

INTERREG IVA FINAL REPORT

1. Identification

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Cross-border Programme for Territorial Co-operation
	Northern Ireland, Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland
	2007-2013
	Programme number CCI 2007CB163PO047
	INTERREG IVA
FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	Reporting Period - 2007-2013
	Date of approval of the annual report by the monitoring committee

Contents

INTERREG IVA FINAL REPORT	1
1. Identification.....	1
Details of the Report.....	4
Background	4
Content of the Final Implementation Report	9
Monitoring Committee Approval.....	9
2. Overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme.....	10
2.1 Achievement and analysis of the progress	10
• Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme	11
• Financial Information	17
• Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds	21
• Assistance by target groups	22
• Assistance repaid or re-used.....	22
• Qualitative analysis	22
2.2 Information about compliance with Community law	27
2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	27
2.4 Changes in the context of the operational programme implementation (if relevant).....	27
2.5 Substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (if relevant) ..	39
2.6 Complementarity with other instruments.....	39
2.7 Monitoring arrangements.....	40
3. Implementation by priority	44
3.1 Priority 1 Co-operation for a more prosperous cross border region.....	44
3.1.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress.....	44
• Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority	44
• Qualitative analysis	62
3.1.2 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	67
3.2 Priority 2 Co-operation for a sustainable Programme region	69
3.2.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress.....	69
• Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority	70
• Qualitative analysis	86
3.2.2 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	92
3.2 Priority 3 Technical Assistance.....	93
3.3.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress.....	93

• Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority	93
• Qualitative analysis	94
3.3.2 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	95
4. ERDF/CF programmes: major projects (if applicable)	96
5. Technical Assistance	97
6. Information and publicity	99
• Major Information Activity / Significant Project Launches	103
• Publications	110
• Indicators, including in the form of tables as provided for in Chapter 3 of this Annex.....	115

DRAFT

1.1 Details of the Report

This is the Final Implementation Report of the EU Programme for Cross-Border Territorial Co-operation (INTERREG IVA) in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland (2007-2013). Article 67 of EU Regulation 1083/2006 requires the Managing Authority to submit a Final Report on implementation by 31 March 2017. This report relates to the programming period 2007-2013 with implementation up to 2015. It has been prepared by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) as Managing Authority for the Programme.

1.2 Background

The creation of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) as one of the six North/South implementation bodies under the British-Irish Agreement of 1999 is of particular relevance to this Programme. In the context of EU Programmes and this Operational Programme in particular, the Special EU Programmes Body had a central role; it was the Managing Authority for the INTERREG IV Programme 2007-2013, as well as the PEACE III Programme 2007-2013.

In carrying out the functions of the Managing Authority, the SEUPB worked in close liaison with the relevant government departments, which were accountable for expenditure. The Managing Authority, in close consultation and agreement with the Member States, also established the management arrangements for the Programme taking into account the advice of the Programme Monitoring Committee.

In accordance with Article 60 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Article 15 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1080/2006 the SEUPB in its capacity as Managing Authority, amongst other functions, ensured that operations were selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the Programme and that they complied with applicable Community and National rules for the entirety of their implementation period, whilst ensuring that the Certifying Authority received all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification.

The SEUPB was the designated Certifying Authority for the Programme. To ensure adequate separation of responsibilities, the functions of Certifying Authority were carried out by the Director of Corporate Services and were functionally independent of the staff of the Managing Authority.

In accordance with Article 61 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Article 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 the SEUPB, in its capacity as Certifying Authority, prepared and submitted to the Commission certified statements of expenditure and applications for payment. Further information on drawdowns to the Commission are presented in the Financial Information section further in the report.

The SEUPB were the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) for the Programme as defined by Article 14 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1080/2006. The JTS assisted the Managing Authority and Monitoring Committee in carrying out their functions. Key roles of the JTS included assessing project proposals for consideration by the relevant Steering Committee and issuing contracts of funding to successful project applicants. The Financial Control Unit within the JTS had responsibility for administrative verification of each claim, as well as On the Spot Verifications. The FCU Financial Controller acted as defined in Article 16 of Council Regulation (EU) 1080/2006, carrying out this function throughout the eligible area.

In accordance with Article 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006, the Internal Auditor of the SEUPB was the audit authority for the Programme. The Internal Auditor remained functionally independent from the SEUPB. The Internal Auditor reported to an Audit Committee, which included an independent chair and independent member. The Internal Audit functions were provided by Internal Audit, Department of Finance and Personnel for Northern Ireland, and this relationship was governed by a Service Level Agreement. The Service Level Agreement was amended to incorporate the functions of the Audit Authority as detailed in Article 62 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. The Audit Authority provided the opinion of adequacy of controls as outlined in Article 71 (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

The INTERREG IV Programme was a European Union supported Structural Funds Programme which aimed to promote greater territorial cohesion. The overall theme of the Programme was to strengthen and deepen cross border co-operation with an emphasis on supporting strategic plans and projects which would maximise the impact of the funds throughout the eligible area. Building on the successes and lessons of previous INTERREG Programmes, the INTERREG IV Programme aimed to support strategic Programme co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region. In particular, the Programme focused on developing a dynamic economy, supporting infrastructure and promoting innovative ways of addressing specific regional problems.

Previous INTERREG Programmes operated on a Northern Ireland/Ireland cross- border basis. Following a re-definition of maritime borders by the European Union, a distinctive aspect of this Programme was the inclusion of Western Scotland, and the opportunity to promote co-operation between Scotland/Ireland/Northern Ireland, as well as maintaining and enhancing the Northern Ireland/Ireland co-operation. The inclusion of Scotland for the first time added a new and innovative aspect, providing an opportunity to develop the traditional cultural, economic and social links between Ireland/Scotland/Northern Ireland and build on the experiences, knowledge and competencies of the three areas.

As with other regions of Europe where borders exist, Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland share a number of common problems and opportunities where the development problems are compounded by geographical isolation from major cities and markets. The existing land and maritime borders have, in some respects, exacerbated the economic, social and

environmental problems. Some of these problems are also more difficult to resolve due to the existence of borders. Furthermore, the conflict in Northern Ireland and the associated political problems particular to the region have, in the past, severely restricted co-operation and the development of border areas.

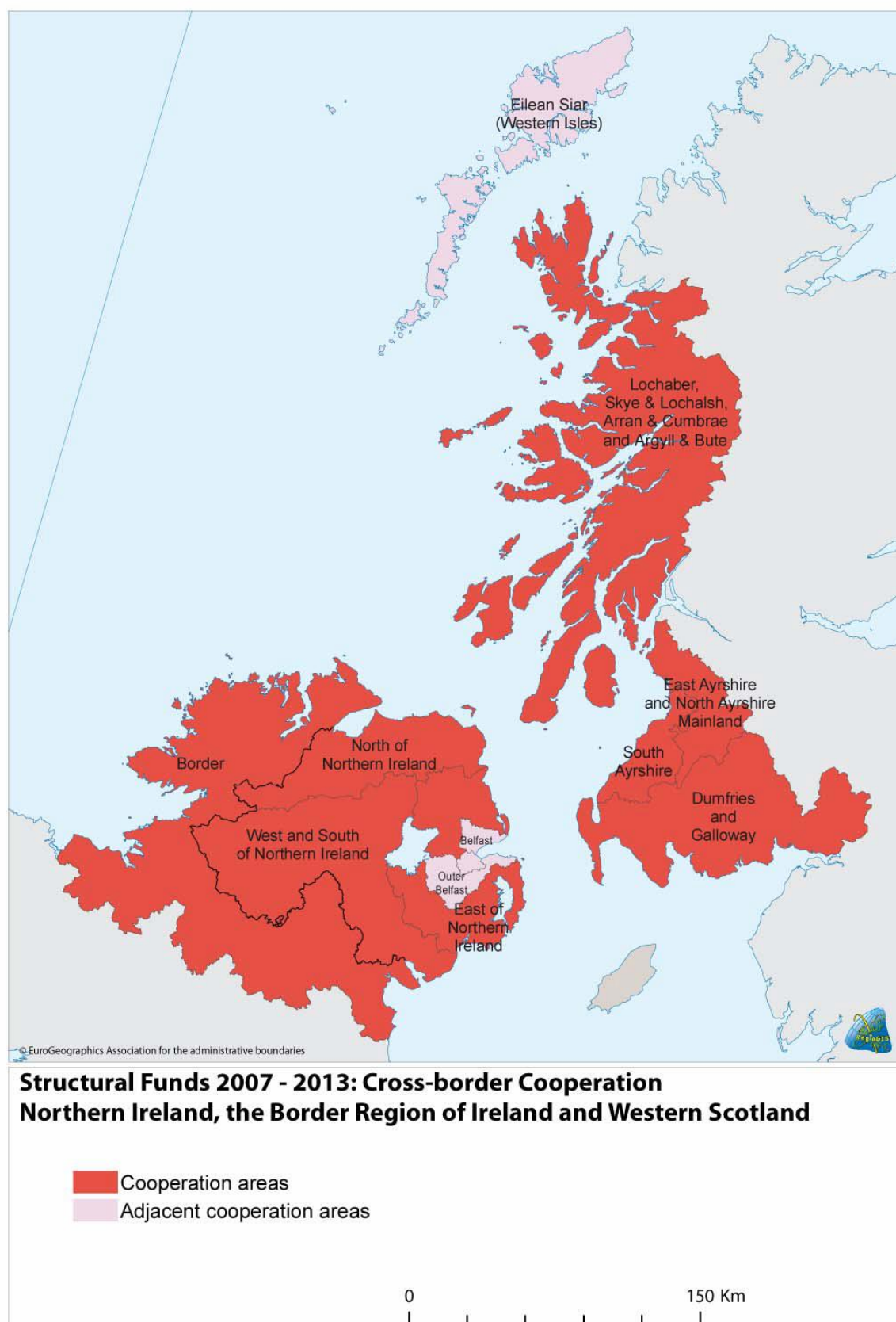
The INTERREG Programme 2007-2013 consisted of the following eligible areas (See Figure 1.1):

Northern Ireland – North of Northern Ireland; East of Northern Ireland; West and South of Northern Ireland;

Border Region of Ireland – the Border consists of the six necklace counties along the border with Northern Ireland, i.e. Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo;

Western Scotland – Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, and South Ayrshire.

Figure 1.1 – Map of the Eligible Area for INTERREG IVA of Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland



The overall aim of the Programme translated into two specific aims at Priority level:

- Priority 1; Co-operation for a more prosperous cross-border region and;
- Priority 2; Co-operation for a sustainable cross-border region.

Priority 1: Co-operation for a more prosperous cross-border region

Priority 1 focused on two key areas;

- Enterprise; and
- Tourism.

This Priority aimed to diversify and develop the economy of the eligible region by encouraging innovation and competitiveness in enterprise and business development, and promoting tourism.

Priority 2: Co-operation for a more sustainable cross-border region

Priority 2 focused on two key areas:

- Collaboration; and
- Infrastructure.

This Priority aimed to improve access to services so as to improve the quality of life for those living in the eligible area.

1.3 Content of the Final Implementation Report

This Final Report on the implementation of the EU Programme for Cross-Border Territorial Co-operation (INTERREG IVA) in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland (2007-2013) analyses the progress made in implementing the programme across the programming period 2007-2013.

In accordance with the requirement of Article 12 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006, this report sets out the implementing provisions for the Programme. The following areas are considered:

- Implementation of the Operational Programme;
- Financial information;
- Monitoring arrangements;
- Implementation by Priority;
- Information and Publicity

During 2013, the Managing Authority with Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), conducted a comprehensive review of all indicators. As a result of this review, the Managing Authority sought approval from the programme monitoring committee in 2014 to amend operational programme targets and indicators. These revised targets and indicators were approved by the Monitoring Committee and are presented in this report.

1.4 Monitoring Committee Approval

In accordance with Article 65 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the INTERREG IVA Monitoring Committee approved this report on **[date]**.

2. Overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme

2.1 Achievement and analysis of the progress

The INTERREG IVA Programme successfully delivered 85 projects across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. Projects were funded under the following themes; Enterprise; Tourism; Collaboration and Infrastructure.

SMEs and micro enterprises were supported through a range of initiatives implemented by local authorities, enterprises agencies and universities. There was strong focus on developing new products and services, establishing cross border networks, and promoting cross border trade. A landmark investment was the new science park in the North West, which is actively supporting new high tech job in Derry/Londonderry and Letterkenny.

The programme invested heavily in the tourism products of the region, especially those based on the natural resources that are shared between the jurisdictions. Investments included: improved access to the cliffs at the Gobbins in Co Antrim and Sliabh Liag in County Donegal; restoration of light houses to boost tourism around the coastline of the region; marine tourism; development of a geo-park in the Mourne and Cooley Mountains; improved visitor experiences in the Cavan and Fermanagh Border Uplands.

The Programme supported increased public sector collaboration between agencies in different jurisdictions. Particularly notable was the investments in cross border health care; improved management of the natural environment; rural development and; increased collaboration between local authorities in the planning and delivery of services.

Project Kelvin was a major flagship project for the Programme, which funded a new undersea cable, and significantly improved data transmission speeds to the region, and put in place essential infrastructure to support the growing digital economy on the island of Ireland. There was also significant investment in the road and rail infrastructure to improve cross border mobility; with further investment in the improvement of ferry services for remote and island communities in Scotland. Major regional studies were funded in sustainable energy and the further integration of storage and transmission system in the region.

• Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme

By way of summary:

- **348** applications were submitted to the Programme;
- **88** Letters of Offer were accepted (including Technical Assistance) at a combined value of **€251,751,784** (€188,813,838 ERDF & €62,937,946 Match);
- Cumulative expenditure to the end of the programme was **€249,445,023** (€187,083,767 ERDF & €62,361,256 Match);
- Total expenditure claims submitted to the Commission versus Programme budget equals 102%.

The following table shows the list of approved projects funded under INTERREG IVA, excluding Technical Assistance.

Table 2.1.1 - INTERREG IVA Approved Projects

Theme/ Strand (No. of Projects)	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.1	ENTERPRISE – 16 Projects	
000200	IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council	IBEC-CBI JBC Programme 2007 to 2010
000205	Northern Regional College	K.I.T.E Knowledge and Innovation Transfer in Engineering
000214	Dundalk Institute of Technology	Innovation for Competitiveness Enterprises (ICE) Project
000215	University of Ulster	Success through Succession
000228	Enterprise Northern Ireland	Tradelinks 2
000456	North West Regional College	The Innovation Factory
006840	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Higher Attainment through Cross Border Hubs (HATCH)
007250	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Innovation Enterprise Initiative
007255	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Development of Workspace at Enniskillen Airport
007265	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Centres of Excellence in Traded Services
007271	North East Partnership	Innovation & Growth
018945	University of Ulster	Honeycomb - Creative Works Programme
021728	Irish Exporters Association Ltd	Food and Drink Channel Partner Development
028641	Enterprise Northern Ireland	Tradelinks 2 Continuance
029185	Dundalk Institute of Technology	VITAL Project
036237	South West College	Centre for Rural Enterprise and Sustainable Technology (CREST)

Theme/ Strand (No. of Projects)	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.2	TOURISM – 5 Projects	
000475	Loughs Agency	Marine Tourism & Angling Development
000476	Donegal County Council	Sail West
007170	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Border Uplands
007177	North East Partnership	The Gobbins & Sliabh Liag
036241	Commissioners of Irish Lights	All-Island Lighthouse Trail
2.1	COLLABORATION – 47 Projects	
000461	DHSSPS/DoHC (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety/Department of Health and Children)	INTERREG IV Putting Patients First
003998	North East Partnership	Regeneration in Villages & Emergency Rescue (RIVER Project)
005200	University College Dublin, School of Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine	Social Farming Across Borders
005236	Donegal County Council	River Links
005415	Newry & Mourne District Council	CASA Rural Investment Initiative
006272	Cavan County Enterprise Board	Harnessing of Natural Resources
006274	Monaghan County Council	Clones Erne East Blackwater Rural Regeneration
000558	Donegal County Council	Women into Public Life
000607	Centre for Cross Border Studies	The Ireland/ Northern Ireland Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory
000641	DHSSPS (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety)	Driving Change
000693	RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) Northern Ireland	Sensory Engagement Project
000843	The Cedar Foundation	ConneXions
000905	Caldonian Maritime Assets Ltd	Small Ferries Strategic Plan
000932	South West College	Deaf Communications Infrastructure Development
006787	East Border Region	Management & Implementation of the MAP
006790	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Management & Implementation of the MAP
006792	North West Region Cross Border Group	Management and Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan
006793	COMET	Management and Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan
006794	North East Partnership	Management & Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan
006859	North East Partnership (NEP) Business Improvement Districts	NEP Business Improvement Districts

Theme/ Strand (No. of Projects)	Lead Partner	Project Name
007128	East Border Region Ltd	Action For Biodiversity
007129	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Central Border Region Spatial Planning Initiative
007130	East Border Region Ltd	Energy Efficiency & Micro Generation Project
007131	East Border Region Ltd	East Border Region "Promoting Balanced and Sustainable Cross Border Development"
007184	North West Region Cross Border Group	Urban and Village Renewal Programme
007186	North West Region Cross Border Group	SPACEial North West
035986	Sabhal Mòr Ostaig	ConnectG
035994	Centre for Cross Border Studies	The Ireland/ Northern Ireland Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory-2
036371	Action Mental Health	SALUS
036494	North West Region Cross Border Group	NW Healthy Living & Community Gardens/Allotments Project
047839	North East Partnership	Management and Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan
047995	East Border Region Limited	Management and Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan 2013 - 2015
019329	North West Region Cross Border Group	North West Construction Network Programme
019330	North West Region Cross Border Group	The Renewable Energy Network(REN-NET)
019389	East Border Region Ltd	The Life Sciences Supply Chain Clustering Project
019391	East Border Region Ltd	STEM II
019401	East Border Region Ltd	EBR Plato Programme 2011-2013
019403	East Border Region Ltd	Smart Eco Hub
021241	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Harnessing Creativity
021252	East Border Region Ltd	Innovation, Opportunity, Training and Advice Programme (iOTA)
029204	COMET Partnership	Gateways to Growth: Supply Buy Network
029205	COMET Partnership	Business Boot Camp
030681	East Border Region Ltd	ASPIRE
031740	North West Region Cross Border Group	North West Regional Science Park
007221	North West Region Cross Border Group	Inch Levels - Lough Foyle Wildlife Programme
007244	East Border Region Ltd	Eco - Geo Tourism
007245	East Border Region Ltd	EBR Tourism Development Plan
2.2	INFRASTRUCTURE – 17 Projects	
002859	Loughs Agency/SCENE, University of	Integrated Aquatic Resources Management

Theme/ Strand (No. of Projects)	Lead Partner	Project Name
	Glasgow/C-MAR, Queen's University Belfast	Between Ireland, NI and Scotland (IBIS Project)
002862	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute	Development of targeted ecological modelling tools for lake management
002866	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (NI)	Halting Environmental Loss Project (HELP)
002991	Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute	Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling
003126	Queen's University Belfast	Controlling invasive riparian plants and restoring native biodiversity
003603	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland	Tellus Border
003677	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland Hydrographic Survey Project
003705	Donegal County Council	Practical Implementation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel measures
000375	Scottish Association Marine Science	BioMara- Sustainable Fuels from Marine Biomass
000679	Energy & Telecommunications Division, The Scottish Government	Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study
036347	University of Ulster	Storage Platform for the Integration of Renewable Energy (SPIRE)
036442	Scottish Government	ISLES 2 - Towards Implementation
018928	DRD Roads Service	Cross Border Regional Infrastructure Development Schemes (CBRIDS)
036064	Department for Regional Development	Redevelopment of Portadown Railway Station
050643	Northern Ireland Railways	Enterprise Phase 3 Overhaul Programme
050661	Iarnród Éireann	Drogheda Viaduct Refurbishment
000346	DETI (NI) (Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment) and DCENR (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)	Project Kelvin

Core Indicators

In determining the nature of projects, the Programme drew on guidance provided in Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 which set out arrangements to constitute programme co-operation. The Regulation acknowledges that activities can be identified as Programme-relevant if they involve co-operation in at least two of the following four elements:

- Joint development;
- Joint implementation;
- Joint staffing; and
- Joint financing.

To report achievements against these, the Programme adopted core indicators which are listed in the table below. While the Programme period began in 2007, records of the impact on the core indicators were realised and recorded at a later date, from 2012. However the figures are cumulative and are therefore representative of the programme period. The figures indicate a very high level of cross border cooperation, with 72 projects (82%) showing cooperation with the four areas, with the remaining projects operating in 3 aspects of cooperation.

Table 2.1.2: Core Indicators

Indicator Code*	Indicator		2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
Degree of Co-operation							
42	two of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0
		Target	0	0	0	0	0
43	three of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	Achievement	11	2	0	0	13
		Target					15
44	four of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	Achievement	59	6	7	0	72
		Target					70
Cross-Border Co-operation							
45	Encouraging development of cross-border trade	Achievement	12	3	1	0	16
		Target					15
47	Developing collaboration in the field of public services	Achievement	41	3	3	0	47
		Target					45
46	Developing joint	Achievement		2	15	0	17

	use of infrastructure	Target				15
48	Of which: reducing isolation through improved access to transport, ICT networks and services	Achievement	2	3	0	5
		Target				5
49	Of which: encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of the environment	Achievement	0	12	0	12
		Target				10

• Financial Information

Following the EU budget agreement of December 2005 on the Financial Perspectives 2007–2013 and considerations by the UK and Irish authorities, the INTERREG IV Programme in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland was allocated a budget of €192m ERDF.

The tables which follow provide a breakdown of ERDF and Regional contributions to the Programme and the allocation, commitment and expenditure per Priority and Theme (ERDF only). A breakdown of Expenditure and Payments from the Commission has been provided in Table 2.1.6.

Table 2.1.3: Summary of Financial Provisions for the INTERREG IVA Programme

Priority	Fund	Total Eligible Cost (€)	ERDF (€)	Regional (€)	Intervention Rate
1	ERDF	57,149,012	42,861,759	14,287,253	0.750000000
2	ERDF	188,560,789	141,420,592	47,140,197	0.750000000
3	ERDF	10,320,021	7,740,015	2,580,006	0.750000000
Total	ERDF	256,029,822	192,022,366	64,007,456	0.750000000

Table 2.1.4: Summary of Financial Position (ERDF only)

Theme	Total Budget Allocation (€) <u>ERDF only</u>	Total Committed (€) <u>ERDF only</u>	Total Expenditure (€) <u>ERDF only</u>
1.1 Enterprise	25,692,139	25,734,204	24,755,052
1.2 Tourism	17,169,620	16,369,527	16,369,527
Priority 1 Total	42,861,759	42,103,731	41,124,579
2.1 Collaboration	71,257,327	72,102,993	71,756,317
2.2 Infrastructure	70,163,265	74,607,113	74,202,872
Priority 2 Total	141,420,592	146,710,106	145,959,189
Sub Total	184,282,351	188,813,837	187,083,768
3.1 Technical Assistance	7,740,016	8,228,280	7,855,944
Total funding amount	192,022,367	197,042,117	194,939,712

Table 2.1.5 below provides a detailed overview of the financial position of the programme. Commitment figures include all projects with status *LoO Accepted*, i.e. *fully approved with contracts issues and accepted*, and *Completed*.

Table 2.1.5: Summary of Financial Position (ERDF & Match)

Theme	Allocation (€)	Number of projects	Total Committed ¹ (€) ERDF + National Match	Total Expenditure (€) ERDF + National Match	% Committed	% Expenditure vs Allocation
1.1 Enterprise	34,256,185	16	34,312,272	33,006,736	100%	96%
1.2 Tourism	22,892,827	5	21,826,035	21,826,035	95%	95%
Priority 1 Total	57,149,012	21	56,138,307	54,832,771	96%	96%
2.1 Collaboration	95,009,770	47	96,137,325	95,675,089	101%	101%
2.2 Infrastructure	93,551,019	17	99,476,151	98,937,163	106%	106%
Priority 2 Total	188,560,789	64	195,613,476	194,612,253	104%	103%
Sub Total	245,709,801	85	251,751,783	249,445,024	102%	102%
3.1 Technical Assistance	10,320,021	3	10,971,040	10,474,591	106%	101%
Total	256,029,822	88	262,722,823	259,919,614	103%	102%

¹ Reported as total commitment (75% ERDF + 25% National Match)

Table 2.1.6: Priority axis by source of Funding (EUR)

Financial Information

	Total funding of the operational programme (Union and national)	Basis for calculating Union contribution (Public or Total Cost)	Total amount of certified eligible expenditure paid by beneficiaries	Corresponding public contribution	Implementation rate in %
Priority Axis 1					
Specify the fund			0.00		
	57,149,012	0.00	54,744,694.44	54,744,694.44	95.79%
— of which ESF type expenditure					
— of which ERDF type expenditure					
— Expenditure for regions not receiving transitional support					
— Expenditure for regions receiving transitional support		0.00	0.00	0.00	
	57,149,012	0.00	54,744,694.44	54,744,694.44	95.79%
Priority axis 2					
Specify the Fund					
— of which ESF type expenditure					
— of which ERDF type expenditure					
— Expenditure for regions not receiving transitional support					
— Expenditure for regions receiving transitional support					
	188,560,789	0.00	194,405,629.87	194,405,329.87	103.1%
		0.00	0.00	0.00	

	188,560,789	0.00	194,405,329.87	194,405.329.87	103.1%
Priority axis 3					
Specify the Fund					
— of which ESF type expenditure					
— of which ERDF type expenditure					
- Expenditure for regions not receiving transitional support					
- Expenditure for regions receiving transitional support	10,320,021	0.00	10,474,591.46	10,474,591.46	101.5%
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	10,320,021	0.00	10,474,591.46	10,474,591.46	101.5%
Grand Total	256,029,822	0.00	259,624,615.77	259,624,615.77	

The actual exchange rate at the time of payment has been used where applicable. Exchange rates are subject to fluctuations.

Total advances received equal €14,401,677.35 which can be broken down as follows:

- €3,840,447.32 (2% of ERDF) received on 30 November 2007
- €5,760,670.98 (3% of ERDF) received on 2 July 2008
- €4,800,559.15 (2.5% of ERDF) received on 21 April 2009

Claims made to the Commission up to 31 March 2016

Claims totalling €168,019,570.25 were received for the period up to 31st March 2016. Of these claims, €23,897,960.80 of payments relate to 2014, and were paid in early 2015. During 2015, 6 claims were submitted to the Commission totalling €18,970,392.01 (ERDF) with €16,152,501.56 (ERDF) received in payments by the end of December 2015. A further payment totalling €336,635.75 was received in early 2016.

During 2016, 4 claims were submitted to the Commission totalling €24,438,885.91. The EU Commission retains 5% of the Programme value until successful closure of the Programme. The Claim for €2,817,890.44 on 17/11/15 reached this limit, and therefore it was only partially paid

(€336,635.75). The remainder of this and all subsequent claims submitted in 2016 will be paid by the Commission after successful closure of the Programme.

Table 2.1.7: Claims and payments made to the Commission up to 31 March 2016 (ERDF only)

Date of Claim	Amount Claimed €	Paid €	Date Paid	Outstanding €
To end August 2015	€167,682,934.50	€167,682,934.50		€0.00
17/11/2015	€2,817,890.44	€336,635.75	15/03/2016	€2,481,254.69
22/01/2016	€11,322,576.79	€0.00	Not Paid	€11,322,576.79
11/03/2016	€7,004,805.42	€0.00	Not Paid	€7,004,805.42
25/03/2016	€3,618,915.48	€0.00	Not Paid	€3,618,915.48
31/03/2016	€2,492,588.22	€0.00	Not Paid	€2,492,588.22
FINAL CLAIM	-€221,268.38		Not Paid	-€221,268.38
Totals	€194,718,422.47	€168,019,570.25		€26,698,872.22

• Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds

Commission Reference No. **CCI 2007CB163PO047**

Name of the Programme: EU Programme for Cross Border Territorial Co-operation (INTERREG IVA)
2007-2013 - Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland

Date of the last Commission decision for the Operational Programme concerned: **25/03/2015**

Combination of codes of dimension 1 to 5						Amount (ERDF)
Dimension 1 Priority Theme		Dimension 2 Form of Finance	Dimension 3 Territory	Dimension 4 Economic Activity	Dimension 5 Location	
Code	Allocation (€) (ERDF)	Code	Code	Code	N/A	
03	20,000,000	01	08	16	EU	19,078,235.81
05	23,000,000	01	08	16	EU	6,866,512.76
09	15,000,000	01	08	16	EU	23,192,104.86
10	22,233,217	01	08	10	EU	22,233,217.50
16	11,106,040	01	08		EU	4,619,850.00
18	4,619,850	01	08		EU	10,988,073.90
23	7,499,866	01	08	11	EU	7,010,394.30
39		01	08	21	EU	
42	2,000,000	01	08	21	EU	3,536,290.80
43	3,500,000	01	08	21	EU	4,460,459.28
48		01	08	21	EU	
51	5,000,000	01	08	21	EU	16,703,240.92
54	5,000,000	01	08	21	EU	7,800,511.47

57	19,020,876	01	08	16	EU	13,529,029.73
58	2,502,500	01	08	22	EU	5,854,377.51
61	7,500,000	01	08	22	EU	8,496,919.17
76	22,500,000	01	08	19	EU	22,566,489.30
81	13,800,000	01	08	17	EU	12,228,268.65
85	5,108,411	01	08	17	EU	4,456,298.05
86	2,631,606	01	08	17	EU	3,426,928.81
Total	192,022,366					197,047,203.23

*The categories should be coded for each dimension using the standard classification

**Allocated amount of the Community contribution for each combination of categories

Interest generated by the pre-financing was retained by Member States and used towards the match funding element supplied by them.

• Assistance by target groups

No target groups, sectors or areas were identified for specific financial assistance within the programme in the context of Annex XXII of Council Regulation (EC) 1828/2006 and Annex VII of amending Council Regulation (EC) 846/2009.

• Assistance repaid or re-used

No specific financial assistance was repaid or re-used as defined by Article 67 (2)(h) of Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006.

• Qualitative analysis

Following initial observations from the mid-programme evaluative study, the Managing Authority with NISRA carried out a comprehensive review and quality assurance exercise of all indicators and reporting across the programme. The review also considered the suitability of indicators against approved projects.

It was clear that comparisons of some project and programme targets were showing significant variations, and revisions to targets were introduced to address these variances. The formal approval of these amendments in March 2015 enabled the reporting of accurate and meaningful data.

The programming and implementation process paid significant regard to the principles of partnership and equality, and, where appropriate, to the Lisbon Agenda.

Partnership

In adopting the partnership approach, the Monitoring Committee included representation from a range of stakeholders: Managing Authority; three Member States (the Department of Finance, Department of Finance and Personnel, the Scottish Executive); the Certifying Authority; Business; Trade Unions; the Agriculture/Rural Development/Fisheries sector; Local Authorities; the Community and Voluntary sector; and those representing environmental and equal opportunities interests. The Monitoring Committee members represented all the parts of the eligible region. The **Programme Monitoring Committee** was constructed on a partnership basis, with committee membership structured to ensure appropriate and balanced representation of the various partnership sectors.

Table 2.1.7: The Membership Structure of INTERREG IVA Programme Monitoring Committee

Nominating Sector	Number of Seats
Chair (Joint Secretariat)	1
Member States (DFP and DOF and the Scottish Government)	3
Local Representation (N. Ireland, Ireland, Scotland)	9
Social Partners	11
Cross-Cutting Themes	4
Certifying Authority	1
Total	29

Partnership stakeholders were involved in the formulation of the Programme. As part of the consultation process in preparing the programme, a Consultative Group was established to gain feedback on the successes and lessons learned from previous INTERREG programmes and gather views and insights on proposals for the new INTERREG Programme.

Steering Committee membership reflected the partnership ethos of the Programme and was inclusive of the stakeholders as outlined above. The principle of partnership, as defined by Article 11 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, was central to the programming process and the development of implementing structures.

Table 2.1.8: The Membership Structure of INTERREG IVA Steering Committee

Nominating Sector	Number of Seats
Chair (Joint Secretariat)	1
Member States (DFP and DOF and the Scottish Government)	3

Accountable Departments	2
Local Representation	4
Social Partners	3
Cross-Cutting Themes	1
Total	14

In relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, the principle of partnership was also reflected in the construction of the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, the composition of this working group is outlined in Table 2.1.8.

Table 2.1.9 – Membership structure of Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

Nominating Sector	Number of Seats
Chair (Local Representative)	1
Member States (DFP, DoF and the Scottish Government)	3
Accountable Departments	1
Local Representatives	2
Social Partners	2
Managing Authority reps	2
Total	11

Partnership at the Project level

Projects which applied for INTERREG IVA Programme funding were requested to provide, during the application process, evidence of full and effective involvement of partners at all stages of project delivery. Demonstration of this principle was scored along with the other cross cutting themes of Sustainable Development, Equality and Impact on Poverty.

Equal Opportunities

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 Structural Funds complied with and, where appropriate, contributed to Community policy and legislation on equal opportunities for men and women.

The Programme had 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
- And without prejudice to the above, regarded the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Equality of participation in the Programme Monitoring Committee, working groups or selection panels was encouraged in accordance with the provisions of the Structural Funds Regulation. All of the Programme Priorities had the potential to impact on equality of opportunity and every effort was made and every assistance given to ensure (within the parameters of the Programme) that all sectors of the population participated fully in the Programme. In keeping with the requirements of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the impact of the Programme on equality of opportunity has been assessed.

The programming process and the development of implementing structures were undertaken with regard to the principle of equal opportunities between men and women and the Programme was subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), which accompanied the Operational Programme. Furthermore, equality interests from both Northern Ireland and Ireland were represented on the Programme Monitoring Committee and on both Programme Steering Committees.

Projects which applied for funding under the INTERREG IVA Programme were also required to demonstrate due regard to requirements to promote equality of opportunity and adhere to the equality legislation in relevant jurisdictions. In order to ensure that the principle of equality of opportunity was embedded within every aspect of programme implementation, equality was one of the cross-cutting themes of INTERREG IVA.

Equality questionnaires were distributed to individual project beneficiaries within each of the EU Programmes, as a means of assessing the impact of the Programme on each of the Section 75 categories. Individual beneficiaries from each supported project were encouraged to complete the equality forms; they were assured of anonymity at all stages and completion of the forms was voluntary.

Progress has been made in the collection of equality monitoring data from individual participants in INTERREG IVA projects. Envelopes were issued to lead partners and 5,780 individual forms were completed and returned to NISRA. These returns were received from a total of 21 lead projects (7 under Priority 1 and 14 under Priority 2) and 11 sub projects. The number of returns by Theme is shown in Table 2.1.9 below.

Table 2.1.10: Number of returns by Theme

Theme	Number of Returns	Percentage ²
1.1 Enterprise	654	11
1.2 Tourism	0	0
2.1 Collaboration	4,934	85
2.2 Infrastructure	192	3
All	5,780	

Source: Equality Monitoring Database 29.01.16

There was no evidence to suggest that some individuals or groups were more or less likely to return these forms than their counterparts

The following information represents information from those who were issued and subsequently completed and returned Section 75 forms.

Due to the nature of a number of INTERREG IVA Projects (for example, research-based projects or feasibility studies), distribution of equality monitoring forms was not always possible as there are no identifiable direct beneficiaries or participants of the project. It is for this reason that while the use of equality monitoring forms is strongly advised and encouraged among all project lead partners, returns from 100% of projects was not expected.

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not total 100 per cent. This may reflect rounding down of values under 0.5 and rounding up of values over 0.5.

Analysis of the current available data points to a higher number of women (62 per cent) participating in the programme than men (38 per cent).

Table 2.1.11: Gender breakdown of returns

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	2,184	38
Female	3,564	62
All	5,748	

Source: Equality Monitoring Database 29.01.16

Lisbon Agenda

² Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

For the 2007-2013 programming period, the Lisbon Agenda for growth and jobs and the need to focus on strengthening competitiveness and building a new economy was highlighted as a key priority. Although no guidelines for earmarking the Co-operation Objective towards the Lisbon Agenda were set out by the Commission at the outset of the Operational Programme, the INTERREG IVA Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland aimed to establish a strong alignment with the Community Strategic Guidelines. Indeed, Priority 1: Co-operation for a more prosperous region strongly focused on the efforts to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship and creating more and better jobs, whereas Priority 2: Co-operation for a sustainable region centred on improving the attractiveness of Member States, and enhancing sustainability and quality of life.

2.2 Information about compliance with Community law

Under the Enterprise theme (1.1), a number of projects received aid under the *de Minimus* guidelines in accordance with national reporting requirements.

Also notified under a General Block Exemption Regulation was the SPIRE project (ref 036347, Theme 2.2 - Infrastructure) for renewable energy storage.

In June 2008, during the implementation of Project Kelvin under Theme 2.2, the Lead Partner sought a Commission response in relation to State Aid. On 8 October 2008, the Commission issued their response under Decision Number: 282/2008 which outlined the State Aid determination for the project.

2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems, as detailed in Article 67(2)(d)(ii) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, were encountered in implementing the Operational Programme; therefore, no actions were required by the Managing Authority or Monitoring Committee.

2.4 Changes in the context of the operational programme implementation (if relevant)

2.4.1 Political Context

Much progress has been made in the normalisation of politics in Northern Ireland during this period. Following the re-instatement of the Northern Ireland Executive and the Northern Ireland Assembly in

2007, a new Department of Justice was created in 2010 as part of the devolution of justice and policing powers agreed in the Hillsborough Agreement (February 2010). Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly were held in 2007 and again in 2011. New elections were held in May 2016.

The reform of local government in Northern Ireland has also presented challenges for the Northern Ireland Executive. The intention of this reform, which began in 2002, was to replace the 26 districts created in 1973 with a smaller number of larger councils. The Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government, published in 2012, contained a commitment to implement this reform.

The first elections to these eleven new councils took place on 22 May 2014. A transition period for the implementation of the reforms was put in place. The new structures entered into full force in April 2015. The reform includes enhanced roles for the new councils in a number of areas, including community planning and community well-being.

In 2012 the Irish Government published a policy document entitled "*Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government*", aimed at introducing a programme of local government reforms which take account of the prevailing economic climate and addressed the need for improved efficiency.

The economic downturn during the programme period had a profound impact on policy makers, officials and citizens in Ireland. In November 2010, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank (the Troika) agreed an €85 billion rescue deal with the Irish Government. The programme that accompanied this rescue deal involved a series of budgets containing austerity measures aimed at restoring stability to the economy. A new government took office in Ireland in 2011. Ireland emerged from this programme on 15 December 2013 having achieved all of the targets agreed with the Troika.

The economic crisis in Ireland has led to significant levels of unemployment and economic hardship. The Border Region has been disproportionately affected by the downturn, particularly amongst young people (up to the age of 25), where the region has 31.9% youth unemployment compared to a national average of 27.6%. Scotland reported that employment levels fell by 0.8 percentage points in the three months to March 2009. In addition, the reductions in public expenditure brought about as a result of the implementation of the programme agreed with the Troika, has resulted in pressure on the budgets of local authorities and central government departments. This has presented challenges for the implementation of the INTERREG IVA Programme in the Border Region. The cooperation of all government departments and local authorities has ensured that these challenges have been met with positive outcomes to date.

Despite the economic challenges in the region, a number of significant capital investment initiatives have taken place during this period, which reflects confidence in the future growth prospects of the region.

2.4.2 Economic Context

The data outlined below provides background information on the social and economic conditions in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and the five NUTS 3 Scottish regions that make up Western Scotland³, indicating the context in which the INTERREG IVA Programme has operated.

Over the Programme period (2007-2013) Northern Ireland, Western Scotland the Border Region of Ireland all experienced a similar trend in employment levels, dropping from their 2007 levels over the early and mid-part of the Programme period and recovering towards the end. Over the same period unemployment in the regions consequentially rose from their 2007 levels over the early and mid-part of the Programme period, peaking between 2010 and 2012 and reducing towards the end of the period. In addition all regions have also experienced a significant increase in long-term unemployment.

There is no overarching trend for the three regions in the GVA per head data. Northern Ireland's GVA per head experienced a small drop in 2008 and 2009 and then increased year on year from £17,962 in 2007 to £18,682 in 2014. However, as a percentage of the UK average it has dropped 8.6 percentage points from 84.5% in 2007 to 75.9% in 2014. Western Scotland's GVA per head rose from £15,510 in 2007 to £17,755 in 2014. As a percentage of the UK average it remained relatively stable over the period, from a low of 71.1% to a high of 75.4%. The Border Region of Ireland experienced a large drop in GVA per head over the Programme period from €27,063 in 2007 to €22,459 in 2014, with the corresponding figures for Border Region GVA as a percentage of Ireland average, of 68% (2007) and 60.4% (2014).

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

In the UK, the economy grew by 0.6% in the fourth quarter (Oct to Dec) of 2015, the 12th consecutive quarter of output growth, and continues the strongest run of economic growth since 2010. GDP was 2.3% higher between Q4 (Oct to Dec) 2014 and Q4 (Oct-Dec) 2015⁴. Scotland and Ireland both experienced positive economic growth in 2015 (Jan-Dec), with GDP increasing by 1.9% in Scotland⁵, and 7.8% in Ireland⁶ in the year 2015 (Jan-Dec).

Figure 2.4.1: United Kingdom⁷ and Ireland⁸ GDP Growth rate 2007-2015

³ Dumfries and Galloway; East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Mainland; Eilean Siar (Western Isles); Lochaber; Skye and Lochalsh and Argyll and the Islands; and South Ayrshire

⁴

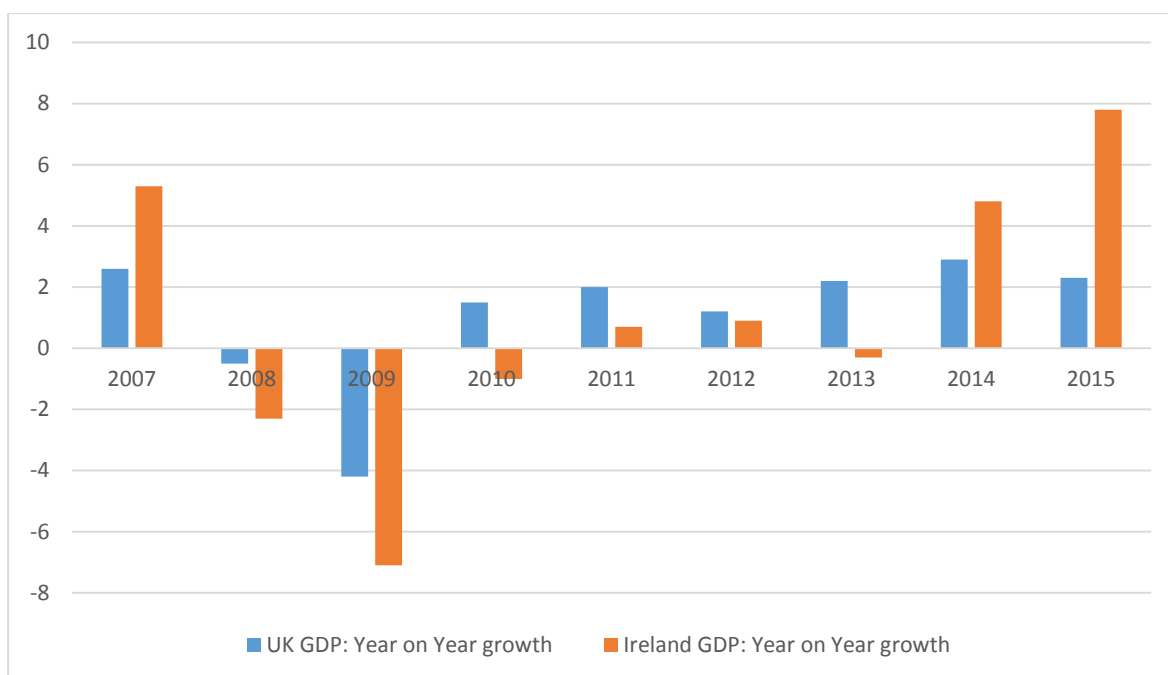
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/bulletins/quarterlynationalaccounts/quarter4octtodec2015>

⁵ <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00499182.pdf>

⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tec00115&plugin=1>

⁷ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/datasets-and-tables/data-selector.html?cdid=ABMI&dataset=qna&table-id=A2>

⁸ <http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/nationalaccounts/archive/>



Over the programme period the UK and Ireland experienced volatility in their GDP. UK GDP contracted in 2008 and 2009 followed by year on year growth for the remainder of the period. Ireland's GDP contracted in 2008, 2009 and 2010, experienced two years of small growth, a small contraction then two years of substantial growth.

Both nations have higher GDP in 2015 than 2007 with the UK's GDP rising from £1,666,821 (million) to £1,749,712 (million)⁹ and Ireland's from €179,747 (million) to €203,524 (million)¹⁰.

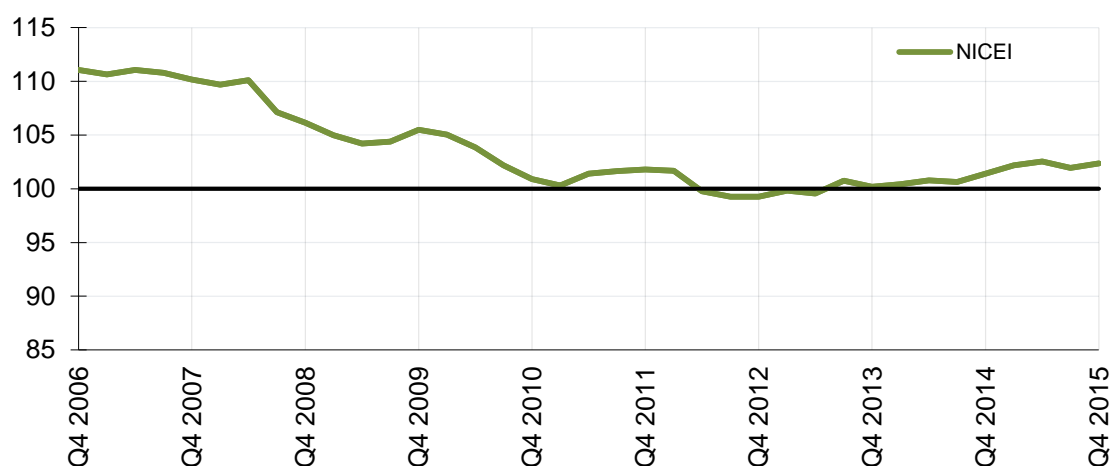
It is not possible to provide a comprehensive measure of quarterly GDP for NI due to the lack of suitable data sources. However, the NI Composite Economic Index (NICEI) provides an appropriate short term indicator for the NI economy in advance of more complete figures from other sources. The NICEI estimates Northern Ireland economic activity to have increased by 0.4% in real terms from Q3 (Jul-Sep) 2015 to Q4 (Oct-Dec) 2015. The index also increased by 0.9% over the year between Q4 2014 (Oct-Dec) and Q4 (Oct-Dec) 2015 in real terms. However, the index still remains 8.7 percentage points below its peak value of 111.1 reached in Q2 2007.

Figure 2.4.2: Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index¹¹

⁹ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/site-information/using-the-website/time-series/index.html#1>

¹⁰ <http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/nationalaccounts/archive/>

¹¹ <https://www.detini.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-composite-economic-index-nicei>



EMPLOYMENT

Over the programme period (2007-2013) all the regions experienced a similar trend in employment levels, dropping from their 2007 levels over the early and mid-part of the programme period and recovering towards the end. At the end of the programme period (2013), all regions had a lower employment rate than at the beginning of the period in 2007.

Table 2.4.4: Employment rate in Northern Ireland, Western Scotland, United Kingdom, Border Region of Ireland and Ireland.

Year	NI ¹²	WS ¹³	UK ¹⁴	BR ¹⁵	Ireland ¹⁶
2007	68.0	73.3	72.9	61.0	63.8
2008	66.7	72.6	72.2	59.9	62.9
2009	65.5	70.5	70.6	55.3	61.1
2010	65.8	69.2	70.4	54.2	60.2
2011	67.4	66.9	70.2	52.9	60.1
2012	66.9	67.6	71.4	52.4	59.6
2013	67.4	68.7	72.0	55.2	60.1
2014	67.6	72.1	73.2	54.0	59.8
2015	68.7	71.8	74.1	56.5	60.0

Notes:

1. NI, UK, BR and Ireland data Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2. Western Scotland annual figure (Jan-Dec)
3. UK data 16-64 age range
4. ROI data 15 years and over

¹² <https://www.detini.gov.uk/publications/quarterly-supplement-tables-october-december-2015>

¹³ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp=>

¹⁴

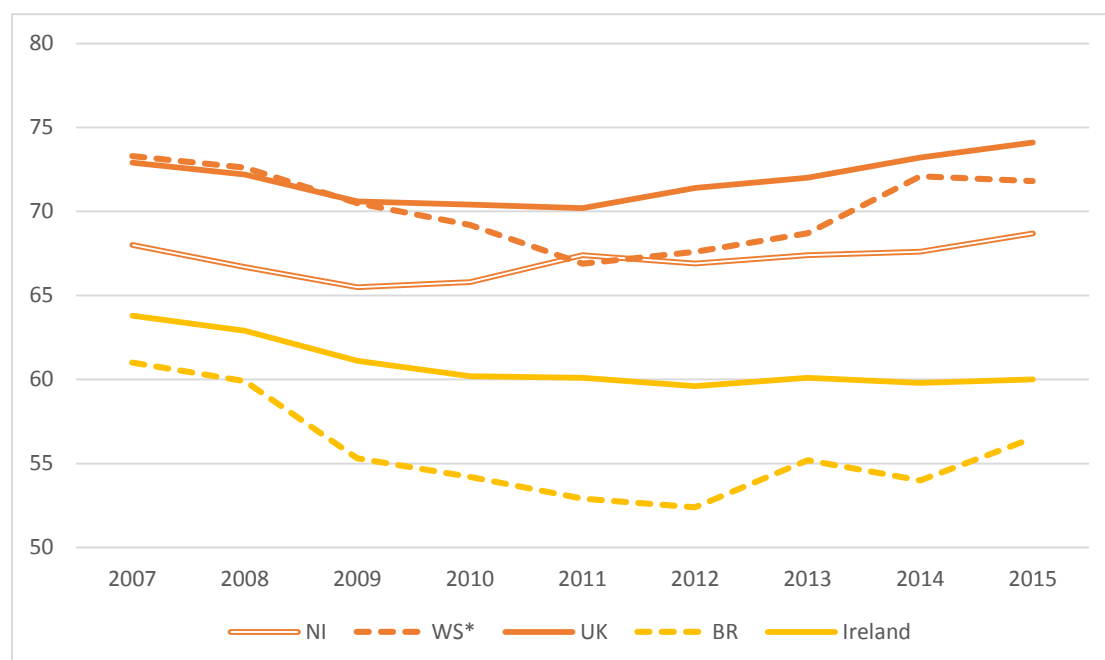
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/february2016#unemployment>

¹⁵ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

¹⁶ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

Although the Northern Ireland employment rate decreased between 2007 and 2013 (68% to 67.4%) there was a small increase in 2014 and 2015 (67.6% and 68.7% respectively).

Figure 2.4.5: Employment levels in Northern Ireland, Western Scotland, United Kingdom, Border Region of Ireland and Ireland



Notes:

1. NI, UK, BR and Ireland data Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2. *Western Scotland annual figure (Jan-Dec)
3. UK data 16-64 age range
4. ROI data 15 years and over

The most recent year of data suggests that the employment rate in the Border Region has also experienced a small increase from 54.0% in 2014 to 56.5% in 2015¹⁷. The overall level of employment in Ireland showed a marginal increase in the most recent year (59.8% 2014 to 60.0% in 2015)¹⁸. The Border region experienced the greatest fluctuation in employment rate during the project cycle, ranging from 61% in 2007 to 52.4% in 2012, 8.6 percentage point change compared to 4.2 percentage point variation over the period in Ireland.

The employment rates in Western Scotland showed a small decrease in the most recent year (72.1% in 2014 to 71.8% in 2015).

UNEMPLOYMENT

During the programme period (2007-2013) all the regions experienced a similar trend in unemployment levels, rising from their 2007 levels over the early and mid-part of the program period, peaking between 2010 and 2012 and reducing towards the end of the period (Table 3 and Figure 4). The Border Region of Ireland and Ireland seem to have a greater labour market sensitivity to the

¹⁷ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

¹⁸ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

economic crises compared to the UK regions, as exhibited by much greater volatility in the unemployment rate.

Table 2.4.6: Unemployment rate in Northern Ireland, Western Scotland and the United Kingdom

Year	NI ¹⁹	WS* ²⁰	UK ²¹	BR ²²	Ireland ²³
2007	4.1	5.0	5.2	6.0	4.6
2008	5.1	5.6	6.4	8.5	7.7
2009	5.9	8.3	7.8	13.5	12.6
2010	7.9	7.9	7.9	13.5	14.4
2011	7.1	10.4	8.4	13.9	14.6
2012	7.7	10.3	7.8	16.6	13.8
2013	7.3	9.1	7.2	13.6	11.8
2014	5.8	7.0	5.7	10.1	10.0
2015	5.9	6.7	5.1	8.7	8.7

Notes:

1. NI, UK, BR and Ireland data Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2. *Western Scotland annual figure (Jan-Dec)
3. UK data 16+ age range
4. ROI data 15-74 years and over

Northern Ireland's unemployment rate climbed from its lowest rate of 4.1% in 2007, peaking at 7.9% in 2010, before declining to 5.8% in 2014 but with a marginal increase to 5.9% in 2015. The unemployment rate in the UK increased annually from 5.2% in 2007 to a peak of 8.4% in 2011, unemployment then fell annually until reaching its lowest level to date of 5.1% in 2015.

Similar to Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland started the programme period with its lowest level of unemployment (6%), experienced a substantial rise to its peak (16.6%) in 2012 and declined to 8.7% in 2015. The 1.4 percentage point decrease in the Border Region's unemployment rate between 2014 and 2015 is mirrored in a 1.3 percentage point fall in Ireland over the same period²⁴.

Figure 2.4.7: Unemployment levels in Northern Ireland, Western Scotland, United Kingdom, Border Region of Ireland and Ireland

¹⁹ <https://www.detini.gov.uk/publications/quarterly-supplement-tables-october-december-2015>

²⁰ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp=>

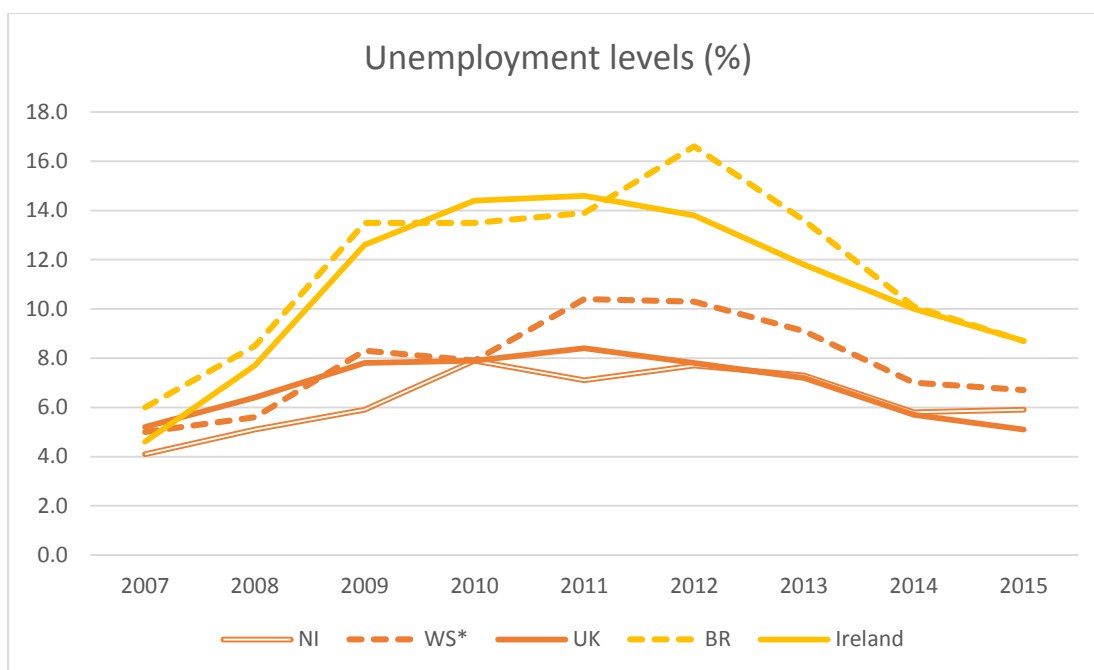
²¹

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/february2016#unemployment>

²² <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

²³ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

²⁴ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>



Notes:

1. NI, UK, BR and Ireland data Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2. *Western Scotland annual figure (Jan-Dec)
3. UK data 16+ age range
4. ROI data 15-74 years and over

The rate of unemployment in Western Scotland has also reduced from 7.0% to 6.7% between calendar years 2014 and 2015²⁵.

LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

Northern Ireland experienced a peak in long-term unemployment in 2012 at 58.9% and decreased from 55.6% in 2014 to 51.7% in 2015, which is still almost twice the level in 2007 (26.7%). Throughout the programme period Northern Ireland's long-term unemployment rate was always higher than the UK wide rate. At the start of the programme period, long-term unemployment in Northern Ireland was roughly comparable to the corresponding UK figure (2.8 percentage points higher in NI). The gap has widened over the period and the NI rate in 2015 is 22.8 percentage points higher than the UK rate.

Between 2007-2010 Western Scotland's long term unemployment rate was lower than the UK rate and since has been higher, culminating in a difference of 12.6 percentage point difference in 2015.

Table 2.4.8: Long-term unemployment rates in Northern Ireland, Western Scotland and the United Kingdom

Year	NI	WS	UK
2007	26.7	18.6	23.9
2008	33.7	22.6	22.7
2009	40.0	20.2	27.0
2010	46.4	32.1	33.5

²⁵ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=17>

2011	40.4	35.7	32.3
2012	58.9	40.1	35.5
2013	47.4	44.2	36.1
2014	55.6	41.1	34.3
2015	51.7	41.5	28.9

Note:

1. NI and UK data is Q4 (Oct-Dec) estimates

The Border Region of Ireland and Ireland as a whole have both experienced large increases in the long-term unemployment rate in recent years: the Border Region moved from 33.3% in 2007 to 60.2% in 2015; with the corresponding figures for Ireland: 30.3% and 54.5%. With the exception of 2009 and 2010, the long-term unemployment rate in the Border Region was higher than the rate for Ireland over the 2007-15 period.

Table 2.4.9: Long-term unemployment (LTU) rates in the Border Region of Ireland & Ireland

Year	BORDER REGION	IRELAND
2007	33.3	30.3
2008	27.6	23.6
2009	29.4	38.7
2010	47.4	55.4
2011	63.4	62.5
2012	64.5	59.9
2013	61.6	61.4
2014	58.9	57.8
2015	60.2	54.5

GVA

The GVA estimate for Northern Ireland for 2014 (Jan- Dec) is £34,384 million. This represents £18,682 per head of population which is an increase on the 2013 level (£18,329). The Northern Ireland GVA per head of population figure is 75.9 per cent of the UK average in 2014, down slightly from 77.2 per cent in 2013²⁶.

Table 2.4.10: Northern Ireland GVA per Head and Northern Ireland GVA per Head as percentage of the UK average

Year	NI GVA PER HEAD (£) ²⁷	NI GVA PER HEAD AS % OF UK GVA
2007	17,962	84.5
2008	17,695	81.8
2009	17,076	80.2
2010	17,293	79.2

²⁶

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/bulletins/regionalgrossvalueaddedincomeapproach/december2015#regional-nuts1-gva-estimates>

²⁷ <https://www.detini.gov.uk/publications/regional-gross-value-added-income-approach-1997-2014>

2011	17,527	78.5
2012	17,923	78.2
2013	18,329	77.2
2014	18,682	75.9

Notes:

1. 2015 data will be available in December 2016

The current estimates of GVA per head show that in 2014, Wales and North East are the only NUTS1 regions that have a lower GVA per head figure than Northern Ireland. Trend data show that over the 2008-2014 period, Northern Ireland, Wales and the North East are consistently at the bottom of the GVA per head rankings for NUTS1 regions of the UK.

Table 2.4.11: UK Regional (NUT1) GVA per head of population (£) 2007-2014²⁸

Region name	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
North East	16,159	16,461	16,082	16,453	16,866	17,225	17,697	18,216
North West	18,662	18,929	18,788	19,218	19,036	19,627	20,455	21,011
Yorkshire and East Midlands	18,212	18,303	18,161	18,296	18,567	18,841	19,314	19,863
West Midlands	17,866	18,115	17,504	18,329	18,764	19,087	19,902	20,524
East of England	17,826	17,936	17,241	17,951	18,404	18,960	19,630	20,086
London	20,467	21,067	20,369	20,873	21,090	21,528	22,137	23,063
South East	35,389	36,172	35,577	36,434	38,249	39,201	40,516	42,666
South West	22,953	23,539	23,032	23,972	24,410	25,396	26,276	27,012
Wales	19,413	19,836	19,688	20,494	20,465	20,899	21,644	22,324
Scotland	15,522	15,336	15,444	15,554	16,215	16,649	17,215	17,573
Northern Ireland	20,212	20,661	20,679	20,458	20,809	21,190	22,174	23,102
England*	17,962	17,695	17,076	17,293	17,527	17,923	18,329	18,682
UK*	21,811	22,245	21,827	22,501	23,006	23,633	24,464	25,367
	21,258	21,642	21,283	21,842	22,336	22,929	23,750	24,616

Notes: *England and UK are not a NUTS 1 region but is included for comparison purposes

At the NUTS3 sub-regional level, the estimates show that over half of the total GVA in Northern Ireland can be attributed to the two NUTS 3 regions of Belfast and the East of Northern Ireland. This reflects the concentration of economic activity within these parts of Northern Ireland. Consistently from 2007 to 2014, GVA is lowest in the North of Northern Ireland sub-region²⁹. This is the second least-densely populated of the five NUTS3 regions in Northern Ireland³⁰. It should be noted that INTERREG IVA only includes 3 of these regions.

Table 2.4.12: Northern Ireland Regional GVA per head of population (£) 2007-2014³¹

Region name	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Belfast	30,951	30,952	30,756	30,977	32,065	33,645	34,328	34,583

²⁸ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedincomeapproach>

²⁹ <https://www.detini.gov.uk/publications/regional-gross-value-added-income-approach-1997-2014>

³⁰ <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=6378&lh=43&yn=1991-2014&sk=74&sn=Population&yearfilter=>

³¹ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedincomeapproach>

Outer Belfast	15,366	15,080	14,573	14,913	14,751	14,561	14,959	15,267
East of Northern Ireland	16,454	16,440	15,677	15,552	15,734	16,367	16,704	17,269
North of Northern Ireland	14,442	14,072	13,643	13,775	13,725	13,749	14,043	14,349
West and South of Northern Ireland	15,571	14,953	13,984	14,521	14,842	15,070	15,436	15,712

Scotland has the second highest GVA of the four countries in the UK. In 2014 GVA per head in Scotland was £23,102, an increase from £22,174 in 2013. This is equivalent to 93.9 per cent of the UK GVA per head of population. At sub-regional level, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland has the lowest GVA per head in the whole of Scotland at £13,546 (55.0 per cent of the UK average)³². GVA per head of population in Western Scotland was £15,510 in 2007 and £17,755 in 2013, at the end of the programme period. As a percentage of the UK average, Western Scotland's GVA per head of population varied over the programme period from a high of 75.4% in 2009 to a low of 71.1% in 2012.

Table 2.4.13: Western Scotland GVA per Head and Western Scotland GVA per Head as percentage of the UK average

Year	WESTERN SCOTLAND GVA PER HEAD (£) ³³	WESTERN SCOTLAND GVA PER HEAD AS % OF UK GVA PER HEAD
2007	15,510	73.0
2008	16,010	74.0
2009	16,051	75.4
2010	15,969	73.1

³²

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedexplorabledatasets>

³³ [http://web.ons.gov.uk/ons/data/dataset-](http://web.ons.gov.uk/ons/data/dataset-finder?p_auth=8MibFsxO&p_p_auth=zCOGoOr5&p_p_id=FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet&p_p_lifecycle=1&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-3&p_p_col_count=1&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_process=fileDownload&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_UUID=9155642&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_geoTypeId=2015EUROSTATH&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_collectionId=RGVA02&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_context=Economic)

[finder?p_auth=8MibFsxO&p_p_auth=zCOGoOr5&p_p_id=FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet&p_p_lifecycle=1&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-3&p_p_col_count=1&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_process=fileDownload&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_UUID=9155642&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_geoTypeId=2015EUROSTATH&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_collectionId=RGVA02&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_context=Economic](http://web.ons.gov.uk/ons/data/dataset-finder?p_auth=8MibFsxO&p_p_auth=zCOGoOr5&p_p_id=FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet&p_p_lifecycle=1&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-3&p_p_col_count=1&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_process=fileDownload&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_UUID=9155642&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_geoTypeId=2015EUROSTATH&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_collectionId=RGVA02&FOFlow1_WAR_FOFlow1portlet_context=Economic)

2011	16,328	73.1
2012	16,303	71.1
2013	17,058	71.8
2014	17,755	72.1

The Border Region of Ireland has seen its GVA per head vary considerably over the programme period from €27,063 in 2007, dropping to a low of €19,307 in 2012 before recovering to some extent to €21,445 in 2013, with a further increase in 2014, to €22,459. GVA per head in the Border Region has fallen 7.6 percentage points between 2007 and 2014 in relation to the state average (from 68.0 per cent to 60.4 per cent). At €22,459, GVA per person in the Border Region was the second lowest of the Irish regions (after Midland) in 2014³⁴.

Table 2.4.14: Border Region of Ireland GVA per Head and Border Region of Ireland GVA per Head as percentage of the Ireland average

Year	BR GVA PER HEAD (€) ³⁵	BR GVA PER HEAD AS % OF IRELAND GVA PER HEAD ³⁶
2007	27,063	68.0
2008	25,483	67.9
2009	23,041	67.7
2010	19,422	58.6
2011	20,356	58.5
2012	19,307	55.5

³⁴ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

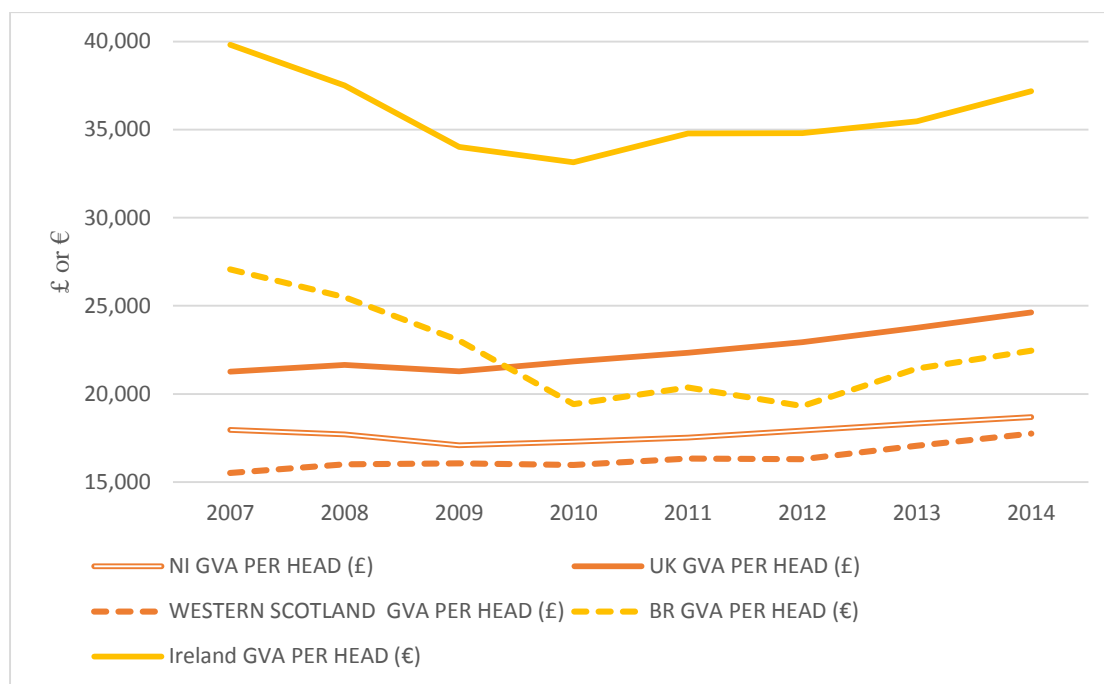
³⁵ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

³⁶ <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>

2013	21,445	60.5
2014	22,459	60.4

When compared with the UK and the UK regions, Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland have experienced greater volatility in GVA per head of population.

Figure 2.4.15: GVA per head levels Northern Ireland, Western Scotland, United Kingdom, Border Region of Ireland and Ireland.



Notes:

1. Northern Ireland, Western Scotland and United Kingdom £ ;
2. Border Region of Ireland and Ireland €

2.5 Substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (if relevant)

Cases where a substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 has been detected.

There have been no substantial modifications under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

2.6 Complementarity with other instruments

Significant consideration was given to the issue of complementarity and demarcation between the relevant European Social Fund (ESF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Fisheries Fund (EFF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Programmes operating in the eligible area during the preparation of the programme. The following programmes and strategies were identified during the process:

- Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion
- The Competitiveness Programme (ERDF) in Northern Ireland

- The Employment Programme (ESF) in Northern Ireland
- Competitiveness (ERDF) and Employment (ESF) Programmes in Ireland
- National Strategic Reference Framework, Scotland
- Convergence (ERDF and ESF), Programmes in The Highlands & Islands, Scotland
- Competitiveness and Employment (ERDF) Programme in Lowlands & Uplands, Scotland
- PEACE III Programme (ERDF)
- EU Rural Development Programme (EAFRD)
- European Fisheries Fund (EFF)
- Other European Territorial Co-operation Programmes

The programmes implemented in Northern Ireland were designed to include complementarities and synergies, but also clear lines of demarcation between them. The SEUPB played an active role in promoting the three INTERREG IVB transnational programmes of relevance to Northern Ireland (Northern Periphery Programme, North West Europe and Atlantic Area) as well as the INTERREG IVC Interregional programme. SEUPB acted as Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland for the Northern Periphery Programme and sought to maximise North/South participation in all of those programmes. The SEUPB also worked closely with the two Regional Assemblies in Ireland to identify North/South co-operation opportunities.

The INTERREG IVA Monitoring Committee included representatives from other Monitoring Committees in order to ensure that the actions under each programme complemented each other without duplication. The presence of representatives from other Monitoring Committees ensured a mutual understanding of the implementation of the programmes.

In Northern Ireland, a centralised database of EU Programmes captured information across the programmes.

All Managing Authorities met throughout the course of the Programme at the EU Steering Group (EUSG) co-ordinated by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland.

SEUPB representatives also participated in a range of forums throughout Northern Ireland and Ireland. These included biannual meetings with the Border Midlands and Western (BMW) secretariat to explore potential synergies and engagement with both BMW and the Southern and Eastern Regional Assemblies in relation to transnational programmes.

A joint Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group covered both INTERREG IVA and PEACE III Programmes.

Through these arrangements, the Managing Authority ensured that co-ordination between funds was managed and that over-lap and duplication were prevented. In promoting complementarities, value for money was optimised.

2.7 Evaluation and Monitoring

Monitoring and evaluation measures taken by the management authority or the monitoring committee, including data collection arrangements, difficulties encountered and steps taken to solve them.

The Managing Authority took a number of steps to ensure the quality and effectiveness of Programme implementation. In line with the requirements outlined in Article 48 (3) of Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 to ensure continual monitoring and evaluation, the following measures were put in place:

- Stakeholder Surveys were commissioned in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 in an effort to measure public and other key stakeholders' perceptions/awareness of the INTERREG IVA programme.
- A Mid-Term Evaluation of the Programme by RSM McClure Watters was commissioned in October 2013 which looked at the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme and made recommendations for improvements. This report concluded that of the 73 projects supported through the Programme at the time of the evaluation, activity reported against all objectives illustrated the effectiveness of the specific Programme Indicators per the Operational Programme, and those of the Performance Monitoring System. The report acknowledged that most of what had been reported at the time of the evaluation related to outputs and results, but that it was still too early to assess impact. A number of recommendations were made and any key risks were identified with associated mitigation recommendations.
- Establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) to provide specialist advice to the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Monitoring Committees in terms of obligations to monitor and evaluate the programme.
- Establishment of a Management & Control Working Group (MCWG) which later evolved into a Management and Control/Closure Working Group, prioritising monitoring of Programme closure;
- Provision of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan by the MEWG in line with the strategy outlined in the Operational Programme;
- Construction and Implementation of a Structural Funds database (Systems 2007) to enable meaningful analysis of programme data;
- Equality Monitoring in order to ensure the effective monitoring of the cross-cutting theme of Equality;
- Monitoring of Sustainable Development in order to ensure the effective monitoring of the cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development.
- Establishment of a Service Level Agreement with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to support and implement the monitoring and evaluation process.

By putting these processes in place, the Managing Authority ensured that coordination between funds was managed and that over-lap and duplication was prevented. It also promoted complementarities and, therefore, optimised value for money.

Monitoring of Environmental Sustainability

Developmental Path Analysis (DPA) was used to assess the environmental impact of any given project. Each project was allocated a development path ranging from A to F, which is recorded on the Systems 2007 Database. Of the 88 INTERREG IVA active projects, 3 were Technical Assistance projects and are therefore excluded from this analysis. Analysis of the remaining 85 active projects has shown that all had a DPA score.

Proportion of funding allocated under each Development Path

Development Path	% of total funding ³⁷	
	Actual	Ex-ante
A Meeting environmental regulations	37	55
B 'Clean up' mess from past activities and promote physical regeneration	1	10
C Environmental infrastructure	32	6
D Adjustment to existing environmental standards	5	4
E Improve the resource efficiency of existing activity	12	11
F New activities using fewer environmental resources or producing less pollution	14	15
	€262m	€240m

Source: Systems 2007, 2 March 2016

Comparison of the allocation of funding to each of the six paths which were predicted in the ex-ante analysis shows some variation. In particular Paths A and B had lower proportions of funding awarded (37 per cent and 1 per cent respectively) than the expected funding under the ex-ante analysis (55 per cent and 10 per cent respectively). This is balanced by the much higher than expected proportion of funding allocated to Path C. Path C was allocated 32 per cent of funding whilst the ex-ante predicted an allocation of just 6 per cent. Paths D, E and F, whilst still showing variation from the ex-ante analysis, moved slightly more towards the predicted allocations.

³⁷ Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100 per cent. This may reflect rounding down of values under 0.5 and rounding up of values over 0.5.

The strategic nature of the projects funded under INTERREG IVA may explain some of the disparity between the ex-ante and actual DPA scores.

DRAFT

3. Implementation by priority

3.1 Priority 1 Co-operation for a more prosperous cross border region

3.1.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

The 16 projects funded under Priority 1, Theme 1 – Enterprise provided support to new and existing businesses to promote innovation, encourage competitiveness and create a more sustainable economic base. A particular emphasis was the establishment and fostering of cross border relationships and networks between SMEs, micro business and support agencies.

The 5 projects funded under Theme 2 – Tourism supported the development of tourism products which would attract domestic and overseas visitors and contribute towards improving the performance of the tourism industry within the eligible region. A particular focus was placed on encouraging products which developed tourism activities and broadened the tourism season. In addition, support was provided to market the region. These projects had an overarching objective of enhancing the tourism package within the eligible regions.

Significant successes to note under Priority 1 include a total of 3,912 businesses assisted, with 5 incubation facilities developed in Fermanagh, Tyrone, Leitrim, Derry/Londonderry and Donegal.

Further, the Priority has facilitated the creation of over 900 new jobs with almost 700 businesses entering new markets, both domestic and international.

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Theme 1 - Enterprise

By Programme end:

- **16** projects accepted Letters of Offer at a combined value of **€34,312,272** (€25,734,204 ERDF & €8,578,068 Match) against a Theme allocation of **€34,256,185** (€25,692,139 ERDF & €8,564,046 Match). These projects are as listed below;

Theme/ Strand (No. of Projects)	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.1	ENTERPRISE – 16 Projects	
000200	IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council	IBEC-CBI JBC Programme 2007 to 2010
000205	Northern Regional College	K.I.T.E Knowledge and Innovation Transfer in Engineering
000214	Dundalk Institute of Technology	Innovation for Competitiveness Enterprises (ICE) Project
000215	University of Ulster	Success through Succession
000228	Enterprise Northern Ireland	Tradelinks 2
000456	North West Regional College	The Innovation Factory
006840	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)ICBAN	Higher Attainment through Cross Border Hubs (HATCH)
007250	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)ICBAN	Innovation Enterprise Initiative
007255	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Development of Workspace at Enniskillen Airport
007265	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Centres of Excellence in Traded Services
007271	North East Partnership	Innovation & Growth
018945	University of Ulster	Honeycomb - Creative Works Programme
021728	Irish Exporters Association Ltd	Food and Drink Channel Partner Development
028641	Enterprise Northern Ireland	Tradelinks 2 Continuance
029185	Dundalk Institute of Technology	VITAL Project
036237	South West College	Centre for Rural Enterprise and Sustainable Technology (CREST)

- **16** projects have completed with total expenditure of **€33,006,735** (€24,755,051 ERDF & €8,251,684 Match);

As a number of projects under Theme 1 completed during the Programme period, evaluative reporting is showing real achievement and fully demonstrating the added value of cross-border co-operation.

The tables below detail achievement by year i.e. they are not cumulative throughout the programming period. However, the graphs included within this section are cumulative, in order to display when programme targets were hit and how achievement has increased during the programme period.

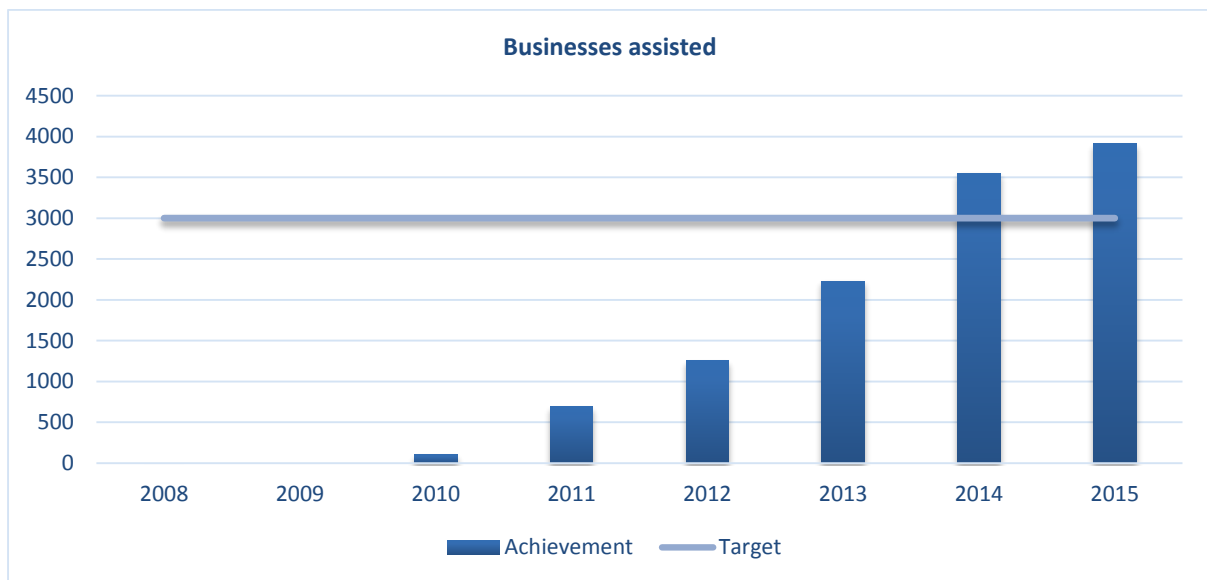
The source of the figures within this paper was Systems 2007 (Performance indicator closure report) unless stipulated otherwise. Other sources have been referenced under the appropriate graphs/tables.

Annex 2 presents the combined tables of Outputs, Results and Indicators per Theme.

Theme 1.1 - Outputs

OP Indicator 000001 – Businesses assisted

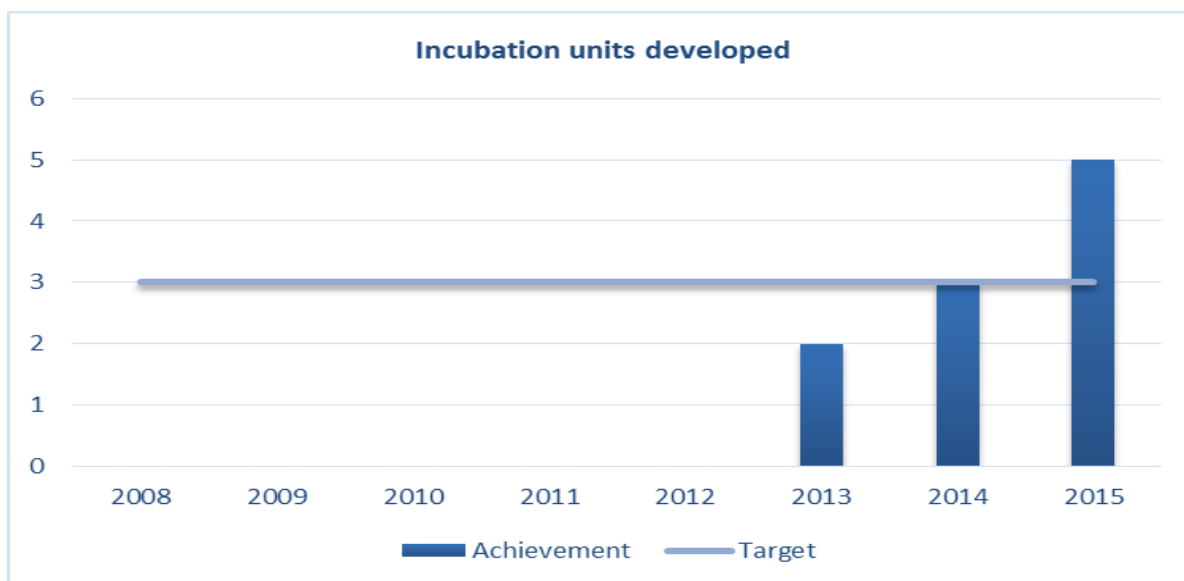
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000001	Achievement	0	0	106	582	568	975	1319	362	3912
	Target									3000



The number of businesses assisted has been overachieved against the target of 3,000 set at the outset of the programme. The level of achievement hit the programme target in 2014 and has risen slightly since then. These businesses all received assistance by way of financial, training, accommodation, marketing/advertising or other advisory assistance.

OP Indicator 000111 – Incubation units developed

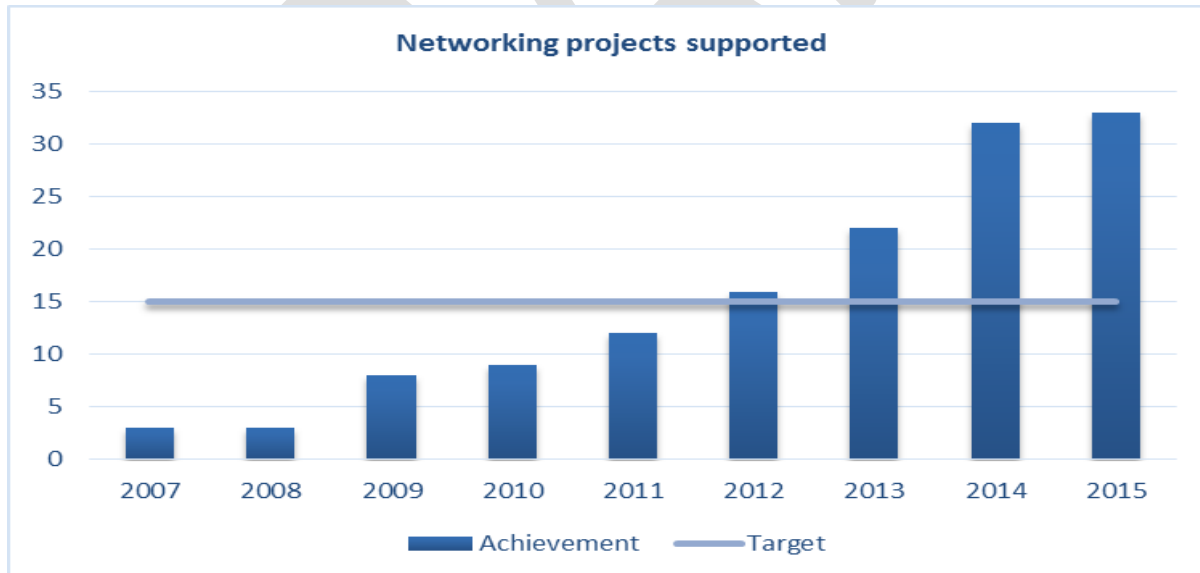
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000111	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	5
	Target									3



The number of incubation units achieved was 5. This represents overachievement against the programme target of 3. Achievement does, however, match the cumulative project target of 5 as identified by projects funded under the Theme.

OP Indicator 000151 – Networking projects supported

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000151	Achievement	3	0	5	1	3	4	6	10	1	33
	Target										15

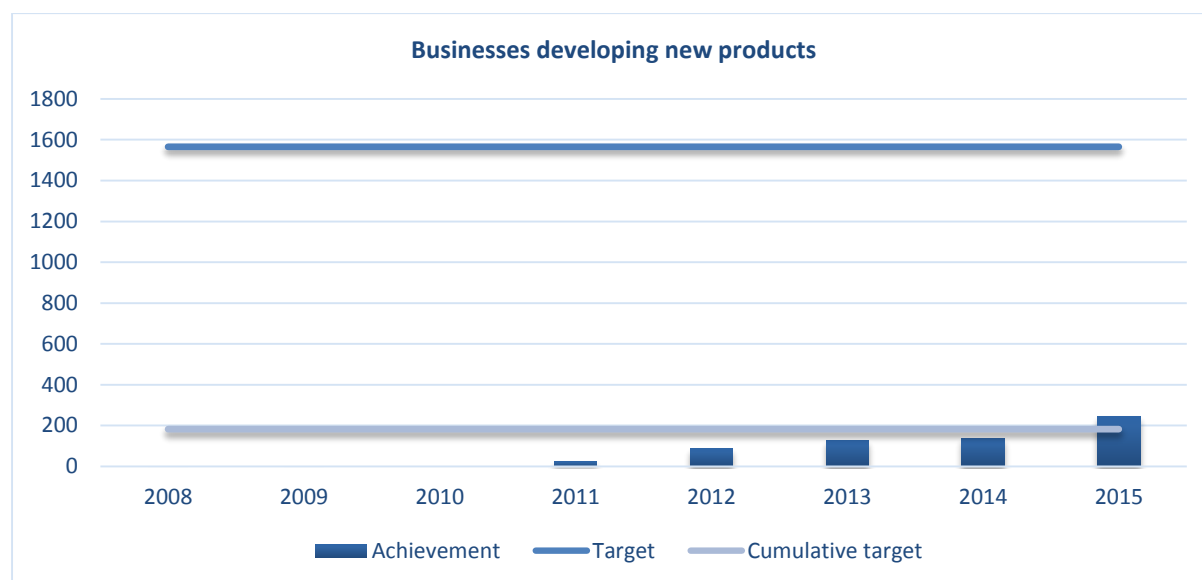


The number of networking projects supported has been more than double the number envisaged. The target was achieved in 2012 and rose significantly in 2013/14. As with Indicator 000111 the achievement figure is more representative of the cumulative project target of 26. Some of this overachievement can be explained by the fact that it was found, after the programme started, that projects under Theme 2.1 could also contribute to this indicator, whilst some projects also supported multiple networking projects.

Theme 1.1 - Results

OP Indicator 000011 – Businesses developing new products

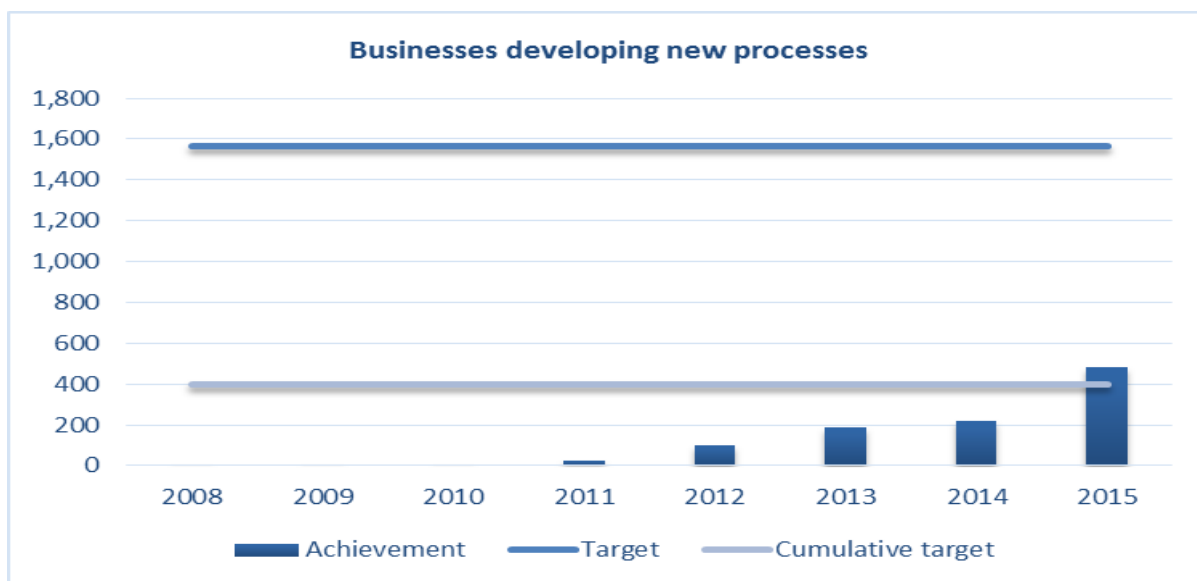
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000011	Achievement	0	0	0	24	62	40	8	112	246
	Target									1565



The target was that 40% of the businesses assisted would develop new products. Actual achievement of 6.3% is much closer to the cumulative project target of 4.7%, calculated by looking at individual project targets. This represents a significant difference in the assumption made at the outset of the programme that a large number of businesses being assisted would receive such assistance in conjunction with developing new products and processes, however, this has proven not to be the case. More success has been found with applications focused on marketing, mentoring, placements and shared businesses than developing new products/processes.

OP Indicator 000021 – Businesses developing new processes

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000021	Achievement	0	0	0	25	74	88	30	264	481
	Target									1565



The aim of this target was that 40% of the businesses assisted would develop new processes. Actual achievement of 12.3% is closer to the cumulative project target of 10.2%. As before, this represents a significant difference in the assumption made at the outset of the programme that a large number of businesses assisted would develop new products and processes. Again, there has been more success with applications focused on marketing, mentoring, placements and shared businesses than developing new products/processes.

OP Indicator 000031 – Sales in businesses prior to receiving support

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000031	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	713983.93	0	713983.93
	Target									

OP Indicator 000041 – Sales in businesses following the completion of sales and marketing activities

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000041	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2687847	2687847
	Target									785383.4
	Baseline									713984.9



Sales following completion of sales and marketing activities have seen a 276 per cent increase. However, only one project (ASPIRE) has contributed to this indicator from a possible two. The target within the above table and graph has therefore been based entirely upon ASPIRE's baseline captured in 000031.

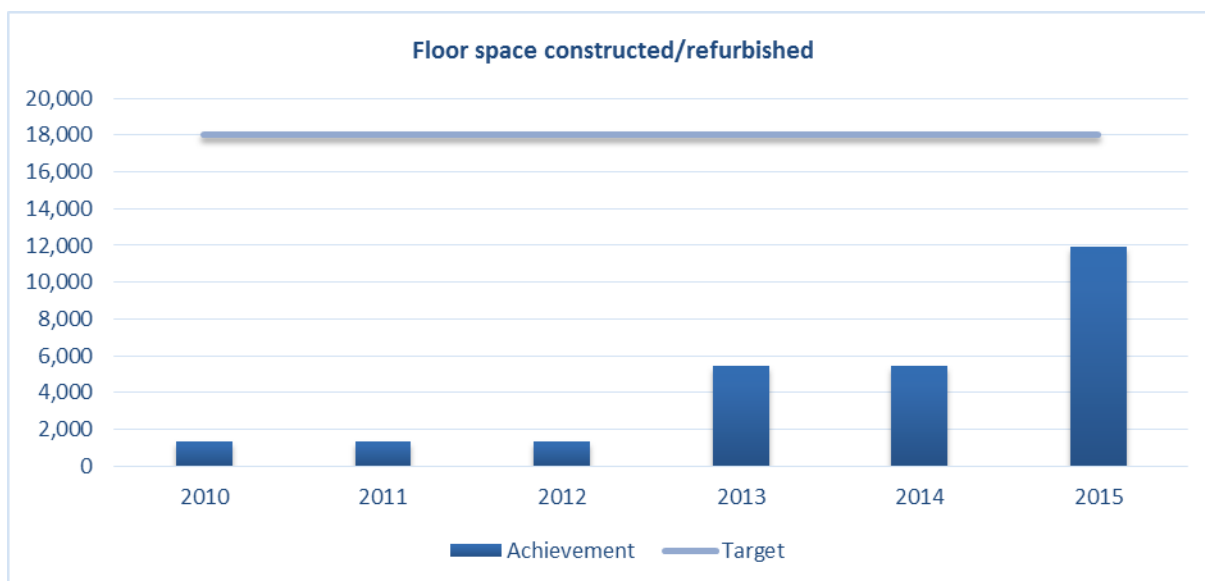
Achievement is well above the 10 per cent target. ASPIRE base this huge increase in sales on increased capacity – namely:

- Development needs addressed and up skilling took place
- Increased commitment to engage in business development
- Increased preparedness to engage in export markets
- Cross border trade stimulated
- Cross border linkages and business networks created

Problems arose with retrieving baselines for IOTA and, therefore, it would be imbalanced to use IOTA when contributing to achievement of this indicator.

OP Indicator 000121 – Floor space constructed/refurbished

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000121	Achievement	0	0	1300	0	0	4134	0	6503	11937
	Target									18000

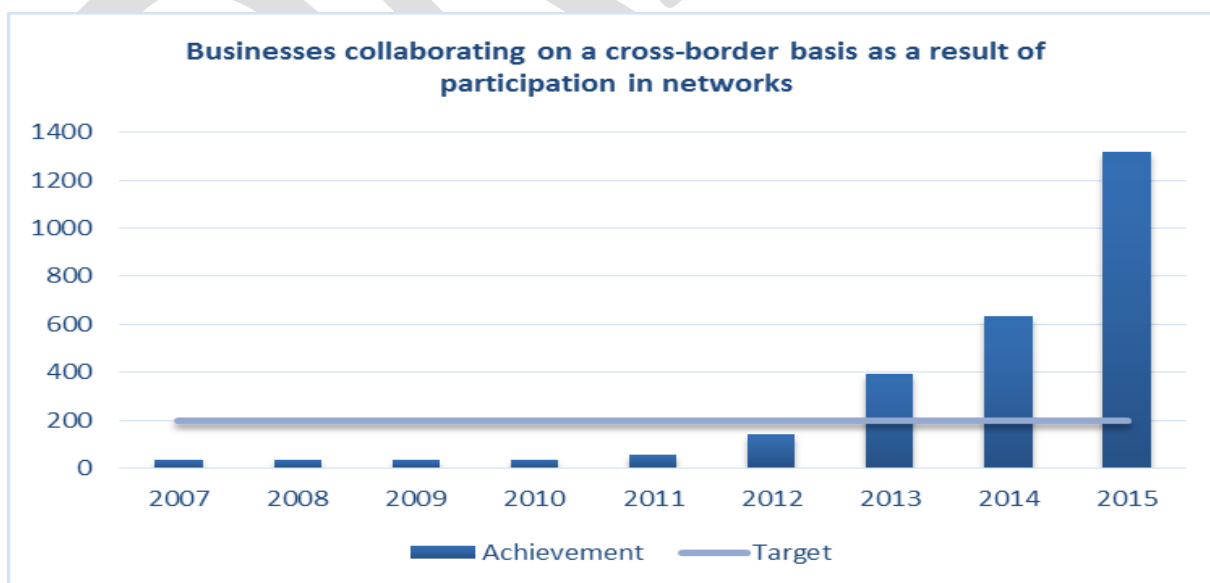


While the amount of floor space constructed/refurbished remains considerably below the levels envisaged at the outset of the programme, it has met the cumulative project target exactly (11,937) - with three projects contributing. Therefore, this underachievement relates to the expectation of more projects constructing/refurbishing floor space, rather than project shortcomings.

6,503 m² was completed in 2015 under the NW Science Park project, but this cannot fully contribute to indicator 000131 until 2017 and will be monitored in line with post-project monitoring requirements.

OP Indicator 000161 – Businesses collaborating on a cross-border basis as a result of participation in networks

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000161	Achievement	36	0	0	0	21	85	252	242	682	1318
	Target										200



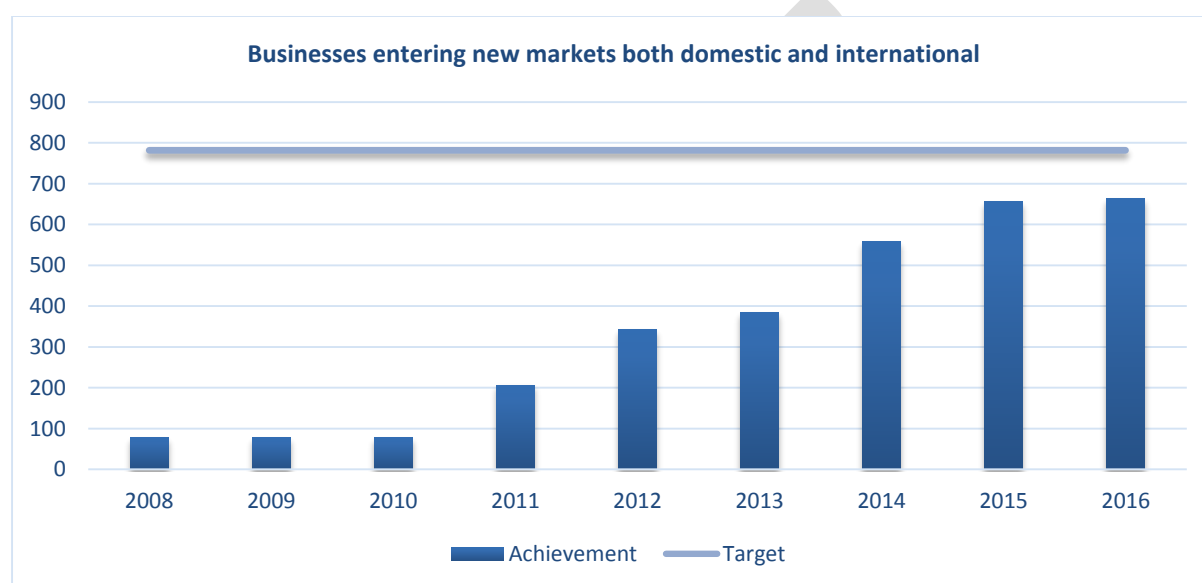
As with the number of networking projects collaborating on a cross-border basis (as a result of networking projects) this indicator has been overachieved. The participation of smaller businesses

may have been underestimated, believing the programme would attract larger businesses. Initially it was thought that 13.3 businesses per networking project would collaborate on this basis, but instead resulted in 39.9. An overachievement in the number of networking projects has also contributed to this much higher figure.

Theme 1.1 - Impacts

OP Indicator 000051 – Businesses entering new markets both domestic and international

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Indicator: 000051	Achievement	79	0	0	128	136	41	175	96	8	663
	Target										782



The achievement of this target has remained fairly consistent over the years and closely follows the target set at the outset of the Programme (20 per cent of businesses assisted). Whilst this is slightly underachieved to date (17 per cent), achievement is greater than the 600 businesses envisaged at the outset of the project (based on the initial expectations under 000001).

OP Indicator 000101 - New jobs created

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Indicator: 000101	Achievement	52	0	0	0	205	38	57.5	514.5	36	903
	Target										600



The target number of new jobs created has been far exceeded. This is primarily down to achievement of 514.5 new jobs in 2015 – with Food and Drink providing 359 of these. The cumulative project target (656) was closely linked to the OP target and Food and Drink goes some way to explaining the overachievement under this indicator (exceeded its project target by 280). The overachievement of jobs has also been influenced by higher numbers of businesses engaging than previously envisaged.

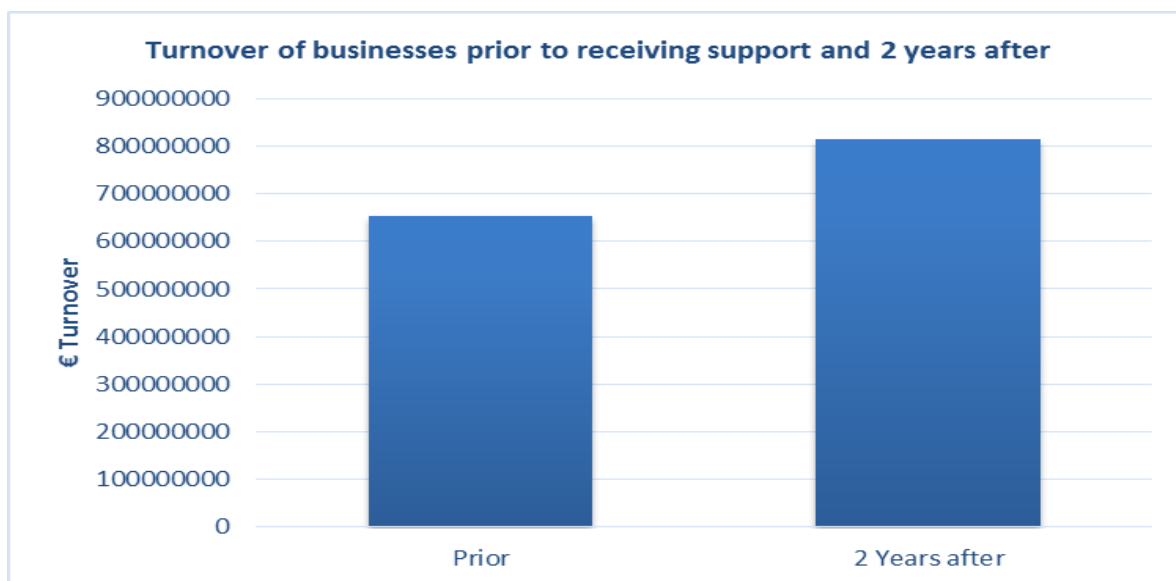
OP Indicator 000061 – Turnover of businesses prior to receiving support

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000061	Achievement	0	0	6934794	119461341	141520154.08	384394565.22	0	0	652310854.30
	Target									

For the purposes of this closure report, only those projects that have provided turnover 2 years after receiving support have been included. Therefore, the figures for only 3 of the 8 contributing projects have been provided. These are ICE, I-Factory and Food & Drink. COMET Bootcamp, Harnessing creativity, ASPIRE, IOTA and VITAL have not been reported as they are not yet 2 years post receipt of funding.

OP Indicator 000071 – Turnover of businesses 2 years after receiving support

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000071	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	9847353.00	806085605.54	815932958.54
	Target									



Whilst there was no programme target for this indicator, the figures show a 25 per cent increase from pre- to post-funding. Whilst this represents only 37.5 per cent of the projects contributing, it is a positive sign that the programme has helped increase the turnover of businesses assisted.

OP Indicator 000081 – New businesses still in existence 2 years after receiving support

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Indicator: 000081	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	123	26	23	172
	Target										305

Only 2 projects focused on assisting new businesses. These were HATCH and COMET Business Bootcamp, with a cumulative target of 148 between them. This equates to 39 per cent of the new projects assisted (381 new businesses assisted by these projects under indicator 000001). The programme target was 80 per cent which has yet to be achieved. However, there is further room for achievement as COMET Bootcamp has achievement relating to 2014 for 000001.

OP Indicator 000091 – Turnover in businesses after 2 years coming from export sales

Indicators		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000091	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1255150	181280780.26	182535930.26
	Target							40796647.93

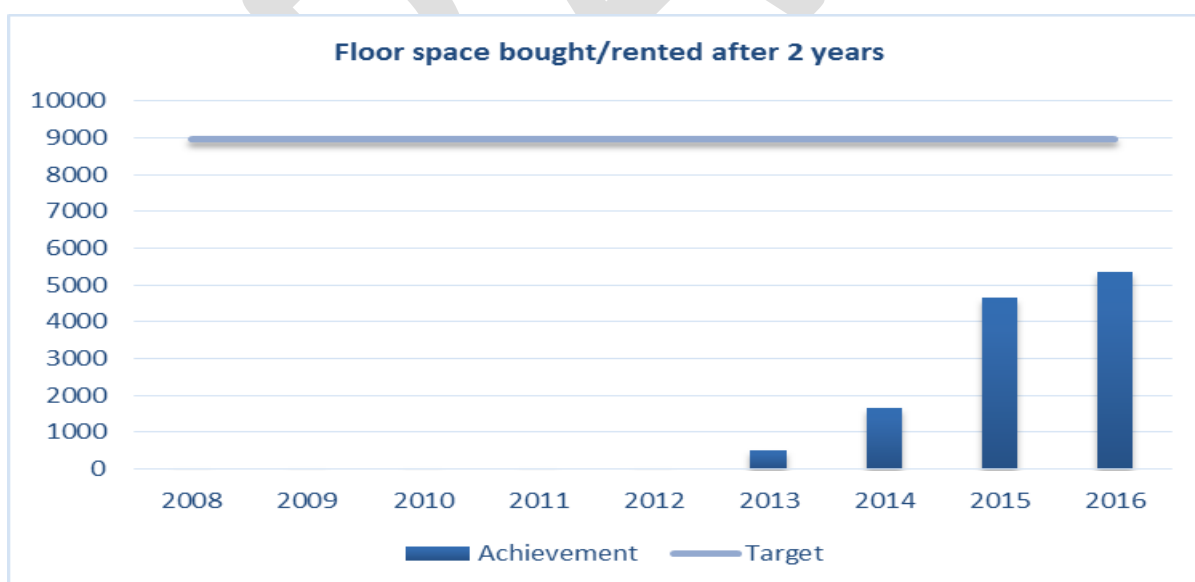
Three (ICE, I-factory and Food & Drink) of the four projects contributing to this indicator have recorded export sales figures as well as overall turnover figures. Compared with the turnover figures entered, these export sales represent an aggregated value of 22.4 per cent of all turnover – much higher than the programme target of 5 per cent. The target within the above table has been calculated based upon the three projects referenced and no account has been taken for Tradelinks 2 as they have yet to record achievement.



As reported above, the remaining project, Tradelinks 2, has reported that 51 per cent of the businesses they assisted reported an increase in export sales, indicating that funding has assisted with improving export sales.

OP Indicator 000131 – Floor space (m²) bought/rented after 2 years

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Indicator: 000131	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	512	1161	2973	719.94	5365.94
	Target										8952.75

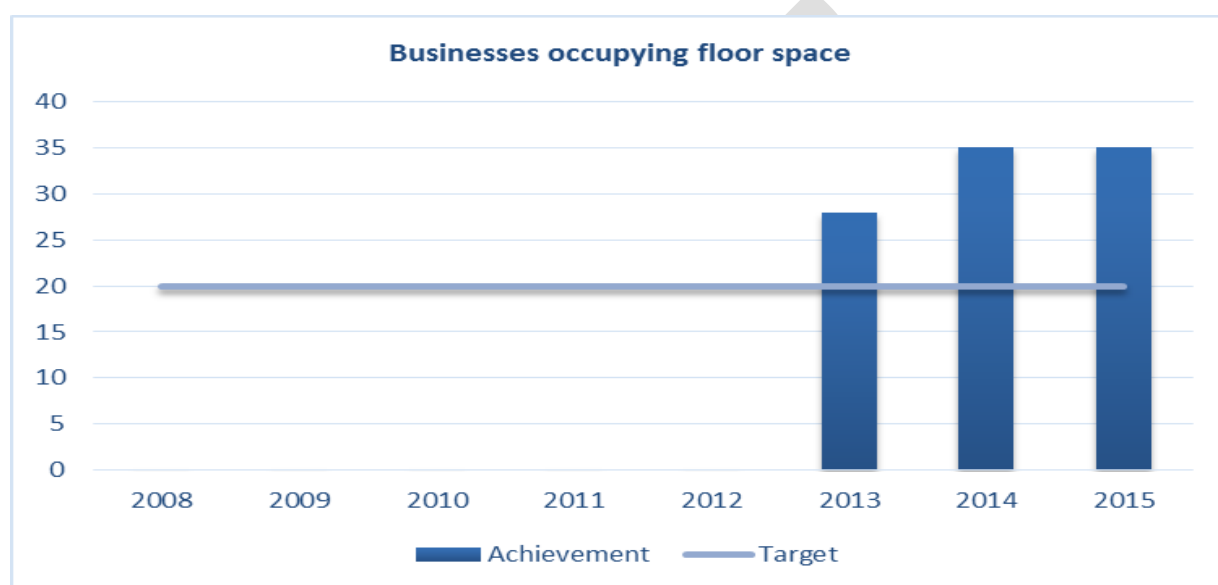


Floor space bought/rented after 2 years remains below the target. However, the majority of the floor space constructed/refurbished only completed in 2015 under the NW Science Park project (see indicator 000121). It is likely that further floor space will be bought/rented within the 2 year allotted period and therefore, underachievement at this stage would be expected.

It is worth noting that ICBAN Innovate has sold/rented 84 per cent of the floor space that it constructed/refurbished and has overachieved the target set. NW Science Park has rented/sold 3,692.94m² of the 6,503m² constructed/refurbished within the 2 year target set but has until 2017 to contribute further achievement. This represents 57 per cent at present. Enniskillen Airport has not yet recorded against this indicator but is required to record later in 2016.

OP Indicator 000141 – Businesses occupying floor space

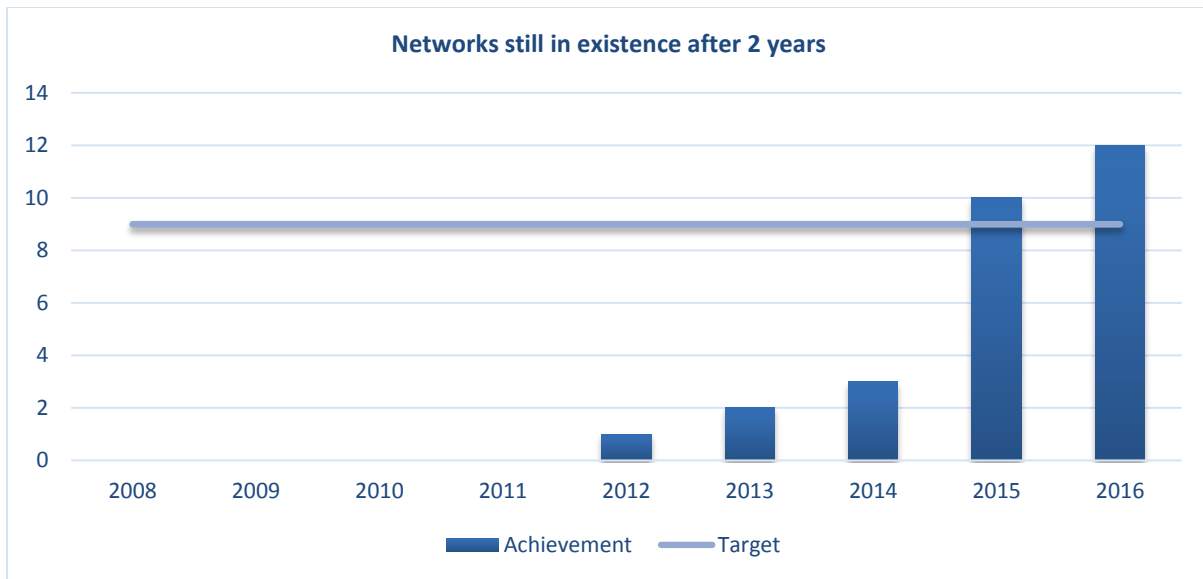
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000141	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	28	7	0	35
	Target									20



The number of businesses occupying floor space is 75 per cent more than envisaged. Therefore, it is clear that businesses, whilst occupying floor space, occupy much smaller spaces than initially thought. The achievement matches the cumulative project target exactly (subject to increase once Enniskillen Airport reports – however this should only increase by 1).

OP indicator 000171 – Networks still in existence after 2 years

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Indicator: 000171	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	7	2	12
	Target										9



Whilst achievement under 000151 is 33 networking projects, 7 networks (across 3 projects - Tradelinks, Tradelinks 2 & Traded Services) did not feed in against indicator 000171, leaving only 26 networking projects available to contribute to 000171.

Currently, 3 projects (Success through Succession, Honeycomb and NW Construction) have not yet recorded achievement, typically because they are not required to report until 2 years post-project. These 3 projects account for 3 networking projects.

As a result of these factors, the number of networking projects from which the target can be calculated is actually 23, against which the achievement of 12, represents a 52 per cent achievement.

100% achievement was recorded under projects ICE, HATCH, ECO HUB, STEM II, PLATO & VITAL.

The programme target has been achieved on this basis, and post-project monitoring will continue in keeping with the relevant Letters of Offer.

Theme 2 – Tourism

By Programme end:

- 5 projects accepted Letters of Offer and were fully operational at a combined value of **€21,826,035** (€16,369,536 ERDF & €5,456,509 Match) against a Theme allocation of **€22,892,827** (€17,169,620 ERDF & €5,723,207 Match). These projects are listed below:

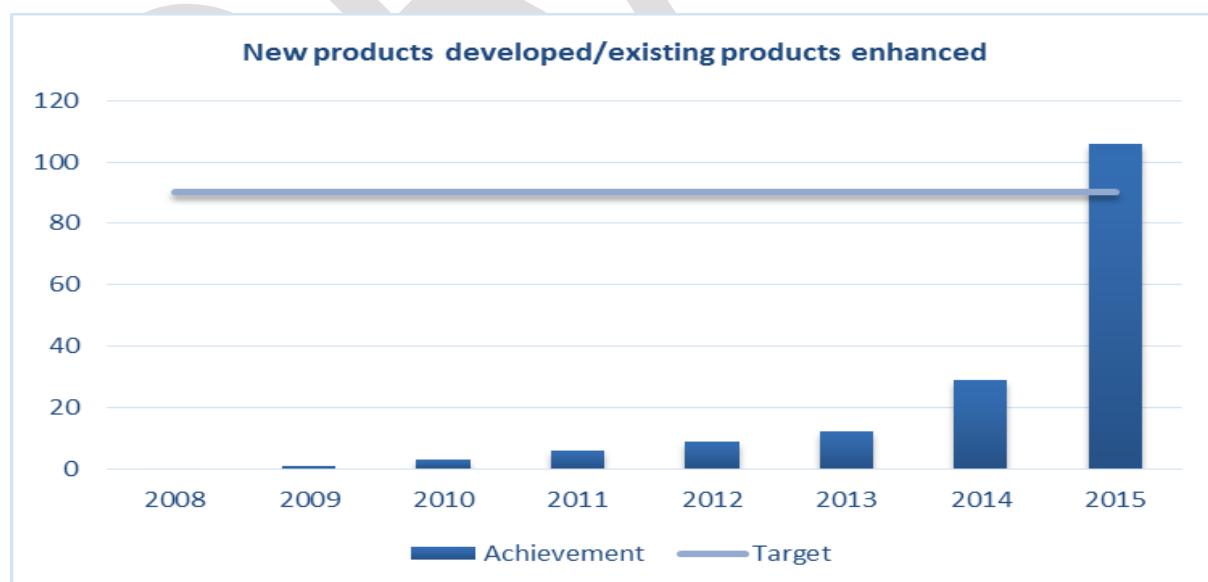
1.2	TOURISM – 5 Projects	
000475	Loughs Agency	Marine Tourism & Angling Development
000476	Donegal County Council	Sail West
007170	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Border Uplands
007177	North East Partnership	The Gobbins & Sliabh Liag
036241	Commissioners of Irish Lights	All-Island Lighthouse Trail

- 5 projects have completed with total expenditure of **€21,826,035** (€16,369,526 ERDF & €5,456,509 Match).

Theme 1.2 - Outputs

OP Indicator 000181 – New products developed/existing products enhanced

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000181	Achievement	0	1	2	3	3	3	17	77	106
	Target									90



The number of new products/existing products enhanced was successfully achieved in 2015. This was mainly down to three quarters of the achievement taking place in 2015 and is in keeping with the targets set against this indicator.

OP Indicator 000191 – Tourism marketing/brand products developed

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000191	Achievement	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	5
	Target									10



While this tourism indicator achievement represents only half of the programme target, it does reflect the cumulative project target of 5 and each of these projects were successful in their implementation per their individual Letters of Offer.

Theme 1.2 - Results

OP Indicator 000201 – Tourism visitors to supported existing tourism products/facilities: prior to support being received

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000201	Achievement	0	0	0	5500	300000	0	0	0	305500
	Target									

OP Indicator 000211 – Tourism visitors to supported existing tourism products/facilities: 2 years after support being received

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000211	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	9933	0	345000	354933
	Target									320775



Only 2 of 5 projects identified as feeding in against this indicator have been able to report achievement. The remaining 3 projects will not report until 2017 (2 years post-project end). As such, the baseline and target have been calculated from the Sailwest and Border Uplands projects only. The remaining three - Gobbins/Sliabh Liag, Geo-Tourism and EBR Tourism Plan - will continue to be monitored.

Achievement at this juncture represents a 16 per cent increase in tourism numbers against the target of 5 per cent. Both projects have overachieved with the Border Uplands project accounting for the majority of the achievement increasing their numbers by 15 per cent. Sailwest have seen their numbers increase by over 80 per cent.

Theme 1.2 - Impacts

OP Indicator 000221 – New tourism products/facilities still in existence after 2 years

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000221	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	7
	Target									19



All 6 projects feeding into this indicator did not fully complete until 2015. As such all 6 projects will be in a position to report further achievement against this indicator in 2017. Some of the earlier products/facilities developed by these projects have been achieved and achievement of 7 reflects this. Post-project monitoring will continue in line with individual Letters of Offer.

Further impact indicators:

- 10% increase in visitors to eligible area in April–Sep.
- 5% increase in visitors to eligible area in Oct–Mar.
- Increase in average length of stay.

9 projects have influenced tourism figures. These are the Loughs Agency, Sailwest, Gobbins/Sliabh Liag, ICBAN – Border Uplands, EBR Geo-Tourism, NWCRBG Inch levels, EBR Tourism Plan, All-Island Lighthouse Trail and Connect G.

As referenced against indicator 000211 above, the two projects we have received figures for showed an increase in tourism numbers above the project target.

Whilst tourism sources have been unable to provide figures based on the two 6-month periods (April–September and October–March), figures for the calendar year are available. Due to a change in the method used to gather information pre and post 2011 with regards to NI figures, it is not possible to compare the information provided before to that available now. Therefore, we have used the figures from 2011 as a baseline. We have also identified the percentage increase against each of the eligible areas and have provided figures for NI, Scotland and Ireland. A subset of data provides information on the number of domestic visitors to the Border Region and is taken from the Household Travel Survey, as opposed to the Country of Residence Survey which details overseas visitors.

Overseas Visitors

Region	2011	2014/2015	Percentage change	Avg length of stay (nights)
Northern Ireland	1,932,000	2,177,000	+12.7%	5.2 – 4.6
Ireland	6,505,000	8,643,000	+32.9%	7.7 – 7.1
Scotland	8,780,000	9,010,000	+2.6%	5.1 – 5.0

Domestic visitors

Region	2011	2014/2015	Percentage change	Avg length of stay (nights)
Northern Ireland	2,036,000	2,335,000	+14.7%	2.3 – 2.2
Border Region	729,000	765,000	+4.9%	3.2 – 3.2
Scotland	6,930,000	6,510,000	-6.1%	2.6 – 2.9

It should be noted that many other factors may have contributed to the changes in tourism figures and, therefore, these increases are not solely attributed to the INTERREG IVA programme.

Data regarding Western Scotland (supplied in 3 year average figures – due to robustness of data to analyse) would indicate a 10.4% decrease between 2007/09 and 2011/13, but an increase of 24% in spend. The average nights spent remained constant at 3.8 and 3.9 respectively. This information is taken from Great Britain Tourism Survey (GBTS) but excludes Lochalsh, Lochaber and Cumbrae.

• Qualitative analysis

Priority 1, Theme 1 – Enterprise

Key achievements for Theme 1.1 was the delivery of all 16 projects and the output indicators set for the theme. The success of the Food and Drink project brought several companies into new markets which was testament to the INTERREG IVA programme intervention and partnership support. The HATCH project involved supporting people on the journey to business with some participants being recognised through local awards.

It is acknowledged that, due to the nature of the projects supported under this Theme, the long-term impact of many may not be identified for 2 years post project completion, when the implementation plans have taken effect. However, the tables and graphs presented above support the measurable achievement to date.

Many of the businesses assisted through the Theme have reported that the impacts on the sustainability of their business, the increased levels of research and development, the assistance to develop improved management tools and the assistance to diversify into new markets would not have been achieved in the absence of this funding.

Further, reports suggest that the funding filled the perceived gap in support for family owned/family related businesses. Also noted was that the Programme was an ideal lead in to business support agents like Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland and Scottish Enterprise.

Case Studies

iFactory Project

The iFactory, which received around £1.67 million in INTERREG IVA funding, provided bespoke innovation support to SMEs across Northern Ireland and the border counties.

Fifteen partners, including all Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges, Lead Partner Regional College and project manager NORIBIC and five county enterprise boards, combined their expertise to support 150 small businesses. This support was provided via innovative action plans, continued specialist support and guidance, a mentoring pool, optimised learning and i-Learning. Participants were also given assistance in writing market and product research reports.



The Programme addressed the participating SMEs' aspirations to grow, compete and succeed.

Over a four year period, 146 small businesses were recruited onto the project with 146 innovation action plans developed. The project engaged cross-border clients which, due to the historical 'political' boundaries, would not typically engage or trade, for example West Tyrone and North Down.

CREST Project

The Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies (CREST), is Ireland's largest green technology research and development and training facility.



Based at the South West College (SWC), Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, CREST is staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of sustainability and innovation professionals. The £1.5m facility provides specialist education, training and R&D support to help small and medium-sized firms compete in the multi-billion pound renewable energy and sustainable technologies sector.

The Centre was established through a unique collaboration which pools expertise, resources and know-how from four colleges that have led on sustainability training and innovation in the UK and Ireland: South West College, Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre, Institute of Technology Sligo and Dumfries & Galloway College in Scotland

As a result of the support, the main benefits reported were:

- the development of new products/processes/services on the market;
- enhanced business skills and knowledge;
- greater confidence in the business; and
- greater awareness of R&D support from the education sector.

Priority 1, Theme 2 - Tourism

Within the eligible regions, variations existed with tourism playing a stronger role in the economy of the Border Region and Western Scotland than in Northern Ireland. In order to develop the potential for tourism and build on progress made in these areas, this Theme supported niche areas like culture, language, heritage, natural resources, marine and water-based tourism and other themes of rural tourism.

Theme 1.2 delivered 5 very successful landmark projects such as the Gobbins and Sliabh Liag, a project which aimed to create two unique coastal experiences attracting 90,000 visitors to the Co. Donegal and Co. Antrim areas.

The necklace of lighthouses that have been refurbished and converted into visitors centres and self-catering accommodation by the Commissioner of Irish Lights further adds to the draw of the eligible region and has promoted further investment to the sites as a result of this activity.

The Inch Levels – Lough Foyle Wildlife Programme advanced the economic potential of tourism throughout the North West region promoting cultural, educational, economic and environmental factors.

Overall, the opportunity to build on partnerships and linkages that would improve the tourism product and attract domestic and overseas visitors to visit and stay in the region was taken and a positive impact has been realised as a result of the Theme.

Case Studies

Border Uplands Project

The Border Uplands project was a cross-border tourism development project, led by the Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) and delivered through Cavan, Fermanagh, Sligo and Leitrim District Councils.

The project, which received €3.184 million of INTERREG IV funding, established sustainable tourism in remote cross-border locations, and increased the geo-tourism and recreational potential of the region through the increased sustainable tourism and social use of the countryside.



In addition, Border Uplands also further enhanced the geo-diversity, biodiversity and natural environments of the region including measures to improve natural habitats or geo-sites, where appropriate.

Specifically, the project upgraded and enhanced aspects of the Marble Arch Caves Geopark, as well as establishing outdoor access, recreational and amenity infrastructure in the regions' uplands, and establishing educational, management and amenity infrastructures in the area.

Marine Tourism and Angling Project

The Marine Tourism & Angling Development project developed marine tourism, water based leisure activities, angling tourism and recreational angling in the Foyle and Carlingford systems. The project, led by the Loughs' Agency, included a variety of initiatives that developed the infrastructure and information available to anglers and tourists seeking to enjoy the natural beauty of these two cross-border areas.

These initiatives included the development of existing basic landing and mooring facilities as stop off facilities on Inishtrahull Island, Co. Donegal; the construction of city centre quayside mooring for cruise ships and small passenger vessels in Derry/Londonderry; and provision of new 140 metre pontoon including visitor moorings and expansion of facilities for small ships, large naval boats, traditional craft and small passenger at Londonderry Port. The project has improved infrastructure in the region which is a significant contribution to the tourism sector in the area and is providing facilities which can be promoted, used and developed further to achieve significant socio-economic benefit.

Images included in the Post Project Evaluation provide evidence of significant improvements to each of the areas identified within the project.

Image 1 Foyle Marina before works



Image 2 Foyle Marina in use after works



3.1.2 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Project spend was held up due to delays in implementing the large capital projects, e.g. the Gobbins/Sliabh Liag project. A minor extension request was granted to allow the project to proceed.

The Gobbins/Sliabh Liag project was impacted by planning permission, landowner agreements, procurement delays and additional costs as a result of poor rock conditions being found at the Gobbins site. The project has now delivered on the visitor centre and coastal path at the Gobbins and the transport hub at Sliabh Liag. The project was completed within the programme period.

- List of unfinished operations and the schedule for their completion (final report only).

All operations were completed by Programme end.

3.2 Priority 2 Co-operation for a sustainable Programme region

3.2.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

The 47 projects funded under Priority 2, Theme 1 improved cross-border co-operation and the exchange of expertise, information and best practice between public sector bodies and relevant stakeholders, improving services in order to improve the quality of life for those living in the eligible region.

Priority 2, Theme1, which had the highest number of active projects, had a diverse range of funded activity across the three key interventions – Health, Rural Development and Public Sector Collaboration. Flagship projects such as Putting Patients First Project (€30m) facilitated the pooling of knowledge and resources in health services to share knowledge and access to facilities for patients with conditions such as autism, obesity, diabetes and eating disorders in the border region. The project facilitated training of over 40,000 members of staff and resulted in the creation of almost 400 employment years.

The £12m North West Science Park project established a 70,000 sq ft space creating an environment that supports business start-up activity, facilitating business growth within the knowledge sector, split across two locations in the city of Derry, Co.Londonderry and Letterkenny in Co. Donegal.

17 projects were awarded funding under Priority 2, Theme 2, which supported a number of selected cross-border infrastructure projects across four sub-themes - Telecommunications, Transport, Energy and Environment.

A diverse range of activity was funded under these four interventions. Projects of significance include Project Kelvin. This €30 million joint initiative between the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in the Ireland created an enhanced cable network between Canada, the USA, the United Kingdom, Ireland and mainland Europe. The submarine cable carries bandwidth at enhanced speed and accuracy directly between the region and North America.

Other projects such as the €6m Biomara project was developed to investigate the feasibility and viability of creating biofuels from algal biomass. The project had 6 partners from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland and was successful in producing a legacy of research papers and a schools information pack which is being used globally.

Three projects improved rail services and promoted cross-border travel under Theme 2 – these included the£3.2m Redevelopment of Portadown Railway Station, the £12.2m Enterprise Overhaul and the €6.1m Iarnród Éireann refurbishment of Drogheda Viaduct. Additionally, the £4.5m Cross Border Regional Infrastructure Development Scheme provided improved access to services on both sides of the border and reduced social isolation for those communities in the area.

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Theme 1 - Collaboration

By Programme end:

- **47** projects had accepted Letters of Offer at a combined value of **€98,009,813** (€73,507,360 ERDF & €24,502,453 Match) against a Theme allocation of **€96,137,325** (€72,102,994 ERDF & €24,034,331 Match);

Theme/ Strand (No. of Projects)	Lead Partner	Project Name
2.1	COLLABORATION – 47 Projects	
000461	DHSSPS (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety) /DoHC (Department of Health and Children)	INTERREG IV Putting Patients First
003998	North East Partnership	Regeneration in Villages & Emergency Rescue (RIVER Project)
005200	University College Dublin, School of Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine	Social Farming Across Borders
005236	Donegal County Council	River Links
005415	Newry & Mourne District Council	CASA Rural Investment Initiative
006272	Cavan County Enterprise Board	Harnessing of Natural Resources
006274	Monaghan County Council	Clones Erne East Blackwater Rural Regeneration
000558	Donegal County Council	Women into Public Life
000607	Centre for Cross Border Studies	The Ireland/ Northern Ireland Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory
000641	DHSSPS (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety)	Driving Change
000693	RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) Northern Ireland	Sensory Engagement Project
000843	The Cedar Foundation	ConneXions
000905	Caldonian Maritime Assets Ltd	Small Ferries Strategic Plan
000932	South West College	Deaf Communications Infrastructure Development
006787	East Border Region	Management & Implementation of the MAP
006790	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Management & Implementation of the MAP
006792	North West Region Cross Border Group	Management and Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan
006793	COMET	Management and Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan
006794	North East Partnership	Management & Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan

Theme/ Strand (No. of Projects)	Lead Partner	Project Name
006859	North East Partnership Business Improvement Districts	NEP Business Improvement Districts
007128	East Border Region Ltd	Action for Biodiversity
007129	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Central Border Region Spatial Planning Initiative
007130	East Border Region Ltd	Energy Efficiency & Micro Generation Project
007131	East Border Region Ltd	East Border Region "Promoting Balanced and Sustainable Cross Border Development"
007184	North West Region Cross Border Group	Urban and Village Renewal Programme
007186	North West Region Cross Border Group	SPACEial North West
035986	Sabhal Mòr Ostaig	ConnectG
035994	Centre for Cross Border Studies	The Ireland/ Northern Ireland Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory-2
036371	Action Mental Health	SALUS
036494	North West Region Cross Border Group	NW Healthy Living & Community Gardens/Allotments Project
047839	North East Partnership	Management and Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan
047995	East Border Region Limited	Management and Implementation of the Multi Annual Plan 2013 - 2015
019329	North West Region Cross Border Group	NW Construction Network Programme
019330	North West Region Cross Border Group	The Renewable Energy Network(REN-NET)
019389	East Border Region Ltd	The Life Sciences Supply Chain Clustering Project
019391	East Border Region Ltd	STEM II
019401	East Border Region Ltd	EBR Plato Programme 2011-2013
019403	East Border Region Ltd	Smart Eco Hub
021241	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Harnessing Creativity
021252	East Border Region Ltd	Innovation, Opportunity, Training and Advice Programme (iOTA)
029204	COMET Partnership	Gateways to Growth: Supply Buy Network
029205	COMET Partnership	Business Boot Camp
030681	East Border Region Ltd	ASPIRE
031740	North West Region Cross Border Group	North West Regional Science Park
007221	North West Region Cross Border Group	Inch Levels - Lough Foyle Wildlife Programme
007244	East Border Region Ltd	Eco-Geo Tourism
007245	East Border Region Ltd	EBR Tourism Development Plan

- **47** projects completed with total expenditure of **€95,675,089** (€71,756,317 ERDF & €23,918,772 Match);

Theme 2.1 - Outputs

OP Indicator 000231 – Cross-border projects supported

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000231	Achievement	4	4	5	36	4	4	3	40	100
	Target									60



The number of Cross-border projects supported has been overachieved with 2015 witnessing a late surge. This is a good indication of the ambition of projects to engage cross-border.

Overachievement against this indicator can be attributed to the EBR Tourism Development Plan which overachieved its target of 5 by an additional 32.

OP Indicator 000241 – Strategic local authority initiatives supported

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000241	Achievement	0	0	1	3	6	8	5	1	24
	Target									24

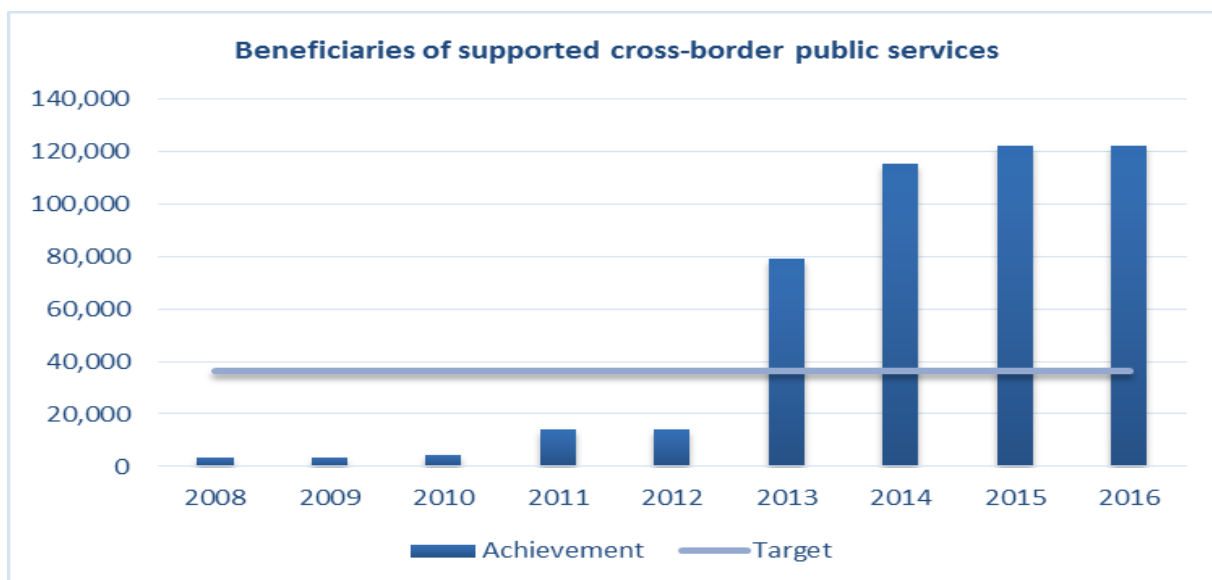


The number of local authority initiatives target has been achieved according to the Programme target set.

Theme 2.1 - Results

OP Indicator 000251 – Beneficiaries of supported cross-border public services³⁸

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Indicator: 000251	Achievement	3618	0	830	9718	188	64474	36309	6639	14	121790
	Target										36500



³⁸ The figures presented differ from Systems 2007 as achievement against NEP River and Harnessing Natural Resources have been manually removed, as they were deemed not to meet the definition of the indicator, i.e. the project had reported 'users' of the facility as 'beneficiaries'. They remain linked, however, for project monitoring purposes.

This indicator has been significantly overachieved – an effect of the success in engaging cross-border projects and networks. The cross-border element of INTERREG IVA has been overachieved across every effective indicator.

Across the Programme, beneficiaries have been underestimated. Additionally, the overachievement of events and projects assisted has resulted in much higher levels of achievement than expected regarding participation.

Specifically, Putting Patients First - a cross-border healthcare project - saw achievement of three times its overall project target (97,256 versus a target of 27,960). The number of services provided far exceeded the project's initial target and this, in turn, resulted in services being much more wide reaching (twice the number of patients). Training was also more far reaching than expected and over thirteen times the number of staff were trained than initially planned (primarily the result of eLearning). Putting Patients First is the single biggest contributing factor to the indicator's overachievement.

OP Indicator 000261 – Research projects completed

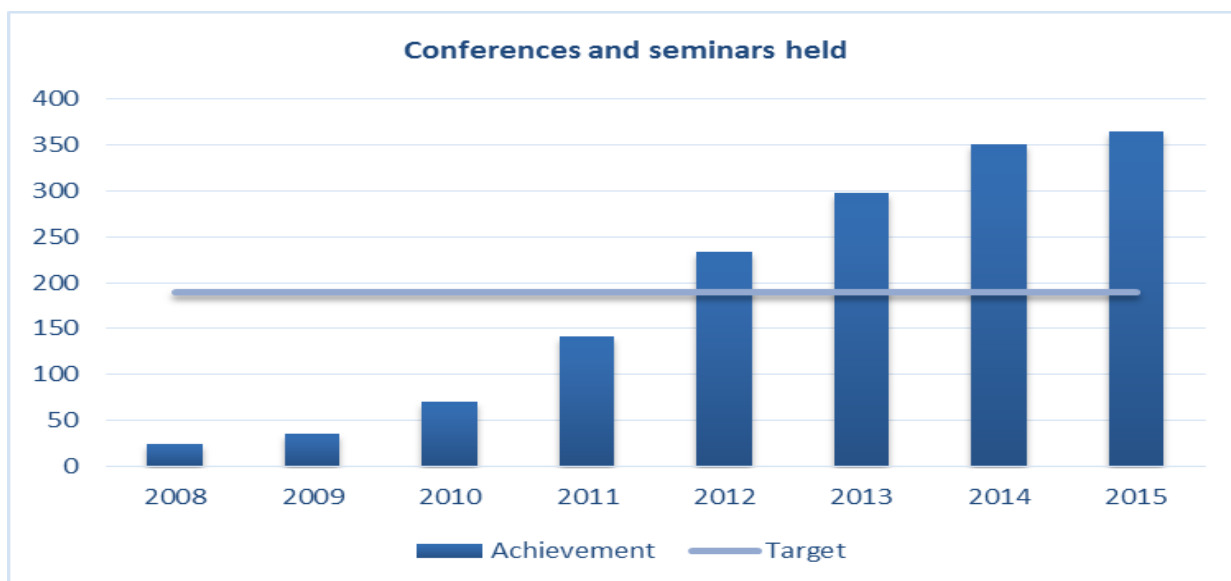
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000261	Achievement	0	0	0	3	6	12	17	17	17
	Target									17



The number of research projects completed has met the programme target with all 17 research projects completing. These projects came under the umbrella of 6 INTERREG IVA projects which included Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory, ConneXions, Small Ferries Strategic Plan, Spatial Planning Initiative, SPACEial North West and EBR Tourism Development Plan.

OP Indicator 000271 – Conferences and seminars held

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000271	Achievement	25	11	34	71	92	65	53	13	364
	Target									190

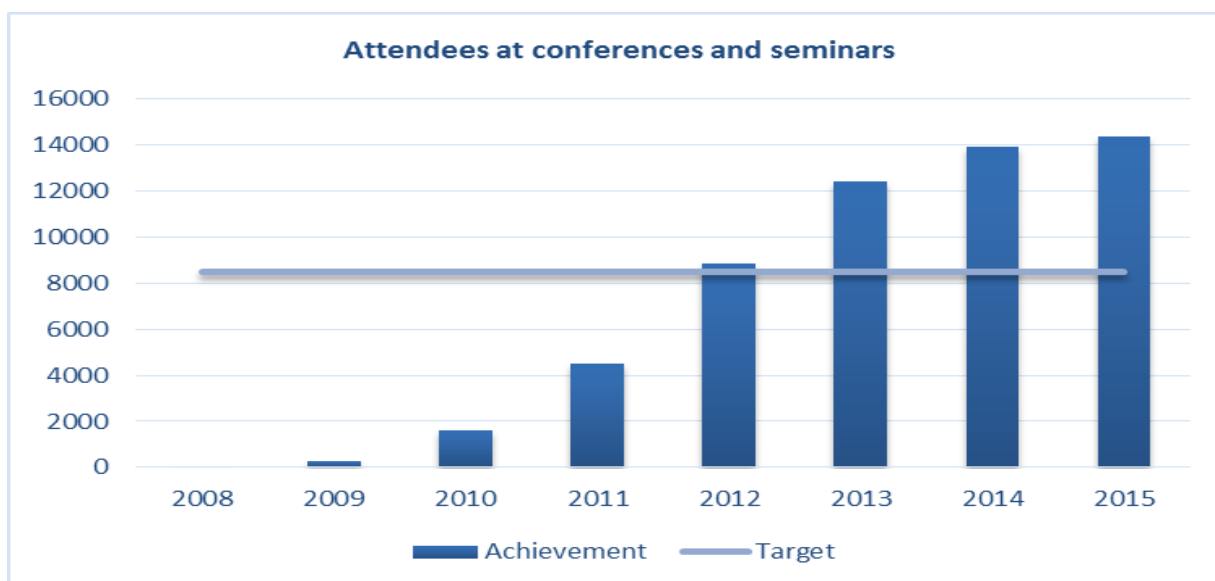


The number of conferences and seminars held has been nearly double that targeted. Overachievement stems from the overachievement witnessed under Indicator 000231 and the number of cross-border projects supported.

More specifically, a number of projects have overachieved significantly – including Putting Patients First, Women into Life, Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory and Driving Change. These account for 46 per cent of the conferences and seminars but represent only a quarter of the projects contributing.

OP Indicator 000281 – Attendees at conferences and seminars

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000281	Achievement	0	296	1301	2888	4352	3578	1502	456	14373
	Target									8500



As a result of the unexpectedly high number of conferences and seminars, the number of attendees has been nearly double. With 39 attendees per event, this is a shade under the 45 predicted. Again,

overachievement could be seen to have its origins in the overachievement of cross-border projects supported.

As with indicator 000271 some projects have contributed significantly more than envisaged. Women into Public Life, Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory and Driving Change have accounted for 7,060 (49%) of these attendees. In the case of Women Into Public Life, the Post Project Evaluation confirms that a number of women attended more than one seminar or conference. Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory surpassed its target on some but under-achieved on other attendee events. 29% of attendees were from Driving Change whose breadth of project partners increased through the course of the project, for example Power NI, ESB Ireland, Public Achievement - introducing the project to more interested parties than previously envisaged.

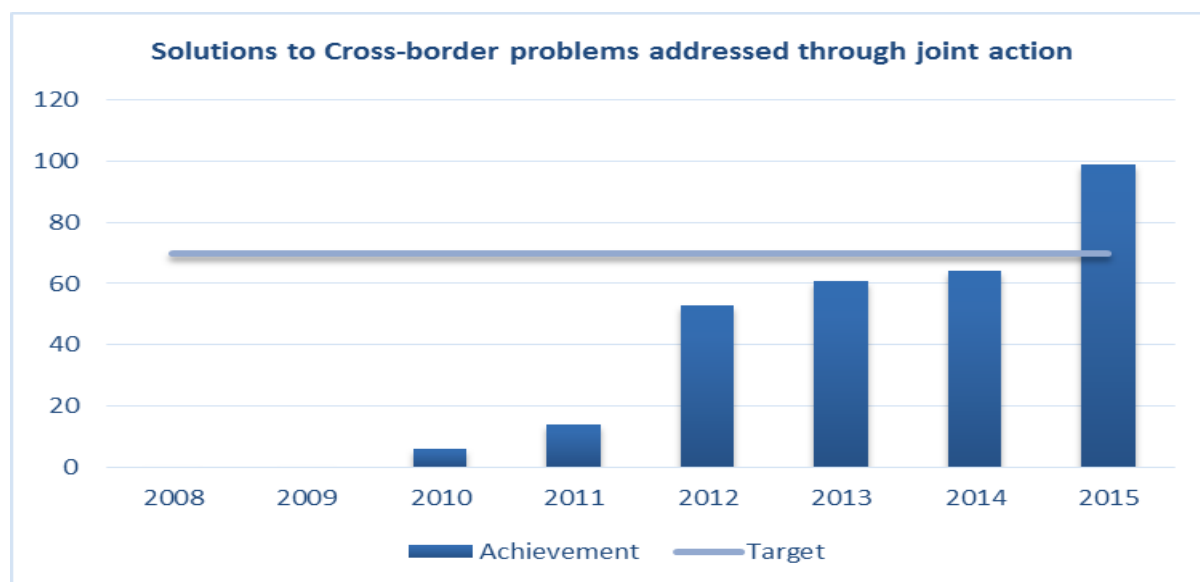
Theme 2.1 - Impacts

OP Indicator 000291 – Cross-border projects still in existence after 2 years

SEUPB cannot report against this indicator at present as it looks at projects still in existence 2 years after the Programme end. This will continue to be monitored.

OP Indicator 000301 – Solutions to cross-border problems addressed through joint action

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000301	Achievement	0	0	6	8	39	8	3	35	99
	Target									70



This indicator has been overachieved with the target being hit in 2015. It is much in keeping with the cumulative target calculated by adding project specific targets together (this totalled 96).

Theme 2 – Infrastructure

By Programme end:

- 17 projects had accepted Letters of Offer at a combined value of **€99,476,151** (€74,607,113 ERDF & €24,869,038 Match) against a Theme allocation of **€93,551,019** (€70,163,264 ERDF & €23,387,755 Match);

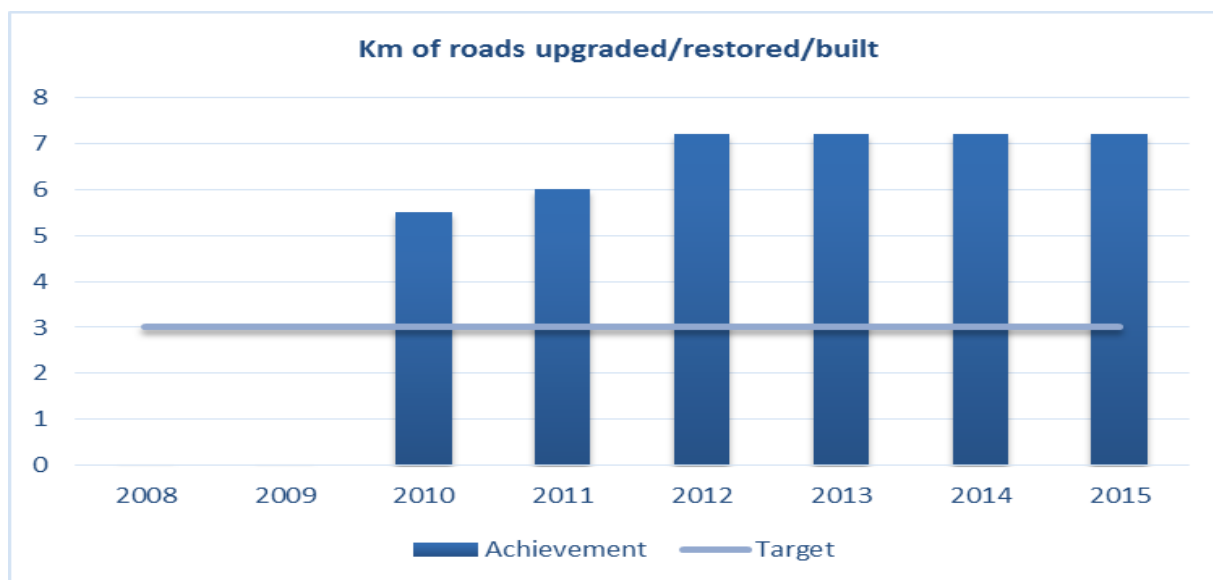
Theme/ Strand (No. of Projects)	Lead Partner	Project Name
2.2	INFRASTRUCTURE – 17 Projects	
002859	Loughs Agency/SCENE, University of Glasgow/C-MAR, Queen's University Belfast	Integrated Aquatic Resources Management Between Ireland, NI and Scotland Project (IBIS)
002862	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute	Development of targeted ecological modelling tools for lake management (DOLMANT)
002866	RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) (NI)	Halting Environmental Loss Project (HELP)
002991	Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute	Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling (ANSWER)
003126	Queen's University Belfast	Controlling invasive riparian plants and restoring native biodiversity Project
I4/003603	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland	Tellus Border Project
003677	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland Hydrographic Survey Project (INIS-HYDRO)
003705	Donegal County Council	Practical Implementation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel measures
000375	Scottish Association Marine Science	Sustainable Fuels from Marine Biomass Project (BIOMARA)
000679	Energy & Telecommunications Division, The Scottish Government	Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study Project (ISLES)
036347	University of Ulster	Storage Platform for the Integration of Renewable Energy Project (SPIRE)
036442	Scottish Government	ISLES 2 - Towards Implementation Project
018928	DRD Roads Service	Cross Border Regional Infrastructure Development Schemes Project (CBRIDS)
036064	Department for Regional Development	Redevelopment of Portadown Railway Station Project
050643	Northern Ireland Railways	Enterprise Phase 3 Overhaul Programme
050661	Iarnród Éireann	Drogheda Viaduct Refurbishment Project
000346	DETI (NI) and DCENR	Project Kelvin

- 17 projects had completed with total expenditure of **€98,937,163** (€74,202,872 ERDF & €24,734,291 Match);

Theme 2.2 - Outputs

OP Indicator 000311 – Km of roads upgraded/restored/built

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000311	Achievement	0	0	5.5	0.5	1.2	0	0	0	7.2
	Target									3



The distance of road upgraded has been more than double the distance set. This is primarily down to the 5.5km of road upgraded in 2010 which related to Knockaganny and Annaghroe Bridges linking Armagh and Monaghan. The achievement under this indicator matches the cumulative project target of 7.2Km.

OP Indicator 000441 – Telecommunications projects funded

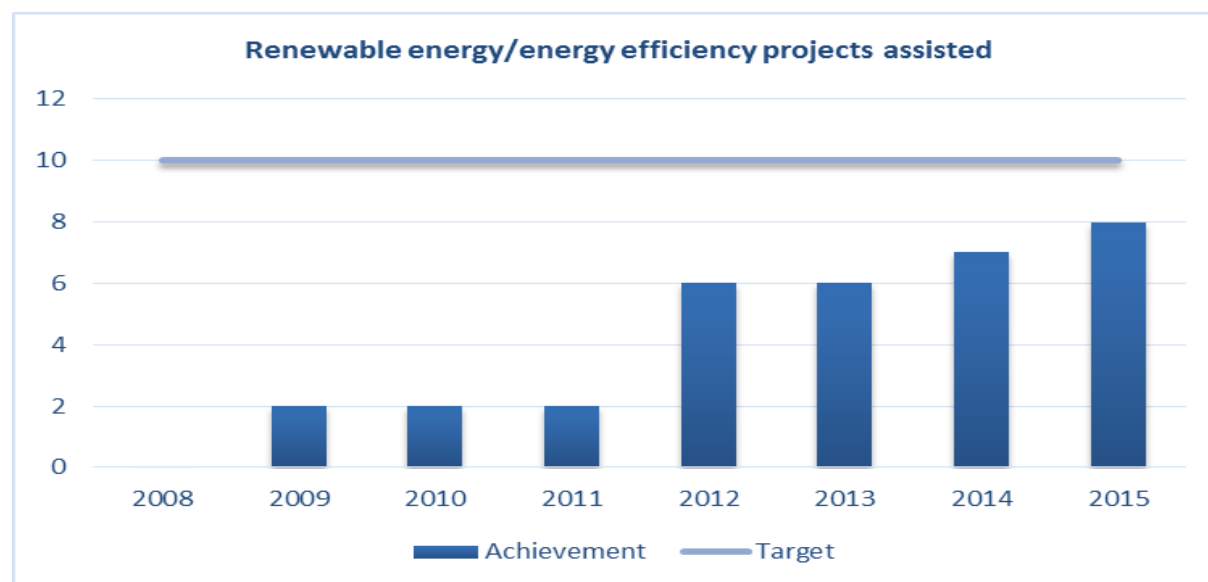
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000441	Achievement	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Target									2



Despite the target of 2, only 1 telecommunications project was funded under the Programme. The cumulative project target was also 1 reflecting the unique nature of projects available for approval.

OP Indicator 000381 – Renewable energy/energy efficiency projects assisted

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000381	Achievement	0	2	0	0	4	0	1	1	8
	Target									10



While the number of renewable energy/energy efficiency projects is 2 below the target set, achievement surpasses the cumulative project target of 7.

OP Indicator 000411 – Environmental management projects funded

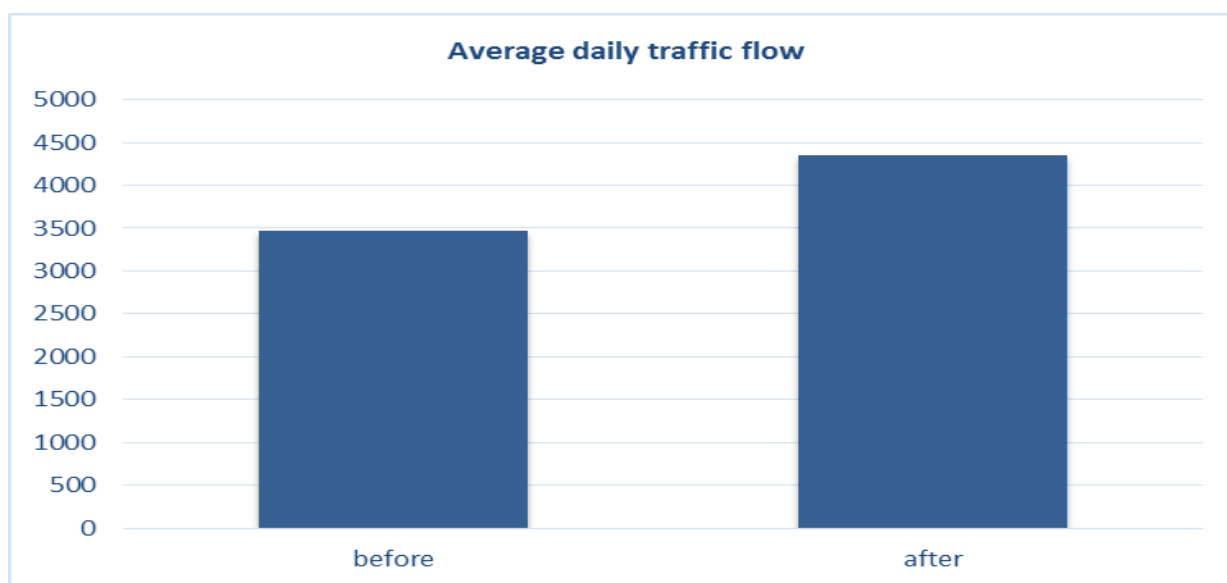
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000411	Achievement	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	0	8
	Target									5



The target set for environmental management projects has been met in 2013 and surpassed. The achievement of 8 matches the cumulative project target.

Theme 2.2 - Results

OP Indicator 000321 & 000331 – Traffic flow prior to commencement of project & one year after completion of project



Average daily traffic flow was recorded before commencement and one year after project completion. In 2009 average daily traffic flow was 3,437. In 2012 (one year after completion) this stood at 4,346. There was no programme target set, although the one contributing project (CBRIDS) set a target of a 20% increase. Actual figures represent a 26.4% increase.

A table of annual achievement has not been included as per other indicators, as achievement of these figures was not annual. Rather these were measured at two points in time.

OP Indicator 000341 & 000351 – Reduction in journey times

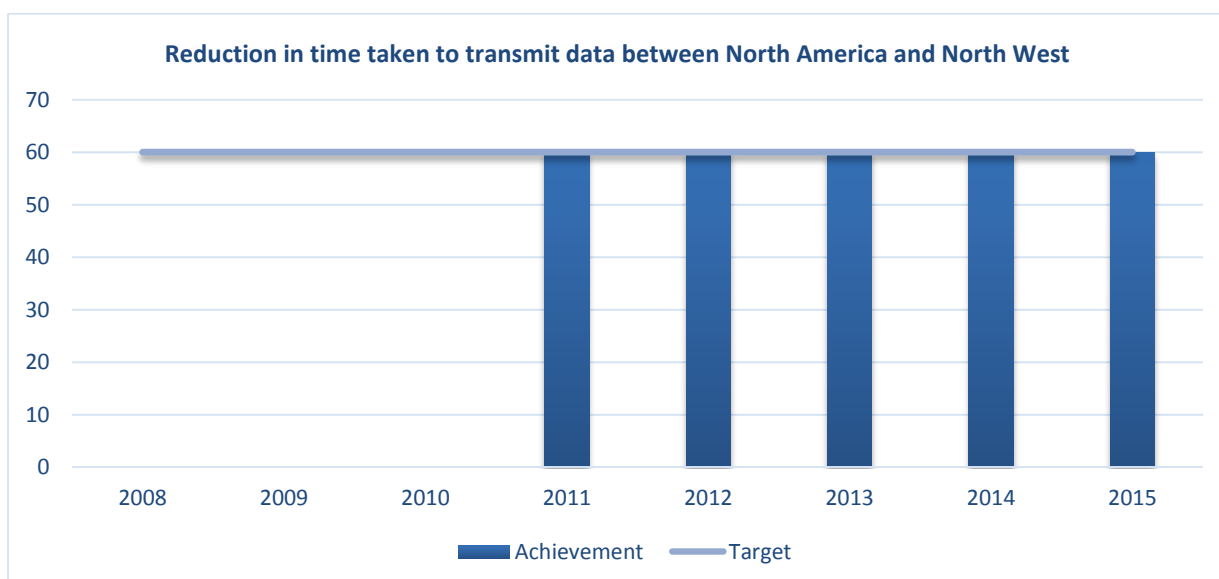
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000341 & 000351	Achievement						30			30
	Target									
	Baseline									45



There was no programme target stipulated for this indicator. However, the only project contributing to the indicator did set a project target of reducing journey times by 33%. The average journey at the outset of the project was 45 minutes which reduced to 30 minutes following completion of the CBRIDS project in 2013, thus meeting the project's target of 33% reduction in journey time. These times are based on the average travel times between Dungannon and Monaghan and specifically illustrates the effects of the CBRID's project following the completion of work on the Knockaginny and Annaghroe Bridges.

OP Indicator 000451 – Reduction in time taken (milliseconds) to transmit data between North America and North West

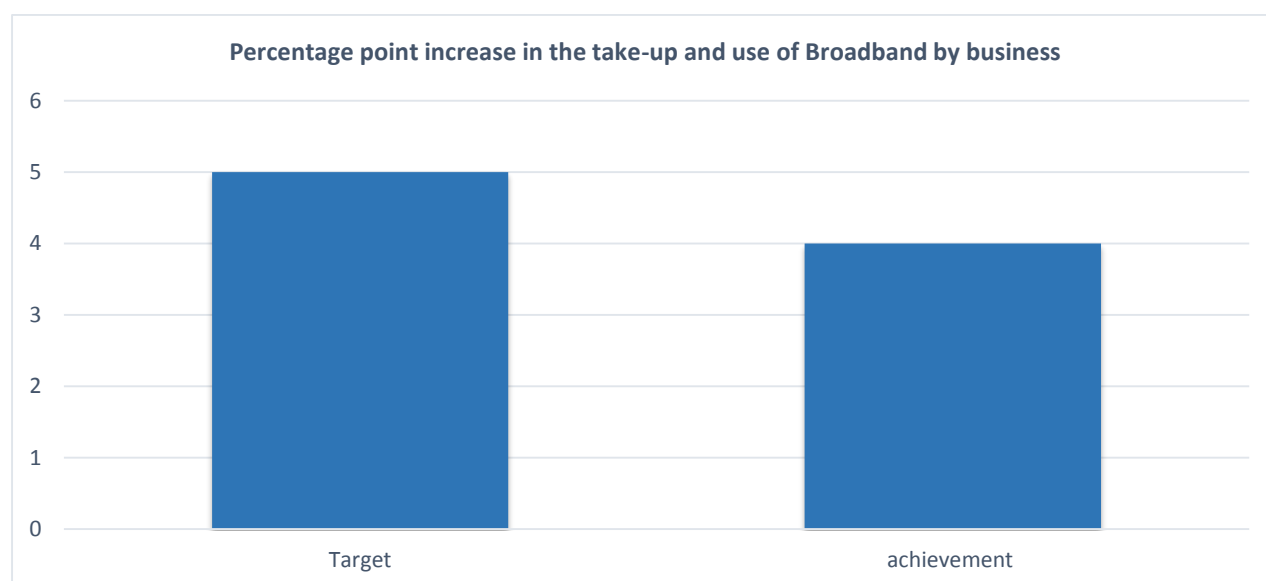
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000451	Achievement	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	60
	Target									60



One contributing project, Project KELVIN, has recorded the new time taken rather than the reduction in time as a result of the project. The baseline was 80 milliseconds with a target reduction of 25%.

Actual achievement of 60 milliseconds reflects a 20 milliseconds reduction and meets the 25% target set.

OP Indicator 000461 – Percentage point increase in the take-up and use of broadband by business



It was targeted that the increase in take-up of Broadband by businesses would be 5 percentage points. Actual achievement was 4 percentage points.

A table of annual achievement has not been included as per other indicators, as achievement of these figures was not annual. Rather these were measured at two points in time.

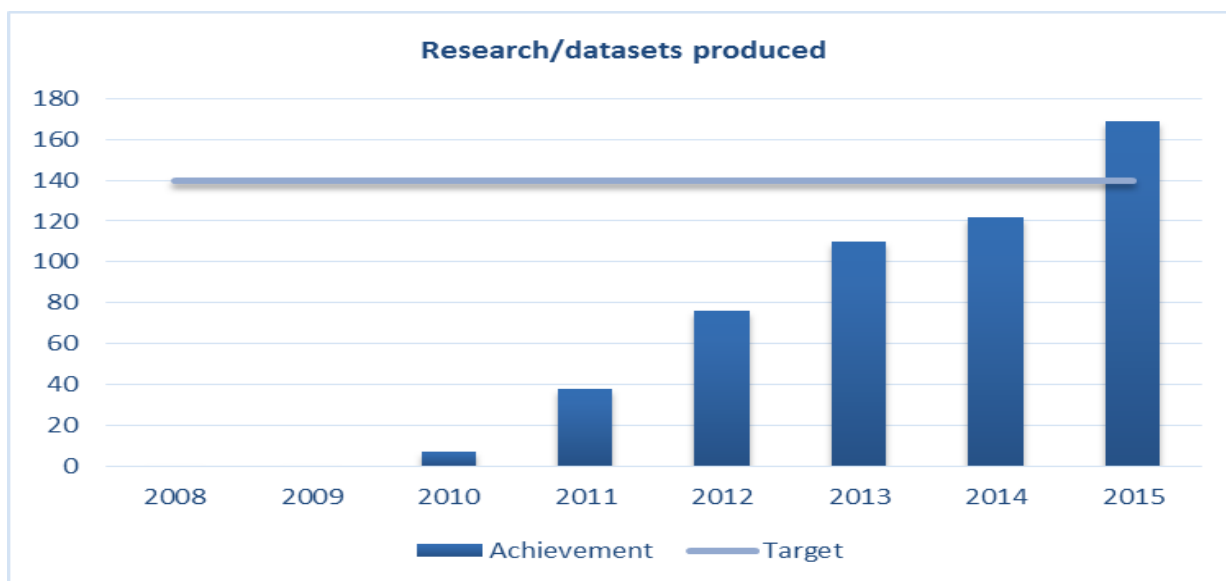
OP Indicator 000391 – Renewable energy sources created or developed.

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000391	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Target									6

Only 1 project awarded funding was deemed suitable to contribute to this indicator. Biomara has recorded achievement of 1 against this indicator. The number of renewable energy projects in 000381 was less than envisaged and most projects under this theme focused on other environmental issues – with indicator 000411 being overachieved.

OP Indicator 000421 – Research/datasets produced

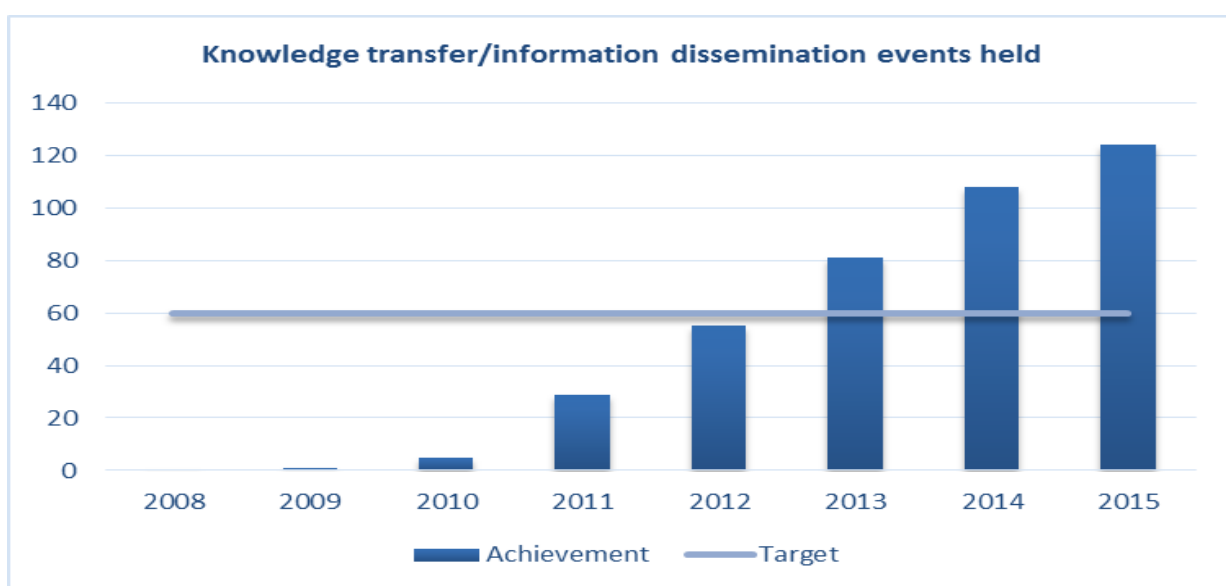
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000421	Achievement	0	0	7	31	38	34	12	47	169
	Target									140



The number of research/datasets produced was achieved in 2015 and achievement sits above the Programme target.

OP Indicator 000431 – Knowledge transfer/information dissemination events held

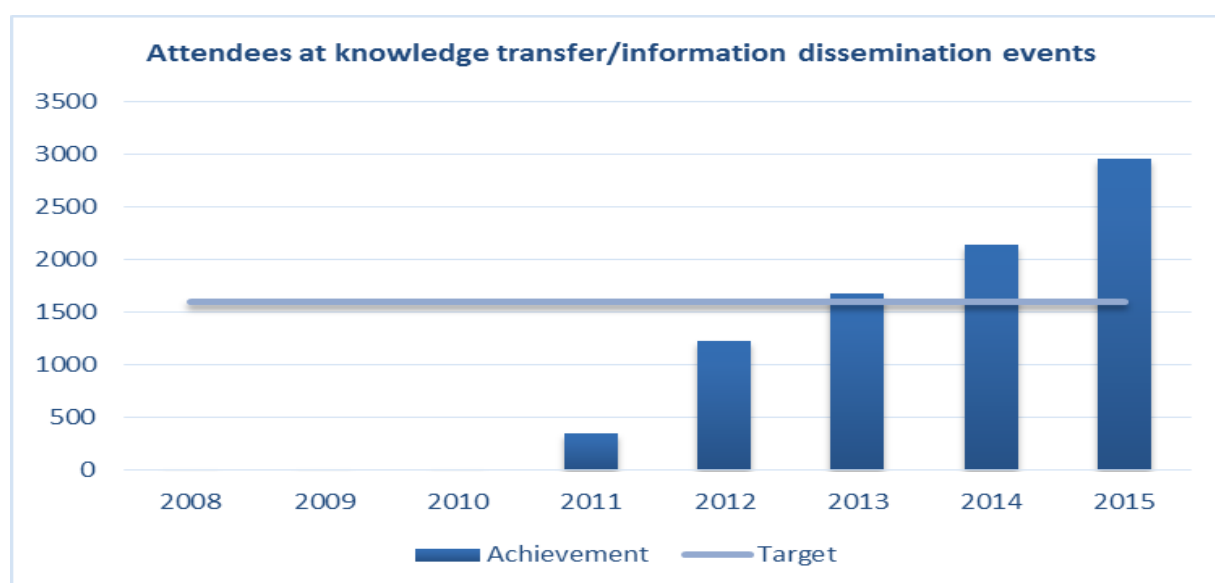
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000431	Achievement	0	1	4	24	26	26	27	16	124
	Target									60



The number of events held was double that initially envisaged. This indicates a willingness to become involved in this type of event and actual achievement is much closer to the cumulative project target of 102.

OP Indicator 000401 – Attendees at knowledge transfer/information dissemination events

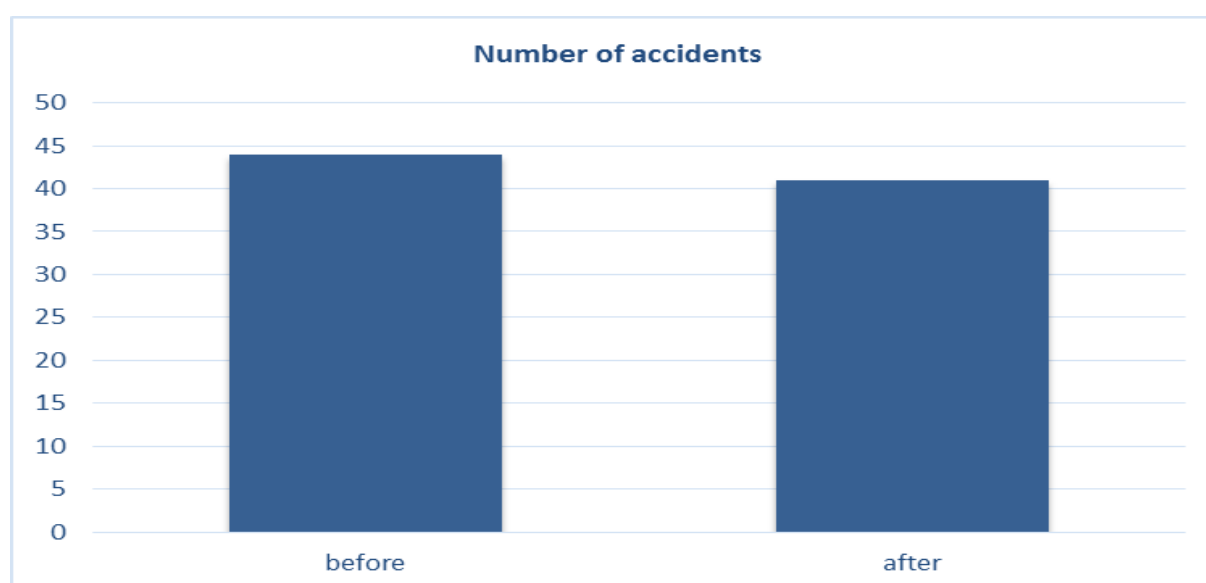
Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000401	Achievement	0	0	0	353	881	453	460	810	2957
	Target									1600



Achievement of almost twice the target number of attendees was recorded in 2014 at knowledge transfer events. This would have been affected by indicator 000431 being overachieved by a similar proportion and, again, is more in line with the cumulative project target of 2,575. The expected attendees per event was 27, the actual attendees per event was 24.

Theme 2.2 - Impacts

OP Indicator 000361 & 000371 – Improved safety: number of accidents in the year prior to commencement of project and the number of accidents 2 years following completion of project

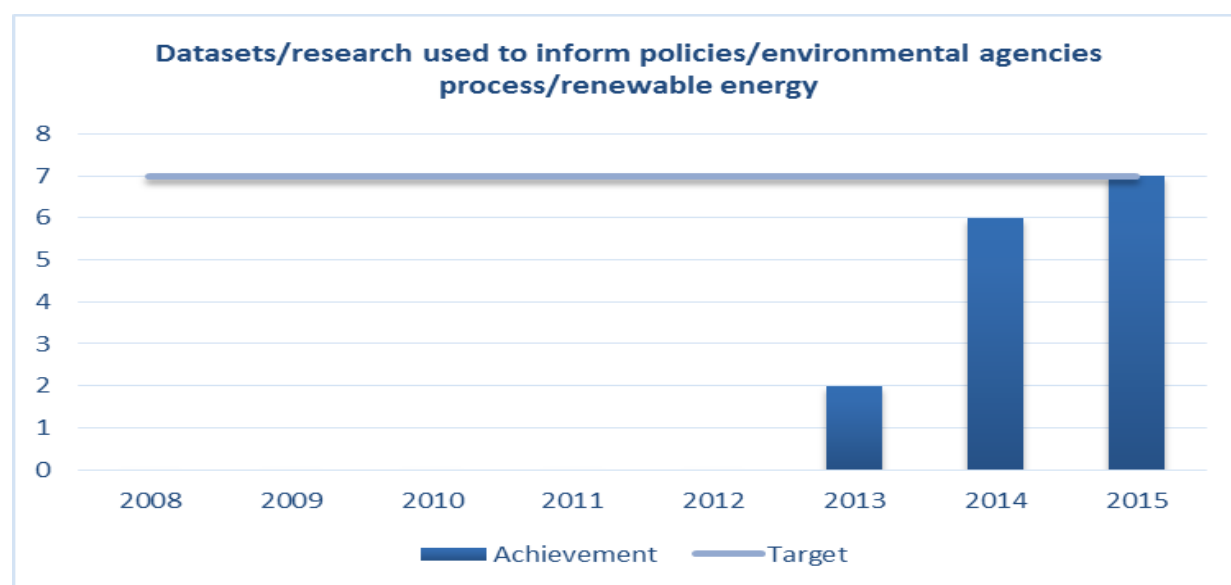


Source: <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=118&themeName=Travel+and+Transport>

No target was set at the outset of the programme. It was originally envisaged that this would be measured using the number of accidents. Instead, however, CBRIDS (Cross-Border Regional Infrastructure Development Scheme) project contributed to the improvements to safety through new and improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians, evidenced through their post-project evaluation. The figures provided represent KSIs (killed or seriously injured) and depict the levels in 2009 pre-project and 2012 post-project. The reduction from 44 to 41 represents a 6.8 per cent reduction in these types of accident (taken from PSNI statistics and based on calendar year figures for Derry/Londonderry). The number of KSIs have continued to be below pre-project levels throughout the remainder of the programming period. This achievement comes against a backdrop of increased traffic flow (000331).

OP Indicator 000436 – Datasets/research used to inform policies/environmental agencies process/renewable energy

Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator: 000436	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	7
	Target									7



This indicator was achieved in 2015 and matches the target produced at the outset of the programme.

- **Qualitative analysis**

Priority 2, Theme 1 - Collaboration

Priority 2, Theme 1- Collaboration has seen economic and collaborative projects succeed, and delivered one of the INTERREG IVA programme's signature projects, the North West Regional Science Park which has already exceeded its occupancy targets in a very short space of time. Key achievements for Theme 2.1 was the delivery of all 47 projects and the output indicators set for the theme. The success of the DHSSPS, Putting Patients and Families First project was in the pooling of resources and knowledge in health services on conditions such as acute illnesses, obesity, diabetes, autism and eating disorders with over 3,500 patients using the services and 480 staff trained across the border region. The Connect G project provided a basis for future cross-border collaboration, generating new relationships between social enterprises and businesses in relation to the promotion and collaborative use of Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic.

Due to the nature of a number of the projects supported under this Theme, the long-term impact of many may not be identified for 2 years post project completion, when the implementation plans have taken effect. However, the tables and graphs presented above support the measurable achievement to date.

The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Dundalk and Letterkenny Chambers of Commerce, worked to increase the competitiveness of the eligible region through the development of key skills which would contribute to future export sales and the growth of indigenous business.

All Rural Development projects have delivered their outputs with the Social Farming project standing out due to its innovative approach. This project successfully established a network of over 1,000 people across the 3 year project, strengthening the capacity of farm households and social services personnel to deliver high quality Social Farming services and has gone on to secure further funding.

Case Studies

North West Regional Science Park

The NW Regional Science Park secured €13,859,598 in INTERREG IVA funding and involved the construction of a 50,000sq. ft science park facility at Fort Lodge in Londonderry and a 20,000sq. ft extension to the CoLab facility at Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

Project partners include the Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP) Foundation Ltd, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and the North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG).

The key project achievements included the establishment of two connected science parks with above occupancy targets and the creation of 265 jobs. Approximately 12,000 attendees have been registered as attending 12 speaking engagements.



Pictured (l-r) are Eugene McMenamin, Chair of NWRCBG, Minister Nelson McCausland, MLA, Joe McHugh, TD, deputy Minister Martin McGuinness and Pat Colgan, SEUPB.

The Post Project Evaluation for the project reports that all targets have been achieved or are due to be realised as agreed at the outset of the project, per the Letter of Offer.

CAWT – Co-operation and Working Together

The Putting Patients First project, which secured €30m in INTERREG funding, sought to facilitate the health systems within both jurisdictions of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland to work together to plan and deliver efficient, need-led and targeted services to the population of the eligible area.

As a result of this cross-border EU INTERREG IVA funded project, Pre-Pregnancy Care clinics have been established in 14 health service sites across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. This collaboration is enabling information and expertise to be shared across the clinics and across both jurisdictions.

Key activities of the project included:

- Acute Hospital Services Project
- Alcohol Project
- Autism Project
- Developing Citizenship Project
- Diabetes Project
- Eating Disorders Project
- GUM Project
- Obesity Project
- Older People's Project
- Outcomes for Children Project
- Social Inclusion Project
- Workforce Mobility Project



Each of the 12 individual projects performed well against the targets and, in addition to this, all projects provided evidence relating to the impacts of the services on the beneficiaries. This evidence ranged from clinical data setting out the blood sugar levels of patients in the Diabetes project, to qualitative surveys asking participants to provide feedback on how the services have improved their health and well-being (such as those issued in the Autism project).

Priority 2, Theme 2 - Infrastructure

Within the INTERREG IVA Programme extensive assistance was allocated to projects designed to map out the hidden corners of our natural environment in order to assist with its sustainable management.

A Programme target of five funded environmental management projects was established for the theme at the outset of the Programme. In total, eight projects received Letters of Offer with funding totalling nearly €28m being awarded.

The inclusion of Western Scotland within the Programmes created many new and exciting opportunities for cross-border collaborative environment work. The common maritime environment shared by Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland formed the backdrop of a number of innovative projects.

The 8 Environment projects have strengthened the cross border working and the inclusion of Scotland has made a significant impact.

One such project was the IBIS Project which was designed to meet a number of environmental priorities relating to the protection and effective management of aquatic life. The project included a series of detailed studies on Atlantic salmon, European eel, sea trout, mussels, oysters and the impact of climate change on marine protected areas. A significant part of the project funding allocation related to the development of a world class research and training facility based at the University of Glasgow's training facility (SCENE) on the shores of Loch Lomond. This new resource provides specialised training to a new generation of aquatic resource practitioners with facilities to accommodate up to 45 students. During the course of the project life cycle it delivered over 70 years of academic research.

The INIS Hydro Project was led by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and brought together seven partners from Ireland and the United Kingdom to generate high resolution bathymetric charts of 1400km² of key coastal seabed areas. Using a fleet of coastal survey vessels and multi-sonar technology the project produced standardised specification surveys on seven seabed areas that were previously poorly charted but important navigation channels, have high environmental significance or are candidate areas for marine renewables development.

The AFBI led ANSWER Project (Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling) examined the potential to use short rotation coppice (SRC) willow to clean up organic waste and wastewater, whilst at the same time producing renewable bio energy. The project researched a full range of environmental applications of willow, including reduction in the pollution impacts on waterways by removing the need for mechanical treatment systems and the generation of useful by-products including sustainable energy fuels such as wood chip. The results of this project led to the development of further sites.

The Energy projects - SPIRE, Biomara and ISLES 2 Projects have all proved successful and between them have published a number of key findings and academic papers.

The Roads and Transport projects have had a regional impact with the 4 projects delivering out in full and within budget. The 2 projects approved late in the programming period, The Drogheda Viaduct and the Enterprise Overhaul Project were delivered in an impressive timeframe and have also fully met the outputs. The deployment of Unit Costs on the Enterprise has meant a much more timely and focused verification and has greatly eased the process.

Case Studies

SPIRE

An innovative new EU funded research project examined how wind energy is stored and managed. Through the SPIRE energy project, researchers from the University of Ulster and Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) examined the likely market scales of different capacities of wind energy storage, on the all-Ireland energy market. The project secured £2.9 million of financial assistance from the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.



The project worked to evaluate potential for the energy storage systems (large, medium and small scale) in a wind dominated energy market in order to:

- Reduce limitations on wind generation and realise greater levels of investment into wind deployment
- Benefit from reduced production costs of electricity and emissions due to higher levels of wind generation
- Better management of overall electricity on the grid
- Demonstrate the potential of technologies on an evolving Irish energy market place
- Consider the environmental impacts of such deployments
- Consider the business opportunities that arise from such developments.

The IBIS Project

The Integrated Aquatic Resources Management between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland (IBIS) project is a £6m collaboration initiative, funded through the INTERREG IVA Programme, which worked to protect aquatic resources across Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Western Scotland.

It developed a common approach to the delivery of high priority training, research and knowledge sharing to promote freshwater and marine resource management and policy and to protect the biodiversity that these ecosystems support.



The Post-Project Evaluation reports:

'The IBIS project delivered very significant additionality. While universities do offer PhD and Masters projects, IBIS removed many inhibitory factors by providing a stable funding platform and a solid background of pooled resources (from three partners - staff, equipment, infrastructure and expertise). There is now a significant body of research on marine and freshwater habitats and species available to drive the formulation of policy and to foster sensible and realistic decision making. IBIS permitted the delivery of such research within a more concentrated timescale than would have been realised without INTERREG [IVA] intervention.'

3.2.2 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

- Information on any significant problems encountered in implementing the priority, including a summary of serious problems identified under the procedure in Article 62 (1) (d) (i) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, where appropriate, as well as any measures taken by the managing authority or the monitoring committee to solve the problems.

There have been no significant problems encountered under Priority 2.

- List of unfinished operations and the schedule for their completion (final report only).

None

3.3 Priority 3 Technical Assistance

3.3.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

The aim of this element of the Priority is to publicise the contribution of the Programme in addressing the economic and social issues which are exacerbated by the existence of land and maritime borders by:

- Informing potential and final beneficiaries about the opportunities offered by the Programme in the eligible region;
- Informing the general public inside the region and outside, about the programme's results and impacts; and
- Regularly reporting to the Monitoring Committee on the achievements of the Communication Action Plan.

Programme information and publicity

Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Public launches of the Operational Programme	Achievement	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
	Target										2
	Baseline										
Dissemination activities supported	Achievement	0	35	10	13	63	9	8	10	0	148
	Target										25
	Baseline										
Press releases	Achievement	0	6	12	37	19	20	12	14	4	124
	Target										100
	Baseline										
Average 60 hits per month on the website	Achievement	0	0	3351	3000	3000	3500	3500	3044	3049	22,444
	Target										5040
	Baseline										
Publicity and information enquiries	Achievement	0	0	105	105	750	1000	950	800	0	3710
	Target										200
	Baseline										
Increased overall awareness of the Operational Programme	Achievement	0	0	NI 17% Ire 41% Sco 1%	NI 19% Ire 42% Sco 1 %	NI 22% Ire 39% Sco 3%	NI 13% Ire 17% Sco 2%	NI 13% Ire 30% Sco 3%	NI 15% Ire 21% Sco 2%	0	
	Target										
	Baseline										
Increased awareness of the role of the EU in the Operational Programme	Achievement	0	0	NI 46% Ire 63% Sco 100%	NI 55% Ire 64% Sco 100 %	NI 70% Ire 70%	NI 56% Ire 61% Sco 80%	NI 69% Ire 65% Sco 39%	NI 62% Ire 71% Sco 39%	0	
	Target										
	Baseline										

Management, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme

Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
7 Technical Assistance projects funded	Achievement	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Target										7
	Baseline										
14 monitoring reports completed [Target based on 2 reports per year for 7 years]	Achievement	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	14
	Target										14
	Baseline										
6 evaluation reports completed [Target includes 2 overall Programme evaluations, 4 thematic evaluations]	Achievement	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	5
	Target										6
	Baseline										
100% of reports submitted to the EU Commission comply with regulations	Achievement	0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100%
	Target										100%
	Baseline										
100% of recommendations from evaluation reports responded to by Managing Authority and implemented where appropriate	Achievement	0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100%
	Target										100%
	Baseline										

• Qualitative analysis

By end December 2015;

- 3 projects with Letters of Offer at a combined value of **€10,474,591** (€7,855,943 ERDF & €2,618,648 Match) against a Theme allocation of **€10,320,021** (€7,740,016 ERDF & €2,580,005 Match).
- All three projects have completed with total expenditure of **€10,474,591** (€7,855,943 ERDF & €2,618,648 Match)

3.3.2 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

- Information on any significant problems encountered in implementing the priority, including a summary of serious problems identified under the procedure in Article 62 (1) (d) (i) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, where appropriate, as well as any measures taken by the managing authority or the monitoring committee to solve the problems.

There have been no significant issues to report.

- List of unfinished operations and the schedule for their completion (final report only).

Not applicable.

4. ERDF/CF programmes: major projects (if applicable)

- ***Progress in the implementation of major projects***
- ***Progress in the financing of major projects***
- ***Any change in the indicative list of major projects in the operational programme***

No major projects have been financed during the programme period.

5. Technical Assistance

- *Explanation of the use made of technical assistance*

The Technical Assistance budget has been used to fund:

- Staff costs
- Office/premises costs; staff expenses; running costs
- Key events in Communications calendar
- Stakeholder Surveys
- NISRA (Service Level Agreement)
- New Programmes Ex-Ante
- Scottish NPC
- CPD for procurement support and advice

This can be broken down as follows as spend against the overall budget allocation:

- Staff costs €3,414,237
- Corporate costs €1,178,816
- Capital costs €188,479
- Managing Authority €674,719
- Communications €708,550
- Audit Authority €465,384
- Audit & Finance €127,863
- Monitoring & Evaluation €434,520
- Joint Secretariat €2,517,631
- Central Procurement Directorate €764,332

• **Managing Authority**

The Managing Authority is responsible for carrying out a number of key functions in relation to the implementation of the INTERREG IVA Programme. The Technical Assistance budget has been used in relation to the key functions outlined below:

• **Monitoring Committees**

The Managing Authority provided the secretariat for all INTERREG IVA Monitoring Committee throughout the programme period.

• **Guidance Notes**

The Managing Authority issued revisions to Guidance Notes to ensure the Operational Programme was implemented in line with Regulations and Member State Requirements.

• **Procedures**

The Managing Authority have written and issued internal procedures to ensure that staff are following the correct processes in implementing the programme.

• **Support to projects**

In order to support the implementation of funded projects, the Managing Authority launched a calendar of tailored training seminars throughout the programme period, providing advice and guidance to assist in the effective management and closure of projects.

The seminars were designed to cover different aspects of effective project management and closure, including:

- Systems 2007 Database training (Overview training)
- Systems 2007 Database Training (Closing Projects)
- Procurement and Verification
- Lead Partner Responsibilities (Closure Responsibilities)
- Effective Corporate Governance
- Contract Management (Capital Projects)
- Information and Publicity Compliance

- **Joint Secretariat**

Two Steering Committees have been established for the INTERREG IVA Programme. These were administered by the Joint Secretariat (JS) within the Special EU Programmes Body.

The JS provided the secretariat function for the Steering Committee for both Priorities:

- **Priority 1 Co-operation for a more prosperous cross-border region.** This Steering Committee considers applications under both themes of Enterprise and Tourism.

- **Priority 2 Co-operation for a more sustainable cross-border region.** This Steering Committee considers applications under both themes of Collaboration and Infrastructure.

- **Audit Authority**

Technical Assistance has been utilised to cover the costs of a Service Level Agreement with the Audit Authority as well as small costs to cover room hire, and travel and subsistence.

- **Audit and Finance**

Technical Assistance has been utilised for the cost of internal audit services as well as ad hoc costs for other audit assignments.

- ***Percentage of the amount of the Structural Funds contribution allocated to the operational programme spent under technical assistance.***

As directed by Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, Article 46 (1.(B)), the INTERREG IVA Programme was allocated 6% (€11.5m ERDF) of the total amount allocated under the European Territorial Co-operation Objective.

In the latter part of 2009 and throughout 2010 and 2011, in response to the challenges identified in relation to the public expenditure environment, the Managing Authority identified potential efficiencies of €3,299,824 (ERDF & Match) for the period 2007- 2013. These funds have been re-profiled into Priority 1 and Priority 2, resulting in a reduction to the Priority 3, Technical Assistance commitment.

The final allocation within Priority 3 amounted to approx. 4% of the Programme value.

6. Information and publicity

- **Measures taken to provide information and publicity on the operational programme including examples of best practice and highlighting significant events.**

Following approval of the programme in November 2007, the launch of INTERREG IVA took place on 14th April 2008, attended by Commissioner Danulta Hübner, Peter Robinson, former Northern Ireland Finance and Personnel Minister and the former Ireland Minister for Finance and An Tánaiste, Brian Cowen.

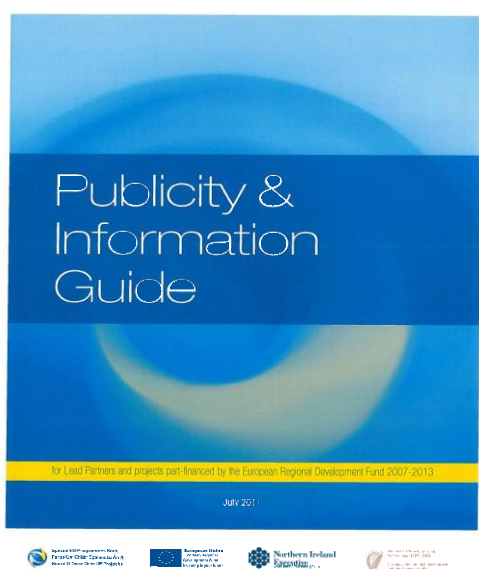


The official launch photo of the PEACE III & INTERREG IVA Programmes

In conjunction with the Department of Finance and Personnel, SEUPB participated in Ireland's largest agricultural event, the Balmoral Show 2008 with a stand providing information leaflets and audio visual material on all EU funded programmes in Northern Ireland. In October 2008, the programme was publicised at the annual Opportunities Europe two-day fair held at St George's Market in Belfast. SEUPB exhibited at both events again in 2009 and 2010 and at the Balmoral Show in 2011.



Representation at the Balmoral Show in 2008 & 2009



Four publicity and information workshops per annum took place at different locations across the early programme period of October 2009, March 2010 and February/March 2011.

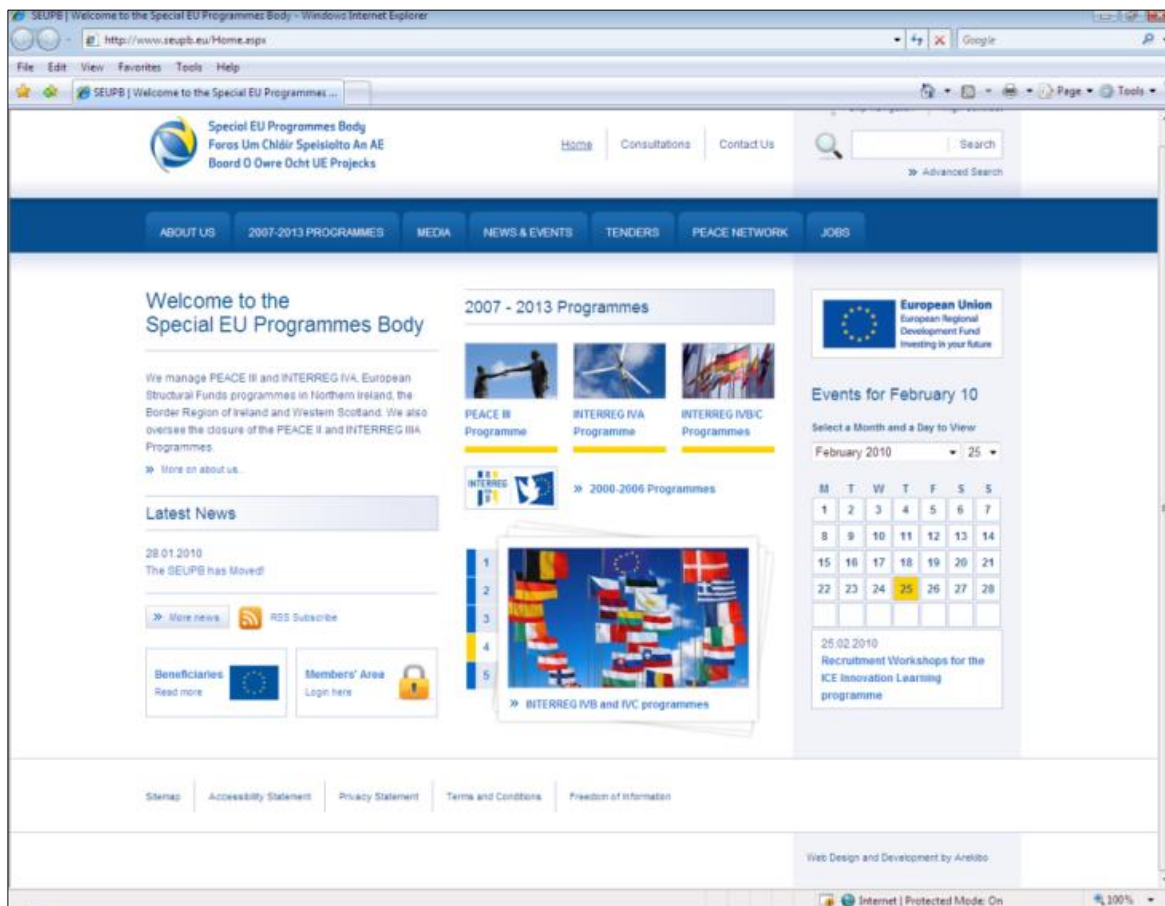


SEUPB staff at the launch of the INTERREG IVA Roadshows

A 'Publicity Guide for Lead Partners and Projects' was published to explain how to meet the legal obligation to acknowledge the European Union's contribution from the European Regional Development Fund to operations. The Publicity Guide was one of the main communication publications outlined as an information measure in the Joint PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Communication Plan.

As the Programme continued throughout 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, information and publicity activity focused on the launch and then closure of a number of high profile projects funded under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme.

- **SEUPB website**



The SEUPB's website was a key tool in communicating with a wide-ranging target group at local, regional and national levels. Since the website launched in August 2009, it has recorded an average of 32,272 non-bounce visits [total of 36,591 in 2015], averaging approximately 2,548 [3049 in 2015] per month.

The SEUPB's website contains a link to a full list of INTERREG IVA Programme beneficiaries including the names of operations/projects and the amount of funding awarded to each, as below:

<http://www.seupb.eu/programmes2007-2013/beneficiaries.aspx>

This function of the website met the requirement contained within Article 7 '*Responsibilities of the managing authority relating to information and publicity measures for the public*' of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

- Social Media



The SEUPB has continued to develop its social media presence within Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and You Tube. Twitter has proven to be the most successful social media channel, as detailed below.

From Jan-Feb 2015 the SEUPB's twitter account had 149,884 impressions (averaging 12,490.3 per month) and an average monthly engagement rate of 0.98%. The number of monthly impressions rose from 5,600 in January to 20,600 in December 2015.

- **Major Information Activity / Significant Project Launches**

In 2007 the SEUPB commissioned a benchmarking survey in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland to ascertain the general public and other stakeholders' perceptions of the previous programmes. It was also used to identify the most favoured ways of communicating with those surveyed.

The research methodology for both surveys comprised of a telephone survey using a total sample of 750 general public respondents across the combined Programme areas i.e. Northern Ireland, Ireland and the Border region of Ireland. To ensure that the sample size was consistent this was broken down further into Northern Ireland-450 respondents (representing the larger population size within the eligible area), the Border Region of Ireland-150 respondents and Western Scotland-150 respondents. Some of the key findings concluded:

- Awareness of the INTERREG IVA Programme was higher among those living in the Border Counties of Ireland than in Northern Ireland or Western Scotland. Over 2 in 5 (42%) of border county residents were aware, compared to almost a fifth (19%) of Northern Ireland residents and only 1% of those living in Western Scotland.
- In terms of the perceived impact of INTERREG IVA, there was a notable increase among Northern Ireland respondents aware of the programme, who felt that it was having a positive impact; a third (33%) in November 2009 increasing to over 2 in 5 (42%) in November 2010. Those claiming INTERREG IVA made no difference decreased from over a quarter (26% November 2009) to fewer than 2 in 5 (18% November 2010).

Further surveys were commissioned in 2009 and 2010 as a method of determining the visibility and awareness of the Operational Programmes. These were conducted by market research company Millward Brown Ulster.

On 14 January 2009, key decision makers for the European Union's €256 million INTERREG IVA Programme gathered in Belfast to discuss how best to ensure the Programme had a strategic fit with the priorities and policies of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Recognizing the entry of Scotland into the Programme, the aim of the event was to provide a comprehensive and accessible



update of current national policies and priorities to individuals and organizations involved in the funding process.

In 2010, the SEUPB, in partnership with cross-border group East Border Region, co-ordinated a two-day conference on behalf of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. The event focussed on common challenges for people living along a border area, highlighting successful real-life examples of INTERREG IVA projects and was attended by the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn who delivered the key-note address.

EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn

In October 2011, a two-day conference on 'Cross-Border Training and Impact Assessment in Ireland and Europe' was held at Farnham Estate, Cavan in conjunction with the Centre for Cross Border Studies. The aim of the event was to enable the exchange of best practice models in cross-border co-operation.



At the event, Dr Jose Antonio Ruiz de Casa of DG Regio launched a new 'Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross-border Co-operation', which was developed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies and the Euro-Institute Kehl, Germany. The toolkit was specifically designed to help programme and project promoters applying for EU funding determine the best approach to tackle socio-

economic issues on a cross-border basis.

The SEUPB also co-ordinated a major conference to help mark European Territorial Co-operation Day on 20th September 2012 at the Crowne Plaza, Dundalk. Organised in partnership with the Border Midlands & Western Regional Assembly and the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly, the event showcased some of the most innovative projects and initiatives funded through the INTERREG IVA, IVB and IVC programmes and was attended by over 150 delegates.

The SEUPB worked with NORIBIC to assist in the delivery of a major cross-border business conference in Derry-Londonderry on 30th and 31st May 2013. The event allowed SEUPB to showcase the support provided to enterprise development projects under the INTERREG IVA programme.

In October 2014, the SEUPB co-ordinated a major environmental themed conference and exhibition at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, designed to showcase the significant level of funding committed under the INTERREG IVA programme to projects with environmental outputs and was attended by approximately 200 delegates.

Theme 1.1



Tradelinks II, a cross-border business development programme in receipt of £2.98million INTERREG IVA funding, launched in 2009 with the aim of supporting the growth of the micro-enterprise sector across Northern Ireland and the Border Region.

Tradelinks II

A number of high profile projects were launched in 2010 including the University of Ulster 'Success through Succession' project, the Royal National Institute of Blind people Northern Ireland (RNIB NI) 'Sensory Engagement Programme', and those which attracted high level political interest such as Sail West, Driving Change and St. Angelo Airport initiatives which received additional communications support to ensure that EU assistance was fully recognised.



Images of Sail West and St Angelo Airport

In 2013, a number of project launches took place, including a new €2.2million INTERREG IVA-supported business development programme called 'Access 6' for the food and drink sector. In addition to enhanced exporting capabilities and improved sales growth, the programme aimed to create 90 jobs within the participating firms and 'up-skill' a further 400 SMEs across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

In the summer of 2014, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD performed the official opening of Leitrim's Technology Enterprise Centre called 'The Hive' – a 7,200 sq. ft. purpose-built technology-focused business environment for 14 new and expanding businesses.

Theme 1.2



'Mourne, Cooley and Gullion Geo Tourism' project launched in 2013, aimed at promoting cross-border tourism. At a cost of £1.4million, the project focused on the development of the 'Geo-Tourism' concept, promoting the geological landmarks of these three distinctive areas, in order to increase the levels of both domestic and overseas tourism.

September 2013 saw the launch of a new all-island tourism initiative aimed at transforming five operational lighthouses based in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. Allocated €2.5million of INTERREG IVA assistance, the project was delivered by the Commissioner for Irish Lights.



Launch of the Lighthouses of Ireland project

December 2014 saw the launch of the 'Inch and Foyle Wildfowl' project which has delivered two world-class visitor and outdoor recreation attractions at Inch levels in Donegal and at Lough Foyle, north of Derry near Limavady.

Funding to the value of £5.058m was awarded to The Gobbins & Sliabh Liagh, a cross-border tourism project designed to create two flagship coastal attractions that would act as anchor points to increase the number of tourists visiting the north of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The coastal attractions are based at Bunglas Cliffs/Sliabh Liag in County Donegal, (Ireland) and the Gobbins cliffs in County Antrim, (Northern Ireland). The Gobbins development restored a section of the cliff path and constructed a new visitor centre with parking amenities.



Images of the Gobbins (left and centre) and of Sliabh Liag (right)

Theme 2.1

CAWT (Co-operation and Working Together), a partnership between the Health and Social Care Services in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, secured approximately €30m of INTERREG IVA funding and was launched in 2009. The project involved the Renal Units in six hospitals in the border region working together to share expertise and information in the treatment and care of patients with kidney disease. The hospital partners are: Cavan General Hospital; Sligo General Hospital; Letterkenny General Hospital; Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Londonderry; Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh and Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry.

Other significant launches which took place in 2012 included the Geo-Tourism project in March 2012, the environmentally focussed DOLMANT project in May and the official launch of the IBIS project in June.

The North West Science Park, which received £12 million of funding, was one of the most significant project launches of the INTERREG IVA programme on 30th November 2012 and was attended by deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness MLA, Social Development Minister Nelson McCausland

MLA and Joe McHugh TD. The project includes the construction of a 50,000 sq ft science park facility at Fort George in Derry-Londonderry and a 20,000 sq ft extension to the Co-Lab facility at Letterkenny Institute of Technology.



Launch of North West Science Park

Theme 2.2

Autumn 2013 saw the launch of a £3million state-of-the-art teaching extension at the Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment (SCENE), Scotland's flagship centre for ecological field research.

The €30 million direct international communications initiative, Project Kelvin, and a €6 million Marine Bio-Fuels project were just two of the ground-breaking cross-border projects co-financed by the European Union through the INTERREG IVA Programme and was the first time Scotland had been involved in this particular programme. Partners from Western Scotland would be teaming up with counterparts in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland on a range of innovative projects



Images of Project Kelvin

The SEUPB co-ordinated a number of different project events targeted at a broad spectrum of the Body's key stakeholders throughout 2015. These included the opening of the Lighthouses of Ireland project in May, the opening of the new R&D laboratory at CREST in September, Northern Ireland Railways Enterprise Phase 3 project in November and the Drogheda Viaduct project in December.



The official launch of the Drogheda Viaduct

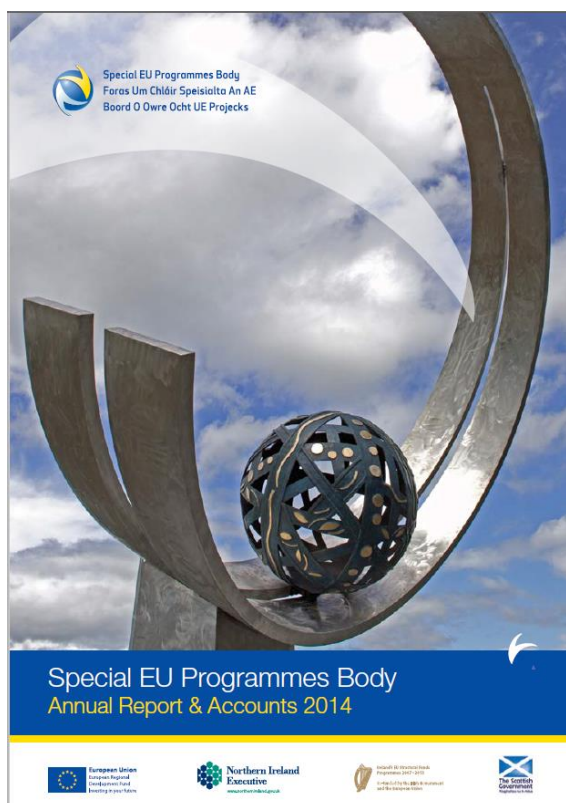


Interior of the newly refurbished Enterprise train

The enduring success of INTERREG IVA funded projects will be measured by their legacy beyond the Programme period and SEUPB will continue to monitor post-project indicators in line with individual Letters of Offers. While the images provided showcase some of the physical entities made possible with funding from the programme, other legacies are less visual but of similar significance.

- **Publications**

A range of publications were produced for the INTERREG IVA Programme, throughout the programme period to 2015. These included an Annual Report for each year which incorporated a summary of activities of the Programme. Three to four editions of 'Your EU' were created per annum from 2009 – 2015 and distributed to a wide-range of the SEUPB's key stakeholders and project beneficiaries.



Front cover of the SEUPB Annual Report & Accounts 2014



Chief Executive's Foreword



Welcome to the latest edition of our public affairs bulletin 'euroPA'.

We are now well into the second half of the programming period for the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes, supported under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Approximately 79% of the PEACE III and 71% of the INTERREG IVA Programme has been committed to date. This is a significant achievement and represents a total investment of approximately €443 million by the European Union in Northern Ireland, the border region of Ireland and western Scotland.

Phase II funding for the 'Local Peace and Reconciliation Action' Plans of all 14 Council Clusters across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland has been released. This will provide support to many new locally focused projects to help combat sectarianism and racism.

This year also saw the launch of one of the PEACE III Programme's largest capital build projects, the €14.67 million 'Peace Bridge' across the River Foyle in Londonderry. The bridge has been designed to act as a catalyst for change in the city of Derry-Londonderry, promoting reconciliation and greater levels of cross-community engagement.

Work is also progressing well in terms of participation in the INTERREG IWB Transnational and INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programmes.

I hope you find this bulletin useful, and as always we welcome any comments or feedback that you may have.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive, SEUPB.



Our Role

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland.

The SEUPB's core function is to manage both the EU's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes,

supported under the European Regional Development Fund.

It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG IWB Transnational and INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programmes.

In this issue...

PEACE III – An update
Peace Bridge Launch
b.r.i.c.
Groundwork NI

INTERREG IVA – An update
Cross-border Conference
ISLES
Weeding out the Aliens

INTERREG IWB & IVC – An update
040
Waterways Forward
Energy through Algae

PEACE III

The €333m PEACE III (2007-2013) Programme aims to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society across Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland.

To date approximately €262 million has been allocated to hundreds of different projects and local initiatives that are helping to meet the programme's objectives.

INTERREG IVA

The €256m INTERREG IVA (2007-2013) Programme supports strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region within Northern Ireland, the border region of Ireland and western Scotland.

To date approximately €180.8 million has been allocated to different projects and operations that are helping to meet the programme's objectives.

The 'euroPA' bulletin was created and distributed to political stakeholders at national, regional and local level.

- **Media Coverage**

The following is a small sample of the recent media coverage generated by the INTERREG IVA Programme.

Marine Times*
Monday, 1 June 2015
 Page: 10

Circulation: 6500
 Area of Clip: 71900mm²
 Page 1 of 2




Great Lighthouses of Ireland

A "brand new experience to take your breath away", that's the promise from Great Lighthouses of Ireland, a new EU **INTERREG IVA** funded tourism initiative being launched by the Commissioners of Irish Lights. Featuring twelve lighthouses in stunning coastal locations, Great Lighthouses of Ireland will offer memorable, enriching experiences that inspire the senses, refresh the spirit and fire curiosity, creating a deep appreciation of the role of the sea, lighthouses, past and present, and the maritime and seafaring story of the island of Ireland.

Great Lighthouses of Ireland Rathlin West Light Seabird Centre, Co Antrim Image © Emma Mcfaul

With a range of services from accommodation to visitor centres and guided tours, visitors from home and abroad will have the chance to explore the distinct experiences offered by the lighthouses, each reflecting its own history and heritage, nature and environment, people and place, with aspects to appeal to people of all ages and interests.

The Great Lighthouses of Ireland project is supported by the European Union's **INTERREG IVA** cross-border Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. The ambitious and imaginative cross-border project will include the preservation and conservation of the island of Ireland's important maritime and lighthouse heritage. Great Lighthouses is built on a sustainable economic model and the re-invention of individual lighthouses as visitor attractions and specialist self-catering accommodation that can contribute to local communities in terms of jobs and specialist tourism.

Irish Lights operate over seventy lighthouses around the coast of Ireland. These lighthouses, including the Great Lighthouses of Ireland, still play a vital role in maritime safety.

Great Lighthouses of Ireland partners include the Irish Landmark Trust, the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, Forbairt Fhánada Teoranta (Fanad Community Group), Clare County Council, Ballycotton Lighthouse Tours, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, Hook Heritage limited, Valentia Island Development Company,

Kerry County Council and Clare Island Lighthouse. Great Lighthouses of Ireland is also supported by Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland.

Specific development projects funded by the European Union's **INTERREG IVA** cross-border programme include: Provision of new self-catering accommodation in former lightkeepers' dwellings at four sites in Donegal and Northern Ireland (Blackhead, Antrim; St. John's Point, Down; St. John's Point, Donegal and Fanad, Donegal); Visitor centre and facilities at the upside down lighthouse and seabird centre at Rathlin West Light, Rathlin Island and at Fanad Head, Donegal. All of these will be open to visitors by the middle of July.

Great Lighthouses of Ireland
 St John's Point, Co Donegal; Fanad Head, Co Donegal; Rathlin West Light, Co Antrim; Blackhead, Co Antrim; St John's Point, Co Down; Wicklow Head, Co Wicklow; Hook, Co Wexford; Ballycotton, Co Cork; Galley Head, Co Cork; Valentia Island, Co Kerry; Loop Head, Co Clare; Clare Island, Co Mayo



GREAT Lighthouses of Ireland

For further information about Great Lighthouses of Ireland please see: www.greatlighthouses.com



Lighthouse Keeper Gerald Butler from Galley Head lighthouse, pictured in The National Maritime Museum of Ireland in Dun Laoghaire with the light from Baily lighthouse in Howth, from 1992. Gerald helped launch the Great Lighthouses of Ireland.



Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

himms

Date: Thursday 10. September 2015

Page: 36

(SEUPB-379)

Page 1 of 1

Circulation: 48014

Ref: The Special EU Programmes

Size: 207



Doors open on purpose-built bio-energy lab

Crest, Northern Ireland's largest green technology and training facility, opened the doors on a new bioenergy laboratory in Enniskillen designed to advance international research and boost industry. Gina McIntyre, chief executive (Designate) of the Special EU Programmes Body, joins Vincent Reynolds of Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre, Malachy McAleer, South West College, and (front) Tim Stokes from Crest

Belfast Telegraph – Official unveiling of new R&D laboratory at the CREST project.



Source: The News Letter

nimm

Date: Saturday 5. September 2015

Page: 15

Circulation: 17853

Size: 223

(SEUPB-379)

Page 1 of 1

Ref: The Special EU Programmes B

ATTRACTION SEES 1,000 VISITORS IN FORTNIGHT

Crowds flock to Gobbins

BY ADAM KULA
adam.kula@newsletter.co.uk
@News_Letter

A newly-revamped historic coastal attraction marked its 1,000th visitor this week, just over a fortnight after opening to the public.

The Gobbins cliff-top pathway in Islandmagee, east Co Antrim, hit the four-figure milestone on Thursday, having been up-and-running since August 19.

The attraction's 1,000th visitor, Henry Valentine Bell, said he was particularly pleased to be the one to mark the occasion since he has a family link to the pathway, which dates back to the start of the 20th century.

"My family have actually lived in Islandmagee since the 17th century," he said.

"My great-grandfather, Robert McCartney, had a close connection to The Gobbins.

"His job was to taxi visitors via jaunting car from Bal-



The re-imagined Gobbins trail opened to the public just over a fortnight ago

lycarry railway station to the attraction.

"The last time I walked The Gobbins myself was as a child when it was officially closed."

The Victorian attraction had been shut to the public

since the 1950s.

But the last few years have seen the Special European Union Programmes Body and Larne Borough Council (which has now been replaced by Mid and East Antrim Bor-

ough Council) devote money towards restoring it.

Entry is through booking only.

To arrange a visit, call (028)93 372 318.

See Morning View, page 20

This cutting is reproduced by NIMMS under licence from NLA. No further copying (including the printing of digital cuttings), digital reproduction or forwarding is permitted except under licence from NLA. www.nla.co.uk (for newspapers)

- Indicators

A sample of the volume of media coverage in randomly selected calendar months which made reference to EU assistance within the programme period is presented as follows:

Programme: INTERREG IVA Calendar Month/Year (random selection)	Total Number of Press Clippings
December 2008	7
January 2009	25
June 2009	17
March 2010	39
December 2010	33
Average Value	121

AVE places a financial value on media coverage. It is calculated by measuring the column inches or seconds of media coverage generated and multiplying these figures by the respective medium's advertising rates. The resulting figure is what it would have cost to place an advertisement of that size or duration in the respective media outlet. The table below provides an example of AVE for the calendar year 2015 against the number of articles printed or screened.

Calendar Month	Number of articles	AVE (£)
January	50	25,291.81
February	31	17,004.01
March	44	42,083.44
April	49	57,020.25
May	22	22,086.33
June	25	19,692.48
July	28	20,545.03

August	11	16,805.43
September	26	23,673.88
October	25	12,582.62
November	11	7,406.91
December	10	12,469.89
Total	332	276,662.08