 	

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-governmental organisations; 	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<p>The following suggested selection criteria will be used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribution of the project towards the defined results and outputs of the programme; 2. Quality of the project design and in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All projects activities must align with the EU Water Framework Directive (this also includes integrated river basin management plans); ○ Activities involving urban wastewater treatment plants must have a strategy for the disposal of sewage sludge; ○ Climate change impacts on wastewater treatment should be given attention, in particular in terms of storm water management; ○ Alternative innovative solutions should be taken into account where appropriate (e.g. in particular in remote areas/small villages); ○ The financial sustainability of projects has to be considered and pertinent information such as proposed tariffs should be given due consideration; ○ Operational costs (including maintenance) have to be considered; ○ Since wastewater collection and treatment is not compulsory below 2 000 population equivalent, any public investment there should be duly justified technically and economically, compared to the alternative of individual septic tanks; ○ Proposed investments have to be able to meet current and future needs, without becoming oversized; 3. Quality of the project team and implementation arrangements; 4. Value for money; 5. Quality of cross-border co-operation with demonstrable added value; 6. Contribution towards sustainable development; 7. Contribution towards equality; 	

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.311	Sewage network and waste water treatment projects to improve water quality in shared transitional waters	Projects complete	2.00	Northern Ireland Water and Irish Water reports	Annual
2.411	Cross-border drinking water Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan: Research and Pilot project.	Project complete	1.00	NI Water and Irish Water reports	Annual
2.412	Develop and implement cross-border groundwater monitoring wells	Wells installed	50.00	Accredited bodies report	Annual
2.413	Establish 3 river water quality improvement projects	Projects complete	3.00	Accredited bodies report	Annual
CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater	Population equivalent	10,000.00	NI Water and Irish Water report	Annual

Investment priority		6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
	treatment				

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	6d
Title of the investment priority	Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO2.1
Title of the specific objective	To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>A key challenge for the region is to address common environmental issues and to meet the EU Biodiversity Strategy’s overall aim to “halt biodiversity loss by 2020”.</p> <p>Scientific evidence indicates that in addition to unsustainable development and use of natural resources, climate change is also likely to have a substantial effect on biodiversity in the region (Coll et al 2008).</p> <p>The investment by the programme in this area will promote an integrated approach by the relevant statutory agencies to environmental management across the entire programme region. This will result in the development of collaborative cross-border approaches that will increase the achievement in meeting the targets of the EU Birds and Habitat Directives and the Biodiversity Strategy, including an increased number of “favourable” habitat conditions across the region.</p> <p>The need to protect the environment is one of the key themes in the EU 2020 Strategy. It is also one of the needs and priorities identified in Socio Economic Profile of the Region and in the Position Papers from the European Commission for the United Kingdom and Ireland. The investment by the programme in this important area will be aimed at ensuring that designated habitat sites of cross-border importance will achieve or be approaching favourable conditions These include areas of specific scientific interest (ASSI), special protection areas (SPAs) and special areas of conservation (SAC). In many cases sites will be</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO2.1
Title of the specific objective	To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species
	<p>close to, or straddle the border. However other sites further from the terrestrial border, including those in Western Scotland, may be included, where the site is of cross-border significance.</p> <p>The three jurisdictions have prioritised 7 protected habitats and 7 priority species. These have been selected from habitats and species common to all three jurisdictions and include habitats that have an important role in connectivity between protected areas and protected species that migrate across the eligible region. All habitats and species selected for investment by the programme will be selected from this priority list. All projects will involve cross-border collaboration and cross-border activities. Only sites important to these protected habitats or priority species can be chosen for investment by the programme.</p> <p>List of Habitats - Alkaline fens, Blanket bog, Active raised bog, Marl Lakes, Calcareous fens, Petrifying springs with tufa formation, Transition mires and quaking bogs</p> <p>List of Species - Hen Harrier, Marsh Fritillary, White-clawed crayfish, Breeding waders (curlew, lapwing, redshank, snipe), Golden plover, Corncrake, Red grouse</p> <p>Increased levels of integration in the planning and management of the environment across the region will result in the development of best practice methodologies and increased levels of public sector efficiency. It will also lead to increased awareness of and responsiveness to the potential threats of climate change to habitats and species.</p> <p>The Result Indicator will be:</p> <p>The percentage of selected protected habitats in or approaching favourable condition.</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO2.1
Title of the specific objective	To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species
	<p>The baseline for the above result indicator will be established by January 2015. The Managing Authority will use Article 17 of the Habitats and Birds Directive 2013 to establish the status of the habitats.</p> <p>The programme will not submit payment applications in relation to this priority axis before the modification of the programme to include the required adjustments to the result indicator and its baseline and target.</p>
ID of the specific objective	SO2.2
Title of the specific objective	To develop cross-border capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species in the region.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The EU Atlantic Strategy advocates the sustainable development of the Atlantic region's natural resources and has an overriding objective of creating sustainable jobs and growth. One of the key challenges for Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland, and Western Scotland is addressing environmental issues associated with development in the marine environment while achieving the EU Biodiversity Strategy's overall aim to halt biodiversity loss by 2020.</p> <p>The Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires EU Member States to co-operate in the management of regional seas with the objective of meeting Good Environmental Status by 2020. Increased co-operation in this area can mitigate against climate change impact. The need for a coherent approach across the region is particularly relevant in this area because of the shared waters. Maintaining biodiversity is a requirement to achieve Good Environmental Status and an inherent part of the delivery of MSFD is to develop an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas across Europe. With the marine environment coming under increasing pressure from human activity, such a network will ensure that biodiversity is safeguarded.</p> <p>Studies illustrate that the marine environment shared by Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland is regarded as having one of the greatest renewable energy resources in Europe, with the capacity to support economically viable wind, wave and tidal energy projects. Within the confines of a network of marine protected areas, developments need to be managed and mitigated in a manner which will promote, sustain and conserve the marine environment. This investment by the programme will be aimed at</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO2.1
Title of the specific objective	To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species
	<p>increasing the capacity for integrated planning and management of marine resources and increasing the effectiveness of cross-border marine management strategies. New cross-border cooperation strategies will be developed on the basis of existing and newly acquired data. This will lead to an increase in compliance with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p> <p>This investment by the programme will lead to an increased understanding of and ability to capitalise on the marine resources in the region. This will include an increase in the availability of comprehensive mapping programmes; the development and growth of a regional “blue economy” based on the maritime resource; and the alignment of regional activities with the EU Atlantic strategy.</p> <p>The investment will include the creation of a regional marine innovation centre that will provide a focal point for a critical mass of activity within the sector. This will lead to an increase in the levels of marine skills which are vital to ensure the continued growth of this emerging sector and the development of marine based renewable energy production through increased engagement of the academic and private sectors.</p> <p>The result indicators for the specific objective will be:</p> <p>Cross-border capacity for monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species.</p> <p>The baseline for the above result indicator will be established by February 2015. The Managing Authority will conduct the survey of the relevant departments to establish the baseline and target.</p> <p>The programme will not submit payment applications in relation to this priority axis before the modification of the programme to include the required adjustments to the result indicator and its baseline and target.</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO2.1
Title of the specific objective	To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO2.1 - To promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.1.1	The percentage of selected protected habitats in or approaching favourable condition.	Percentage	1%	2014	10%	Article 17 of the Habitats and Birds Directive 2013 returns; DOE; DECLG; (land area 99551.3 hectares)	2014 (baseline value), 2018, 2020 and 2023 (closure value)

Specific objective		SO2.2 - To develop cross-border capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species in the region.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.2.1	Cross-border capacity for monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species	Number	A little collaboration	2014	A lot of collaboration	Survey of Departments (DOE, DELCG, Marine Scotland)	2014 (baseline), 2018, 2020 and 2023 (closure value)

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiariesTTT

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>The programme will contribute towards the implementation of bespoke strategies designed to ensure the protection of specific species and the creation of the most appropriate habitat/environment for all species within the designated areas.</p> <p>Indicative Actions to be supported:</p> <p>Biodiversity – the actions to be supported will include:</p>	

Investment priority

6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

- Development of habitat mapping of protected habitats and sites of cross-border relevance;
- Development and implementation of conservation action plans for protected sites of cross-border relevance;
- Tangible conservation actions for protected habitats and species;
- Conservation management and protection activities to encourage sustainable natural regeneration of specie populations;
- The development and sharing of best practice and enhancement of skills in ecosystem management;
- Development and use of databases to assist conservation actions;
- Removal of invasive species;
- Research into species and habitats, including the impact of climate change, which supports the actions within the programme;
- Education and Outreach activities;

Marine – the actions to be supported will include:

- Development and implementation of cross-border management plans for marine protected areas and species;
- Mapping of marine/seabed environment;
- Creation of a network of marine protected areas;
- Research and development in the marine environment; including the impact of climate change;
- Marine skills initiatives;
- Co-ordinated research programme of direct relevance to the management challenges of the eligible area;
- Knowledge and data sharing;
- Prediction model development and signage for short term pollution and real time management of bathing water quality in coastal waters;

The programme will use common output indicator (CO23) for this objective:

- **Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status;**

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>The programme specific output indicators for this objective will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation action plans; • Network of buoys for regional seas, including telemetry and oceanographic monitoring, e.g. for seals, cetaceans and salmonids; • Models developed to support conservation of habitats and species; • Marine management plans for designated protected areas complete; • System for the prediction of bathing water quality and install real time signage. <p>This priority will be targeted at the following beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector agencies; • Non-governmental organisations. 	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>The following suggested selection criteria will be used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribution of the project to the defined results and outputs of the programme; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contribution to the indentified habitats and species; ○ Knowledge sharing of research data and outputs; 2. Quality of the project design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed activities must align with the EU Bird and Habitats Directive, the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) of the three countries and in particular selected protected sites and species of cross-border relevance; 3. Quality of the project team and implementation arrangements; 	

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
4. Value for money; 5. Quality of cross-border co-operation with demonstrable added value; 6. Contribution towards sustainable development; 7. Contribution towards equality;	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.111	Conservation action plans	Number of action plans	25.00	Biodiversity bodies in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland	Annual

Investment priority		6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting	
2.211	Network of buoys for regional seas, including telemetry and oceanographic monitoring e.g. for seals, cetaceans and salmonids	Number of networks	1.00	Marine bodies in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland	Annual	
2.212	Models developed to support conservation of habitats and species	Number of models	5.00	Marine bodies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Ireland	Annual	
2.213	Marine management plans for designated protected areas complete	Number of management plans	6.00	Marine bodies for Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland	Annual	
2.214	System for the prediction of bathing water quality and install real time signage	Number of systems	1.00	Accredited bodies	Annual	
CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	4,500.00	Article 17 of the Habitats and Birds Directive 2013 Returns for UK (NI) and Ireland	Annual	

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		P2 - Environment					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
CO23	O	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	0	4,500.00	2013 Art 17 report for UK(NI), Ireland	The land for improvement will be selected from border region sites which are in an unfavourable condition.
2.213	O	Marine management plans for designated protected areas complete	Number of management plans	0	6.00	Marine bodies in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland	Marine management plans are required for each designated site and conservation zone
2.311	O	Sewage network and waste water treatment projects to improve water quality in shared transitional waters	Projects complete	0	2.00	Northern Ireland Water and Irish Water reports	Introduction of sustainable waste water treatment technologies will lead to water quality improvements.
FI2	F	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	7,795,023.00	84,705,883.00	Certifying Authority	N+3 Profile
IS2.1	I	Nature and biodiversity: Amount of the letters of offer issued regarding projects intended to improve conservation status	Euro	4,000,000		Managing Authority	
IS2.2	I	Amount of the Letters of Offers issued regarding projects intended to complete marine management plans	Euro	2,000,000		Managing Authority	

Priority axis		P2 - Environment					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
IS2.3	I	Number of applications received by JS regarding projects intended to improve water quality in shared transitional waters	Number of applications received	2		Joint Secretariat	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

Output indicators included in the performance framework correspond to more than 50% of the financial allocation to the priority.

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	P2 - Environment
Code	Amount (€)
021. Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)	20,000,000.00
022. Waste water treatment	30,000,000.00
085. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	11,000,000.00
086. Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites	11,000,000.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	P2 - Environment
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	72,000,000.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	P2 - Environment
Code	Amount (€)
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	36,000,000.00
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	36,000,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	P2 - Environment
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	72,000,000.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	P2 - Environment
Not Applicable	

This field is not required in the case of priority axes dedicated to thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy"

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	P3
Title of the priority axis	Sustainable Transport

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- The entire priority axis is dedicated to fostering crisis repair under REACT-EU

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not Applicable

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	7c
Title of the investment priority	Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO3.1
Title of the specific objective	Promote cross-border intermodal and sustainable mobility in the cross-border region
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	The cross-border region is characterised by a predominance of the car as the preferred mode of transport, with corresponding

ID of the specific objective	SO3.1
Title of the specific objective	Promote cross-border intermodal and sustainable mobility in the cross-border region
	<p>high carbon emissions.</p> <p>In 2014, only the 8.8% of the cross-border commuters used public transport (bus or train) and only 2,7% of cross-border commuters used walking or cycling as their usual method of travel. Moreover, the share of electric vehicles was very low. These figures show that there is a need for cross-border collaboration in order to jointly contribute to a more sustainable mobility in the cross-border region.</p> <p>Across the transport sector, there is strong added value from working on a cross-border basis as it reinforces connectivity between the three jurisdictions, leading to a more coherent integrated network, which aligns public transport, cycling, and electric vehicle infrastructure. In addition, the shared learning from across the three jurisdictions will reinforce the behavioural change, contribute to mitigating against climate change impacts in the long term through a reduction in carbon emissions.</p> <p>The investment by the programme in this area will contribute to a more environmentally friendly, multi-modal and integrated transport infrastructure that will encourage the use of low carbon means of transport. The investments by the programme will complement other policy initiatives by authorities in individual jurisdictions within the region (Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Border Region of Ireland) aimed at promoting the use of public transport, environmentally friendly forms of transport, including the use of electric vehicles and the development and promotion of integrated cycle networks linked to public transport hubs within the region.</p> <p>The result indicators aim to capture the move towards more sustainable journeys facilitated by the investment of the Programme.</p> <p>The Result Indicators for the specific objective will be:</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO3.1
Title of the specific objective	Promote cross-border intermodal and sustainable mobility in the cross-border region
	<p>The percentage of cross-border commuters who use bus or train as their usual method of travel;</p> <p>The percentage of cross-border commuters who use walking or cycling as their usual method of travel;</p> <p>Number of EV registrations across the region.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO3.1 - Promote cross-border intermodal and sustainable mobility in the cross-border region					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3.1.3	Number of EV registrations across the region	Number of EV registrations	186	2014	2000	Departments of Transport, DVLA	2014 (baseline), 2018, 2020 and 2023 (closure value)
3.1.A	The percentage of cross-border commuters who use bus or train as their usual method of travel	%	8.80	2014	25.00	The 2011 Census	2014(baseline), 2018 2020 and 2023(closure value)
3.1.B	The percentage of cross-border commuters who use walking or cycling as their usual method of travel	%	2.70	2014	10.00	The 2011 Census	2014(baseline) 2018 2020 and 2023(closure value)

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiariesTTT

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p>After consultation with the relevant transport departments, three areas for investment have been identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimodal hubs in key urban areas are central to facilitating a modal shift from private cars to public transport. In particular urban centres 	

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p>close to the jurisdictional border would benefit from an integrated approach to planning public transport and associated multimodal hub. The integrated approach would ensure coordination of bus and train services and ensure adequate facilities and improved access for cyclists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expansion of the cross-border cycle network / greenways within the region to offer opportunities to adopt low carbon transport. Whilst the primary purpose of this investment is to facilitate non-car transport, it is recognised that such investments have additional benefits for health and tourism; • The further development of a cross-jurisdictional network of charging points and associated infrastructure is essential to support and promote the increased use of electric vehicles, with their corresponding beneficial impact on carbon emissions. <p>A significant impact in sustainable cross-border mobility can be achieved in the NW gateway, between N.E. Donegal and the west of County Londonderry. The proposed investment in the multi-modal hub in Derry/ Londonderry will provide an important node for the integration of cross-border, sustainable mobility.</p> <p>The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) for Northern Ireland recognises the need to strengthen the role of Derry / Londonderry as the principal City and transport hub of the North West. This also aligns to the National Spatial Strategy for Ireland which identifies Letterkenny / Derry as a “linked gateway”.</p> <p>Modern, integrated and efficient facilities provided by intermodal hubs are an important component of bringing about a shift away from the use of cars. Actions to be supported will include the development of a cross-border multimodal hub which facilitates a shift to public transport by providing modern cross-border integrated services, encompassing some of the following (ticketing, timetabling, park/bike and ride, public cycle schemes, car share, EV utilisation).</p> <p>The border regions lack access to a sufficient number of designated cycleway, cycle greenways and accessible alternatives to road transport. Enhancing the network encompassing Wetern Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland will promote connectivity, a unified coherent network will also be a powerful tool to promote modal shift at a local level, thus driving carbon reduction and social inclusion agendas. The following actions will be supported:</p>	

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
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- Development of cross-border greenways and cycle networks to reduce car journeys in cross-border transportation. Including strategic planning of cross-border routes utilised by commuters; addressing access issues; meeting environmental and heritage requirements; route design; planning; construction; signage; promotion; monitoring.

Investments will be focussed on those parts of the network which demonstrate the greatest capacity to impact on carbon emissions by bringing about a shift in transport patterns;

The following cross-border greenways have been identified for potential investment:

- Integration of NW Corridor and multimodal hub:
 - Londonderry-Lifford-Strabane;
 - Derry-Letterkenny;
- Dundalk-Newry
- Manorhamilton- Enniskillen
- Belcoo-Blacklion
- Monaghan-Armagh
- Cairnryan-Belfast

A key factor in limiting the uptake of electric vehicles is the lack of confidence among vehicle owners about the availability of a fully operational rapid charging network. Actions will be supported that establish and enhance existing and new networks, this will include:

- Development of the existing cross-border infrastructure for electric vehicles including upgrading/ establishing rapid transport chargers and battery storage units;
- Development of the existing cross-border infrastructure for electric vehicles including inter-operability and management systems to ensure it

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p>aligns with and compliments the Rapid Charger Network and enhances connectivity and cross-border mobility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into charging infrastructure specifically more sustainable approaches to charging electric vehicle including the use of EV chargers on ferries <p>Projects will be required to demonstrate the strategic nature of the integration to provide the optimal positive impact on cross-border mobility.</p> <p>All actions supported will include promotion and the raising of public awareness to facilitate behavioural change in relation to the increased usage of cycling, public transport and electric vehicles.</p> <p>The programme specific output indicators for this objective will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border multimodal public transport hub encompassing cross-border integrated services; • New cross-border greenways to facilitate cross-border mobility; • Creation of a cross-border electric vehicle network to connect to the existing TEN-T EV network. <p>The main beneficiaries will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector agencies; • Public transport companies; • Local authorities; 	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
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The following suggested selection criteria will be used:

1. Contribution of the project towards achieving the defined results and outputs indicators
2. Quality of the project design
 - Investments selected for support will be those which demonstrate the most positive impact on carbon emissions by bringing about a shift to sustainable transport as defined by the result and output indicators;
 - Projects must demonstrate how they contribute to an agreed integrated strategy for sustainable local mobility in the cross-border region;
 - Greenways selected for support will reduce car journeys and will be routes with the potential to be utilised by cross-border commuters;
 - Contribute to sustainable urban mobility plans and air quality plans (ambient air quality directive 2008/50/EC);
3. Quality of the project team and implementation arrangements;
4. Value for money;
 - Cost effectiveness of impacting on the result indicator;
5. Quality of cross-border cooperation with demonstrable added value;
6. Contribution towards sustainable development;

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
7. Contribution towards equality.	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3.111	Cross-border multimodal public transport hub encompassing cross-border integrated services	Number of multimodal hubs	1.00	Departments of Transport	Annual
3.121	New cross-border greenways to facilitate cross-border mobility	Kilometres	80.00	Departments of Transport cycle km data	Annual
3.131	Creation of a cross-border electric vehicle network to connect to the existing TEN-T EV network	Number of a new and existing upgraded rapid chargers	73.00	Departments of Transport data	Annual

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		P3 - Sustainable Transport					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
3.111	O	Cross-border multimodal public transport hub encompassing cross-border integrated services	Number of multimodal hubs	0	1.00	Departments of Transport	The creation or enhancement of a multimodal public transport hub will help to increase capacity and increase the use of more environmentally friendly transport.
FI3	F	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	4,330,568.00	47,058,824.00	Certifying Authority	N+3 Profile
IS3.1	I	Design/masterplan approved	Plan	1		Departments of Transport	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

Output indicators included in the performance framework correspond to more than 50% of the financial allocation to the priority.

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis		P3 - Sustainable Transport	
Code		Amount (€)	
036. Multimodal transport		30,000,000.00	
090. Cycle tracks and footpaths		10,000,000.00	

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	P3 - Sustainable Transport
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	40,000,000.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	P3 - Sustainable Transport
Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	20,000,000.00
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	20,000,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	P3 - Sustainable Transport
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	40,000,000.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	P3 - Sustainable Transport
Not Applicable	

This field is not required in the case of priority axes dedicated to thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy"

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	P4
Title of the priority axis	Health

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- The entire priority axis is dedicated to fostering crisis repair under REACT-EU

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not Applicable

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	9a
Title of the investment priority	Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO4.1
Title of the specific objective	Through collaboration on a cross-border basis, to improve the health and well-being of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with	The Socio Economic Profile of the Region and a range of policy and research documents from within the region highlight the level of inequality that exists in the provision of healthcare services. The documentation also highlights the instances of

ID of the specific objective	SO4.1
Title of the specific objective	Through collaboration on a cross-border basis, to improve the health and well-being of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs.
Union support	<p>inefficiency that exist in the provision of healthcare services as a result of the existence of the border and the opportunity that exists to increase the quality and the level of access to healthcare for communities in the region.</p> <p>Programmes and services developed to improve health need to be accessible and address specific needs and risk factors, including those of vulnerable groups. Projects developed will reflect and support current strategic priorities within the jurisdictions of the region including ‘Transforming Your Care’ and ‘Making Life Better’ in Northern Ireland; ‘Future Health’ and ‘Healthy Ireland’ in Ireland and; Achieving Sustainable Quality in Scotland’s Healthcare: A ‘20:20’ Vision”, The Healthcare Quality Strategy for NHS Scotland.</p> <p>The result that the Member States seek to achieve is the increment in the number of episodes of health, community and social care which are being delivered on a cross-border basis.</p> <p>The result indicator for the specific objective will be:</p> <p>The number of episodes of health , community and social care delivered on a cross-border basis.</p> <p>The baseline for the above result indicator will be established by March 2015. The Managing Authority will use health departments data with additional surveys as required to establish the baseline.</p> <p>The programme will not submit payment applications in relation to this priority axis before the modification of the programme to include the required adjustments to the result indicator and its baseline and target.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO4.1 - Through collaboration on a cross-border basis, to improve the health and well-being of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4.1.A	The number of episodes of health, community and social care delivered on a cross-border basis	Episodes per annum	4,700.00	2014	9,000.00	Health Trusts	2014(baseline) 2018 202 and 2023(closure value)

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiariesTTT

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<p>Actions will be supported that develop and implement cross-border health care services in a number of critical areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population health: Supporting positive health and well-being and the prevention of ill health through an integrated approach; • Disability services: Development of a social equality approach to promoting social inclusion, citizenship and better life outcomes for disabled people; • Mental health: Promoting cross-border mental/emotional resilience and recovery; • Children’s services. Early authoritative intervention with vulnerable families (focusing on the under 5 years population); • Primary care and older people services; supporting caring communities and independent living (which could incorporate, for example; Alzheimer’s / Dementia initiatives and reablement); • Acute services: To develop new models of working both in scheduled and unscheduled care streams by better utilising scarce physical, financial and human resources. <p>Action supported in the six defined areas of health and social care will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of support and cooperation services on a cross-border basis for community and voluntary organisations involved in the provision of social care and health care services within their own communities; 	

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
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- Development, implementation and evaluation of cross-border initiatives in the area of e-health, including addressing challenges of isolation in rural areas, telemetry, web-based information on community resources and support services across a range of health care service areas;
- Development of cross-border cooperation in the area of health care records management in order to streamline access to information for patients and clinical professionals in the provision of cross-border care services;
- Cross-border training interventions for health care professionals, social care professionals and personnel in community and voluntary organisations involved in the provision of cross-border health and social care support services;
- Development, implementation and evaluation of health and social care trials in a range of healthcare areas.

The programme specific output indicators for this objective will be:

Population Health:

- Develop new cross-border area interventions to support positive health and wellbeing and the prevention of ill health;
- Beneficiaries supported by new cross-border area initiatives for positive health and wellbeing and the prevention of ill health;

Services for the disabled:

- Develop new cross-border area community support services to support disabled people who are socially isolated (including the use of web based information outlining community assets);
- Beneficiaries supported by new cross-border area initiatives for disabled people of all ages who are socially isolated.

Mental Health:

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
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- Develop a new cross-border area community and voluntary sector infrastructure to support clients who have recovered from mental illness(including utilisation of e-health e.g. patient records and support services);
- Cross-border area clients in receipt of mental illness recovery services.

Children’s services:

- Develop and implement new border area frameworks for early intervention with vulnerable families;
- Vulnerable families in receipt of an intervention.

Primary Care and Older People’s Services:

- Patients availing of e health interventions to support independent living in caring communities;
- A shared cross-border framework and service for the identification , assessment and referral of patients identified as “at risk”.

Acute Services:

- Establish cross-border frameworks, for scheduled and unscheduled care streams, to improve utilisation of scarce human, physical and financial resources;
- Patients benefitting from scheduled and unscheduled care streams.

Other Healthcare Services:

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist training and development programmes for cross-border area health and social care providers; • Develop infrastructure and deliver cross-border area health care intervention trials for novel but unproven healthcare interventions to prevent and cure illness; • e-health research and evaluation mechanism for the evaluation of e-health and m-health solution. <p>The main beneficiaries of these actions will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public sector agencies; • non-governmental organisations; 	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<p>The following suggested selection criteria will be used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribution of the project towards the defined results and outputs of the programme; 2. Quality of the project design; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment of delivery mechanisms; the mobility of healthcare professionals and patients across borders; to include the development of the necessary protocols; ○ Health and social care trials will only be funded in case of existence of a market failure; ○ All activities must align with Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011; 3. Quality of the project team and implementation arrangements; 	

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Value for money; 5. Quality of cross-border cooperation with demonstrable added value; 6. Contribution towards sustainable development; 7. Contribution towards equality;

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
	Not Applicable

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
	Not Applicable

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4.110	Develop new cross-border area interventions to support positive health and wellbeing and the prevention of ill health	Number of new interventions	12.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.111	Beneficiaries supported by new cross-border area initiatives for positive health and wellbeing and the prevention of ill health	Number of beneficiaries	15,000.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual

Investment priority		9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4.112	Develop new cross-border area community support services to support disabled people who are socially isolated (including the use of web based information outlining community assets)	Number of Services	2.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.113	Beneficiaries supported by new cross-border area initiatives for disabled people of all ages who are socially isolated	Number of beneficiaries	4,000.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.114	Develop a new cross-border area community and voluntary sector infrastructure to support clients who have recovered from mental illness (including utilisation of e- health e.g. patient records and support services)	Infrastructure	1.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.115	Cross-border area clients in receipt of mental illness recovery services	Number of clients with a recovery plan	8,000.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.116	Develop and implement new border area frameworks for early intervention with vulnerable families	Number of Frameworks	2.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.117	Vulnerable families in receipt of an intervention	Number of families	5,000.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.118	Establish cross-border frameworks, for scheduled and unscheduled care streams, to improve utilisation of scarce human, physical and financial resources	Improved utilisation frameworks	4.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.119	Patients benefitting from scheduled and unscheduled care streams	Number of patients	15,000.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.120	Patients availing of e health interventions to support independent living in caring communities	Number of patients	4,500.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.121	A shared cross-border framework and service for the identification, assessment and referral of patients identified as "at risk"	Number of "at risk" patient interventions	2,500.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.122	Specialist training and development programmes for cross-border area health and social care providers	Number of staff trained	3,800.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.123	Develop infrastructure and deliver cross-border area health care intervention trials for novel but unproven healthcare interventions to prevent and cure illness	Number of intervention trials	10.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual
4.124	E -health research and evaluation mechanism for the evaluation of e-health and m-health solution	Number of evaluation mechanisms	1.00	Service delivery organisations	Annual

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		P4 - Health					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
4.111	O	Beneficiaries supported by new cross-border area initiatives for	Number of	2500	15,000.00	Service	These initiatives are focused on the

Priority axis		P4 - Health					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
		positive health and wellbeing and the prevention of ill health	beneficiaries			delivery organisations	prevention of ill health by maintaining health and wellbeing
4.119	O	Patients benefitting from scheduled and unscheduled care streams	Number of patients	2500	15,000.00	Service delivery organisations	Provision of services organised on a cross-border basis which are more accessible to clients
4.120	O	Patients availing of e health interventions to support independent living in caring communities	Number of patients	700	4,500.00	Service delivery organisations	Provision of client services to support independent living and care in the community
FI4	F	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	5,738,003.00	62,352,942.00	Certifying Authority	N+3 Profile

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

Output indicators included in the performance framework correspond to more than 50% of the financial allocation to the priority.

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	P4 - Health
Code	Amount (€)
112. Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest	53,000,000.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	P4 - Health
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	53,000,000.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	P4 - Health
Code	Amount (€)
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	26,500,000.00
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	26,500,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	P4 - Health
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	53,000,000.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	P4 - Health
Not Applicable	

This field is not required in the case of priority axes dedicated to thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy"

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID	P5
Title	Technical Assistance

The entire priority axis is dedicated to technical assistance supported under REACT-EU

2.B.2 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Public

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO1	To ensure that the programme is implemented, monitored and inspected in an efficient and effective manner.	Not applicable because TA does not exceed EUR 15 Million

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis		SO1 - To ensure that the programme is implemented, monitored and inspected in an efficient and effective manner.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO2	To ensure that the programme is meeting its objectives by effective evaluation.	Not applicable because TA does not exceed EUR 15 Million

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis		SO2 - To ensure that the programme is meeting its objectives by effective evaluation.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO3	To ensure that potential beneficiaries are aware of the opportunities presented by the programme and that the general public is aware of the outputs and results of the programme.	Not applicable because TA does not exceed EUR 15 Million

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis		SO3 - To ensure that potential beneficiaries are aware of the opportunities presented by the programme and that the general public is aware of the outputs and results of the programme.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.5 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.5.1 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	P5 - Technical Assistance
<p>A summary of the description of technical assistance.</p> <p>Technical assistance will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the programme;• Ensure effective evaluations are carried out;• Ensure the communications objectives are met. <p>The arrangements for the implementation of the programme period 2007-2013 are judged as being effective. In particular the following points are noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The statutory basis for the SEUPB ensures a high level of cross-border co-operation between Northern Ireland and Ireland in the execution of the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority and Joint Secretariat functions. The activities of the programme are aligned to the agreed policy objectives of the North South Ministerial Council;• The National Contact Point in Scotland has been effective in securing the involvement of Scottish partners;• The arrangements for the Joint Secretariat have ensured that the Programme is fully committed and that the N+2 targets have been met in each year;• An open and transparent appeals process has been in operation and enjoys the confidence of applicants;• The arrangements for a central first level control function within the SEUPB has ensured timely processing and payment of claims and a error rate below the 2% materiality level in each year;• There have been no interruptions or suspensions to payments;	

- The Audit Authority functioning across the eligible area, without any additional national audit bodies has proved effective and cost efficient;
- The communication objectives have been met and the programme has a high profile within the region.

However, a number of difficulties have been encountered during implementation:

- The time taken to access applications has been the subject of much comment during public consultation exercises. The Managing Authority considers the time taken to process applications is too long and is working with the Member States to develop a process which is shorter in duration (see section on reducing the administrative burden);
- The indicators and associated targets (2007-2013) for the programme had to be reviewed following the mid-term evaluation. An issue with quality assurance of data input was identified. Greater attention is required to ensure that targets are realistic and that systems are in place to ensure the quality assurance of data.
- The 2007-2013 programme would have benefited from thematic based evaluations that could have informed the on-going implementation of the Programme.
- Lead Partners reported that the financial verifications processes resulted in a high administrative burden. Costs simplifications introduced towards the end of the programming period 2007-2013 were positively received. The Programme intends to extend the use of simplified costs in the new programming period. (see section on reducing the administrative burden);

Following this analysis it has been agreed to build on the strengths of existing arrangements by maintaining the overall programme structures that have proven to work effectively. The identified weakness will be addressed by the use of technical assistance.

Specific Objective 1: To ensure that the programme is implemented, monitored and inspected in an efficient and effective manner.

The following actions will be supported in relation to this specific objective:

- Employment of staff and related costs necessary for the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority and Joint Secretariat to carry out its functions;
- Operation of contact point in Scotland;
- Contracting of services with external bodies/organisations in relation to the delivery of the programme;
- Costs associated with the meeting of the Programme Monitoring Committee and its sub-committees/working groups;
- Allocation of technical assistance for preparatory projects;
- Provision of support and advice to applicants and final beneficiaries on the horizontal principles of equality and sustainable development;
- Technical costs associated with project assessment including specialised support and economic appraisal as may be required;
- Development and management of central database and other costs associated with e-cohesion;
- Activities associated with management and including first level control activities;
- Funding of the Audit Authority to carry out its functions.

The Managing Authority (MA) has a zero tolerance stance to fraud and currently has an Anti-fraud policy in operation; however this will be reviewed to ensure compliance with CPR Art. 125 (4)(C) and Member State Anti-fraud policy. The Anti-fraud policy will be a robust, structured and targeted policy which will:

- Set out the Managing Authority's responsibilities in respect of developing and maintaining effective controls to prevent fraud and ensuring that if fraud does occur, then it is detected without delay;
- Outline the responsibility of all Managing Authority staff in respect of ensuring internal control systems operate effectively within their area of work and outline the actions staff must take if they suspect fraud has occurred. This will include a commitment to provide fraud awareness training to all staff;
- Outline the responsibilities of the Audit Authority and Internal Audit in ensuring the adequacy of the control framework which the MA has put in place;
- Incorporate a fraud Risk Assessment tool which will detail the types of risk which may occur, the likelihood of that risk occurring and the

potential impact of that risk being realised. The tool will also detail recommended mitigating controls;

- Detail the MA's fraud response plan, including its responsibility in respect of undertaking a prompt initial investigation, the formal process for notification of fraud, and, where required, the process of engagement with external/forensic investigating bodies to conduct further investigation;
- Detail the remedial and disciplinary/corrective actions which will be implemented in the event of fraud being detected.

Specific Objective 2: To ensure that the programme is meeting its objectives by effective evaluation.

The following actions will be funded in relation to this specific objective:

- The establishment of an evaluation plan to ensure the quality of evaluation carried out during the programming period;
- Evaluations at the Investment Priority level and programme level to assess achievements of anticipated results; and
- Costs associated with bespoke programme studies identified during programme implementation outside the agreed evaluation plan.
- Programme preparation including technical studies and public consultation;
- Monitoring and evaluation, including commissioning of specific reports.

Specific objective 3: To ensure that potential beneficiaries are aware of the opportunities presented by the programme and that the general public is aware of the outputs and results of the programme.

The following actions will be funded in relation to this specific objective:

- Staff costs and associated expenses of the managing authority to carry out its functions in relation to information and communications;

Priority axis	P5 - Technical Assistance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A major information activity to launch the Programme; • A major information activity per year to highlight programme achievements; • Workshops, seminars, conferences and other costs (including all relevant audio-visual support) to inform potential beneficiaries about the funding opportunities; • Costs associated with the monitoring, collation and independent evaluation of all media coverage generated by the programme, • Costs associated with all design, print and advertising requirements associated with the promotion of the programme, • Costs associated with the provision of additional communications provider support (copywriting and PR) to help promote the programme, • Distribution of information and publicity about the Programme and its impacts including the development and dissemination of examples of good practice to include examples in a widely spoken language of the EU other than that of the Member State (or States); • Production and dissemination of a citizens' summary of the annual and final implementation report; • Exchange of information and best practise within the programme and between programmes; Design, maintenance, revision and promotion of a single website (http://www.seupb.eu) providing information on the Programme; • Support and assistance to final beneficiaries in the correct use of programme's logo/emblem and other references to the Programme by implementing bodies, funded operations and media relays; • Support and advice to final beneficiaries in the creation and placement of relevant posters, billboards and plaques referencing EU support and information about the operation; • Coordination of communication networks across the region to exchange results on the implementation of communication strategies; • Translation of communication and information material into another official language of the EU; • Stakeholder surveys and other technical reports associated with evaluation of all information and communications activity; • Support and advice to potential beneficiaries; • Complaint resolution procedures.

2.B.5.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)

Table 11: Output indicators

Priority axis	P5 - Technical Assistance

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data
5.1.1	Number of project beneficiaries training sessions?????	Number of training sessions held	75.00	Managing Authority
5.1.2	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance.?????	Number of FTEs		Managing Authority
5.2.1	Number of evaluations completed at Investment Priority level?????	Number of evaluations	6.00	Managing Authority
5.3.1	Number of Managing Authority generated case studies (examples of operations) which highlight the achievements of the Programme?????	Number of of case studies (examples of operations)	120.00	Communications Manager
5.3.2	Number of Programme and operation focused press releases issued to the media?????	Number of press releases	85.00	Communications Manager

2.B.6 Categories of intervention

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 12-14: Categories of intervention

Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	P5 - Technical Assistance
Code	Amount (€)
121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	8,600,861.00
122. Evaluation and studies	5,220,000.00
123. Information and communication	600,000.00

Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	P5 - Technical Assistance
Code	Amount (€)
01.Non-repayable grant	14,420,861.00

Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	P5 - Technical Assistance
Code	Amount (€)
07.Not applicable	14,420,861.00

3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in €)

Table 15

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
ERDF	11,921,427.00	17,406,899.00	24,858,161.00	45,167,131.00	46,070,473.00	46,991,883.00	47,931,722.00			240,347,696.00
Total	11,921,427.00	17,406,899.00	24,858,161.00	45,167,131.00	46,070,473.00	46,991,883.00	47,931,722.00	0.00	0.00	240,347,696.00

3.2.A Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in €)

Table 16: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	100% CO-FINANCING RATE FOR ACCOUNTING YEAR 2020-2021 (3)	100% CO-FINANCING RATE FOR ACCOUNTING YEAR 2021-2022 (4)	For information	
					National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)					Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
P1	ERDF	Total	60,926,835.00	10,751,795.00	7,167,864.00	3,583,931.00	71,678,630.00	84.9999993024%				
P2	ERDF	Total	72,000,000.00	12,705,883.00	12,705,883.00	0.00	84,705,883.00	84.9999993507%				
P3	ERDF	Total	40,000,000.00	7,058,824.00	7,058,824.00	0.00	47,058,824.00	84.9999991500%				
P4	ERDF	Total	53,000,000.00	9,352,942.00	9,352,942.00	0.00	62,352,942.00	84.9999988774%				
P5	ERDF	Public	14,420,861.00	2,544,858.00	2,544,858.00	0.00	16,965,719.00	84.9999991159%				
Total	ERDF		240,347,696.00	42,414,302.00	38,830,371.00	3,583,931.00	282,761,998.00	84.9999991866%				
Grand total			240,347,696.00	42,414,302.00	38,830,371.00	3,583,931.00	282,761,998.00	84.9999991866%			0	0

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

(3) By ticking the box the Member State requests to apply, pursuant to Article 25a(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, a co-financing rate of 100% to expenditure declared in payment applications during the accounting year starting on 1 July 2020 and ending on 30 June 2021 for all /some of the priority axes of the operational programme.

(4) By ticking the box the Member State requests to apply, pursuant to Article 25a(1a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, a co-financing rate of 100% to expenditure declared in payment applications during the accounting year starting on 1 July 2021 and ending on 30 June 2022 for all /some of the priority axes of the operational programme.

3.2.B Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective

Table 17

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
P1	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	60,926,835.00	10,751,795.00	71,678,630.00
P2	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	72,000,000.00	12,705,883.00	84,705,883.00
P3	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	40,000,000.00	7,058,824.00	47,058,824.00
P4	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	53,000,000.00	9,352,942.00	62,352,942.00
Total without REACT-EU		225,926,835.00	39,869,444.00	265,796,279.00
Total REACT-EU		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		225,926,835.00	39,869,444.00	265,796,279.00

Table 18: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the programme (%)
P2	16,800,000.00	6.99%
P3	22,000,000.00	9.15%
Total	38,800,000.00	16.14%

4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, including in relation to regions and areas referred to in Article 174(3) TFEU, having regard to the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results

The programme recognises the particular territorial development challenges of the eligible region and the need for an integrated approach.

The main territorial development challenges of the region are:

- A peripheral region, remote from the main centres of economic activity within the Member State and Europe;
- The programme area is categorised as a coastal region within the European perspective. Other geographical specificities within the eligible are islands, mountainous areas and sparsely populated areas. (ESPSON GEOSPECS);
- Protection of natural environment may be in conflict with economic development and exploitation of resources including renewables;
- Actions in one jurisdiction can have environmental consequences in neighbouring jurisdiction;
- The region is vulnerable to climate change which will impact on biodiversity and increase risks of flooding due to rivers flows and rising sea levels;
- Cost –benefit constraints in supplying infrastructure and essential public services in areas of low population density;
- Settlement patterns results in high car dependency and associated transport carbon emissions;
- Lack of critical mass for innovation.

The main territorial development potentials are:

- A modern knowledge based innovative economy is less sensitive to issues of peripherality within the European context;
- Creation of critical mass of innovation with clustering across the eligible region;
- High level of renewable energy potential within the region compared to other regions in Europe;
- Integrated approaches to protecting the environment, biodiversity and provisions of ecosystem services;
- The relatively small confined nature of the region lends itself to the promotion and early market introduction of alternative fuels;
- Coordination in the cost effective provision of essential public services in border areas, especially those of low population density.

In response to the geography of the region, i.e. a maritime border between Ireland and Scotland and a land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland different approaches to cross-border co-operation will be adopted depending on the sector involved.

The responses to the public consultation (2012) noted agreement with the broad principles of community led development. The INTERREG VA Programme has a track record of working effectively with local authorities. Many of these projects have been managed by cross-border groups, which bring together local authorities from Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Detailed consideration has been given to ensuring the continued level of local authority involvement. The INTERREG VA Programme seeks to build on the extensive local planning that is currently underway in all three jurisdictions. Local authorities will be encouraged to identify projects through their planning initiatives that could be implemented with local authorities and other local partners within the eligible region. The programme will not be prescriptive as to the nature of the cross-border partnerships that emerge in response to the requirement to deliver the output and result focus required.

Local authorities will have responsibilities with regard to other ESI programmes including the PEACE IV Programme. They will be encouraged to identify synergies between ESI programmes, and to capture any efficiency savings related to project implementation.

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and principles for identifying the areas where they will be implemented

Not Applicable

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and the indicative allocation of the ERDF support for these actions

Not Applicable

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

Table 19: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF support

Indicative amount of ERDF support (€) without REACT-EU
0.00

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis

Not Applicable

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

Table 20: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total	0.00

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate)

(Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional and sea basin strategies)

The Atlantic Strategy was adopted by the European Union in 2011. Its main focus is on helping communities living and working on the Atlantic coast deal with new economic realities, and in particular it identifies the potential of the “blue economy”. It also recognises that the EU shares responsibility for the stewardship of the world's oceans. The strategy covers the coasts, territorial and jurisdictional waters of the five EU Member States: France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. The INTERREG VA Programme area forms a significant component of the overall strategy area.

An Atlantic Area Action Plan was adopted in 2013. It considers responses to the challenges of delivering growth, reducing the carbon footprint, using the sea's natural resources sustainably, responding effectively to threats and emergencies and

implementing an "ecosystem" management approach in Atlantic waters. The priorities identified in the action plan are:

- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity;
- Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development;

There is strong synergy between the investment priorities identified for the INTERREG VA Programme and the Atlantic Action Plan.

Priority one of the Action plan aims to promote entrepreneurship and innovation. It identifies the key role of partnership between research institutions, higher education organisations and companies in promoting research and innovation. Such partnership will be facilitated by the planned investments under the INTERREG VA programme in Theme 1 "Research and Innovation". Of particular significance is the adoption of the key sector of "renewable energy" within the theme. Resulting investments will utilise the potential of the "blue economy" to contribute to regional development. Whilst the programme is focused on two member states, partnerships may be formed with research institutions in other Atlantic Strategy Member States if this is beneficial to the achievement of programme objectives.

The Atlantic Strategy identifies the potential for synergies between Energy and Maritime Policy: to promote increased energy generation from the sea: to optimise the level of clean energy generated; and to reduce the reliance on fossil fuel. In so doing, it confirms the validity of the INTERREG VA programme's selection of the Renewable Energy sector as a key growth sector for the region, noting that the natural marine environment could provide for increased jobs (up to 7m jobs in Europe by 2020) and wealth creation, particularly for emerging sectors such as offshore renewable energy.

The second priority of the Atlantic Action plan is to protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment. The achievement of this priority will be facilitated by planned investments by the INTERREG VA programme. The programme will promote actions to assist the region meet its requirements under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. This will include actions in relation to: data collection and sharing; establishment and management of protected areas; and research in the marine environment.

The fourth priority of the Action Plan is to create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development. The INTERREG VA programme will invest in actions to promote social inclusion and combating poverty. In particular, there will be investments in health care systems. Whilst these initiatives are not exclusively focussed on coastal communities, they will provide valuable insight to the provision of public services to dispersed, low population density peripheral areas, which is characteristic of much of the Atlantic zone. In addition, the programme will welcome applications from small inhabited off-shore islands in recognition of the particular challenges being faced by these communities.

The Atlantic Area Action Plan encourages Member States to work together in areas where they were previously working individually. They will now be able to share information, costs, results and best practices, as well as generate ideas for further areas of cooperation of maritime activities.

The programme is committed to engaging with the Priority Area Coordinators based in the UK and Ireland throughout the programme period, at the University of Plymouth in the UK and at the National University of Ireland in Galway. The programme will share information on calls for applications and progress report to ensure that the Priority Area Coordinators are kept informed of the INTERREG VA Programme. The Priority Area Coordinators will have observer status at the Programme Monitoring Committee meetings.

In the case of programme revision in order to establish one or more separate priority axes for thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy", this part is required only where corresponding support is provided.

5. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 21: Programme authorities

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)	Address	Email
Managing authority	Special EU Programmes Body	Shaun Henry	7th Floor, 2 Clarence Street West, Belfast, BT2 7GP	shaun.henry@seupb.eu
Certifying authority	Special EU Programmes Body	Gina McIntyre	7th Floor, 2 Clarence Street West, Belfast, BT2 7GP	gina.mcintyre@seupb.eu
Audit authority	Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland	Fergal McAneney	Block 4, Knockview Buildings, BT4 3SJ, Belfast	fergal.mcaneney@dfpni.gov.uk

The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:

- the Managing authority
 the Certifying authority

Table 22: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)	Address	Email
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Department of Finance and Personnel	Fergal McAneney	Block 4, Knockview Buildings, BT4 3SJ, Belfast	fergal.mcaneney@seupb.eu
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Financial Control Unit of the Special EU Programmes Body	Alistair Mackenzie	7th Floor, 2 Clarence Street West, Belfast, BT2 7GP	alistair.mackenzie@seupb.eu

5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013: Article 123 (1); The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is the designated Managing Authority of the Programme.

The SEUPB is one of the six Cross-border Bodies set up under the “Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing implementing bodies” signed on 8 March 1999 (the

British-Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999). The Agreement was given domestic effect, North and South, by means of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 respectively.

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013: Article 23 (2) the managing authority has agreed with the Member States that the joint secretariat (JS) for the programme will be part of the SEUPB.

The JS shall have the following functions:

- assist the managing authority and the monitoring committee in carrying out their respective functions;
- provide information to potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the Programme;
- assist beneficiaries in the implementation of operations.

In addition, the JS will support a contact point in Scotland to facilitate the execution of its functions within Scotland.

A memorandum of understanding will be issued to the JS from the managing authority delegating the roles and responsibilities of the JS.

The SEUPB will allocate sufficient staffing and financial resources to the JS to enable it to carry out its functions. These resources will be agreed with the Member States as part of the approval of the corporate and business plans for the SEUPB.

5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements

In accordance with the general principles for management and control systems as identified in Article 72 of regulation (EU) 1303/2013, this section will describe the following:

- Overview of responsibilities
- The Monitoring Committee
- The Managing Authority
- Financial Control Unit
- The Joint Secretariat
- The Certifying Authority, including financial flows
- Data management systems
- Use of intermediate bodies
- Audit arrangements
- Irregularities and fraud.

Overview of responsibilities

The Member State roles will be exercised by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. These Departments are the sponsor departments for the SEUPB. A Financial Memorandum governs the relationships between the two government departments and the SEUPB.

The Certifying Authority and the Managing Authority will be functionally independent of each other but both will be located within one organisation, the SEUPB. The Managing Authority will be assisted in carrying out its functions by the Joint Secretariat.

There is a strict separation of functions within the SEUPB. The organisation is divided into three Directorates, namely, the Managing Authority, Corporate Services (which acts as Certifying Authority) and the Joint Secretariat. Each Director is responsible to the Chief Executive who acts as the overall accounting officer for the Programme. The organisation is structured in this way to ensure functional separation of responsibilities and to reflect the necessary regulatory requirements.

The Audit Authority is functionally independent of the SEUPB. The Audit Authority is a separate unit within the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Monitoring Committee

In accordance with Article 47 and Article 110 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, a Programme Monitoring Committee will be established by the Member States to monitor the implementation of the Programme. The Monitoring Committee will be set up within three months of formal approval of the Programme.

The Monitoring Committee will draw up and adopt its own rules of procedure in line with Article 11 of the Commission Delegated Regulation 7-1-2014 on the European Code of Conduct on Partnership and agree them with the Managing Authority. At its first meeting, the Committee shall approve detailed provision for the proper and efficient discharge of the duties assigned to it, including the frequency of its meetings, which will be not less than once per year.

The Monitoring Committee will be chaired by the Managing Authority and will include balanced representation from across the eligible region including representatives of the Member States; economic and social partners; relevant bodies representing civil society, environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, bodies promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination and; locally elected representatives. Particular effort will also be made to promote the balanced participation of women and men. The EU Commission shall participate in an advisory capacity.

Non-Permanent Members or other relevant organisations may be invited by the Programme Monitoring Committee to attend meetings in response to specific agenda items. Other interested parties will be invited to attend as observers, including representatives of Atlantic Strategy.

The names of the members of the Monitoring Committee will be published on the SEUPB website.

The Monitoring Committee may be assisted by a number of working groups. The membership and remit of these groups will be proposed by the MA and approved by the Monitoring Committee and may operate on a limited or long-term basis.

The Managing Authority will be responsible for the preparation of documentation relating to Monitoring Committee meetings including reports, agendas and summary records of meetings. In particular, the Monitoring Committee will:

- Meet at least once a year and review implementation of the programme and progress towards achieving its objectives having due regard to the financial data, common and programme specific indicators and milestones defined in the performance framework
- Examine all issues that affect the performance of the programme including the conclusions of any performance reviews
- Make observations to the Managing Authority regarding the implementation and evaluation of the programme including actions relating to the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries. The monitoring committee shall monitor actions as a result of its observations
- Establish a Steering Committee(s) to select operations for funding in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 1299 /2013
- Review the implementation of the communication strategy
- Review the actions in relation to equality and sustainable development.

The Monitoring Committee shall examine and approve:

- The methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations
- The annual and final implementation reports
- The evaluation plan and any amendments to the plan
- The communication strategy and any amendments to the strategy
- Any proposal by the Managing Authority to amend the programme.

Managing Authority

The Managing Authority is overseen by a Director who is responsible for ensuring that all functions of the Managing Authority are implemented in full and in accordance with the EU Regulations and programme rules. The Managing Authority will delegate the implementation of some of its functions to the Joint Secretariat, the Financial Control Unit as detailed under the respective sections.

In accordance with Article 125 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 and Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 1299/2013 the Managing Authority will carry out the following functions:

- Upon adoption of the CP ensure a formal Programme Launch
- Ensure the development of a Communications Plan within 6 months of the CP adoption
- Ensure that a complaints procedure is in place and is available on the website
- Produce Annual Implementation Reports by 31st May, from 2016 onwards
- Support the work of the monitoring committee and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the Cooperation Programme in achieving its objectives, financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones;
- Draw up and, after approval by the monitoring committee, submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports;
- Make available to intermediate bodies and beneficiaries information that is relevant to the execution of their tasks and the implementation of operations respectively;
- Establish a system to record and store, in a secure computerised form, data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit;
- Draw up and, ensure that appropriate selection procedures and criteria are applied that ensure the contribution of operations to the achievement of the specific objectives and results of the relevant priority axes; are non-discriminatory and transparent; and take into account the general principles of equality between men and women and sustainable development;
- Ensure that operations selected for support do not include activities which were part of an operation which has been or should have been subject to a procedure of recovery in accordance with Article 61 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 following the relocation of a productive activity outside the programme area;
- Draw up an evaluation plan and submit to the Monitoring Committee no more than one year after the approval of the programme in accordance with Article 114 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013;
- Put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified.
- Draw up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in Article 59 (5) (a) and (b) of the Financial Regulation.
- Ensure compliance with the information and publicity requirements laid down in Article 115 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.
- Ensure that the Certifying Authority receives all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification.

The Managing Authority will delegate functions through service level agreements to the Financial Control Unit and Joint Secretariat. The Managing Authority will retain the overall responsibility for the delivery of these functions.

The SEUPB Complaints Procedure addresses two types of complaint: Complaints relating to services provided by the SEUPB and also Complaints relating to projects in receipt of funding.

Both types of complaint follow a similar process for resolution:

- If the complainant has liaised with the Lead Partner/SEUPB directorate to resolve the matter, but the outcome has not been satisfactory, they should submit their complaint to the Complaints Officer, either by telephone, email, written correspondence or by completing the relevant Complaints form which can be found at www.seupb.eu. The complaint will be acknowledged in writing within 5 working days.
- The appropriate officer will investigate the complaint and will provide a response no later than 8 weeks from the receipt of the complaint.
- If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation they will be offered the opportunity to appeal to the Chief Executive and, following that, the respective Ombudsman for Northern Ireland or Ireland.
- A Whistleblower policy in place and will treat any whistleblower complaints in compliance with this policy, as far as possible maintaining the anonymity of the whistleblower.
- The complaints procedure also provides details of the dedicated telephone number and email address for any complaints regarding funding being utilised in a potentially fraudulent manner.

In addition all applicants will have a right to request information in case the maximum processing times published in the calls are exceeded. Applicants have a right of a review of any decision by the Steering Committee to reject an application. The review panel will be independent of the original Steering Committee.

The SEUPB Complaint Procedure is without prejudice to any mechanism or process for legal redress at national level, in particular with regard to unsuccessful applicants.

Financial Control Unit

The Financial Control Unit will act as the Controller in accordance with Article 23(4) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013. The legislative basis of the SEUPB enables it to perform the functions of the Financial Controller throughout the eligible area.

The main role of the Financial Control Unit is to ensure that administrative pre-payment verifications and on-the-spot verifications are carried out in accordance with Article 125 (4 & 5) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. Specifically, the FCU will:

- Verify that the co-financed products and services have been delivered and that expenditure declared by the beneficiaries has been paid and that it complies with applicable Union and national law, the Cooperation Programme and the conditions for support of the operation;
- Ensure that beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;
- Set up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are set up in accordance with requirements;

- Carry out administrative verifications in respect of each application for reimbursement;
- Carry out on-the-spot verifications of operations, based on sampling informed by the principles of proportionality and risk;
- The final beneficiary will receive payment no later than 90 days from the submission of the payment claim, subject to the availability of funds, in accordance with Article 132 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

Joint Secretariat

The Joint Secretariat will carry out the following functions:

- Creation of an operation pipeline by issuing calls for proposals in line with the criteria defined in the Cooperation Programme
- Provide information to potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities
- Assess operations for consideration by the relevant Steering Committee
- Satisfy itself that the beneficiary has the administrative, financial and operational capacity to fulfil the conditions for support before approval of the operation
- Satisfy itself that, where the operation has started before the submission of an application for funding, applicable Union and national rules relevant for the operation have been complied with
- Ensure that selected operations falls within the scope of the Programme and can be attributed to a category of intervention
- Ensure that successful operations are provided with a contract setting out the conditions for support including the specific requirements concerning the products or services to be delivered, the financing plan, and the time-limit for execution
- Assist beneficiaries in the implementation of operations
- Maintain monitoring records on behalf of the Programme and entering these into a database system.

Certifying Authority

The Certifying Authority and the Managing Authority will be functionally independent of each other but both will be located within one organisation, the SEUPB.

In accordance with Article 126 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, the SEUPB in its capacity as Certifying Authority shall be responsible for:

- Drawing up and submitting to the Commission payment applications and certifying that these result from reliable accounting systems, are based on verifiable supporting documents and have been subject to verifications by the managing authority;
- Drawing up the accounts referred to in Article 59 (5) (a) of the Financial Regulation;

- Certifying the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable Union and national rules and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the Cooperation Programme and complying with Union and national rules;
- Ensuring that there is a system which records and stores, in computerised form, accounting records for each operation, and which supports all the data required for drawing up payment applications and accounts, including records of amounts recoverable, amounts recovered and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation or Cooperation Programme;
- Ensuring for the purposes of drawing up and submission of payment applications that it has received adequate information from the managing authority on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure;
- Taking account when drawing up and submitting payment applications of the results of all audits carried out by or under the responsibility of the audit authority;
- Maintaining accounting records in a computerised form of expenditure declared to the Commission and the corresponding public contribution paid to beneficiaries;
- Keeping an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts recovered shall be repaid to the general budget of the Union prior to the closure of the Cooperation Programme by deducting them from the next statement of expenditure.

The Certifying Authority will receive ERDF initial pre-financing and annual pre-financing amounts as detailed in Article 134 of regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. The SEUPB will reimburse the Member States with the applicable proportion of that payment and all subsequent advance payments and interim payments. The Accountable Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland will provide budgetary allocations to SEUPB. The Accountable Departments will forward cash to the SEUPB as detailed in a Service Level Agreement to enable payments to be made to operations. The budget and cash provided by the Accountable Department will cover the full value of the ERDF component of the Programme and any match funding as may be necessary.

The Certifying Authority will submit interim payments claims to the Commission on a regular basis, and submit the final application for an interim payment by 31 July following the end of the previous accounting year, in accordance with Article 135 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

The Certifying Authority, on behalf of the Managing Authority, will make payments to final beneficiaries upon receipt of a duly verified claim by the Financial Control Unit.

Data Management

In accordance with Article 122 (3) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, the Managing Authority will ensure the installation, operation and interconnection of computerised systems for the management, monitoring, audit, control and evaluation of the

Programme. This will facilitate the exchange of information between the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, Intermediate Bodies and beneficiaries by 31 December 2015 at the latest.

This system, which will be formally procured during 2014, will be a database-driven web-based system hosted on a 'failsafe' hosting environment, capable of handling a required number of concurrent users.

The system will be a shared system between the INTERREG VA and PEACE Programmes and other ESI funded programmes in Northern Ireland. The Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland will have lead responsibility for the development and procurement of the system.

In response to issues raised in the mid programme evaluation of the INTERREG IVA Programme regarding programme indicator data quality, SEUPB has taken the following steps;

- Programme indicators will be an integral part of the call for applications and applicants must demonstrate, in their application, how their project will contribute to the targets applicable to the Thematic Objective to which they are applying, rather than selecting indicators at the post-award stage;
- There will be fewer and more focused indicators which will enable closer monitoring of achievement;
- Guidance on the definition of indicators will be released as part of the call for applications with supporting guidance on effective monitoring released post award;
- Quality assurance of achievements will be undertaken by the Lead Partner on a quarterly basis as part of the project management cycle; and
- An annual quality assurance review will be undertaken by the Managing Authority and necessary follow-up work will be initiated.

All operations funded under the Cooperation Programme will be recorded onto the system. This includes the recording of all stages of the application / operation life-cycle and all transactions associated with approved operations.

The system will also provide input data for use by programme authorities when communicating with the European Commission using the web interface of the Commission's electronic data exchange systems (SFC 2014).

Audit Authority

The Audit Authority for the Programme will be a unit designated for this purpose within the Department of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland. The Audit Authority is functionally independent from the Managing Authority and the Financial Control Unit.

The Audit Authority will carry out the functions as detailed in Article 127 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, namely:

- Ensuring that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of the management and control system of the Cooperation Programme and on an appropriate sample of operations on the basis of the declared expenditure. The declared expenditure shall be audited based on a representative sample and as a general rule on statistical sampling methods. There is provision to apply a non-statistical sampling method which may be used on the professional judgement of the Audit Authority in duly justified cases;
- Ensuring that where audits are carried out by a body other than the Audit Authority, any such body has the necessary functional independence;
- Ensuring that that audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards;
- Preparing an audit strategy for performance audits, within eight months of adoption of a Cooperation Programme. The audit strategy shall set out the audit methodology, the sampling method for audits on operations and the planning of audits in relation to the current accounting year and the two subsequent accounting years. The audit strategy shall be updated annually from 2016 until and including 2022;
- Draw up an audit opinion in accordance with Article 59(5)(b) of the Financial Regulation;
- Draw up a control report setting out the main findings, including deficiencies found in the management and control systems, of the audits carried out and the proposed and implemented corrective actions;

A combined audit strategy will be developed which covers the PEACE Programme and the INTERREG VA Programme for the Border Region, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland.

The Member States have agreed that the Audit Authority referred to above, will have the authority to carry out its duties directly in all jurisdictions of the eligible area without the establishment of a group of auditors drawn from the two Member States (Article 25 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013).

Irregularities and Recoveries

The definition of an ‘irregularity’ is any breach of Union law, or of national law relating to its application, resulting from an act or omission by an economic operator involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds, which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the budget of the Union by charging an unjustified item of expenditure to the budget of the Union.

The Managing Authority will put robust systems in place to detect, record, report to the EC and follow-up cases. These systems will be tested during checks performed as part of the first and second level of control. This testing will be further augmented through the role of the Audit Authority.

Identified irregularities will be recorded in sufficient detail to check whether there is any evidence of a breakdown of systems or a need to take action to correct emerging systemic weaknesses in programme management and control arrangements.

The Managing Authority will ensure that any money paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead beneficiary in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

If the Managing Authority is unsuccessful in securing repayment from the lead beneficiary, the Member State on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is allocated shall reimburse the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid. The Managing Authority shall be responsible for the reimbursement of any monies to the general budget of the Union.

In compliance with Article 126 (h) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, where the processing of an irregularity results in the recovery of funds from an operation, the Certifying Authority will keep account of amounts recoverable and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts recovered shall be repaid to the budget of the Union prior to the closure of the Cooperation Programme by deducting them from the subsequent statement of expenditures.

5.4 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

When a financial correction is attributable to a named operation the Managing Authority will ensure that any money paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead beneficiary in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

If the Managing Authority is unsuccessful in securing repayment from the lead beneficiary, the Member State on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is allocated shall reimburse the managing authority any amounts unduly paid. The Managing Authority shall be responsible for the reimbursement of any monies to the general budget of the Union.

In cases where the financial correction is not attributable to a named operation, as may be the case for systematic irregularities and corrections imposed by the Commission in accordance with Article 144 Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2103, the Member States shall make provision for repayment to the Union of any monies unduly paid, based on proportions of the national ERDF allocations made to the programme in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

5.5 Use of the Euro (where appropriate)

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

As per Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 and Article 123 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, expenditure that is incurred in a currency other than euro by the beneficiary shall be converted to euro using the monthly exchange rate of the Commission, in the month during which the expenditure is submitted for verification to the Financial Control Unit. This conversion will be verified by the Financial Control Unit.

All commitments and payments at the programme level will be made in euro (€). Statements of expenditure from the Certifying Authority to the Commission will also be made in euro.

5.6 Involvement of partners

Actions taken to involve the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the preparation of the cooperation programme, and the role of those partners in the preparation and implementation of the cooperation programme, including their involvement in the monitoring committee

Preparation of the Cooperation Programme – A Partnership Approach

The SEUPB co-ordinated the preparation of the Programme. This was carried out in conjunction with the preparation of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE IV).

To facilitate a partnership approach, the SEUPB established a Programme Development Steering Group (PDSG) to oversee the drafting and development of both programmes. This partnership included the range of stakeholders consistent with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, with representatives comprising the Member States (NI / Ireland / Scotland), local government, social partners and the community and voluntary sector. In order to ensure further stakeholder participation, additional informal sub groups were established to provide input on the following topics: the selection of themes; delivery mechanisms; sustainable development; and equality. The PDSG met on 10 occasions during the programme preparation stage. A full list of membership of the Programme Development Steering Group is included in section 9.

The SEUPB held a large number of bi-lateral meetings with interested parties including government agencies and departments with policy responsibility for emerging themes.

Wider stakeholder engagement was facilitated through two public consultations. The first public consultation held in 2012. It presented an analysis of the EU Cohesion Policy draft regulations and the implications for the development of cross-border programmes. This consultation also sought views on the content, management and delivery of the new PEACE programme. A total of almost 1,000 stakeholders participated in 20 consultation events across the eligible area and 173 written submissions were received. The SEUPB published a summary of the responses to the consultation on 22 February 2013 –

http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/2014-2020_Programmes/2014-2020_Programmes_130305_Final_Summary_of_Consultation_Responses.sflb.ashx. These responses informed the drafting of the cooperation programme.

To facilitate the first consultation, stakeholders were invited to comment on three programme specific considerations; namely;

- Lessons Learnt from INTERREG IVA;
- Themes for INTERREG VA; and
- Delivery Structures.

Furthermore, the stakeholders were also invited to comment on general issues around programme administration i.e. application, assessment and approval process; project finance and match funding; reduction of the administrative burden; and equality and the environment.

Direct consultation and discussion was also held with the government departments, North and South, the Scottish Government and representatives of all sectors, including business, rural, agricultural, community and voluntary, trade unions and public sector organisations.

A second statutory public consultation was carried out from 03 June 2014 to 29 July 2014. This consultation was held on the draft Cooperation Programme, together with the following supporting documentation: the Ex Ante Evaluation; the Strategic Environmental Assessment; and the Equality Screening Report.

The purpose of the second consultation was to provide the general public and other key stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on any aspect of the draft Cooperation Programmes (CPs), the Section 75 Considerations and the Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for both Programmes. A total of almost 600 stakeholders participated in nine consultation events across the eligible area.

To facilitate the second consultation, the general public and key stakeholders were invited to provide their views in terms of the following programme considerations;

- The content of the draft CP including the types activities to be supported;
- Section 75 considerations & Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs); and
- Measures proposed to reduce the administrative burden placed on beneficiaries, which included the measures proposed to reduce the processing times associated with project assessment and approval.

All stakeholders were encouraged to respond to the consultation through the SEUPB website or by written submission. A total of 333 written responses have been received, to include: 117 PEACE-specific responses and 101 INTERREG-specific responses, in

addition to a further 115 responses covering both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. These responses informed the drafting of the cooperation programme.

During this period, continued consultation and discussion was also held with the government departments, North and South, the Scottish Government and representatives of all sectors, including business, rural, agricultural, community and voluntary, trade unions and public sector organisations.

A summary of both consultations (2012 & 2014) is included as an Annex 1.

To ensure that the partnership approach continues throughout the implementation of the programme and in accordance with Article 5 of Commission Regulation (EU) No: 1303/2013, the cross-border Monitoring Committee will include balanced representation from across the eligible region including representatives of the Member States; economic and social partners; relevant bodies representing civil society, environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, bodies promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination; and locally elected representatives.

Accordingly, the Monitoring Committee shall delegate responsibility for the selection of projects to a Steering Committee (s) as enabled by Article 47 of Commission Regulation (EU) No: 1299/2013.

The Steering Committee(s) will be constituted on a cross-border basis, reflect the principles of partnership, fully reflect the balanced representation of the Monitoring Committee and have the necessary technical expertise and independence to assess operations for funding.

6. COORDINATION

The mechanisms that ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF) and the IPA and with the EIB, taking into account the provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Where Member States and third countries participate in cooperation programmes that include the use of ERDF appropriations for outermost regions and resources from the EDF, coordination mechanisms at the appropriate level to facilitate effective coordination in the use of these resources

Overview

The following programmes are of particular note for coordination with the INTERREG VA programme:

- PEACE Programme;
- Investment in growth and jobs: Northern Ireland; Border Midland and West Regional Programme; Scotland;
- Transnational programmes: Northern Periphery and Arctic; Atlantic Area; North West Europe;
 - The transnational programmes are working in areas that are of interest to the INTERREG VA Programme such as innovation, sustainable transport and the environment;
- Interregional Programme – INTERREG Europe;
- Rural Development Programmes;
 - There are areas of interest for the INTERREG VA Programme in that Rural Development Programmes seek to stimulate the economic growth in rural areas, the INTERREG VA Programme will complement these programmes by stimulating innovation across the programme area;
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Programmes.
- Competitive Programmes such as Horizon 2020, LIFE.

The following initiatives are not relevant in relation to co-ordination mechanisms with this programme:

- Cohesion Fund
- Connecting Europe
- European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)
- European Development Fund (EDF)
- Instrument for pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

The Partnership Agreements between the EU Commission and UK (Northern Ireland and Scotland Chapters) and Ireland presents a framework for the co-ordination of the programmes funded by ESI funds at national level.

At a regional level the SEUPB has coordinated the development of this programme in close consultation with the relevant authorities in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland who are responsible for the development of other programmes. To facilitate this process in Northern Ireland, the Department of Finance and Personnel chair regular meetings between the respective Managing Authorities, including the SEUPB. In addition, the SEUPB attend the Consultative Partnership Group in Northern Ireland which leads the development of the programme for growth and jobs.

In Ireland, the Managing Authority (MA) will be a member of the National Coordination Committee of the Funds (NCCF) that ensure coordination between the ESI funds and other EU and national instruments. The role of the committee is explained with the Irish Partnership Agreement.

In Northern Ireland, the MA is a member of the EU Steering Group which is responsible for promoting the strategic coordination and complementarity of ESIF programmes within Northern Ireland and the EU Steering Group seeks to harmonise the interface experienced by beneficiaries of all funds as far as possible. The role of this group is described in the Northern Ireland chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.

In Scotland there is a single Monitoring Committee (MC) for the ERDF, ESF and Rural Funds. It also looks at EMFF and complementarity / synergies with other programmes / funds, including ETC, HORIZON and LIFE. The lead policy official in Scottish Government for ETC participates in this MC and is also a member for the INTERREG PMC.

The Programme Development Steering Group for the INTERREG VA Programmes includes representation from all the relevant national and regional bodies in the eligible region with programme planning responsibility.

The INTERREG VA and PEACE Programme share the same Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Joint Secretariat and Audit Authority. There will be complementarity between the memberships of the respective Monitoring Committees. There was been joint planning and consultation mechanism for both the INTERREG VA and PEACE Programme. There will be shared systems and procedures for the implementation of the two ETC programmes.

The SEUPB will provide the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland for the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. The SEUPB will liaise with the national contact points for the other transnational and interregional programmes. This will assist in building a regional awareness of the full range of funding opportunities available under ETC programmes and facilitating relevant participation by beneficiaries in the appropriate programme.

The aim of this coordination mechanism is to ensure maximum complementarity between programmes. All ESI funded programmes have a requirement to demonstrate focus and concentration. As all programmes are based on a common list of thematic objectives, it is inevitable that there will be shared policy objectives between the INTERREG

Programmes and other regional programmes. The distinctive nature of this programme is its cross-border nature; all projects funded under this programme will have to clearly demonstrate cross-border added value. Other relevant regional programmes bodies and policy departments will be consulted during project selection to ensure maximum levels of co-ordination with regional programmes.

The creation of thematic links and synergies with other relevant programmes, instruments and policies will be assessed and reviewed throughout the programme period. The programme will disseminate information about calls for applications as widely as possible (including with other programme areas). The programme will assess the viability of undertaking actions with other programmes including organising joint dissemination events, creating cooperation networks and/or establishing information exchange platforms. The programme will assess how to make available and communicate information on each projects' specific outputs so that other programmes are kept informed of key outputs and outcomes.

Where relevant, the programme will encourage projects to participate in other programmes' networking events/workshops to encourage potential synergies.

The programme will also liaise with the National Contact Points in the UK and Ireland for the Horizon 2020 and LIFE Programmes. The National Contact Points for the Horizon2020 Programme are based in a number of organisations across the UK and Ireland depending on specific area of the programme. The UK National Contact Point for the LIFE Programme is BetaEurope and for Ireland it is Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

Coordination with the Atlantic Strategy is outlined in Section 4.4.

7. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce the administrative burden.

Responses to the public consultation conducted in 2012 articulated concerns about the long processing times associated with project assessment and approval. The general consensus was that the level of bureaucracy needed to be reduced.

Sound, effective and efficient management of the EU funds requires appropriate, effective and transparent systems. The management and control systems must ensure the selection of projects which contribute most to the outcomes sought and the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud, and thus ensure reasonable assurance on the regularity of expenditure. The delivery system should be as streamlined as possible and be compliant with EU and national rules.

The Managing Authority (MA) has agreed with the Member States a number of administrative simplifications to be undertaken. These are:

1. **Information on calls for grant aid:** The MA will publish a rolling 24 month programme of calls for applications. Calls will be highly focused and will detail the results and outputs required and total financial allocation of each call. A calendar of fixed Steering Committee (SC) dates will be published at the time of the call which will provide transparency on the targets for processing times. The decision-making procedures and criteria will very clearly set out in the terms of reference of each call. Except in duly justified cases endorsed by the SC, processing of applications shall be completed in a maximum of 36 weeks. Should the maximum processing times not be met, an up-date indicating the reasons for the delay will be published on the programme web site to ensure transparency for all applicants and the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be informed in the framework of its meetings.
2. **Application process:** Support will be available to potential applicants through information events. A two stage application process will be used. Stage one will be a short application form, with applicants receiving a decision within a maximum of 12 weeks of applying. Applications progressing to Stage two of the application process will be invited to provide additional detailed information. In duly justified cases flexibility will be granted to evaluate and use alternative approaches, such as a one-stage, shortened call process, if agreed with PMC/SC. This is provided that the provisions for the overall assessment and decision-making process are respected.
3. **Assessment:** The main purpose of the assessment process is to assess the potential of the proposed projects to deliver the specified results and outputs of the programme in a cost effective manner. In stage two of the process, the JTS and all other relevant bodies (e.g. accountable departments) will proceed with the full assessment of the application in accordance with the procedures and criteria described in the terms of reference so as to make recommendations to the SC and to issue letters of offer. Except in duly justified cases, stage two of the process shall not exceed 24 weeks, including the issuing of the letter of offer to the applicant. The principle of proportionality will be applied in the assessment and decision-making process so as to take adequate account of the different types and scale of projects and the levels of financial support sought.
4. **Allocation of funding:** The regulations require that the final decision on the allocation of grant aid is made by the SC (appointed by the PMC). The SC will include representatives of the Member States, accountable departments and social partners. The SC will have access to required technical and financial expertise to make an informed decision. There will be no additional approval processes post-SC.
5. **Harmonisation of Rules:** Common rules will be applied between the PEACE and INTERREG VA Programmes. A single set of guidance notes and rules will be applied throughout the

programme area. The rules will reflect the minimum required to meet EU regulations and national procedures.

6. **Project duration:** The duration of the project can be up to 7 years depending on the nature of the activities being proposed. Where a project is over 3 years duration, the second phase of the project will be conditional on a rigorous mid-term evaluation.
7. **Letter of Offer Conditions:** Additional conditions in a letter of offer will be reduced to the minimum required, and will not replicate those contained within programme rules or standard conditions.
8. **Monitoring:** The number of indicators within a letter of offer will be reduced to not more than 3 project specific indicators in addition to programme indicators. These indicators will reflect the result and output focus of the programme. There will be a renewed focus of programme indicators and independent evaluations at the thematic level. Arrangements for monitoring the horizontal principles (Section 8) will be reviewed to ensure effectiveness.
9. **Budget structure:** A simplified budget structure will be used within the letter of offer, reflecting the limited number of categories of eligible expenditure. This will increase the operational flexibility of Lead Partners in the implementation of operations without the requirement to seek approval for modifications to sub-budget lines.
10. **Simplified costs:** The programme will promote and implement simplified costs. All relevant projects will avail of a flat rate for overheads. Calls for applications and assessment will identify opportunities for the application of a unit cost methodology. Where there is a suitable basis for unit costs, this methodology will be mandatory. It is also expected that there will be limited scope to apply lump sum payments.
11. **Lead Partners:** Local Authority (LA) and other lead partners who are engaging with a large number of final beneficiaries will be required to state how they are reducing the administrative burden for final beneficiaries. LAs will be required to use unit costs, flat rates, lump sums or resource allocation models to reduce the administrative burden for final beneficiaries. This will form part of the assessment process.
12. **Verification:** Risk based based sampling methodology will be used by the first level of control in carrying out its administrative checks. A focus on unit costs and outputs will significantly reduce the level of verification. Increased emphasis will be placed during verification on the achievement of outputs and results indicators which will be identified by the call for applications. The verification process will include control checks to ensure the accuracy and reliability of data collection and input into the central database.
13. **E-Cohesion:** The programme will embrace the principles of e-cohesion from the first call. There will be an opportunity for all applicants to apply on-line. Applicants will be able to review the status of their application on line. Lead partners will have access to up to date monitoring and financial information on-line.

All measures to reduce the administrative burden will be in place at the time of the first call.

8. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

8.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

This principle seeks to ensure that the Programme supports activity that promotes sustainable development and creates sustainable communities by safeguarding, and requiring the sustainable use of, existing resources to enhance the long-term management of, and investment in, human, social and environmental resources for future generations.

The Programme has been subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment, the report and accompanying documentation is available on the SEUPB website.

The programme development process has included participation of the relevant bodies responsible for sustainable development, and these bodies have contributed to the development of the programme.

The Programme has selected “preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” as one of the themes within the Programme. This will ensure a significant allocation of financial resources to operations with environmental objectives. In addition, other priority investment areas such as research and innovation and local regeneration are likely to have a positive impact on the achievement of sustainable development objectives.

All operations in all themes have to align to and comply with the Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the European Council in June 2006; as well as the respective national Sustainable Development Strategy within each jurisdiction.

As part of the assessment of applications, consideration will be given to the projects adherence to the principles and objectives of sustainable development; as well as the associated environmental costs and benefits resulting. Where deemed appropriate, Environmental Impact Assessments will be made. To inform this assessment, all project applications will detail how their project complies with Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EEC, which requires a statement of environmental impact i.e. that either the project does not have any significant, negative environmental impact or, where this is not the case, the application should provide a full description (if possible) of the anticipated negative impact as well as of the mitigating measures.

Additional levels of scrutiny will be applied in the following instances:

- Special Protection Areas - Within areas classified as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC (on the conservation of wild birds), aquaculture Structural Fund plans or projects shall only be co-financed following an appropriate written assessment of their effects individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, and following ascertainment that they will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPAs concerned.
- Aquaculture Plans or Projects - Pending their full classification, enhanced scrutiny will apply to areas:
 - Proposed or required to be proposed by the Government of the United Kingdom or the Government of Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC (on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora); and
 - Proposed or required to be proposed by the United Kingdom Authorities or Ireland Authorities as SPAs pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC (on the conservation of wild birds).
- Lessons learned from past programmes and the responses to the public consultation have informed the proposed process for incorporating the principle of sustainable development into the programme. The approach taken in the previous programme was considered too heavily weighted towards minimum compliance at the assessment stage which has not added value to the overall design and implementation of operations. Therefore, the intention is that the Joint Secretariat will:
 - Incorporate the principle of sustainable development in the design of measures and operations;
 - Involve bodies working in the fields of sustainable development at all stages (preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation), including the provision of advice on sustainable development in fund-related activities. This will involve engagement with applicants at the

- development stage of their application. Based on feedback and pilot training sessions delivered near to the end of the previous programme, the intention is to provide access to training to raise awareness with applicants in the best practice pertaining to sustainable development to positively influence project design and implementation;
- Ensure that project selection criteria will assess projects on the basis of environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention;
 - Monitor and evaluate the application of the principle of sustainable development.

8.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the cooperation programme and, in particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and in particular, the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

In accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Employment Equality Act (1998) and the Equal Status Act (2000), as amended by the Equality Act (2004) in Ireland and the Equality Act (2006) in Scotland, operations part-financed by the Programme shall comply with and, where appropriate, contribute to Community policy and legislation on equal opportunities and non discrimination.

Accordingly, the Programme will have due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Between men and women generally;
- Between persons with a disability and persons without;
- Between persons with dependants and persons without; and
- Without prejudice to the above, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Programme has been subject to equality screening in accordance with relevant national legislation and the SEUPB's equality policy. All relevant documentation is available on the website of the SEUPB.

Project applicants will be required to include a statement of the likely equality impact on their application and identify any differential impacts on the above mentioned categories.

Lessons learned from past programmes and the responses to the public consultation have informed the proposed process for incorporating the principle of equality into the programme. The approach taken in the previous programme was considered too heavily weighted towards compliance at the assessment and monitoring stage which has not particularly added value to the overall design and implementation of operations. Therefore, the intention is that the Joint Secretariat will:

- Provide specialised training to applicants and lead partners on issues regarding equality, with a particular emphasis on disability; including the provision of tool kits and advice, drawing upon resources as appropriate that have been funded and developed in previous programme periods;

- Provide equality training to members of the Monitoring Committee and Steering Committees, with a particular emphasis on raising awareness on disability issues;
- Involve bodies working in the area of equality at all stages (preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation) of operations, including the provision of advice on equality-related issues;.
- Ensure that project selection criteria will assess projects on equality impact;
- Monitor and evaluate the application of the principle of equality.

8.3 Equality between men and women

Description of the contribution of the cooperation programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at cooperation programme and operation level.

The Programme shall pursue the objective of equality between men and women and take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination during the preparation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation stages of the programme.

Gender equality aims to ensure that men and women enjoy the same rights and opportunities; with equal value and weighting attributed to the different behaviour, aspirations and needs of women and men.

The programme development process has included participation of the relevant bodies responsible for promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, and these bodies have contributed to the development of the programme.

The Managing Authority in partnership with the Monitoring Committee will undertake general self-assessment exercises in relation to gender equality, and may commission specific evaluation studies or structured reflection focusing on the application of gender mainstreaming principles.

The Monitoring Committee and Steering Committee for the programme will be, as far as possible, gender balanced and include an equality expertise/ responsibility function.

Lessons learned from past programmes and the responses to the public consultation have informed the proposed process for incorporating the principle of equality into the programme. The approach taken in the previous programme was considered too heavily weighted towards compliance at the assessment and monitoring stage which has not particularly added value to the overall design and implementation of operations. Therefore, the intention is that the Joint Secretariat will:

- Pursue the objective of equality between men and women and ensure its mainstreaming through the integration of a gender perspective at all stages of the implementation of the funds, including preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Take account of the potential contribution of the programme to gender equality with reference to the specific challenges in the priority investment areas chosen, where relevant;
- Make arrangements for training of relevant staff in the fields of gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming related to the implementation of the funds;
- Monitor and evaluate the application of the principle and have regard to the results of such monitoring and evaluation actions.

These commitments are additional to legal obligations applying under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Employment Equality Act (1998) and the Equal Status Act (2000), as amended by the Equality Act (2004), in Ireland and the Equality Act (2006) in Scotland.

The SEUPB has undertaken an Equality screening of the proposed INTERREG VA Programme.

This screening concluded that there were minor, positive impacts across four of the nine Section 75 grounds (race/ethnic origin; age; disability; dependency). It found that there were neutral impacts on sexual orientation, marital status, men and women generally, political opinion and religious belief, and hence the programme should not be subject to a further EQIA.

The determination of the screening exercise was presented during the Consultation Process for the Programme. Overall, a positive response was received from consultees, with most submissions agreeing with the Section 75 screening process and the decision reached by SEUPB for the INTERREG VA Programme.

The SEUPB is committed to ensuring that all reasonable steps will be taken to facilitate engagement with the programme, including the application process, and will continue to monitor the programme through to full implementation in order to identify and remedy any emerging adverse impacts.

9. SEPERATE ELEMENTS

9.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

Table 23: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification / submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority axes / Investment priorities
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9.2 Performance framework of the cooperation programme

Table 24: Performance framework (summary table)

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
P1 - Research and Innovation	FI1	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	6,596,196.00	71,678,630.00
P2 - Environment	FI2	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	7,795,023.00	84,705,883.00
P3 - Sustainable Transport	FI3	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	4,330,568.00	47,058,824.00
P4 - Health	FI4	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	5,738,003.00	62,352,942.00
P1 - Research and Innovation	IS1.1	Value of letters of offer issued concerning projects intending to increase new researchers in supported entities	Euro	25,000,000	
P2 - Environment	IS2.1	Nature and biodiversity: Amount of the letters of offer issued regarding projects intended to improve conservation status	Euro	4,000,000	
P2 - Environment	IS2.2	Amount of the Letters of Offers issued regarding projects intended to complete marine management plans	Euro	2,000,000	
P2 - Environment	IS2.3	Number of applications received by JS regarding projects intended to improve water quality in shared transitional waters	Number of applications received	2	
P3 - Sustainable Transport	IS3.1	Design/masterplan approved	Plan	1	
P2 - Environment	2.213	Marine management plans for designated protected areas complete	Number of management plans	0	6.00
P2 - Environment	2.311	Sewage network and waste water treatment projects to improve water quality in shared transitional waters	Projects complete	0	2.00
P3 - Sustainable Transport	3.111	Cross-border multimodal public transport hub encompassing cross-border integrated services	Number of multimodal hubs	0	1.00
P4 - Health	4.111	Beneficiaries supported by new cross-border area initiatives for positive health and wellbeing and the prevention of ill health	Number of beneficiaries	2500	15,000.00
P4 - Health	4.119	Patients benefitting from scheduled and unscheduled care streams	Number of patients	2500	15,000.00

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
P4 - Health	4.120	Patients availing of e health interventions to support independent living in caring communities	Number of patients	700	4,500.00
P1 - Research and Innovation	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	0	514.00
P2 - Environment	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	0	4,500.00

9.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme Programme Development Steering Group

1. Border Regional Authority (BRA)
2. Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly (BMW)
3. Community Workers' Co-operative (CWC)
4. Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
5. Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP)
6. Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, Ireland (DJEI)
7. Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, Ireland (DPER)
8. Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
9. Irish Rural Link
10. Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)
11. Office of the First Minister & Deputy of the First Minister (OFMDFM)
12. Rural Community Network
13. Scottish Enterprise
14. Scottish Government
15. Scottish Social partner
16. Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)
17. Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)
18. The Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC)
19. The Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA)

Equality Sub Group

1. Community Workers' Co-operative (CWC)
2. Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP)
3. Equality Authority
4. Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA)
5. Women & Peace building – Developing Shared Learning
6. Women into Public Life

Environment Sub Group

1. ADAS
2. Council for Nature Conservation & Countryside (CNCC)
3. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG)
4. Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP)
5. Scottish Government

Environment Statutory bodies

1. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Ireland
2. Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG), Ireland
3. Directorate for Local Government and Communities, The Scottish Government, Scotland (INTERREG only)
4. Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Northern Ireland
5. Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland

Respondents to 2012 consultation

1. Agryll&Bute Council
2. Alliance Party
3. Ards Borough Council
4. Armagh City & District Council
5. Ballymena Borough Council
6. Banbridge District Council
7. Belfast City Council
8. Carlingford Marine Enterprises LTD.
9. Carrickfergus Borough Council
10. Castlereagh Borough Council
11. Cavan County Council
12. Cavan County Enterprise Board & Cavan Innovation Technology Centre
13. Central Procurement Directorate (CPD)
14. Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy QUB
15. Centre for Rural Health, University of Aberdeen
16. CeolteoirLuraigh
17. CisteInfheistiochtaGaeilge
18. CisteInfheistiochtaGaeilge
19. Clann Credo
20. Clinton Centre
21. Coleraine Borough Council
22. Comhairle nan EileanSiar
23. Community Relations Councils (CRC)
24. ConradhnaGaeilge
25. Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT)
26. Cooperation Ireland
27. Councils of the Metropolitan Area (COMET)
28. Craigavon Borough Council
29. Cross border Groups
30. Cross-border Group Officers
31. Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)
32. Department for Employment and Learning (DEL)
33. Department for Regional Development (DRD)
34. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
35. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)

36. Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL)
37. Department of Education (DENI)
38. Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)
39. Department of Environment (DOE)
40. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFA)
41. Department of Health
42. Department of Health and Children
43. Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)
44. Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (DJEI)
45. Department of Justice
46. Department of the Taoiseach
47. Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTS)
48. Derry City Council & Derry-Londonderry Strategy Board
49. Derry City Council Sports Development
50. Donegal Community Workers Cooperative
51. Donegal County Council
52. Down District Council
53. Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT)
54. Dundalk Town Council
55. Dungannon&South Tyrone Borough Council
56. East Border Region
57. Equality Commission
58. ERNACT EEIG
59. Fermanagh District Council
60. Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
61. Glen Dimplex
62. Groundwork NI
63. Health and Social Care (HSC)
64. Health Research Board
65. International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)
66. Intertrade Ireland
67. Invest NI
68. Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)
69. Irish Exporters Association
70. Leitrim County Council
71. Letterkenny Hospital
72. Lifelong Learning/Widening Access
73. Limavady Borough Council
74. Louth County Council
75. Maritime & Coastguard Agency
76. Monaghan County Council
77. Netwell Centre
78. Newry & Mourne District Council
79. NI Water
80. North Ayrshire Council
81. North East Partnership
82. North West Region Cross border Group
83. Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group
84. Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
85. Northern Ireland Environment Link
86. Northern Ireland Rural Development Council
87. Ogras
88. Omagh District Council
89. Optimum

90. Pobal
91. POBAL
92. Queens University Belfast
93. Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (RUAS)
94. SAILWEST Scottish Partners
95. Scotland Europa
96. Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
97. Scottish Government
98. Sinn Fein
99. Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)
100. South Ayrshire Council
101. Springboard Opportunities Ltd
102. Strabane District Council
103. Stranmillis College Belfast
104. The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)
105. The County Enterprise Boards
106. The Highland Council
107. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)
108. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Northern Ireland (RSPB)
109. Ulster Unionist Party
110. Ulster Wildlife Trust
111. University of the Highlands & Islands
112. University of Ulster
113. VisitScotland
114. West of Scotland Colleges Partnership
115. West of Scotland European Forum
116. Young Enterprise Northern Ireland (YENI)

Respondent to Consultation 2014

1. Active Communities Network
2. Agroterritori Fundació Privada
3. An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge
4. An Eochair Ex Prisoners Group
5. An Gaeláras
6. Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council
7. Ardoyne Youth Club
8. Argyll and Bute Council
9. Armagh City and District Council, Banbridge District Council & Craigavon Borough Council
10. Arts Council Northern Ireland
11. Arts Ekta
12. Ballinamore Drama Festival
13. Ballymena Borough Council
14. BMW Regional Assembly
15. Bogside and Brandywell Initiative
16. Bord Gáis Networks
17. Border Office
18. Building Relationships in Communities (BRIC)
19. C/O DRS, Glasgow City Council
20. Cairde Strabane Republican Ex-prisoners Group

21. Camlough Community Association
22. Carrickfergus Borough Council
23. Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
24. Cavan Community Forum Public Participation Network – CPPN
25. Cavan County Council and Cavan Local Enterprise Office
26. Cavan Peace Partnership
27. CAWT
28. Centre for Connected Health & Social Care
29. Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS)
30. Charter for NI
31. Child and Family Agency
32. Children in Northern Ireland
33. Clann Naofa Boxing Academy
34. Clinton International Summer School Queen's University Belfast Northern Ireland
35. Clones Failte
36. Coillte Forest
37. Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatarsaidh (Barra & Vatersay Community) Ltd
38. Coiste Forbartha Charn Tóchair
39. Coiste na nIarchimí
40. Coleraine Borough Council
41. Colleges Northern Ireland
42. COMET Interreg Partnership
43. Commission for Victims and Survivors
44. Community Change
45. Community Restorative Justice Newry/Armagh
46. Conradh na Gaeilge
47. Cooley Environmental and Health Group
48. Co-operation Ireland
49. Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership
50. Cross Border Emergency Management Working Group
51. Cunamh
52. DARD
53. DBE – DEME Blue Energy NV
54. Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)
55. Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources
56. Department of Education NI
57. Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment
58. Department of Rural Development
59. Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government
60. Department of Transport Tourism and Sport
61. Derry CC PEACE III Partnership
62. Derry City and Strabane Council
63. Derry Health Cities
64. Destined Ltd
65. Disability Federation of Ireland
66. Diverse City Community Partnership
67. Donegal Community Workers Cooperative
68. Donegal County Council
69. Donegal ETB
70. Donegal PEACE III Partnership
71. Donegal Youth Service
72. Dosage Adjustment for Normal Eating (DAFNE)
73. Dove House Community Trust/Dove House Advice Services
74. Down District Council

75. DP Energy
76. Drumshanbo Skate Park Committee
77. Dundalk Institute of Technology
78. E and I Engineering Ltd
79. Early Years
80. East Border Region Biodiversity Working Group
81. East Border Region Ltd
82. Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation
83. Éirí na Gréine
84. Employers for Childcare
85. Energy & Climate Change Directorate, Scottish Government
86. Enterprise Northern Ireland
87. Environment and Marine Group (DOE)
88. ERNACT EEIG
89. Ex-Prisoners Interpretive Centre (EPIC)
90. Failte Abhaile
91. Fair Head Tidal Energy Park Ltd
92. Farney Community Development Group Ltd
93. Fermanagh District Council
94. Fermanagh Trust
95. Foras na Gaeilge
96. Forestry Commission Scotland
97. Forthspring InterCommunity Group
98. Geographical Survey Northern Ireland
99. Glen Dimplex
100. Grow It Yourself
101. Habitat for Humanity NI
102. Hands of History Program
103. Healthy Living Services Alliance
104. HSE Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan Primary, Community and Continuing Care
105. Iarchimí Ard Mhacha Theas Iarchimí Ard Mhacha Theas
106. IBIS, c/o Loughs Agency
107. ICBAN
108. Ilex
109. Include Youth
110. Inishowen Basking Shark Study Group
111. Inishowen Development Partnership
112. Integrated Education Fund
113. International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)
114. International School for Peace Studies Ltd
115. Into the West
116. Ionad Uíbh Eachach (Iveagh Centre)
117. Irish Football Association
118. Irish Rugby Football Union, Ulster Branch
119. Irish Water
120. Junior Achievement Ireland
121. La Nua
122. Leafair Community Association Derry
123. Leitrim County Council
124. Leitrim Integrated Development Company
125. Lifestart Foundation
126. Lisburn Peoples Support Project
127. Lisburn PSP
128. Lisburn-Castlereagh PEACE III Partnership

129. Lisnafin/Ardnalee/Trust Cross-Community Development Association
130. Loughs Agency of the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission
131. Louth County Council
132. Maiden of the Mourne Festival
133. Marble Arch Caves Geopark
134. Marine Tourism and Angling Development Partnership
135. Meath County Council
136. Melmount East Bank Estates Community Associations Forum
137. Mid and East Antrim District Council
138. Mid Ulster District Council
139. Monaghan County Council
140. Monaghan PEACE III Partnership
141. Moyle District Council
142. Muirhevnemor Community Council
143. Narrow Water Bridge Action Group
144. National Parks and Wildlife Service (DAHG)
145. National Trails Office
146. National Trust
147. Network Ireland
148. Newry & Mourne and Down District Councils
149. Newry Rainbow Community
150. NI Rural Development Council
151. NIACRO
152. NIAMH
153. NICRC
154. NICVA
155. NILGA
156. North Ayrshire Council
157. North Belfast Interface Network
158. North Down and Ards District Council
159. North Down Borough Council
160. North Down PEACE III Partnership
161. North Point Aviation Services
162. North West Community Network
163. North West Partnership
164. North West Simon Community & Donegal Homeless Action Team
165. Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Education
166. Northern Ireland Childrens Enterprise
167. Northern Ireland Environment Link
168. Northern Ireland Science Park
169. Northern Ireland Youth Forum
170. NWRCBG
171. Oaklee Trinity Ltd
172. Omagh District Council
173. Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
174. Omeath District Development Company LTD and Cooley Peninsula Tourist Office
175. Pat Finucane Centre
176. Play Board
177. POBAL
178. Regional Public Health Agency for Northern Ireland
179. Relatives for Justice
180. River and Fisheries Trust of Scotland (RAFTS)
181. RNIB
182. Rural Community Network

183. School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD
184. School of Biological Sciences, Queens University
185. School of Biological Sciences, Queens University
186. School Of Education, University of Ulster
187. Scottish Agricultural College
188. Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment
189. Scottish Environment Protection Agency
190. SDLP
191. SERC
192. Silverbridge Boxing Club
193. Sinn Fein
194. Sligo Family Resource Centre
195. Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Committee
196. Smart ECO Hub Louth
197. Smart Grid Ireland
198. Smart Region
199. South Antrim Community Network
200. South Ayrshire Council
201. South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF)
202. South West College
203. Southern Education and Library Board
204. Sport Changes Life
205. SSE plc
206. Start 360
207. Strabane District Council
208. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
209. SW Cluster PEACE III Partnership
210. Tar Abhaile
211. Tar Anall
212. Tar Isteach
213. The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
214. The CAN PEACE III Partnership
215. The Carers Association Sligo
216. The Carers Trust
217. The Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE) and the QUESTOR Centre
218. The Committee for Regional Development NI Assembly
219. The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
220. The Geological Society, Northern Ireland Regional Group
221. The Highland Council
222. The Mummings Foundation
223. The Neighbourhood Renewal Area Partnerships
224. The Nerve Centre
225. The Queen's University Belfast & The University of Ulster
226. The Resurgam Community Development Trust
227. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
228. The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
229. The Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway
230. Tides Training
231. Triax Neighbourhood Partnership Board
232. Tus Nua
233. TWN
234. Ulster Farmers Union
235. Ulster GAA
236. Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

237. Ulster Wildlife
238. University of the Highlands and Lowlands
239. University of Ulster
240. Verbal Arts Centre Derry
241. Voluntary Action Lochaber
242. Warrenpoint Burren Rostrevor Chamber of Commerce
243. Warrenpoint Heritage Development Committee
244. Waterways Ireland
245. Wave Trauma Centre
246. West of Scotland Colleges' Partnership
247. WorkForUPlus
248. Youth Council for Northern Ireland
249. Youth Initiatives
250. Youthlink NI
251. Youthnet

9.4 Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Request to PMC for approval for a one stage process.	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	09-Aug-2018		Ares(2018)5535335	PMC Approval Request	29-Oct-2018	ncormita

Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Annex 3 - Final Environmental Report for INTERREG VA Programme	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.2	22-Sep-2014		Ares(2015)342807	Annex 3 - Final Environmental Report for INTERREG VA Programme	28-Jan-2015	ntmps joh
Annex 6 - Map Indicating the Eligible Area for INTERREG VA Programme	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	1.2	19-Sep-2014		Ares(2015)342807	Annex 6 - Map Indicating the Eligible Area for INTERREG VA Programme	28-Jan-2015	ntmps joh
Request to PMC for approval for a one stage process.	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	3.1	09-Aug-2018		Ares(2018)5535335	PMC Approval Request	29-Oct-2018	ncormita
Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16RFCB047 3.1	Snapshot of data before send	3.1	29-Oct-2018		Ares(2018)5535335	Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16RFCB047 3.1 en	29-Oct-2018	ncormita

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Programme version has been validated.