



The impact of EU Funding on the Region

The following paper illustrates the impact of PEACE and INTERREG Funding in Northern Ireland, the border region of Ireland (including Western Scotland 2007-2013 INTERREG) over the past and future Programming periods:

Part A 1995 to 2013.

Part B 2014 to 2020.

PART A – The impact of past PEACE and INTERREG Programmes 1995 to 2013

PEACE Programme Overview

The EU cross-border PEACE Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland is a unique structural fund aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation.

PEACE I was the direct result of the EU’s desire to make appositive response to opportunities presented in the Northern Ireland peace process during 1994.

Funding is disseminated across the Programme’s entire eligible area which includes Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Programme	Funding Period	EU Contribution (€m)	National Contribution (€m)	Total Programme Value (€m)	Total Programme Value (£m)
PEACE I	1995-1999	500	167	667	430
PEACE II	2000-2004	531	304	835	539
PEACE II Extension	2005-2006	78	82	160	110
PEACE III	2007-2013	225	108	333	273
PEACE IV	2014-2020	229	41	270	211
Total		1,563	702	2,265	1,563

Note - £ sterling figures in table above for PEACE I – PEACE III are based on the average exchange rates for each Programme period. The £ sterling figures for PEACE IV are based on the exchange rate as of 17 May 2016. (Source: Bank of England)

PEACE II Programme (2000-2006) IMPACT

- 161,599 individuals participating in cross-border activities including those involved in the development of border region SMEs and social economy enterprises, community based organisations leading projects on reconciliation and cultural understanding and cross border projects focusing on skills, learning and training.
- 42,772 individuals participating in 1,638 groups focused on Reconciliation

- 100,667 individuals gaining qualifications, some examples of which are Early Years Care, ICT Skills, Human Resources, Tourism, Food Production, Trauma Counselling, Farming and Community Leadership
- 77,652 individuals entering or progressing in employment, education and training
- 10,248 businesses assisted in competitiveness, training, business development, networking and cross border/international trading etc.
- 6,148 jobs created, including significant increases in the areas of business competitiveness and development, tourism, rural community development, local economic initiatives and cross-border activities.

(Information source: Final PEACE II Closure report, November 2011).

PEACE III Programme (2007-2014) IMPACT

- 189,007 attendees at 8,393 events that address sectarianism and racism or deal with conflict resolution
- 6,999 people in receipt of trauma counselling
- 44,037 people attending 1,887 events assisting victims and survivors
- 25,429 people attending 2,184 conflict resolution workshops
- 2,754 participants from 63 interface areas engaged in initiatives which are addressing barriers (physical and non-physical) to acknowledge and deal with the past.
- 136,166 users of 18 shared public environments which were created or improved through cross-community regeneration projects
- 117 jobs created / safeguarded through these shared public environments created
- 27,383 people benefiting from shared services. These innovative service delivery models (at both the local and central level) directly addressed the issues of segregation, sectarianism and racism and focused on sectors such as education, community health, employability, environmental protection and sport.
- 7 pilot projects of cross-border co-operation between public sector bodies aimed at increasing the capacity for a shared society.

(Information source: Systems 2007 Closure Report, 3 May 2016).



Notable PEACE III projects:

- **Peace Bridge, Derry/Londonderry.** A new iconic foot and cycle bridge, joining the city physically and promoting interaction and engagement among communities, and bringing back into public use the former Ebrington military barracks creating new shared space.
- **Girdwood Hub, North Belfast.** This project created a state of the art 'Community Hub' on the site of a former army barracks ensuring a new iconic shared space for Belfast and the wider region.
- **Skainos Facility, East Belfast.** The creation of an urban village in East Belfast aiming to normalise life for all communities in the area by providing a safe space within which the traditional and new communities of Northern Ireland will encounter one another in the ordinary activities of everyday life.
- **The Rural Enabler, Rural Community Network.** A people centered community development approach to tackling the impact of conflict and modern day racism within rural NI and the rural border regions of the ROI.
- **Local Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans (Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland).** These partnerships between the public, private and community sectors developed and implemented Action Plans to address sectarianism, racism, conflict resolution, mediation and reconciliation at a local level. Examples of these were the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan, the North West PEACE III Action Plan and the Monaghan PEACE III Partnership.
- **Re-imagining Communities Programme.** This project focused on converting and transforming visible signs of sectarianism and inter-community separation, as well as putting in place iconic pieces of art.
- **Reconciling Communities through Regeneration.** This strategic regional programme focused on improving tolerance and acted as a catalyst for reducing sectarianism and racism by involving local community and statutory agencies in regenerating 10 local areas and in the process eliminated and reduced displays of sectarian and racial aggression.

INTERREG Programme Overview

The EU cross-border INTERREG Programme was first introduced in 1991 and was devised as the European Community's response to the implications of the single market. It recognised the relatively disadvantaged situation of Border Regions throughout the European Community and proposed a mechanism of support for such areas.

The eligible area for the INTERREG IIIA Programme was Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The eligible area for the INTERREG IVA Programme was Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. INTERREG VA will also cover Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Programme	Funding Period	EU Contribution (€m)	National Contribution (€m)	Total Programme Value (€m)	Total Programme Value (£m)
INTERREG IA	1991-1993	82.1 ECU*	67.9	150	97
INTERREG IIA	1994-1999	159 ECU*	103	262	169
INTERREG IIIA	2000-2006	137	46	183	125
INTERREG IVA	2007-2013	192	64	256	210
INTERREG VA	2014-2020	240	43	283	221
Total		810.1	323.9	1,134	822

*European Currency Unit (ECU) - an artificial currency developed by the initial EU Member States for their internal accounting purposes and a precursor to the Euro

Note - £ sterling figures in table above for INTERREG IA – INTERREG IVA are based on the average exchange rates for each Programme period. The £ sterling figures for INTERREG VA are based on the exchange rate as of 17 May 2016. (Source: Bank of England)

INTERREG IIIA Programme (2000-2006) – Impact

- 2,650 FTE new jobs created or safeguarded throughout the Programme in areas such as business development, tourism, and rural business assistance, cross border business clusters as well as those created by participation in skills training, re-skilling programmes and sectorial initiatives.
- 3,640 SMEs assisted through the marketing and business development opportunities
- 1,135 SMEs expanded in terms of increased sales
- 52 SMEs taking up broadband telecommunications and increased bandwidth within the eligible area
- 102 Rural businesses/enterprises created
- 23,667 people trained in management and enterprise training
- 6,700 participants in training and education initiatives from cross border ICT awareness seminars, conferences and courses delivered
- 5,596 participants in sectoral initiatives and reskilling programmes
- 7,135 participants in lifelong learning programmes
- 1,198 participants from excluded / disadvantaged groups such as women, small farm households, young people under 25 involved in skills development / training
- 13 infrastructural improvements in number of small harbours
- 20,562 individuals from 2,366 groups involved in community development through capacity building projects
- 59 cross border health and social care networks developed
- 1,835 health and social care and other professionals trained

(Information source: INTERREG IIIA Final Fund report, April 2011).

INTERREG IVA Programme (2007-2013)

- 3,552 businesses assisted to help promote innovation and creative activities. This assistance included the development of new and innovative products and business processes, expertise sharing, skills sales, marketing, strategy development, staff training, mentoring and the development of educational/business skills.
- 663 of these businesses assisted above have entered new markets, both domestic and international.

- 954 new jobs created as a result of this support offered to businesses
- 33 networking projects supported which focused on encouraging strategic co-ordination of small firms to raise competitiveness, market access and enhance reputation and credibility within and outside the region.
- 1318 businesses collaborating on a cross-border basis as a result of participation in the above networking projects
- 100 cross-border collaboration projects supported to promote co-operation and the exchange of expertise, information and best practice between public bodies and other relevant stakeholders to deliver services within border areas
- 121,741 beneficiaries of this supported cross-border collaboration which included support in the areas of health, rural development, life sciences, enterprise and tourism.
- 14,373 attendees at 364 cross border collaboration conferences and seminars which were focused on agreeing joint cross-border solutions for common problems and provided opportunities to create synergies, share best practice and information, facilitate greater joined-up delivery, improve access to services and facilities and ensure better value for money.
- 17 research projects completed that helped to improve the evidence base and quality of comparable information available when making policy and design decisions for cross-border collaboration
- 8 renewable energy projects/energy efficiency projects assisted
- 8 environmental management projects funded
- 1 telecommunications projects funded – telecommunication line/infrastructure installed

(Information source: Systems 2007 Closure Report, 3 May 2016).

Notable INTERREG IVA Projects:

- **Putting Patients First (CAWT).** This project improved the access for cross-border populations to a range of health services and provided enhanced care for citizens living within the border corridor.
- **NW Regional Science Park.** The construction of a 50,000 sq ft science park facility in Londonderry and a 20,000 sq ft extension to the CoLab facility at Letterkenny Institute of Technology. This will assist with long-term development of the NW Business Technology Zone and foster clusters and networks that encourage cross-border cooperation between local firms.
- **Enterprise Overhaul / Drogheda Viaduct.** These projects worked to ensure that the existing level of rail services and existing journey times on the Dublin-Belfast railway are maintained and enhanced by the completion of essential maintenance works to the Drogheda Viaduct and upgrading works to the Enterprise Train carriages
- **Project Kelvin.** Large telecommunications/broadband project to deliver direct access to the transatlantic telecommunications networks
- **Storage Platform for the Integration of Renewable Energy (SPIRE)** This project confirmed the value of energy storage on the Irish Market and determined the technologies best suited to meeting market needs to result in a more efficient delivery of public services through lower cost electricity and lower energy costs for homes and businesses.
- **Inch Levels - Lough Foyle Wildlife Programme.** This project delivered two world-class visitor and recreation attractions through a number of targeted interventions and aimed to establish the entire northwest region as a first class birdlife and environmental destination.
- **Centre for Rural Enterprise and Sustainable Technology (CREST).** This project established a new purpose-built bioenergy laboratory at Northern Ireland's largest green technology and training facility designed to advance international research and boost local industry. The lab provides industry R&D, demonstration and testing facilities for new renewable energy products and sustainable technologies.



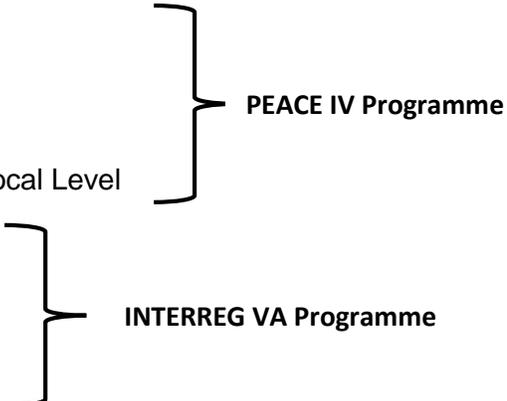
- **The Gobbins & Sliabh Liag.** The Gobbins is an area of basalt sea cliffs, up to 60m in height, on the east coast of Islandmagee and this project has restored the original cliff path consisting of a series of spectacular bridges and gantries, as well as constructing a new Visitor Centre. Bunglass / Sliabh Liag in County Donegal, also received funding under the cross-border initiative. With the highest sea cliffs in Europe Sliabh Liag is already a popular visitor attraction in South West County Donegal attracting 120,000 visitors annually.

Part B - The impact of Future Programmes (2014-2020)

In line with the Europe 2020 strategy, the European Commission requires that all of the 2014-2020 Programmes will focus on a narrow range of activities to ensure that there is sufficient funding available to bring about significant change.

At a cumulative level, the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes are receiving just over €553m/£432m, of which €469m/£366m is EU funding (ERDF), for the 2014-2020 programming round. The Programmes were developed in line with national provision, i.e. to achieve *Results* that align with government policy but do not duplicate existing initiatives or provisions.

The PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes target 8 areas of intervention;

- Shared Education
 - Children & Young People
 - Shared Spaces and Services
 - Building Positive Relations at a Local Level
 - Research and Innovation
 - Environment
 - Sustainable Transport; and
 - Health & Social Care
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- The diagram uses curly braces to group the intervention areas. The first four areas (Shared Education, Children & Young People, Shared Spaces and Services, and Building Positive Relations at a Local Level) are grouped under the label 'PEACE IV Programme'. The remaining four areas (Research and Innovation, Environment, Sustainable Transport; and, and Health & Social Care) are grouped under the label 'INTERREG VA Programme'.

For the 2014 – 2020 funding period, one of the notable changes is what is known as the '*results and output orientation*' of the INTERREG VA and PEACE IV Programmes. This represents a significant shift from the 2007-2013 funding period. In order to be considered for funding, applicants must now demonstrate how their project can assist in achieving the defined results and outputs set out within the Cooperation Programme (CP) and which are specifically detailed in the call for applications. Therefore applicants must also clearly describe what the results and outputs of the activities will be and how they will be tracked and measured to demonstrate how they have contributed to the result and output indicators contained in the CP.

Specific objectives established for INTERREG VA and PEACE IV reflect the desired positive change that the particular Programme wishes to promote and also relates to the identified needs of the INTERREG VA or PEACE IV Programme area.

PEACE IV Programme – Total Programme Value €270m/£211m (€229.10m/£179m ERDF)

The Programme has 11 *Outputs* that it should achieve;

PROGRAMME OUTPUTS (The evidence of the change)	350 schools involved in shared education
	2,100 teachers trained with the capacity to facilitate shared education
	144,000 participants in shared education classrooms
	7,400 young people aged 14-24 years who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity
	21,000 participants aged 0-24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity
	8 capital developments to create new shared spaces
	17 local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings
	6,300 individuals in receipt of advocacy support
	11,350 individuals in receipt of assessment, case work support and resilience support
	17 local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities
	20 regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities

SHARED EDUCATION – Total funding €35.3m/£27.6m (€30m/£23.4m ERDF)

The current education structures within the region have resulted in a large proportion of children being educated solely with children of a similar background (single identity education). The PEACE IV Programme aims to build a culture of good relations amongst school children and equip them with the skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a society where the cycle of sectarianism and intolerance is broken. The Programme will create opportunities for school children to have sustained contact with children from another community background within the existing educational structures and deliver educational benefits to children.

The anticipated Result of this intervention i.e. the change that will be brought about, will be an increase in the percentage of schools that have been involved in shared education with another school within the past academic year.

The associated Outputs for this intervention i.e. the evidence of the change, will be;

- **350 schools involved in shared education**
- **2,100 teachers trained with the capacity to facilitate shared education**
- **144,000 participants in shared education classrooms**

In considering the Outputs, i.e. the evidence of the change, anticipated actions to be supported are;

Shared Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct and sustained contact between children of different backgrounds ▪ A “whole school” approach involving teachers, classroom assistants, non-teaching staff, governors, pupils, families, wider communities, curriculum development, school policies and wider collaboration with the local community ▪ The bringing together of school children at early years, primary and post primary level ▪ Development and delivery of related teacher training initiatives ▪ Increased opportunities for cross-border co-operation ▪ Participation of schools in all sectors, including the integrated sector ▪ Potential creation of collaborative partnerships to involve Further and Higher Education Colleges in Northern Ireland working with local schools to create opportunities for contact between children ▪ Partnerships between schools and youth services to create opportunities for contact between children
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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – Total funding €65.2m/£50.9m (€57m/£44.5m ERDF)

This intervention will target two age groups; 0-24 and 14-24. The Objective for both target groups is to enhance the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.

The anticipated Result of each element of this intervention, i.e. the change that will be brought about, will be an increase in the percentage of 16 year olds who socialize or play sport with people from a different religious community; who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago; and who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time.

In relation to the 14-24 target group, the Programme will be outcomes focused in terms of good relations, personal development and citizenship, which will bring about positive change in the form of clear, meaningful and sustainable distance travelled for those young people who participate. It will target young people aged between 14-24 years who are disadvantaged, excluded or marginalized, have deep social and emotional needs and are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behavior, violence or dissident activity.

The associated Output for this intervention, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **7,400 young people (over 2 phases) aged 14-24 years who are most marginalized and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.**

In relation to the 0-24 age group, the programme will invest in children and young people so that they can reach their potential and maximize their contribution to a more cohesive society. It will bring about change in the form of clear, meaningful and sustainable 'distance travelled' for individual young people in terms of good relations, personal development and citizenship.

The associated Output for this intervention, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **21,000 participants (Phase I) aged 0-24 years completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity. A second phase targeting a further 15,000 participants will be implemented, subject to the outcome of phase I.**

In considering the Outputs, i.e. the evidence of the change, anticipated actions to be supported are;

<p>Children & Young People</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delivered within Northern Ireland on a shared basis which gives young people opportunities for sustained, purposeful interaction with others from a different background ▪ Delivered on a cross-border basis, creating opportunities for contact between young people in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland ▪ 6-9 month intervention for young people – sufficient intensity to ensure that the experience is transformative ▪ Utilising a professional youth development approach, delivered to an agreed set of standards by suitably skilled professionals ▪ Shared youth programmes focused on good relations, citizenship and personal development, which may include; sport; drama; culture; language; entrepreneurial and volunteering activities; residential training activities; and peer mentoring ▪ Support for a mentoring model, where each participant has access to a personal mentor ▪ Professional training for youth development practitioners, including cross-border professional development programmes to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills and experience ▪ Inclusive local community youth initiatives involving sport, arts, culture, language and the environment that promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance ▪ Age appropriate actions that address sectarianism and racism ▪ Youth centred initiatives that address anti-social behavior ▪ Creation of opportunities for young people from different traditions, cultural background or political opinion to meet and develop positive relationships ▪ Youth leadership and citizenship programmes that build capacity for a shared society ▪ Short-term diversionary activities at times of high community tension, such as residential or sporting activity, where these form part of a longer-term relationship-building programme
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SHARED SPACES AND SERVICES – Total funding €99.3m/£7.6m (€84.5m/£66m ERDF)

The Shared Space and Services objective targets three interventions; Capital Development to create new Shared Spaces; Local Authority Shared Spaces; and Victims and Survivors.

The Objective of these interventions will be to create a more cohesive society through and increased provision of shared spaces and services.

The anticipated Result i.e. the change that will be brought about, will be an increase in the percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral; an increase in the percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed religion environment; and a reduction in the percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of their own religion.

The associated Outputs for these interventions, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **8 capital developments to create new shared spaces;**
- **17 local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings;**
- **6,300 individuals in receipt of advocacy support; and**
- **11,350 individuals in receipt of assessment, case work support and resilience support.**

In considering the Outputs, i.e. the evidence of the change, anticipated actions to be supported are;

Shared Spaces and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New buildings and spaces with a transformative effect on local areas ▪ Developing the shared aspect of existing neighbourhoods, public spaces and buildings ▪ Advocacy support to include practical support for victims and survivors engaging with institutions, historical process and enquiries ▪ Development of qualified assessors, health and well-being case workers to identify and address the needs of victims and survivors ▪ A resilience programme to address the individual needs of victims and survivors, including level one and level two mental health interventions ▪ Development of the capacity of the sector through training and development (to meet national and regional standards), research and improved regulation
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BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONS AT A LOCAL LEVEL – Total funding €51.7m/£40.4m (€43.9m/£34.3m ERDF)

There is continued high levels of sectarianism and racism in society. Increasing levels of ethnic diversity, alongside relatively high levels of socio-economic deprivation in some areas presents new challenges for achieving greater integration and citizenship. Due to the history of division in Northern Ireland and the Border Region, some sections of society have not yet developed the capacity to deal positively with diversity and difference. Local authority led partnerships will be supported under the programme, involving effective partnerships between the public, private and community sectors, with the capacity to address reconciliation, cultural diversity, conflict transformation and equality.

Some issues and target groups can be better accommodated through regional level initiatives that transcend local authority boundaries. These regional initiatives will also facilitate cross-border co-operation. The programme will pay particular attention to minority groups and groups who traditionally have been marginalized in society so that opportunities will be created that allow for a greater degree of participation in society.

The Objective of these interventions will be to promote positive relations characterised by respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialize together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

The anticipated Result i.e. the change that will be brought about, will be an increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago; an increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time and an increase in the percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities.

The associated Outputs for these interventions, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **17 local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities**
- **20 regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities**

In considering the Outputs, i.e. the evidence of the change, anticipated actions to be supported are;

Building Positive Relations at a Local Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Conflict resolution and mediation at a local level▪ Events linked to the decade of commemorations that explore history in a sensitive manner and build mutual understanding▪ Sport, arts, culture (including Irish and Ulster Scots languages) and environment projects that promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance▪ Projects to facilitate personal interaction between residents and groups from divided neighborhoods▪ Projects to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society through the promotion of reconciliation amongst all communities▪ Projects which build, improve and sustain relationships between communities by addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance
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INTERREG VA Programme Total Programme value €283m/£221m (€240m/£187.5m ERDF)

The INTERREG VA Programme is one of over 60 Programmes across the EU that have been specifically designed to address problems that arise from the existence of borders.

The Programme Results and Outputs:

<p>514 years' worth of PhD (or above) level research resulting in an increase in the annual number of peer reviewed journal and conference publications within the two sectors, with cross-border authorship and with the potential to create economic impact. This will be achieved through 5 research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects of which 20 enterprises will receive support and 10 enterprises will cooperate with research institutions. A further 10 enterprises will be participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects.</p>
<p>1,408 enterprises receiving support, both financial and non- financial to result in an increase in the percentage of SMEs and micro-businesses in the eligible area which are involved in Research & Innovation including cross-border collaborations. This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 enterprises receiving grants, 469 enterprises receiving one-to-one innovation advice and 94 enterprises in receipt of Innovation Capability Development Programmes • 50 enterprises cooperating with research institutions and 5 research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects • 19 enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects • 70 enterprises engaging an Innovation Intern, on a cross-border basis
<p>25 conservation action plans and 4,500 hectares of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status leading to the achievement of an increase in the percentage of selected protected habitats in or approaching favorable condition.</p>
<p>An increase in cross-border monitoring and management capacity which will facilitate the development and growth of a regional 'blue economy' based on its maritime resources and the alignment of regional activities with the EU's Atlantic Strategy. This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 complete marine management plans for designated protected areas and the development of 5 models to support conservation of marine habitats and species • 1 network of buoys for regional seas, including telemetry and oceanographic monitoring (e.g. for seals, cetaceans and salmonids) and 1 system for the prediction of bathing water quality and the installation of real-time signage

10,000 people benefiting from improved wastewater treatment contributing to an increased percentage of shared transitional waters in the region with good or high quality and an increased percentage of cross-border freshwater bodies in cross-border river basins with good or high quality.

This will be further achieved by completing:

- **2** sewage network and wastewater treatment projects
- **3** river water quality improvement projects
- the installation of **50** cross-border groundwater monitoring wells
- **1** cross-border drinking water Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan

The creation of **1** cross-border, multi-modal public transport hub encompassing integrated services, the creation of **80km** of new cross-border greenways as well as a cross-border EV network including **73** new/upgraded rapid chargers resulting in:

- An increased number of passenger journeys (up to 25%) utilizing cross-border public transport services by 2023.
- It will also increase the number of cross-border journeys made by walking/cycling (up to 10%) in the region, as well as the number of Electric vehicles (EV) registrations, up to 2,000 by 2023.

The Programme will ensure an increased number of 'episodes of care' delivered on a cross-border basis by creating and developing:

- **12** new cross-border area interventions to support the positive health and well-being and prevention of ill health for **15,000** beneficiaries
- **2** new cross-border area community support services to support **4,000** disabled people who are socially isolated
- **1** new cross-border area community and voluntary sector infrastructure to support **8,000** clients who have recovered from mental illness
- **2** new border area frameworks for early interventions to benefit **5,000** vulnerable families
- **4** cross-border frameworks, for scheduled and unscheduled care streams for **15,000** patients
- e-Health interventions to support the independent living in caring communities for **4,500** patients
- **One** shared cross-border framework and service for the identification, assessment and referral of **2,500** patients identified as 'at risk' of isolation and social exclusion
- Specialist training and development programmes for **3,800** cross-border area health and social care providers
- **10** cross-border area health intervention trials for novel but unproven healthcare interventions to prevent and cure illness
- **One** e-health research and evaluation mechanism for the evaluation of e-health and mobile health solutions

RESEARCH & INNOVATION – Total funding €71.68m/£56m (€60.9m/£47.6m ERDF)

The Research and Innovation priority targets two areas; Enhancing Research and Innovation (€45m/£35.2m ERDF) and Business Investment in Research and Innovation (€15.9m/£12.4m ERDF)

Enhancing Research and Innovation

The economies of the region have a low proportion of high value sectors and low levels of R&I. There is an opportunity to build effective cross-border collaboration partnerships that will significantly impact upon the overall regional capacity for Research and Innovation in targeted sectors.

The Objective of this element is to increase business industry-relevant Research & Innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; ‘Health & Life Sciences’ and ‘Renewable Energy’.

It will Result in, i.e. the change that will be brought about will be, an increase in the annual number of peer reviewed journal and conference publications within the two sectors, with cross-border authorship and with the potential to create economic impact. These sectors have been identified in consultation with national economic development agencies. They offer the most potential for growth and are relevant to all regions within the Programme’s eligible area.

The associated Outputs for these interventions, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **514 years’ worth of PhD (or above) level research**
- **5 research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects**
- **20 enterprises receiving support**
- **10 enterprises receiving grants**
- **20 enterprises receiving non-financial support**
- **10 enterprises cooperating with research institutions**
- **10 enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects**

**Business Investment in Research & Innovation – Total value €18.7m/£14.6m
(€15.9m/£12.4m ERDF)**

SMEs across the region are characterized by low levels of innovation activity and low levels of Research & Innovation expenditure. Cross-border cooperation presents opportunities to foster partnerships between SMEs and relevant research institutions, drawing upon the different research strengths across the Programme area.

The Objective of this element is to increase the number and capacity of SMEs and micro-businesses in the region which are engaged in cross-border Research & Innovation activity aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradeable services.

It will Result in, i.e. the change that will be brought about will be an increase in the percentage of SMEs and micro-businesses in the eligible area which are involved in Research & Innovation involving cross-border collaborations.

The associated Outputs for these interventions, i.e. the evidence of the change will be

- **1,408 enterprises receiving support**
- **19 enterprises receiving grants**
- **1,408 enterprises receiving non-financial support**
- **50 enterprises cooperating with research institutions**
- **5 research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects**
- **469 enterprises receiving one-to-one innovation advice**
- **94 enterprises in receipt of Innovation Capability Development Programme**
- **19 enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects**
- **70 enterprises engaging an Innovation Intern, on a cross-border basis**

In considering the Outputs, i.e. the evidence of the change, anticipated actions to be supported are;

Research & Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The creation of clusters which will enable the development of virtual centres of excellence within the region, involving capacity and competence building ▪ Clusters will complement existing Research & Innovation strategies within jurisdictions by promoting cross-border cooperation and will
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take the form of partnership arrangements between existing institutions in academia, public sector agencies and private sector companies

- The further development of existing competence centres to facilitate increased levels of cross-border collaboration
- The clusters will address market failure in the Research Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) landscape, whereby the risk associated with the longer-term nature of strategic research carried out cannot be addressed by individual companies
- Education and awareness building programmes aimed at SMEs
- One-to-one mentoring and advice programmes for SMEs
- Innovation capability audits within SMEs
- Development and implementation of innovation action plans tailored to the needs of the SMEs which address innovation capabilities deficiencies
- A collaborative research and development programme designed to create and support collaborative research projects between SMEs and research institutions.

ENVIRONMENT – Total funding €84.71m/£66.2m (€72m/£56.3m ERDF)

One of the key economic challenges for the programme region relates to how the governments in the three jurisdictions address common environmental issues. The region's economies are operating in a highly regulated setting, with ambitious national targets set for improvements in areas such as water quality and the management of climate change. In addressing such issues, the programme focuses on two investment areas; Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity; and Investing in the Water Sector.

Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity – Total funding €25.9m/£20.2m (€22m/£17.2m ERDF)

This element has two Objectives; to promote cross-border cooperation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priorities species; and develop cross-border capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species.

The Results, i.e. the change that will be brought about will be an increase in the percentage of selected protected habitats in or approaching favourable condition and a corresponding increase in cross-border monitoring and management capacity which will facilitate the development and growth of a regional 'blue economy' based on its maritime resources and the alignment of regional activities with the EU's Atlantic Strategy.

The associated Outputs for these interventions, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **4,500 hectares of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status**
- **25 conservation action plans**
- **1 network of buoys for regional seas, including telemetry and oceanographic monitoring (e.g. for seals, cetaceans and salmonids)**
- **5 models developed to support conservation of marine habitats and species**
- **6 complete marine management plans for designated protected areas**
- **1 system for the prediction of bathing water quality and the installation of real time signage**

Investing in the Water Sector – Total funding €58.8m/£45.9m (€50m/£39m ERDF)

Cross-border collaboration is essential to adequately address the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, in relation to shared transitional waters. The Programme will facilitate the implementation of common approaches to the management of water resources and the sharing of best practice and technical expertise across the eligible region, drawing on the relative strengths of the three jurisdictions.

Within the Programme area, Ireland and Northern Ireland share 11 cross-border river basins. Greater levels of cross-border collaboration between both jurisdictions is needed in order to improve freshwater quality and contribute to compliance with the Water Framework Directive requirements.

This element has two Objectives; to improve the water quality in shared transitional waters and improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins.

The Results, i.e. the change that will be brought about will be an increased percentage of shared transitional waters in the region with good or high quality and an increased percentage of cross-border freshwater bodies in cross-border river basins with good or high quality.

The associated Outputs for these interventions, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **10,000 people benefiting from improved wastewater treatment**
- **2 sewage network and wastewater treatment projects completed to improve water quality in shared transitional waters**
- **3 river water quality improvement projects completed**
- **50 cross-border groundwater monitoring wells installed**
- **1 cross-border drinking water Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan**

In considering the Outputs, i.e. the evidence of the change, anticipated actions to be supported are;

Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of mapping of protected habitats and sites of cross-border relevance ▪ Development and implementation of conservation action plans for protected sites of cross-border relevance ▪ Tangible conservation actions for protected habitats and species ▪ Conservation management and protection activities to encourage sustainable natural regeneration of species populations
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- Development and sharing of best practice and enhancement of skills in ecosystem management
- Development and use of databases to assist conservation actions
- Removal of invasive species
- Research into species and habitats, including the impact of climate change, which support the actions within the Programme
- Education and outreach activities
- Development and implementation of cross-border management plans for marine protected areas and species
- Mapping of marine/seabed environment
- Creation of a network of marine protected areas
- Research and development in the marine environment (including the impact of climate change)
- Marine skills initiatives
- Co-ordinated research programme of direct relevance to the management challenges of the eligible area
- Knowledge and data sharing
- Prediction model development and signage for short-term pollution and real time management of bathing water quality in coastal waters
- Research and development in wastewater treatment technologies, including the use of sustainable technologies with direct relevance to the shared transitional waters
- Creation of demonstration sites in the catchment areas to illustrate best practice wastewater treatment methodologies
- Sewerage network and wastewater treatment projects to protect and enhance the Water Framework Directive classification of the cross-border catchment areas
- Development and implementation of integrated river basin management plans and action
- Development and implementation of a management plan and projects for designated drinking water protected areas so that Water Framework Directive water classifications can be maintained and improved
- Activities related to the improvement of river water quality
- Activities related to freshwater quality management research
- Activities related to establishing ground water monitoring wells

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT – Total funding €47.06m/£36.8m (€40m/£31.25 ERDF)

Transportation across the region is dominated by car usage, which results in high carbon emissions. This trend is set to increase in line with rising population and economic growth. The Programme will provide support to greater connectivity between the three jurisdictions, creating a more coherent and integrated network, which can join up public transport, cycling and the enhanced use of electric vehicles.

The Objective of this priority will be to promote cross-border, intermodal and sustainable mobility in the region.

The Result, i.e. the change that will be brought about will be an increased number of passenger journeys (up to 25%) utilizing cross-border public transport services by 2023. It will also increase the number of cross-border journeys made by walking/cycling (up to 10%) in the region, as well as the number of Electric vehicles (EV) registrations, up to 2,000 by 2023.

The associated Outputs for this intervention, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **Creation of one cross-border, multi-modal public transport hub encompassing integrated services**
- **Creation of 80km of new cross-border greenways**
- **Creation of a cross-border EV network including 73 new/upgraded rapid chargers**

In considering the Outputs, i.e. the evidence of the change, anticipated actions to be supported are;

Sustainable Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of a cross-border, multi-modal hub which facilitates a shift to public transport by providing modern, cross-border, integrated services, such as park and ride, public cycle schemes and car share, etc. ▪ Development of cross-border greenways and cycle networks to reduce car journeys in cross-border transportation ▪ Development of the existing cross-border infrastructure for electric vehicles, including upgrading/establishing rapid transport chargers and battery storage units ▪ Development of the existing cross-border infrastructure for electric vehicles to ensure it aligns with and complements the Rapid Charger network and enhances connectivity and cross-border mobility ▪ Research into charging infrastructure, specifically more sustainable approaches to charging electric vehicles, including the use of EV chargers on ferries.
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HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE – Total funding €62.35m/£48.7m (€53m/£41.4m ERDF)

The health and social care services across the region face challenges in meeting rising demand within a constrained budget environment. Cross-border cooperation will contribute towards the more efficient delivery of health services in border regions. Cooperation across the region is essential to obtain the necessary critical mass for healthcare trials. Coordination and sharing of e-health solutions can fast-track implementation of this technology, facilitating the delivery of high quality services.

The Objective of this priority will be, through collaboration on a cross-border basis, improve the health and well-being of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs.

The Result, i.e. the change that will be brought about will be an increased number of ‘episodes of care’ delivered on a cross-border basis.

The associated Outputs for this intervention, i.e. the evidence of the change will be;

- **Develop 12 new cross-border area interventions to support the positive health and well-being and prevention of ill health for 15,000 beneficiaries**
- **Develop 2 new cross-border area community support services to support 4,000 disabled people who are socially isolated**
- **Develop a new cross-border area community and voluntary sector infrastructure to support 8,000 clients who have recovered from mental illness**
- **Develop and implement 2 new border area frameworks for early interventions to benefit 5,000 vulnerable families**
- **Establish 4 cross-border frameworks, for scheduled and unscheduled care streams for 15,000 patients**
- **Provide e-health interventions to support the independent living in caring communities for 4,500 patients**
- **Create a shared cross-border framework and service for the identification, assessment and referral of 2,500 patients identified as ‘at risk’ of isolation and social exclusion**
- **Provide specialist training and development programmes for 3,800 cross-border area health and social care providers**

- **Develop and deliver 10 cross-border area health care intervention trials for novel but unproven healthcare interventions to prevent and cure illness**
- **Create one e-health research and evaluation mechanism for the evaluation of e-health and mobile health solutions**

In considering the Outputs, i.e. the evidence of the change, anticipated actions to be supported are;

Health & Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting positive health and well-being and the prevention of ill health through an integrated approach ▪ Development of a social equality approach to promoting social inclusion, citizenship and better life outcomes for disabled people ▪ Promoting cross-border mental and emotional resilience and recovery ▪ Early authoritative intervention with vulnerable families ▪ Primary care and older people services, supporting caring communities and independent living ▪ To develop new models of working both in scheduled and unscheduled care streams by better utilizing scarce physical, financial and human resources ▪ Development and implementation of support and cooperation services on a cross-border basis for community and voluntary organisations involved in the provision of social care and healthcare services within their own communities ▪ Development, implementation and evaluation of cross-border initiatives in the area of e-health, including addressing challenges of isolation in rural areas, telemetry, web-based information on community resources and support services across a range of healthcare service areas ▪ Development of cross-border cooperation in the area of healthcare records management in order to streamline access to information for patients and clinical professionals in the provision of cross-border care services ▪ Cross-border training interventions for healthcare professionals, social care professionals and personnel in community and voluntary organisations involved in the provision of cross-border health and social care support services ▪ Development, implementation and evaluation of health and social care trials in a range of healthcare areas
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