

Preparation of Regional Operational Programmes 2014-2020

Stephen Blair
Director



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

SOUTHERN & EASTERN

Regional Assembly

Promoting our Region



EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUN

New Concepts in the 2014-2020 Regulations

- A single Common Provision Regulation for all 4 funds – ERDF, ESF, EAFRD and EMFF
- A national Partnership Agreement to set out investment priorities and implementation arrangements, for all funds
- Introduction of ex-ante conditionalities to be met
- Thematic concentration on a limited number of investment priorities, especially for more developed regions
- At least 20% of allocation to low carbon economy & renewable energy actions and a minimum of 5% for integrated urban development
- Option to extend Local Action Group concept to Community-led local development (CLLD) for all funds
- Increased focus on clearly defined results and sanctions for poor performing programmes
- Increased usage of financial engineering instruments (revolving investment funds)



Categories of Regions

- **Three categories of regions:**
 - Less developed regions (GDP per capita < 75% of EU average 2007-09)
 - Transition regions (GDP per capita between 75% and 90% 2007-09)
 - More developed regions (GDP per capita > 90% 2007-09)
 - Based on **2007-2009** Reference period
- Both Irish NUTS II Regions will be in “**More Developed Regions**” category
- 48% of regional allocation to ERDF, compared with 50% currently



Multi-Annual Financial Framework

- Currently Ireland receives € 416 million in ERDF support for the two Regions.
- Based on MFF budget agreed by Council in February, it is estimated that for the new programming period 2014-20, this level of ERDF support will be roughly maintained, although the regional balance will slightly change in favour of the S&E Region
- However MFF still to be agreed between Council & Parliament



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

SOUTHERN & EASTERN

Regional Assembly

Promoting our Region



EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUN

Thematic Objectives

80% of allocation to focus on the first 4 Thematic Objectives:

1. research & innovation
2. information and communication technologies (ICT)
3. competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
4. shift towards a low-carbon economy
5. climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management
6. environmental protection & resource efficiency
7. sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
8. employment & supporting labour mobility
9. social inclusion & combating poverty
10. education, skills & lifelong learning
11. institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

SOUTHERN & EASTERN

Regional Assembly

Promoting our Region



EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUN

Thematic Concentration

- Given the Thematic Concentration requirements as set out in the draft Regulations, the new Regional Programmes will have to focus its efforts on a very limited number of Priorities, having regard to the outcomes of the Needs Analysis and the feedback from the public consultations.
- This suggests that the targeted areas for the new Programmmes will be likely to be in the broad areas of Research & Innovation, ICT infrastructure, Entrepreneurship, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Urban Development.



Programme Preparation (1)

- European Commission has issued a position paper on investment priorities for Ireland
- Preparation of a comprehensive Needs Analysis for programmes has commenced
- Working Group of Managing Authorities established by Department of Public Expenditure to co-ordinate programme planning
- Feasibility study co-funded by the EIB into scope for an ERDF co-financed financial instrument over the 2014-2020 period has just been completed.



Programme Preparation (2)

- Meetings have been taking place with relevant Departments and Agencies in relation to: research, innovation, enterprise support, broadband infrastructure, public transport, urban regeneration and renewable energy
- First round of Consultations has been completed by both the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in respect of the Partnership Agreement and by the Regional Assemblies in respect of the Regional OP's
- Participation in Working Groups at EU level in relation to detailed programme guidelines and required documentation.

Financial Engineering

- Potential creation of ERDF and EIB-backed investment fund for projects with potential for repayments has been investigated through a JESSICA Feasibility Study.
 - Indicative projects were scoped and reviewed by PwC to indicate focus and level of potential market demand and market failure.
 - Four areas were reviewed:
 - Housing retrofit
 - Energy efficiency in public buildings
 - Innovation space
 - Waste management
- Level of matching national exchequer resources to be determined.



Next Steps

- Findings of Feasibility Study into Financial Engineering to be considered
- Preparation of initial draft national Partnership Agreement by end July 2013, for consultation with EU Commission
- Needs analysis to be completed over coming months
- Broad consultation on Regional OPs, including Monitoring Committee and Regional Assembly membership
- An independent ex ante evaluation and SEA of the draft OPs to commence July 2013



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

SOUTHERN & EASTERN

Regional Assembly

Promoting our Region



EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUN

Next Steps cont./

- First working drafts of Regional OP's by late summer
- Informal discussions with Commission Sept-Nov.
- Finalisation of Ex-ante Evaluation and SEA process Sept-Nov.
- Formal submission of OP's by years end.
- 1st January 2014 commencement of new Programmes!



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



Thank you!

Any Questions ? ? ?



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

SOUTHERN & EASTERN

Regional Assembly

Promoting our Region



EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUNDS