

**Annual implementation report for the Investment for growth and jobs goal  
PART A**

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

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## **2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) AND 111(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

### **2.1. Key information on the implementation of the operational programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.**

The Southern Regional Assembly has been designated by the Government to be the Managing Authority (MA) for the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme (SEROP) 2014-2020 and is responsible for its preparation and delivery, in accordance with the Common Provisions Regulation. The development of the Operational Programme (OP) involved numerous consultations with relevant stakeholders, from April 2013, which allowed for the drafting of the OP with the final version submitted to the European Commission on 5th December 2014. The SEROP 2014-2020 was adopted by the European Commission on 15th December 2014. The Southern Regional Assembly was designated as the Managing Authority for the SEROP on 2nd June 2017, this being a formal acknowledgement of the existing situation and a regulatory requirement under the CPR 1303/2013.

This is the fourth Annual Implementation Report for the SEROP 2014-2020. It reports on the progress achieved under the OP for the year 2018. Expenditure under the OP was eligible from 1st January 2014.

Good progress has been made in the implementation of all the Investment Priorities included in the OP. The OP is being delivered in an effective and planned manner and is achieving impressive results. It is achieving, and in many cases, exceeding its targets, the selection rate is high, physical outputs are high and the expenditure reported by IBs is also high. All but two of the schemes have reported expenditure in 2018 and both of these are forecast to report expenditure in 2019.

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost of operations selected (EUR) across all priorities was €493,650,075. This is 98.70% of the total allocation for the OP.

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost paid to beneficiaries (EUR) across all priorities was €264,331,058. This is 52.85% of the total allocation for the OP and 53.55% of the total public eligible cost of operations selected.

By the end of 2018, the total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority across all priorities was €94,659,938. This is 18.93% of the total allocation for the OP, 19.18% of the total public eligible cost of operations selected and 35.81% of the total public eligible cost paid to beneficiaries. The MA continued to declare eligible expenditure for the period 01/01/14 to 31/12/2018 in H1 2019, in advance of the deadline for milestone attainment. As a result, the total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority across all priorities for the period 01/01/14 to 31/12/2018 as of 28/06/19 was €116,007,677.

The financial milestone for Priority 1 has been achieved in line with Article 6.2 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 215/2014. There is no financial milestone for Priority 2. The financial milestone for Priority 3 has been achieved. Whereas expenditure and outputs are strong under Priority 3 and there is sufficient expenditure on fully implemented projects, the declaration of expenditure for a very high volume of relatively low value projects has been administratively challenging at all levels of the cascade. The financial milestone for Priority 4 has been achieved. As previously advised to the Commission, the financial milestone for Priority 5 has not been achieved due to insufficient expenditure to date. Further details on progress against milestone targets and the performance framework are given in Section 17.

The OP does not include any financial instruments. All ex-ante conditionalities were fulfilled upon the adoption of the OP. Therefore, no actions were required to be taken during programme implementation.

Work on the development and implementation of the eCohesion IT System continued in 2018, led by the Member State through the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with continuous engagement from the MA and the CA as well as input from the Intermediate Bodies and Beneficiaries, when required. System designation, the transfer of data from the contingency IT system, go-live of the new system and roll-out to all users in the cascade took place in 2018.

### **Highlights in 2018:**

P1 : Five new research centres selected for support at the end of 2017 under the SFI Research Centres scheme came fully on stream in 2018. The Commercialisation Fund and Innovation Partnership schemes continued to deliver strong results. The Marine Research Programme, the only scheme that has yet to report expenditure under P1, launched two successful funding calls leading to the selection of 15 operations for support and is therefore well on track to meet the targets agreed. Contracts were awarded in late 2018 with expenditure commencing in 2019.

P2 : Further progress was made in the procurement process for the National Broadband Programme with the final bidder invited to submit a tender in September 2018. The tender evaluation process and due diligence continued into 2019. (On 7th May 2019 the Government approved a recommendation to confer Preferred Bidder status on Granahan McCourt. This is the final stage of procurement before contract award.)

P3 : This was the fourth consecutive year of employment growth for businesses supported by Local Enterprise Offices with jobs growth across all counties in the region in 2018. The cumulative increase in employment in supported enterprises in the S&E region for the period 2014 to 2018 is 3,948 amounting to 69% of the OP target.

P4 : The Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme and the Social Housing Retrofit schemes reached 4,824 households in 2018, bringing the total number of households to have benefited under P4 schemes so far to 27,225. In 2018, a significant change was introduced to the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme with the expansion of wall insulation measures available to include internal and external wall insulation as standard (as opposed to just cavity wall insulation). This deeper retrofit approach while more expensive will yield greater improvements in energy efficiency per household.

P5 : In general, 2018 saw a ramping-up of activity across Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme (DUCGS) projects that had been delayed in 2017, including completion of the first project - Waterford City Renewal and Public Realm. Three local authorities submitted replacement projects in lieu of the original projects approved.

P6 : The MA supported the go-live and roll out of the new eCohesion IT system through extensive testing, transfer of data from the Contingency system, training days, one-to-one coaching and the development of scheme-specific guidance documents for Beneficiaries. This facilitated a substantial volume of declarations in 2018 and enabled the Managing Authority to achieve N+3 targets and make steady progress towards the financial milestones in the Performance Framework. The communications highlight of the year was the hosting of *When Science Meets Business* in association with the Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

#### 3.1. Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Strengthening RTDI in the S&E Region	<p>The overall objectives of this Priority are to increase the level of research taking place in the S&amp;E region with company engagement by supplying applied research and to increase the level of commercialisation of research by the higher education institutions in the region. The priority comprises two investment priorities (1a &amp; 1b) and includes five individual schemes around research centres, innovation, commercialisation of research and marine research.</p> <p>Five new research centres selected for support at the end of 2017 under the SFI Research Centres scheme came fully on stream in 2018. The Commercialisation Fund and Innovation Partnership schemes continued to deliver strong results. The Marine Research Programme, the only scheme that has yet to report expenditure under Priority 1, launched two successful funding calls leading to the selection of 15 operations for support and is therefore well on track to meet the targets agreed. Contracts were awarded in late 2018 with expenditure commencing in 2019.</p> <p>All output indicator milestones for Priority 1 have been achieved. The financial milestone for Priority 1 has been achieved.</p> <p>2018 was another year of strong performance against targets under Priority 1 with output indicator achievements for four of the five schemes ranging from 51% to 110% of final Operational Programme targets. The selection of fifteen new operations under the fifth scheme – the Marine Research Programme – at the end of 2018 gives confidence that this scheme will catch up quickly in 2019 and that all Priority 1 output indicators targets will be achieved.</p>
2	Information and Communication Technologies	<p>The intervention that will be supported under this Priority is a targeted State led investment providing broadband infrastructure in those areas that will not be covered by the commercial sector. This will facilitate the widespread availability of reliable and guaranteed high speed broadband which is a key component in delivering the objectives of the National Broadband Plan and the National Digital Strategy.</p> <p>The National Broadband Plan reflects Government objectives to deliver new opportunities for jobs, growth and social inclusion. Furthermore, it aims to underpin and support wider public policy objectives and initiatives both nationally and within the European context.</p> <p>In 2016, the Intermediate Body commenced a detailed dialogue with qualifying bidders in relation to technical, commercial and governance matters. The procurement process, based on competitive dialogue, continued throughout 2017 and 2018. The final bidder was invited to submit a tender in September 2018.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>On May 7th 2019 the Government approved a recommendation to confer Preferred Bidder status on the final bidder. This is the final stage of procurement before contract award.</p> <p>Subject to the successful completion of the final stage of procurement, submission of State Aid notification for approval to the European Commission and contract closing requirements including finalisation of financial and legal requirements), the IB is reporting that all targets will be met. The Managing Authority will continue to monitor this closely.</p>
3	SME Support, promotion and capability development	<p>The Entrepreneurship in Micro-enterprise scheme is delivered through Enterprise Ireland and the eighteen Local Enterprise Offices located in the region. The focus is to increase the rates of business start-up and expansion, and enhance management capability, competitiveness, innovation, technological adaptation, and the export-orientation of micro-enterprises. The specific objective of this priority is to increase employment levels in micro-enterprises in this region by supporting business start-ups, business expansion and higher innovation levels in micro-enterprises.</p> <p>2018 was another year of strong performance against targets under Priority 3 with output indicator achievements ranging from 53% to 136% of final Operational Programme targets. All output indicator milestones for Priority 3 have been achieved. The financial milestone for Priority 3 has been achieved. Whereas expenditure and outputs are strong under Priority 3 and there is sufficient expenditure on fully implemented projects, the declaration of expenditure for a very high volume of relatively low value projects has been administratively challenging at all levels of the cascade. The Managing Authority has worked closely with Intermediary Bodies, the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority to identify technical solutions, efficiencies and supports that can assist with the declaration of expenditure. This has included financial management and eCohesion training, the development of detailed eCohesion technical guidance documents for Priority 3 schemes, mapping of data fields from Enterprise Ireland's GMIS system to eCohesion, and recent innovations in</p>
4	Low Carbon Economy	<p>The overall objective of the Priority is to support the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors in the S&amp;E region. Specific objectives include improving energy efficiency in the housing stock by focusing on supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector. Two Intermediate Bodies are involved in the delivery of separate schemes under this priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment: Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme</li> <li>2. Department of Housing Planning and Local Government: Social Housing Retrofit &amp; Social Apartments</li> </ol> <p>Activity under both schemes is strong. The Operational Programme output indicator target for GHG reduction has been exceeded. The Operational Programme results indicator target for Priority 4 has also been exceeded. The milestone value for the Number of households with improved energy consumption classification has been achieved.</p>



ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>The financial milestone for Priority 4 has been achieved. However, it is critical that the expenditure under the Social Housing Retrofit scheme is declared and certified in order to secure the results under this scheme. The Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has yet to be designated and has therefore been unable to declare expenditure to the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority is working closely with the DHPLG to progress this matter. The designation is expected to be completed in 2019. The DHPLG is organising additional resources in 2019 to assist with the back log of claims.</p>
5	Sustainable Development Urban	<p>There is one scheme under Priority 5 – the Designated Urban Centre Grants Scheme (DUCGS). Under this scheme, local authorities for the designated growth centres in the S&amp;E region were invited to submit projects which fit with their integrated growth strategies. Nine projects were allocated funding by the designated Steering Committee for the scheme in early 2016 with a total ERDF allocation of €26m.</p> <p>During 2017 it became apparent to the MA that progress on several projects was not as expected and MA staff met with all Local Authorities to ascertain the cause of these delays. In most cases the reason for the delays was planning or procurement related. The MA continued its' close management of and liaison with the participating Local Authorities during 2018. At the end of 2018 one project, that of Waterford City and County Council, is at the point of completion. In H1 2019 this Local Authority submitted their final declaration for their project to the MA, who subsequently submitted same to the CA via eCohesion. A number of projects also submitted extension requests to deal with delays already experienced and 3 Local Authorities submitted replacement projects in lieu of the ones originally approved.</p> <p>The output indicator milestone for P5 has been achieved. All selected projects are aligned to the integrated growth strategies of their respective areas. While further progress is being made in the declaration of expenditure, the financial milestone for P5 will not be achieved due to insufficient expenditure to date.</p> <p>The funding is fully allocated under P5 and while progress is slower than expected, the MA is confident that that the final targets will be met.</p>
6	Technical Assistance	<p>In 2018, the Managing Authority supported the go-live and roll out of the new eCohesion IT system through extensive testing, transfer of data from the Contingency system, training days, one-to-one coaching and the development of scheme-specific guidance documents for Beneficiaries. This has been very resource-intensive, but it has facilitated a substantial volume of declarations in 2018 and enabled the Managing Authority to achieve N+3 targets and make steady progress towards the financial milestones in the Performance Framework.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>The Managing Authority closely monitored the progress of the Operational Programme throughout 2018, working in partnership with Member State, the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority, Intermediary Bodies, Beneficiaries, Horizontal Principles Partners and other stakeholders to achieve the Operational Programme targets.</p> <p>The Managing Authority hosted two Programme Monitoring Committee meetings in 2018 and attended four quarterly ROP Quarterly Oversight Meetings with Member State.</p> <p>The communications highlight of the year was the hosting of When Science Meets Business in association with the Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference. The event, held in Waterford Institute of Technology, showcased how EU funding supports collaborations between research and industry to strengthen the innovation dividend of the S&amp;E region.</p> <p>There are no milestones under Priority 6. The Operational Programme is on track to meet or exceed all Priority 6 targets.</p>

### 3.2. Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

#### Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Strengthening RTDI in the S&E Region
Investment Priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

**Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 1 / 1a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	Observations
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	More developed	689.00			758.00			
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	More developed	689.00			758.00			
F	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	Number of Awards	More developed	25.00			17.00	0.00		
S	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	Number of Awards	More developed	25.00			17.00			
F	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	Number of Researchers	More developed	21.00			0.00			
S	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	Number of Researchers	More developed	21.00			18.00			The fifteen projects selected at the end of 2018 will commence in 2019. The Marine Institute also plans the launch of a new Post-Doctoral Fellowship Call in May 2019. Therefore, the Managing Authority is confident that these projects will be fully implemented and the targets will be met.

(1) S=Cumulative value — outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value — outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	647.00			384.00			174.00		
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	647.00			384.00			174.00		
F	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	16.00			9.00			0.00		
S	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	16.00			9.00			10.00		
F	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	0.00			0.00			0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	0.00		
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	0.00		
F	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	0.00		
S	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	0.00		
F	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	0.00		
S	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	0.00		

Priority axis	1 - Strengthening RTDI in the S&E Region
Investment Priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
Specific objective	1a - To increase the level of research taking place in the S&E region with Company engagement by supplying applied research.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
1a.1	Number of industry partners engaged with funded strategic research centres in the S&E region.	Number of enterprises	More developed	529.00	2014	713.00	807.00		

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1a.1	Number of industry partners engaged with funded strategic research centres in the S&E region.	698.00		663.00		570.00		529.00	

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

**Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 1 / 1b**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			105.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			265.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			105.00			
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			265.00			
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			105.00			
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			265.00			
F	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	More developed	325.00			165.00			
S	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	More developed	325.00			165.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value — outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value — outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	74.00			32.00			5.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	220.00			162.00			112.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	74.00			32.00			5.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	220.00			162.00			112.00		
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	74.00			32.00			5.00		
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	220.00			162.00			112.00		
F	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	131.00			84.00			46.00		
S	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	131.00			84.00			46.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	59.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	59.00		
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00		
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	59.00		
F	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	0.00		
S	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	0.00		

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

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
1b.1	Annual Number of Licenses as a result of research in S&E Region	Number of Licenses	More developed	24.00	2013	25.00	26.00		In accordance with the indicator definition, values per year are annual values, not cumulative values.  Numbers previously reported for 2014 and 2015 have been revised based on the official data available in the EI database as reported by the third Level authorities. Data provided is for licenses as a result of CF funded research in the SE region.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1b.1	Annual Number of Licenses as a result of research in S&E Region	24.00		14.00		27.00		26.00	



Priority axis	2 - Information and Communication Technologies
Investment Priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

**Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 2 / 2a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	Observations
F	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	More developed	164,344.00			0.00			The project was in the procurement stage in 2017. The Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCA) is in a formal procurement process to select a company who will roll out a new high speed broadband network in the State intervention area. The procurement process is being progressed within procurement guidelines, to a best-practice standard, and is now in its final stages, with the anticipation that the remaining bidder will be invited to submit its final tender in September 2018. The Department has engaged in significant dialogue with the bidder and a decision will be published at the earliest opportunity following prompt evaluation of Final Tender. Further details are available in Section 10.1 of this report. The Department has also met directly with the Commission (July 2018) to advise on progress.
S	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	More developed	164,344.00			0.00			The project was in the procurement stage in 2017. The Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCA) is in a formal procurement process to select a company who will roll out a new high speed broadband network in the State intervention area. The procurement process is being progressed within procurement guidelines, to a best-practice standard, and is now in its final stages, with the anticipation that the remaining bidder will be invited to submit its final tender in September 2018. The Department has engaged in significant dialogue with the bidder and a decision will be published at the earliest opportunity following prompt evaluation of Final Tender. Further details are available in Section 10.1 of this report. The Department has also met directly with the Commission (July 2018) to advise on progress.

(1) S=Cumulative value — outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value — outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	0.00			0.00			0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps			0.00
S	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps			0.00

Priority axis	2 - Information and Communication Technologies
Investment Priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
Specific objective	2a - To increase the provision of fibre optic links to all un-served settlements in the S&E Region

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
2a.2	Settlements with high-speed next generation broadband in the S&E Region	Number of Settlements	More developed	391.00	2014	933.00	391.00		The project was in the procurement stage in 2018. Implementation of the project has not commenced, yet. See update on Major Projects, Section 10.1

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2a.2	Settlements with high-speed next generation broadband in the S&E Region	391.00		391.00		391.00		391.00	

Priority axis	3 - SME Support, promotion and capability development
Investment Priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

**Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 3 / 3a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	51,736.00			35,843.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	51,736.00			35,843.00			
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	1,804.00			2,045.00			
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	1,804.00			2,045.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	25,000.00			33,920.00			
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	25,000.00			33,920.00			
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	More developed	2,398.00			1,279.00			
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	More developed	2,398.00			1,279.00			
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	More developed	13,649,599.00			14,455,645.00			
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	More developed	13,649,599.00			14,455,645.00			
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	5,760.00			3,948.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	5,760.00			3,948.00			
F	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	Number of participants	More developed	105,552.00			65,893.00			
S	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	Number of participants	More developed	105,552.00			65,893.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value — outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value — outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	28,166.00			20,340.00			14,195.00	7,020.00	7,175.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	28,166.00			20,340.00			14,195.00	7,020.00	7,175.00
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	1,609.00			1,240.00			844.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	1,609.00			1,240.00			844.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	26,507.00			18,964.00			13,104.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	26,507.00			18,964.00			13,104.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	1,040.00			823.00			561.00		
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	1,040.00			823.00			561.00		
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	10,792,896.00			8,338,206.00			5,478,158.00		
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	10,792,896.00			8,338,206.00			5,478,158.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	3,337.00			2,681.50			1,533.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	3,337.00			2,681.50			1,533.00		
F	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	49,931.00			36,291.00			24,756.00	11,030.00	13,726.00
S	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	49,931.00			36,291.00			24,756.00	11,030.00	13,726.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	6,793.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	6,793.00		
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	522.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	522.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	6,197.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	6,197.00		
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	359.00		
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	359.00		
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	2,797,411.00		
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	2,797,411.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	903.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	903.00		
F	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	12,342.00		
S	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	12,342.00		

Priority axis	3 - SME Support, promotion and capability development
Investment Priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
Specific objective	3a - To increase employment levels in micro-enterprises in the S&E Region by supporting business start-ups, business expansion and higher innovation levels in micro-enterprises.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
3a.1	Employment in the micro-enterprise sector in the S&E Region	Full Time Equivalents	More developed	169,866.00	2011	186,852.00	199,460.00		<p>The latest regional data available from the CSO is for 2016 and states a total of 188,010 FTE employed in micro enterprises in the S&amp;E region. The figures given for 2017 and 2018 are estimates based on national growth rates for Total Employment as reported in the Central Bank Quarterly Bulletin 02 April 2019. This data will be updated as CSO data becomes available.</p> <p>Employment is well ahead of target reflecting an exceptionally strong performance by Ireland from 2015 onward.</p>

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3a.1	Employment in the micro-enterprise sector in the S&E Region	193,462.00		188,010.00		180,883.00		175,112.00	

Priority axis	4 - Low Carbon Economy
Investment Priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

**Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 4 / 4c**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	Observations
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	More developed	19,497.00			8,573.00			Reported values are a total of output values from both schemes (BEWHS and Social Housing Retrofit) included in the Investment Priority.  Figures given for this indicator were previously reported for all households undergoing energy efficiency measures under the schemes.  Figures given for this indicator are now restricted to households that the IBs have clearly determined to have attained the increase in energy consumption classification, based on a quality review carried out in H1 2019. Further details are given in section 11.
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	More developed	19,497.00			8,573.00			
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	More developed	8,945.00			42,080.00			Figures given for this indicator were previously reported for the housing units targeted in that year only (annual values). Revised data were provided to DG Regio in March 2019 to show the calculated annual savings based on the total number of households with improved energy efficiency.  As many more households than initially envisaged have been included in the scheme, the cumulative GHG reduction has already greatly exceeded the target value set for 2023.
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	More developed	8,945.00			42,080.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value — outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value — outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	5,685.00			2,198.00			1,534.00		
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	5,685.00			2,198.00			1,534.00		
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	33,884.00			27,064.00			16,802.00		
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	33,884.00			27,064.00			16,802.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	638.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	638.00		
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	6,945.00		
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	6,945.00		

Priority axis	4 - Low Carbon Economy
Investment Priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
Specific objective	4c - To improve energy efficiency in the housing stock.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
4c.1	The average thermal performance of housing units in the S&E Region.	KWh/BRm2/year	More developed	210.00	2014	185.00	144.00		<p>The 2016 value in the AIR2017-1 was from the SEAI report "Energy in the Residential Sector 2018". In March 2019, SEAI provided new time series data for the results indicator Kwh/m2/year with new data for 2014-2017. The revised data reflects revised estimates of the no. of households based on available census data. A figure for 2018 is not yet available so the 2017 figure is repeated. The measurement unit KWh/BRm2/year should have been expressed as KWh per m2 per year as stipulated in the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD) ... "The energy performance of a building shall be expressed by a numeric indicator of primary energy use in kWh/(m2.y) for the purpose of both energy performance certification and compliance with minimum energy performance requirements".</p> <p>The MA requested that this Indicator be reviewed in the mid-term evaluation.</p>

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4c.1	The average thermal performance of housing units in the S&E Region.	144.00		149.00		149.00		143.00	



Priority axis	5 - Sustainable Urban Development
Investment Priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

**Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 5 / 4e**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	Observations
F	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	Number of Projects	More developed	4.00			0.00			Implementation of selected projects has only started recently due to delays at the local level. To note F 5.2 relates to the number of multimodal urban mobility projects of which there are four. This is a subset of the nine projects identified under 5.1.1.
S	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	Number of Projects	More developed	4.00			4.00			The projects under this objective were approved in early 2016.

(1) S=Cumulative value — outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value — outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	4.00			4.00			0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	0.00		
S	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	0.00		

Priority axis	5 - Sustainable Urban Development
Investment Priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures
Specific objective	4e - To support low carbon sustainable, multimodal urban mobility in designated urban centres

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
4e	Non-private car commuting levels in the designated urban centres.	%	More developed	22.26	2011	42.26	44.00		Source: CSO Census of Population, 2016 Profile 6 Commuting in Ireland, published in 2017. The 2016 data is repeated as intercensal data is not available. This data will be updated as it becomes available.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4e	Non-private car commuting levels in the designated urban centres.	44.00							

Priority axis	5 - Sustainable Urban Development
Investment Priority	6e - Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures

**Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 5 / 6e**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	Observations
F	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	Persons	More developed	1,571,356.00			1,652,174.00			The projects under this objective were approved in early 2016. . The most recent available CSO data on population is the 2016 Census. The 2016 figure is repeated in 2017 and 2018. It will be updated as CSO data becomes available.
S	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	Persons	More developed	1,571,356.00			1,652,174.00			
F	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	Number of Strategies	More developed	9.00			9.00			The projects under this objective were approved in early 2016.
S	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	Number of Strategies	More developed	9.00			9.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value — outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value — outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	1,652,174.00			1,652,174.00			0.00		
S	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	1,652,174.00			1,652,174.00			0.00		
F	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	9.00			9.00			0.00		
S	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	9.00			9.00			0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	0.00		
S	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	0.00		
F	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	0.00		
S	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	0.00		

Priority axis	5 - Sustainable Urban Development
Investment Priority	6e - Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures
Specific objective	6e - To revitalise, regenerate and improve the urban environment in the designated urban centres as part of integrated urban strategies

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
6e	Improvement in the social, economic and physical conditions in selected urban centres, based on an urban development index	index Values	More developed	5.00	2012	5.10			During the course of the Mid-Term Evaluation, the MA has highlighted that the measurement unit for this Indicator is no longer fit for purpose. The GHDI 2012 from which the baseline indicator was derived, collected data from areas designated as Gateways and Hubs under the National Spatial Strategy (2002-2020). Data to update the result indicator was to draw on official statistics across a large number of domains. It was planned that this be collected twice over the programme period. However, given external policy changes (the NSS has now been superseded by the National Planning Framework: Ireland 2040 Our Plan (NPF)) and the Gateway and Hub designation has been discontinued. The Mid Term Evaluation includes a recommendation to address the changed policy context.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
6e	Improvement in the social, economic and physical conditions in selected urban centres, based on an urban development index								

## Priority axes for technical assistance

**Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 6**

Priority axis				6 - Technical Assistance							
(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	Observations
F	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	number of meetings		10.00			5.00			
S	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	number of meetings		10.00			5.00			
F	6.2	Number of evaluation studies conducted	Number of studies		5.00			0.00			
S	6.2	Number of evaluation studies conducted	Number of studies		5.00			1.00			The MA commissioned the Mid-Term Evaluation in 2018. Implementation commenced in 2018. The Final Report is due to be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in Q2 2019.
F	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	Number of events		7.00			4.00			
S	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	Number of events		7.00			4.00			
F	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	Full time equivalents		4.50			4.50			In accordance with the indicator definition, values per year are annual values, not cumulative values
S	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	Full time equivalents		4.50			4.50			In accordance with the indicator definition, values per year are annual values, not cumulative values
F	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	Number of staff		30.00			60.00			
S	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	Number of staff		30.00			60.00			
F	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	System in place		1.00			1.00			
S	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	System in place		1.00			1.00			
F	6.7	Number of representations on other programme committees for complementarity purposes	Number of representatives		6.00			6.00			In accordance with the indicator definition, values per year are annual values, not cumulative values
S	6.7	Number of representations on other programme committees for complementarity purposes	Number of representatives		6.00			6.00			In accordance with the indicator definition, values per year are annual values, not cumulative values

(1) S=Cumulative value — outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value — outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	3.00			2.00			1.00		
S	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	3.00			2.00			1.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women
F	6.2	Number of evaluation studies conducted	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	6.2	Number of evaluation studies conducted	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	1.00			2.00			1.00		
S	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	1.00			2.00			1.00		
F	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	4.50			4.50			4.50		
S	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	4.50			4.50			4.50		
F	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	40.00			0.00			0.00		
S	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	40.00			0.00			0.00		
F	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	1.00			0.00			0.00		
S	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	1.00			0.00			0.00		
F	6.7	Number of representations on other programme committees for complementarity purposes	6.00			6.00			6.00		
S	6.7	Number of representations on other programme committees for complementarity purposes	6.00			6.00			6.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	0.00		
S	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	0.00		
F	6.2	Number of evaluation studies conducted	0.00		
S	6.2	Number of evaluation studies conducted	0.00		
F	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	0.00		
S	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	0.00		
F	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	4.50		
S	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	4.50		
F	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	0.00		
S	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	0.00		
F	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	0.00		
S	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	0.00		
F	6.7	Number of representations on other programme committees for complementarity purposes	6.00		
S	6.7	Number of representations on other programme committees for complementarity purposes	6.00		

**Table 3B: Number of enterprises supported by the operational programme net of multiple support to the same enterprises**

Indicator	Number of enterprises supported by OP net of multiple support
CO01 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	36,108
CO02 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	2,045
CO04 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	34,185
CO05 - Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	1,279

**Table 5: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework**

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2018 Cum total	2018 Cum men	2018 Cum women	2018 Annual total	2018 Annual total men	2018 Annual total women
1	O	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	758.00					
1	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	58,502,423.00					
1	O	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	ERDF	More developed	165.00					
2	O	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	ERDF	More developed	0.00					
2	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00					
2	I	II	Key Implementation Steps	Number of Steps Completed	ERDF	More developed	1.00					
3	O	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	3,948.00					
3	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	23,876,575.50					
4	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed	8,573.00					
4	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	24,716,597.97					
5	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	8,375,410.19					
5	O	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	Number of Strategies	ERDF	More developed	9.00					

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	Observations
1	O	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	647.00	384.00	174.00	The milestone for 2018 was exceeded in 2016. The final target was exceeded in 2018 reflecting a high level of fund allocation through awards under the SFI Research Centres and SFI Spokes schemes and consequently a high level of recruitment of new researchers. .
1	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	The Managing Authority declared further expenditure to the Certifying Authority in H1 2019 and has attained milestone.
1	O	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	ERDF	More developed	131.00	84.00	46.00	The milestone for 2018 was exceeded in 2017. The Managing Authority is confident that the success enjoyed to date (51% of final target attained to end December 2018) and the continuous strong management of the scheme will ensure that the final targets are met.
2	O	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, having analysed the latest NBP project draft Product and Coverage Template (Q2 2018), which outlines the proposed quarterly deployment schedule for high speed broadband over time from contract award, the Department re-confirmed that the target output indicators remain on track for achievement.
2	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	The anticipated award of the NBP contract in 2019 will impose a number of robust legal obligations (and potentially, financial penalties) on the successful bidder, with respect to the delivery of the programme within an agreed timeframe.
2	I	II	Key Implementation Steps	Number of Steps Completed	ERDF	More developed	1.00	1.00	1.00	Milestone achieved.
3	O	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	3,337.00	2,681.50	1,533.00	The milestone for 2018 was exceeded in 2016. The Managing Authority is confident that the success enjoyed to date (69% of final target attained to end December 2018) and the continuous strong management of the scheme will ensure that the final targets are met.
3	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	4,838,368.00	0.00	0.00	The Managing Authority declared further expenditure to the Certifying Authority in H1 2019 and has attained milestone.
4	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed	5,685.00	2,198.00	1,534.00	The Milestone target relating to the number of households with improved energy consumption classification has been exceeded.
4	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	14,899,028.00	0.00	0.00	The milestone for 2018 was exceeded in 2018.
5	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	5,261,737.00	0.00	0.00	The Managing Authority has previously confirmed to the EU Commission that notwithstanding the full allocation of funds under Priority 5 and increased activity and expenditure in 2018, there is insufficient expenditure on the ground to make it possible to achieve the financial milestone for Priority 5.
5	O	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	Number of Strategies	ERDF	More developed	9.00	9.00	0.00	Nine integrated growth centre strategies are in place. Implementation of selected projects has only started recently due to delays at the local level.

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2014 Cum total
1	O	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	0.00
1	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00
1	O	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	ERDF	More developed	0.00
2	O	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	ERDF	More developed	0.00
2	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00
2	I	II	Key Implementation Steps	Number of Steps Completed	ERDF	More developed	0.00
3	O	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	903.00
3	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00



Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2014 Cum total
4	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed	638.00
4	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00
5	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00
5	O	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	Number of Strategies	ERDF	More developed	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
1	O	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	276			689.00		
1	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	72,000,000.00			180,000,000.00		
1	O	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	ERDF	More developed	130			325.00		
2	O	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	ERDF	More developed	0			164,344.00		
2	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00			60,000,000.00		
2	I	I1	Key Implementation Steps	Number of Steps Completed	ERDF	More developed	Launch of procurement process to award contract			1.00		
3	O	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	2,304			5,760.00		
3	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	27,680,000.00			71,113,654.00		
4	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed	7,799.00			19,497.00		
4	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	26,600,000.00			66,500,000.00		
5	F	F1.1	total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	20,080,000.00			52,000,000.00		
5	O	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	Number of Strategies	ERDF	More developed	4			9.00		

### 3.4 Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 6: Financial information at priority axis and programme level**

(as set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for the transmission of financial data))

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis	Total fund	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31/12/2018 and certified to the Commission
1	ERDF	More developed	Public	180,000,000.00	50.00%	281,960,097.00	156.64%	281,960,097.00	51,691,675.97	28.72%	429	58,502,423.00
2	ERDF	More developed	Public	60,000,000.00	50.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00
3	ERDF	More developed	Public	71,113,654.00	50.00%	51,987,569.00	73.10%	43,595,444.00	10,490,204.22	14.75%	2,621	23,876,575.50
4	ERDF	More developed	Public	133,000,000.00	50.00%	114,894,534.00	86.39%	114,894,534.00	24,716,597.97	18.58%	90	24,716,597.97
5	ERDF	More developed	Public	52,000,000.00	50.00%	52,000,000.00	100.00%	52,000,000.00	7,224,789.58	13.89%	9	8,375,410.19
6	ERDF	More developed	Public	4,018,700.00	50.00%	1,200,000.00	29.86%	1,200,000.00	536,670.34	13.35%	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>More developed</b>		<b>500,132,354.00</b>	<b>50.00%</b>	<b>502,042,200.00</b>	<b>100.38%</b>	<b>493,650,075.00</b>	<b>94,659,938.08</b>	<b>18.93%</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>115,471,006.66</b>
<b>Grand total</b>				<b>500,132,354.00</b>	<b>50.00%</b>	<b>502,042,200.00</b>	<b>100.38%</b>	<b>493,650,075.00</b>	<b>94,659,938.08</b>	<b>18.93%</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>115,471,006.66</b>

**Table 7: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)**

Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions							Financial data				
	Fund	Category of region	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	More developed	060	01	01	07	01		24	IE02	203,345,040.00	203,345,040.00	34,770,407.31	41
1	ERDF	More developed	062	01	01	07	01		24	IE02	73,898,153.58	73,898,153.58	15,905,992.54	365
1	ERDF	More developed	062	01	02	07	01		24	IE02	4,716,903.42	4,716,903.42	1,015,276.12	23
2	ERDF	More developed	046	01	02	07	02		24	IE02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
3	ERDF	More developed	001	01	01	07	03		24	IE02	22,354,655.00	18,746,041.00	4,510,788.22	1,127
3	ERDF	More developed	001	01	02	07	03		24	IE02	17,155,898.00	14,386,497.00	3,461,767.00	865
3	ERDF	More developed	001	01	03	07	03		24	IE02	12,477,016.00	10,462,906.00	2,517,649.00	629
4	ERDF	More developed	014	01	01	07	04		24	IE02	91,915,627.20	91,915,627.20	24,716,597.97	40
4	ERDF	More developed	014	01	02	07	04		24	IE02	22,978,906.80	22,978,906.80	0.00	50
5	ERDF	More developed	036	01	01	02	04		24	IE02	18,000,000.00	18,000,000.00	7,224,789.58	3
5	ERDF	More developed	089	01	01	02	06		24	IE02	15,000,000.00	15,000,000.00	0.00	0
5	ERDF	More developed	089	01	02	02	06		24	IE02	7,000,000.00	7,000,000.00	0.00	3
5	ERDF	More developed	094	01	01	02	06		24	IE02	7,000,000.00	7,000,000.00	0.00	0
5	ERDF	More developed	094	01	02	02	06		24	IE02	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.00	3
6	ERDF	More developed	121	01	01	07			24	IE02	1,200,000.00	1,200,000.00	536,670.34	1

**Table 8: The use made of cross-financing**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Use of cross-financing</b>	<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for cross financing based on selected operations (EUR)</b>	<b>As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (3/EU support to priority axis*100)</b>	<b>The amount of EU support used under cross financing based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)</b>	<b>As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (5/EU support to priority axis*100)</b>
Costs eligible for support under the ESF, but supported from the ERDF	1	0.00		0.00	
Costs eligible for support under the ESF, but supported from the ERDF	2	0.00		0.00	
Costs eligible for support under the ESF, but supported from the ERDF	3	0.00		0.00	
Costs eligible for support under the ESF, but supported from the ERDF	4	0.00		0.00	
Costs eligible for support under the ESF, but supported from the ERDF	5	0.00		0.00	
Costs eligible for support under the ESF, but supported from the ERDF	6	0.00		0.00	

**Table 9: Cost of operations implemented outside the programme area (the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal)**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for operations implemented outside the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)</b>	<b>As a share of the EU support to the priority axis at the time of adoption of the programme (%) (2/EU support to priority axis at the time of adoption of the programme*100)</b>	<b>The amount of EU support in operations implemented outside the programme area based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)</b>	<b>As a share of the EU support to the priority axis at the time of adoption of the programme (%) (4/EU support to priority axis at the time of adoption of the programme*100)</b>
1	0.00		0.00	
2	0.00		0.00	
3	0.00		0.00	
4	0.00		0.00	
5	0.00		0.00	
6	0.00		0.00	

**Table 10: Expenditure incurred outside the Union (ESF)**

The amount of expenditure envisaged to be incurred outside the Union under thematic objectives 8 and 10 based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (1/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)	Eligible expenditure incurred outside the Union declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (3/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)

#### 4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, with reference of name and reference period of the evaluation reports used

##### **Key Findings and Conclusions**

The evaluator reviewed progress to the end of 2017 across all indicators for all priorities and schemes, with some evidence on 2018 also examined.

They concluded there is evidence of strong performance in Priorities 1 (except for the Marine Research Programme) 3 and 4 in particular, with some end-programme target values already achieved. Progress has been delayed under Priority 2 (due to delays with procurement, however mid-term Milestone target is achieved for this priority) and in Priority 5 (due to internal and external factors that impacted the local authorities).

Where schemes have been delayed, plans are in place to progress these, and recommendations included in the report further enable and encourage close monitoring of progress.

While Priority 5 financial milestones will not be met the report asserts, contingent on recommendations being accepted and acted on, priority and scheme objectives will be met over the course of the S&E programme.

The socio-economic trends since the OP was developed and launched demonstrate a much improved economic context in the Region.

The OP remains aligned with key policy areas, with strong congruence with recently published policies e.g. the NPF.

Review of the intervention logic by priority illustrates that the priorities and scheme objectives remain grounded in the development needs of the region, the interventions and indicators reflect these underlying needs.

The evaluation concludes that the ex-ante / needs / SWOT analysis at programme, priority and scheme level remain appropriate and that programme / priority / scheme objectives and strategy continue to be relevant.

Four HPs (Gender Equality; Equal opportunities and prevention of discrimination and accessibility for people with disabilities; Sustainable development; and Social inclusion) were embedded in the design of the OP. Statutory Bodies with responsibility for HPs were involved in the process to ensure that HPs were appropriately integrated into schemes. The systematic process across all schemes involved four steps: screening, identification of suitable actions, implementation and monitoring of progress.

While this four-step process has worked well in identifying which schemes were deemed to be relevant to which HPs, there is scope for improvement in the subsequent parts of the process, which is detailed in the Report. In some cases, schemes deemed as relevant for HPs did complete all steps i.e. develop actions, implement these and monitor/report progress. In some cases, GDPR was cited as a challenge in accessing relevant data for reporting. There is scope to improve the implementation of this approach to embedding HP within the programme.

The structures and arrangements for programme management and delivery were established in line with the OP and EC guidance, overall these worked well.

## Challenges

- introduction of eCohesion system – procurement delays led to knock-on delays in implementation and hence in declaration of spend
- programme architecture – the relationship between the MA and other OP bodies is such that the MA has to depend on goodwill and existing informal relationships rather than having a management structure/hierarchy that supports or incentivises the IBs and other bodies to comply with MA requirements. This can impact on progress with declaration of expenditure;
- pre-financing – the up-front funding model is such that ensuring compliance with ERDF rules and regulations can occur up to 3 years after the spend has occurred. This again can be challenging and impact on progress with declaration of expenditure.

Regarding gaps in data, the most pressing issue is securing access to information related to HPs where it is sought retrospectively / relating pre-GDPR regulation. Applies mainly to some schemes under Priorities 1 and 3 in connection with Gender/Equal Opportunities HPs.

## Recommendations

1. In light of delays to financial declarations to date and the imminent cut-off date for the 2018 Financial Milestones, all relevant bodies should prioritise the declaration of eligible expenditure to ensure a pipeline of committed spend is moved through the process efficiently (particularly for Priority 2 and 5) to ensure ongoing progress towards achievement of targets for programme lifetime.
2. Given that the Marine Institute scheme was delayed initially, it is recommended that close attention be paid to the output and financial performance of this scheme to ensure that it progresses as planned and achieves its targets. If an issue arises, the MA should work with the IB to address this.
3. Given the focus of the Commercialisation Fund, and the alternative pathways to which the support may lead i.e. high potential start-ups (HPSU) or spin-outs, and the growth potential of HPSUs, there is merit in the MA seeking further information in IB reports on the split between among these types of firms



to reflect commercialisation successes achieved through OP funding. However, it is important to recognise that there will be a time-lag before such achievements may be evident.

4. The MA and IBs should continue to monitor physical and financial performance, with a key focus on declaration of eligible expenditure.
5. The MA in conjunction with the IB should review and revise end-OP targets where these are already met or close to being met and there is a realistic potential to achieve more.
6. To progress implementation and delivery of the Priority by the IBs as per proposed and specified in the ROPs, at the earliest opportunity. Implementation and delivery of the Priority should be closely monitored to ensure it is progressing towards targets for output and result indicators as well as financial targets.
7. The MAs should seek an early meeting with IB to ensure that activities funded through the OP are prioritised – recognising that the OP funded elements are one part of a much bigger project.
8. There is merit in the MA seeking further information in IB reports in respect of increased numbers of SMEs engaging in exporting and increased numbers of SMEs increasing their turnover per head.
9. The MA in conjunction with the IB should review and revise end-OP targets where these are already met or close to being met and there is a realistic potential to achieve more.
10. The MA in conjunction with the IB should:
  - proceed to introduce amendments to some of the calculations and reporting of indicators in Priority 4:
    - o Output indicator: GHG reduction - report for both BEWHS and SHR (rather than SHR only)
    - o Result indicator (average thermal performance of housing units in the S&E Region) – report using appropriate unit of measurement: rather than **KWh/BRm<sup>2</sup>/year** use **KWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year**
    - o Result indicator (average thermal performance of housing units in the S&E Region) – report using revised data source
  - develop baseline value and target value for the result indicator (average thermal performance of housing units in the S&E Region) taking into account new data source;
  - review and revise end-OP target value for the output indicator GHG reduction (already over-achieved).

11. The MA should move ahead with the proposal for an alternative Programme Specific Result Indicator to replace “Improvement in the social, economic and physical conditions in selected urban centres, based on an urban development index” which is no longer updated

12. The MA should continue to monitor physical and financial performance, with a key focus on declaration of eligible expenditure ensuring robust project management and regular updates to minimise any further delay.

13. The MA should review learning from the P5 scheme to date and apply to future programming - in particular:

- **Adopt a two-strand approach**, similar to that applied to projects under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and its rural equivalent, and other capital funding streams. This recognises the practical challenges that may arise in projects of this nature and seeks to manage and minimise risk. The 2 categories differ in scale and readiness/supporting permissions etc. The smaller scale category would support feasibility/design activities.:

- **Use robust project/contract management principles**, applied to ensure that the local authorities deliver as planned; reporting regularly on progress, risks and steps to mitigate this; escalating key issues and engaging with the MA to resolve any issues and thus minimise the risk of further performance-related penalties.

- Address the challenge of complementarity relating to alternative / additional funding opportunities that may arise for Local Authorities (in the context of P5, for example) during the lifetime of the programme. The evaluator recommends that a process is implemented to ensure complementarity with the OP and avoid displacement or duplication of funding. This would require Regional Assemblies to continue to **keep under review other capital project funding streams available to LAs** to ensure complementarity is achieved, and where an alternative fund may be available, an optimal funding stream should be agreed between the MA and the specific LA.

14. To improve the integration and reporting of Horizontal Principles for schemes, the evaluator recommends that:

- IBs develop and implement strategies for these HPs, where the schemes have been deemed relevant for the HP but have not developed strategies

- IBs implement and monitor strategies for these HPs, where the schemes have been deemed relevant for the HP and strategies have been developed but not yet implemented, once the schemes commence.

- IBs monitor/report against strategies for these HPs, where the schemes have been deemed relevant for the HP, strategies have been developed and implemented but not yet reported:

15. To address the potential under-reporting of performance in relation to aspects of Horizontal Principles for some schemes, the Evaluators recommend the following actions by the MA in conjunction with IBs:

- commission a GDPR audit of schemes which are deemed relevant for HPs where this issue is likely to arise to determine the validity, scale and likely impact;
- seek advice of GDPR officer in the MA and/or IBs to validity of the issue and identify solutions;
- commission benchmark research to seek good practice from other (ERDF) programmes and
- develop advice, procedures/guidance training for IBs to assist in this regard

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
Mid Term Evaluation of the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020	ERDF	1	2014	12	2017	Process	01 02 03 04 06	An evaluation plan was drawn up by the Managing Authority and approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee by written procedure in November 2015. In 2018, the Managing Authorities (MA) of the Border, Midland and Western and Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programmes 2014-2020 jointly commissioned a Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) of their respective Programmes. The MAs developed terms of reference in consultation with stakeholders and in accordance with the adopted Evaluation Plan.	See Synthesis of Findings.

## 6 ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

### (a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

Good progress has been achieved on the implementation of the Operational Programme across all Priorities and overall performance of the programme is strong. The key issues which affected performance across the programme in 2018 were as follows :

#### **eCohesion**

2018 was an important year for the eCohesion project and required a substantial investment of resources by the Managing Authority and other organisations in the cascade. The Managing Authority was involved in work packages to support system designation, the transfer of data from the contingency IT system, go-live and roll-out to all users in the cascade. The Managing Authority supported the roll out through participation in the eCohesion Oversight Group and the eCohesion User Group, extensive testing, transfer of data from the Contingency system, training days, one-to-one coaching and the development of scheme-specific guidance documents for Beneficiaries.

#### **Financial Milestone Attainment**

The Performance Framework includes financial milestones for four of the six priorities in the Operational Programme. Each financial milestone specifies an interim target for the total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority. At the end of 2017, approximately €26m had been declared and certified by the authority across four priorities. This left a significant gap to milestone to be achieved in advance of the cut-of date for milestone attainment and required a very strong emphasis on declaraton of expenditure in the work programmes of all concerned. The Managing Authority worked in partnership with Beneficiaries, Intermediary Bodies, the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority and Member State to progress this shared goal in 2018. Further details on milestone attainment are given elsewhere in the report.

#### **Staff turnover**

Staff turnover was a feature at all levels of the cascade in 2018. At MA level, there were changes at Director, Assistant Director, Programme Executive and Clerical Officer levels. Similar changes took place

within Beneficiaries, Intermediary Bodies, the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority and Member State. Measures taken to address the challenge included recruitment and training of new personnel, the use of clear systems descriptions and procedures manuals, the development of additional scheme-specific guidance documentation, and close co-operation between the two ERDF Managing Authorities in Ireland.

At priority level, the following issues were identified by Intermediary Bodies

Priority 1 : Competition from other funding streams and within the jobs markets has presented challenges for IBs in (a) sustaining the high level of applications and awards and (b) recruiting and retaining new researchers. The measures taken include new funding calls, e.g. Marine Institute Industry Call, and new initiatives to promote ERDF funded schemes, e.g., When Science Met Business event (see Section 12.2).

Priority 2 : This priority consists of one major project. The procurement process, based on competitive dialogue, continued throughout 2017 and 2018. The final bidder was invited to submit a tender in September 2018. The Managing Authority monitored this project closely in 2018 and facilitated a meeting with DG Regio officials in July 2018 and detailed updates in advance of the two PMC meetings that took place in 2018. This close monitoring and regular communication will continue in 2019.

Priority 3: The Intermediary Bodies raised a multiplicity of issues that contributed delays in completing declarations (a) the resource intensity of declaring expenditure on eCohesion for a high volume, low-value grants (b) decision on the treatment of refundable aid (c) the roll-out of eCohesion (d) the transfer of data from Contingency to eCohesion. They flagged concerns about the generic nature of the guidance documentation for eCohesion, the complexity of the system and the number of input steps required for projects and declarations. Measures taken to address this included development of scheme-specific eCohesion guidance by the Managing Authority and a mapping exercise to see if data available on Enterprise Ireland's GMIS IT system might be used to populate eCohesion. The latter project was overtaken by a revised and simplified approach to declaration of expenditure under Measure 1 in 2019 but the output of the mapping exercise was used as part of the new solution. Enterprise Ireland was unable to secure additional staff resources in 2018 but this situation has improved in 2019. The resource base in the LEOs (Beneficiaries for two schemes, IBs for two schemes) however, remains at the same level.

Priority 4 : The key issue under P4 is that no expenditure under the Social Housing Retrofit scheme has

yet been declared and certified. The Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has yet to be designated and has therefore been unable to declare expenditure to the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority is working closely with the DHPLG to progress this matter. The designation is expected to be completed in 2019. The DHPLG is organising additional resources in 2019 to expedite declarations.

Priority 5 : The key issue under Priority 5 has been delays in the progress of the projects selected for support. The funding is fully allocated under Priority 5 and while progress is slower than expected, the Managing Authority is fully confident that the targets under this priority will be met. The Managing Authority as IB for this scheme has been working with Local Authorities in their bid to identify replacement projects where necessary. As this issue has impacted on the financial milestone for Priority 5, further details are given in Section 17.

(b) An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

Priority 1 progress towards targets : All output indicator milestones for Priority 1 have been achieved. Output indicator achievements for four of the five schemes are in the range 51% to 110% of final Operational Programme targets. Remedial actions taken to address delays in the progress under the Marine Research Programme have been very successful. The selection of fifteen new operations under the scheme at the end of 2018 gives confidence that this scheme will catch up quickly in 2019 and that all Priority 1 output indicator targets will be achieved.

Priority 2 progress towards targets : By the end of 2018, there is no reported expenditure under Priority 2 as the procurement stage was ongoing. A key implementation step – the launch of the procurement process – was the only milestone and this has been achieved. On May 7th 2019 the Government approved a recommendation to confer Preferred Bidder status on Granahan McCourt. This is the final stage of procurement before contract award. Subject to the successful completion of the final stage of procurement, submission of State Aid notification for approval to the European Commission and contract closing requirements including finalisation of financial and legal requirements (see below), the IB is reporting that all targets will be met. The Managing Authority will continue to monitor this closely.

Priority 3 progress towards targets : All output indicator milestones for Priority 3 have been achieved. 2018 was another year of strong performance against targets under Priority 3 with output indicator achievements ranging from 53% to 136% of final Operational Programme targets. The Managing Authority is confident that all Priority 3 output indicator targets will be achieved.

Priority 4 progress towards targets : All output indicator milestones for Priority 4 have been achieved.

The Operational Programme output indicator targets for Priority 4 have been exceeded. The Operational Programme results indicator target for Priority 4 has been exceeded. However, it is critical that the expenditure under the Social Housing Retrofit scheme is declared and certified in order to secure the results under this scheme. The Managing Authority is working closely with the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government to progress this matter.

Priority 5 progress towards targets : The output indicator milestone for Priority 5 has been achieved. All selected projects are aligned to the integrated growth strategies of their respective areas. The funding is fully allocated under Priority 5 and while progress is slower than expected, the Managing Authority is



fully confident that the targets under this priority will be met. The Managing Authority as IB for this scheme has been working with Local Authorities in their bid to identify replacement projects where necessary.

Priority 6 progress towards targets : There are no milestones under Priority 6. The Operational Programme is on track to meet or exceed all Priority 6 targets.

## **7. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY**

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents in the SFC2014 application

**8. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

**9. OPTIONAL FOR THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016, NOT APPLICABLE TO OTHER LIGHT REPORTS: ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES**

Table 14: Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary
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Table 15: Actions taken to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary
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**10. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

**10.1. Major projects**

Table 12: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification submission date	Date of tacit agreement / approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date	Priority Axis / Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract	Observations
National Broadband Plan		Planned for notification/submission to EC	275,000,000.00	75,000,000.00	2017, Q1		2017, Q1	2018, Q4	2 - 2a	0.00	Procurement	State led Intervention under the National Broadband Plan providing for broadband accessibility to all areas.		The implementation of the National Broadband Plan under Priority 2 has not yet commenced as the procurement process is ongoing. The NBP has been delayed due to the complexity of the plan and the solution to be provided in accordance with the Plan objectives. On May 7th, 2019 the Government approved a recommendation to confer Preferred Bidder status on Granahan McCourt. The next step is to submit State Aid notification for approval to the European

## Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

Due to the unique nature of the National Broadband Plan, which involves the deployment of a modern future proofed high speed broadband network to an area involving approximately 96% of Ireland's landmass, the nature and cost of the solution required to deliver the State intervention network could only become known through extensive engagement with bidders during the procurement process. The level of State subsidy for the National Broadband Plan State intervention will be determined through the NBP procurement process, which is ongoing.

Procurement took the form of “competitive dialogue”. The purpose of the intensive dialogue process is to tease through very detailed specifications and to trouble shoot issues arising, to deliver a robust and fit-for-purpose contract and network. One bidder withdrew from the procurement process on 30 January 2018. The remaining bidder engaged throughout 2018 in further dialogue, submitting a final tender in September 2018. The bidder contains experts in telecoms, infrastructure, engineering and infrastructural investment in Ireland and internationally. The bidder was obligated to meet the Department’s required thresholds with regard to the necessary economic and financial standing, together with the required technical and professional capability, in order to participate in the procurement process. This applied up to submission of Final Tender. A Final Tender submission was received in September 2018.

On May 7th 2019 the Government approved a recommendation to confer Preferred Bidder status on Granahan McCourt. This is the final stage of procurement before contract award.

The next step is to submit State Aid notification for approval to the European Commission and contract closing requirements including finalisation of financial and legal requirements. The company to be set up by Granahan McCourt is called National Broadband Ireland (NBI). NBI has nominated a number of subcontractors including enet, the KellyGroup, KN Group and Actavo. Nokia has been nominated as a key technology partner.

In the first year of roll out, the Bidder will deploy approximately 300 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) across all counties including in the S&E region. It is anticipated that between 7 and 23 BCPs will be deployed in each county. BCPs will provide a community based high speed broadband service, enhancing online participation and allowing for the establishment of digital work hubs in these locations. The Bidder intends to pass approximately 133k premises by the second year with 70 to 100,000 properties passed each year thereafter until rollout is completed. While the majority of premises will be passed in the

initial 5 years, the overall roll out will be completed by year 7.

The NBP procurement process has determined that the maximum possible cost to the State will be €3 billion including VAT and contingency over 25 years. The subsidy will not be paid to the NBI until the milestones have been achieved and verified and there are a comprehensive set of protections and legally binding obligations set out in the contract which include a suite of key performance indicators to ensure the service is maintained appropriately. ERDF funding of €75m (€ 30m for S&E region) is likely to be drawn down by 2020 and 2021.



**Any change planned in the list of major projects in the operational programme**

No change planned.

## **10.2. Joint action plans**

### **Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans**

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Table 13: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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**Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

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**PART B**  
**REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**  
**(Article 50(4), 111(3) and (4) of regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**11. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME**  
**(ARTICLES 50(4) AND 111(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

**11.1. Information in Part A and achieving objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Priority axis	1 - Strengthening RTDI in the S&E Region
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**Overview**

The overall objectives of this Priority are to increase the level of research taking place in the S&E region with company engagement by supplying applied research and to increase the level of commercialisation of research by the higher education institutions in the region. This priority seeks to enhance research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and to build the capacities to develop R&I excellence while promoting centres of competence. It also has a focus on promoting business investment in R&I through developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector. The priority has been aligned with Ireland's identified priority research areas as set out in the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3).

The priority comprises two investment priorities (1a & 1b) and includes five individual schemes around research centres, innovation, commercialisation of research and marine research.

**Financial Progress**

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost of operations selected (EUR) under Priority 1 was €281,960,097. This amounts to 157% of the total allocation for Priority 1 and reflects the very strong activity taking place under this Priority. The Programme is over-committing expenditure under Priority 1 to ensure full drawdown but will only declare expenditure up to the total allocation for this Priority.

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost paid to beneficiaries (EUR) under Priority 1 was €107,615,846. This amounts to 60% of the total allocation for Priority 1 and 38% of the total public eligible cost of operations selected.

By the end of 2018, the total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority (EUR) under Priority 1 was € 51,691,676. This amounts to 29% of the total allocation for Priority 1 and 18% of the total public eligible cost of operations selected. The MA continued to declare eligible expenditure for the period 01/01/14 to 31/12/2018 in H1 2019, in advance of the deadline for milestone attainment. As a result, the total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority under Priority 1 for the period 01/01/14 to 31/12/2018 as

of 28/06/19 was €58,502,423.

## **Milestones and Targets**

All output indicator milestones for Priority 1 have been achieved. Based on expenditure declarations submitted by the Managing Authority to the CA in H1 2019, the financial milestone for Priority 1 has been achieved.

2018 was another year of strong performance against targets under Priority 1 with output indicator achievements for four of the five schemes ranging from 51% to 110% of final Operational Programme targets. The selection of fifteen new operations under the fifth scheme – the Marine Research Programme – at the end of 2018 gives confidence that this scheme will catch up quickly in 2019 and that all Priority 1 output indicators targets will be achieved

The results indicator for Priority 1 is also positive, the annual number of licences as a result of research in the S&E Region in 2018 was 26 as against a target of 25.

## **Further Details**

### ***SFI Research Centres***

In 2018, nine Research Centres CONNECT, ADAPT, LERO, iCRAG, Confirm, iForm, Beacon, VistaMilk and FutureNeuro with a total SFI award value of €169m (direct cost budget) and €135m payroll costs only, were co-financed by the Operational Programme.

All awards made under the Research Centre Programme are subject to stringent monitoring by SFI and recipients are required to submit financial reports on a biannual basis as well as an annual scientific report in which they outline their scientific progress. Their performance is also evaluated on a bi-annual basis using 15 key performance indicators which measure the progress of the Research Centres programme and allows comparison between Research Centres.

SFI's Research Centre Programme is SFI's largest programme and is extremely competitive in nature and subject to a critical review process. SFI ran a third call for Research Centres in 2016 and the call was open to applications in any area under SFI's legal remit where strong evidence was provided of significant industrial relevance and strong economic impact. Under this call a further four Research Centres in the S&E region were awarded in 2017, with a total direct costs value of €56m, of which €48m relates to payroll costs. Four of the new Research Centres started in September 2017 (iForm, Beacon, FutureNeuro

and Confirm). VistaMilk commenced in September 2018.

### ***SFI Spokes***

There were no new Spokes made in the S&E Region during 2018. Having that said, and given that 16 awards have already been made, it appears that the target is well on track to achieve twenty-five over the lifetime of the programme. Not only is this a testament to the success of the Research Centres but it also highlights the willingness of new industry partners to engage with them.

It is expected that over the remaining lifetime of the programme the Research Centres will continue to submit proposals to the Spokes programme, the success or otherwise to be determined by the peer review process and budget availability.

### ***Commercialisation Fund***

The Objective of the Commercialisation Fund is to support researchers in third level institutions and research performing organisations in the republic of Ireland in applied research projects which can generate useful outputs for the benefit of the Irish economy. The programme funds proposals from all disciplines in the field of science and engineering. All stages of development are funded, from early stage research to pilot testing stage. The programme provides two levels of funding supports to researchers 1) Commercial Case Feasibility (CFF) support - a preparatory award, €15,000 maximum, to help researchers to scope the commercial case for the innovation or project idea 2) Commercialisation Fund (CF) support - to develop the innovation for commercialisation. CF proposals costs are guided as typically ranging from €80,000 to €350,000 but proposals with costs outside of this range are also considered where the costs are deemed appropriate. Medical device projects generally have higher costs. Applications for CF support are received through bi-annual open published calls and through invited rolling process which permits proposals to be submitted outside of the set call deadlines, (with provisos). Call 1 closed in February 2018 and Call 2 closed in July 2018. CFF <€15k proposals were accepted on a continuous basis, without a submission deadline.

In 2018, there were 34 Commercialisation Fund (CF) proposals awarded to S&E institutions. Funding approved was €9,1201,176 plus overheads. 20 projects were approved under the Bi-annual Published Calls process and 14 were under the invited rolling application process. 41 Commercial Case Feasibility (CFF) projects were approved. Total CFF funding awarded to S&E institutions in 2018 was €592,351 plus overheads.

### ***Innovation Partnerships***

The Innovation Partnership Programme encourages Irish-based companies to work with Irish research institutes resulting in mutually beneficial cooperation and interaction. Companies can access expertise and resources to develop new and improved products, processes, services, and generate new knowledge and know-how.

Applications are submitted by the research institute on an open call basis and evaluated by an independent evaluation panel. Successful projects are approved by Enterprise Ireland's Industrial Research and Commercialisation Committee (IRCC) and funding contracts are awarded to the research institute. Funding levels are up to 80% of approved project costs and the industry partners commit a minimum of 20%, depending on company size and research category.

Enterprise Ireland has a final target of 143 companies to receive Innovation Partnership support under the Operational Programme. At the end of 2018 a total of 265 companies in the S&E region had received approval for funding and 105 had completed their projects with final payment being made.

### ***Marine Research Programme***

In 2018, a revised implementation plan for the Marine Research Programme was submitted by the Marine Institute and approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee. The Marine Institute published two competitive calls in 2018 that were selected for ERDF co-funding, as follows:

Industry-Led Awards – Call launched in May 2018 with the aim of supporting research and innovation costs for the development of innovative technologies, products and services from existing or new marine-based business. The research funding should enable companies to develop capacity and create economic growth. Link to call on Marine Institute website:

<https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/research-funding/research-funding/industry-led-awards-2018>

The demand for this call was strong, with 22 applications received. Following the evaluation process grant offers were made to fund 12 projects with a total investment of €2.4m. The successful projects involve 20 partners, with 13 of these based in the S&E region. The total grant-aid awarded to the S&E partners is €1.6m.

Oceans in a Changing Climate – Call launched in July 2018 to build national capacity in Ireland in physical oceanography and climate change research. This should lead to enhanced visibility (through high



impact peer reviewed publications and conference presentations) and contribution of Irish research to international research efforts and programmes (through greater involvement in EU research projects and relevant processes such as IPCC Working Groups). Link to call on Marine Institute website:

<https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/research-funding/research-funding/marine-institute-project-oceans-changing-climate>

Two applications were received for this call. Following the evaluation process the top ranked proposal was awarded to a consortium led by Maynooth University. The total grant-aid awarded was just under €2m for the two partners in the S&E region – MU and TCD.

The significant investment made in 2018 of €4.4m has helped to mitigate for the lack of ERDF co-funding investment from 2014 to 2017 under the Marine Research Programme. The Marine Institute also plans the launch of a new Post-Doctoral Fellowship Call in May 2019. The combined awards suggest that the scheme is on track to exceed the ERDF co-funding investment target of €5m by the end of 2019.

Priority axis	2 - Information and Communication Technologies
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## Overview

The intervention that will be supported under this Priority is a targeted State led investment providing broadband infrastructure in those areas that will not be covered by the commercial sector. This will facilitate the widespread availability of reliable and guaranteed high speed broadband which is a key component in delivering the objectives of the National Broadband Plan and the National Digital Strategy.

The National Broadband Plan reflects Government objectives to deliver new opportunities for jobs, growth and social inclusion. Furthermore, it aims to underpin and support wider public policy objectives and initiatives both nationally and within the European context.

In 2016, the Intermediate Body commenced a detailed dialogue with qualifying bidders in relation to technical, commercial and governance matters. The procurement process, based on competitive dialogue, continued throughout 2017 and 2018. The final bidder was invited to submit a tender in September 2018.

On May 7th 2019 the Government approved a recommendation to confer Preferred Bidder status on the final bidder. This is the final stage of procurement before contract award.

## Financial Progress

By the end of 2018, there is no reported expenditure under Priority 2.

### **Milestones and Targets**

There is no financial milestone under Priority 2. A key implementation step – the launch of the procurement process – was the only milestone and this has been achieved.

Subject to the successful completion of the final stage of procurement, submission of State Aid notification for approval to the European Commission and contract closing requirements including finalisation of financial and legal requirements (see below), the IB is confident that all targets will be met.

### **Further Details**

There is one scheme under this priority – the National Broadband Plan. The National Broadband Plan (NBP) for Ireland was published in 2012 as part of the Government’s commitment to the deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. The NBP aims to ensure that every home, school and business in Ireland regardless of how remote or rural, has access to high speed broadband. This is being achieved through a combination of (a) commercial investment by the telecommunications sector and (b) state intervention in those areas where commercial providers acting alone will not provide this essential service.

While the NBP defines high speed broadband as a minimum speed of 30 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 6Mbps upload, the solution proposed for the State intervention is a mostly fibre solution which can provide speeds of over 100 Mbps.

The objectives to increase broadband connectivity outlined in the NBP is of great importance for jobs, economic growth, innovation and social cohesion. Implementation of the NBP aims to underpin and support wider public policy objectives and initiatives nationally and within the European context.

### ***Key objectives of the NBP - Objectives & Sub-objectives***

Develop intervention strategy for areas commercial operators will not deliver high speed broadband.

- Deliver intervention as soon as possible to ensure a national high speed broadband network for Ireland.

Provide high quality and reliable broadband services.

- Every home / business to have access to high speed broadband with a choice of service providers.
- Ensure network can meet current and future data demand for at least the next 25 years.

Value for money.

- Design an economically advantageous procurement strategy.
- Maximise re-use of existing infrastructure.
- Incentivise additional commercial investment.

Underpin Government policy on economic recovery and jobs.

- Stimulate retention/growth in jobs, enable farming, e-health, trading online, tourism, regional development, savings for consumers etc.

Within the context of these objectives there are a number of key elements which informed the intervention strategy to be adopted for the Project. These principles include:

- **One-off intervention with target of achieving 100% coverage** - to deliver high speed broadband to all premises that will not be able to access such services through commercial investment alone.
- **Step change in services** - to conclusively address connectivity deficits across Ireland, including in rural areas, by setting down minimum speeds and delivering an infrastructure that is capable of meeting current and future demands for bandwidth.
- **Open, competitive market** - to ensure that services are affordable, competitive and on a par with those available in commercial and urban areas, by delivering a wholesale service that is open to all retailers, with benchmarked and transparent pricing and conditions for access.
- **Technology neutral procurement** - to ensure value for money and future proofed solution that is

in compliance with EU State Aid Guidelines through a technology neutral procurement process.

- **Cost effective deployment** - to ensure that the network is built within a structured and measurable timeframe, by building on and integrating with commercial operators' existing networks.
- **Reliable, affordable and future proofed services** - to ensure that quality and affordable services are continuously provided through a long-term contract with stringent governance measures.

### *Financial Data*

Due to the unique nature of the National Broadband Plan, which involves the deployment of a modern future proofed high-speed broadband network to an area involving approximately 96% of Ireland's landmass, the nature and cost of the solution required to deliver the State intervention network could only become known through extensive engagement with bidders during the procurement process. The level of State subsidy for the National Broadband Plan State intervention will be determined through the NBP procurement process.

### *Procurement Process – update for 2018*

- The procurement process in its final stage. Procurement took the form of “competitive dialogue”. The purpose of the intensive dialogue process is to tease through very detailed specifications and to trouble shoot issues arising, to deliver a robust and fit-for-purpose contract and network.
- One bidder withdrew from the procurement process on 30 January 2018.
- The remaining bidder engaged throughout 2018 in further dialogue, submitting a final tender in September 2018.
- The bidder contains experts in telecoms, infrastructure, engineering and infrastructural investment in Ireland and internationally.
  
- The bidder was required to meet the Department's required thresholds with regard to the necessary economic and financial standing, together with the required technical and professional capability, in order to participate in the procurement process. This applied up to submission of Final Tender.
- A Final Tender submission was received in September 2018. Due diligence is ongoing at the time of writing.

### *Additional Update Provided on 14/05/2019*

On 7th May 2019 the Government approved a recommendation to confer Preferred Bidder status on Granahan McCourt. This is the final stage of procurement before contract award.

The next step is to submit State Aid notification for approval to the European Commission and contract

closing requirements including finalisation of financial and legal requirements. The company to be set up by Granahan McCourt is called National Broadband Ireland (NBI). NBI has nominated a number of subcontractors including enet, the KellyGroup, KN Group and Actavo. Nokia has been nominated as a key technology partner.

In the first year of roll out, the Bidder will deploy approximately 300 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) across all counties including in the S&E region. It is anticipated that between 7 and 23 BCPs will be deployed in each county. BCPs will provide a community based high speed broadband service, enhancing online participation and allowing for the establishment of digital work hubs in these locations. The Bidder intends to pass approximately 133k premises by the second year with 70 to 100,000 properties passed each year thereafter until rollout is completed. While the majority of premises will be passed in the initial 5 years, the overall roll out will be completed by year 7.

The new network will provide the majority of homes and businesses with access to a fibre connection. Up to 146,000 kilometres of new fibre cable will be deployed in the roll out delivering high speed broadband to over 1.1 million people, in approximately 540,000 premises all across the country, including 44,000 businesses and 56,000 farms and over 600 schools. A small percentage of remote or difficult to connect premises will be connected with alternative technology such as fixed wireless connections.

The network is designed with a roadmap to upgrade the services over 25 years, including upgrades to increase residential speeds to 300Mbps by year 6 of the contract and 500Mbps by year 10. This ensures that the network is future-proofed to meet requirements in years to come. Business and residential customers will be able to avail of 1Gbps from day 1.

The NBP procurement process has determined that the maximum possible cost to the State will be €3 billion including VAT and contingency over 25 years. The subsidy will not be paid to the NBI until the milestones have been achieved and verified and there are a comprehensive set of protections and legally binding obligations set out in the contract which include a suite of key performance indicators to ensure the service is maintained appropriately. ERDF funding of € 75m (€30m for S&E region) is likely to be drawn down by 2020 and 2021.

Priority axis	3 - SME Support, promotion and capability development
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### Overview

The Entrepreneurship in Micro enterprise scheme is delivered through the 18 Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) located in the region. The focus of the intervention is to increase the rates of business start-up and expansion, and enhance management capability, competitiveness, innovation, technological adaptation, and the export-orientation of microenterprises. The specific objective of this priority is to increase employment levels in micro-enterprises in this region by supporting business start-ups, business expansion and higher innovation levels in micro-enterprises.

## Financial Progress

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost of operations selected (EUR) under Priority 3 was €43,595,444. This amounts to 61.3% of the total allocation for Priority 3.

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost paid to beneficiaries (EUR) under Priority 3 was €43,181,529. This amounts to 60.7% of the total allocation for Priority 3.

By the end of 2018, the total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the MA under Priority 3 was €10,490,204. This amounts to 15% of the total allocation for Priority 3 and 24% of the total public eligible cost of operations selected. The MA continued to declare eligible expenditure for the period 01/01/14 to 31/12/2018 in H1 2019, in advance of the deadline for milestone attainment. As a result, the total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority under Priority 3 for the period 01/01/14 to 31/12/2018 as of 28/06/19 was €23,876,575.

## Milestones and Targets

All output indicator milestones for Priority 3 have been achieved. Based on expenditure declarations submitted by the Managing Authority to the CA in H1 2019, the financial milestone for Priority 3 has been achieved. Whereas expenditure and outputs are strong under Priority 3 and there is sufficient expenditure on fully implemented projects, the declaration of expenditure for a very high volume of relatively low value projects has been administratively challenging at all levels of the cascade.

2018 was another year of strong performance against targets under Priority 3 with output indicator achievements ranging from 53% to 136% of final Operational Programme targets. This was the fourth consecutive year of employment growth for businesses supported by LEOs with jobs growth across all counties in the region in 2018.

## Further Details

The specific objective of this priority is to increase employment levels in micro-enterprises in this region by supporting business start-ups, business expansion and higher innovation levels in micro-enterprises. In pursuing this objective, the LEOs :

- promote local enterprise culture and entrepreneurship throughout society through initiatives such as their Start-Your-Own-Business training courses, provision of business information and advisory services, school's enterprise programmes, awards schemes, networks.

- support business start-ups and expansions with appropriate financial supports, including feasibility supports, priming supports and repayable assistance in addition to networking with appropriate private sector finance providers.
- encourage and facilitate higher levels of value added businesses, including green enterprises and eco-innovation, by applying innovation, ICT strategies and export awareness.
- build the capability of owner/managers of micro-businesses through training and development actions.

Some major developments/initiatives in 2018 are given below :

### ***LEO Innovation and Investment Fund***

The LEO Innovation Investment Fund was a new scheme piloted in 2017. It incentivised LEO clients both new and existing to engage in innovation to develop New Products, Processes, or Markets. It was modelled on the Hi-Start programme which was successfully ran in the Dublin and Wicklow LEO areas seeking to get Investor Ready projects that are capable of transfer to EI as High Potential Start Ups.

Participants on the programme undertook an intensive investor ready development programme delivered in their region, focused on developing a robust business plan which included one to one mentoring. Following completion of the programme the client pitched to a panel of LEO, EI and private sector representatives for grant investment which goes towards the execution of their investor ready business plan. Sixty-three grant investments (€25,000 each) totalling €1.575m in innovative micro-enterprises were approved in Q.4 2017. LEOs drew down an Investment amount of €1,347,806 in 2018. Following the evaluation of the LEO Innovation and Investment, the programme is currently under review with a number of roll out options being looked at, a new scheme will be launched in Q3 2019.

### ***Technical Assistance for Micro Enterprise***

This is a Brexit initiative piloted in 2017 for LEO clients or potential clients to explore and develop new market opportunities. The purpose of these grants is to increase the number of LEO clients developing new export opportunities with a focus on supporting those clients with high Brexit exposure. These grants have a maximum value of €2,500 and part-fund expenditure incurred investigating and researching export markets, e.g. exhibiting at Trade Fairs, preparing marketing material and developing websites specifically targeting export markets. There were 463 Technical Assistance for Micro Enterprise grants approved in 2018.

### ***Lean4Micro***

This was a 2014 “Action Plan for Jobs” action that a Lean initiative for micro enterprises would be rolled out. The LEO Lean4Micro offer was developed in collaboration between the EI Competitiveness department and the LEOs. In 2018, all LEOs received an allocation to fund a Lean4Micro programme in their area with 221 clients engaging in projects. There is a 2019 target of 200 LEO client participants in the programme.

### ***Brexit Scorecard***

The Brexit Scorecard for LEO clients was launched by the Minister of State for Employment and Small Business in May 2017. The Centre of Excellence collaborates with the EI Brexit Unit to ensure that LEOs clients in their area that complete the Brexit Scorecard are contacted by their LEO to offer assistance with their Brexit planning and to make them aware of LEO supports. 349 EI Brexit Scorecards were completed in 2018 by individuals/businesses that identified themselves as LEO clients.

### ***National Women’s Enterprise Day***

National Women’s Enterprise Day took place on Thursday 18th October 2018, to highlight success stories and to encourage more women to access enterprise supports and to ‘open doors to new markets’ for their businesses. 16 Events took place nationwide - eight in the southern and eastern region (Cork, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Meath, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow) - with the biggest programme of events to mark National Women’s Enterprise Day. All 31 LEOs were behind the initiative and they enlisted the help of established entrepreneurs to act as Regional Ambassadors, to share their success stories at the events. A similar programme of events is planned for a date in October 2019.

### ***Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur***

The Local Enterprise Offices are in the process of delivering the fifth Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur Competition (IBYE). The IBYE Programme is an Action Plan for Jobs action, the programme targets the development of young entrepreneurs between the ages of 18-35 across three categories: Best Business Idea, Best Start-Up Business and Best-Established Business. The 2017/2018 competition saw 1,471 entrepreneurs competing in the three categories.



### ***Food Academy***

To help develop Ireland's artisan food industry, the Local Enterprise Offices, SuperValu and Bord Bia collaborated to create 'Food Academy' – a tailored programme for new and early-stage food business owners. Its aim is to provide small food business with a solid foundation to progress to the shelves of retailers. Food Academy participants are given the opportunity to pitch their product to SuperValu including their local SuperValu owner. The panel mentor the businesses, share their expertise and advice to allow the participants to make any changes they deem necessary to improve their offer. The programme has been a commercial success with SuperValu confirming that circa 315 Food Academy producers achieved retail sales in their shops of €37m. in 2018, an increase of €2m. over the 2017 performance.

### ***Local Enterprise Week***

The focus of 'Local Enterprise Week' is to increase awareness of the range of LEO supports and services available to micro and small enterprises. It ran from the March 4th to 9th March 2018 with all 31 LEOs celebrating Local Enterprise Week with a range of events for start-ups, aspiring entrepreneurs and small businesses in their area. 'Local Enterprise Week' took place this year from March 4th to 9th 2019. Covering a broad range of topics such as ethical entrepreneurship, spotting mega trends, getting ready for Brexit, how to tender for more work and close more sales. LEOs across the country hosted a programme of over 300 events to showcase the supports that can be accessed locally.

### ***Micro Finance Ireland***

Micro Finance Ireland (MFI) support microenterprises by providing unsecured business loans of €2,000 to €25,000 for commercially viable proposals. LEO clients can get a 1% reduction in the interest rate if the business submits their application through them. In 2018 LEOs recommended 326 clients to Microfinance Ireland (MFI) for financial support. A reduced target of 400 for LEO applications recommended to MFI is agreed between LEOs and MFI in 2019.

### ***Trading Online Voucher Scheme***

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme is administered by the LEOs on behalf of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE). It assists small businesses in developing

their ecommerce capability, eligible businesses can apply for a voucher of up to €2,500 matched by own funding to develop a trading online component to their business. In 2018, there were 1,007 LEO clients approved for Trading Online Voucher Scheme grants. It is agreed with DCCAE that the 2019 target will be 1,000.

### **Significant Risks**

Brexit represents a potential risk to enterprise development. At this junction it is unclear at the precise nature of this risk. As a result, the LEOs now have a Brexit tool kit developed which they will implement as Brexit unfolds.

*Note: Some of the metrics included in the narrative above are across the two regions, S&E and BMW. All indicator data is specific to the S&E region.*

Priority axis

4 - Low Carbon Economy

### **Overview**

The overall objective of the Priority is to support the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors in the S&E region. Specific objectives include improving energy efficiency in the housing stock by focusing on supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.

Two Intermediate Bodies are involved in the delivery of separate schemes under this priority :

1. DCCAE : Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme
2. DHPLG : Social Housing Retrofit & Social Apartments

### **Financial Progress**

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost of operations selected (EUR) under Priority 4 was

€114,894,534. This amounts to 86% of the total allocation for Priority 4.

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost paid to beneficiaries (EUR) under Priority 4 was €100,519,547. This amounts to 76% of the total allocation for Priority 4.

By the end of 2018, the total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority (EUR) under Priority 4 was € 24,716,598. This amounts to 19% of the total allocation for Priority 4 and 22% of the total public eligible cost of operations selected.

### **Milestones and Targets**

Activity under both schemes is strong. The financial milestone for Priority 4 has been achieved. The Operational Programme output indicator target for GHG reduction has been exceeded. The Operational Programme results indicator target for Priority 4 has also been exceeded. The milestone value for the Number of households with improved energy consumption classification has been achieved.

The Managing Authority requested that the P4 Indicators be reviewed in the context of the mid-term evaluation.

### **Further Details**

#### ***Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme***

The Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme is delivered by SEAI on behalf of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The Scheme is targeted at low-income households at risk of energy poverty.

In 2018, a significant change was introduced to the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme with the expansion of wall insulation measures available to include internal and external wall insulation as standard (as opposed to just cavity wall insulation). This change was announced by the Minister in March 2018 and the SEAI contractor panel, established in July 2017, began delivering these measures based on technical recommendations by appointed surveyors.

In 2018, the eligibility criteria was also extended to applicants in receipt of the Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) and also the Carers Allowance.

## ***Social Housing Retrofit***

### Social Housing : Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

A key objective of the Social Housing Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme is the improvement of insulation standards and overall energy performance across local authority houses/apartments.

A secondary objectives of the retrofitting proposal include stimulating employment generation within the construction/energy retrofitting sector and demonstrating the importance of public sector bodies leading by example as also required by the Recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting is undertaken on properties selected by local authorities.

Phase 1 of the scheme, which began in June 2013, does not form part of the Operational Programme. Phase 2 of the scheme is part of the Operational Programme and focuses on fabric upgrade works to dwellings with solid/hollow block wall construction. Also, in situations where dwellings have poor performing single glazed windows or defective doors, funding may be recouped for these works.

Phase 2 is currently being rolled out to all local authorities. Funding allocations to each local authority will be determined on the basis of proposals submitted to the Department, in relation to the number of units in their areas requiring Phase 1 and Phase 2 works.

The average eligible cost of Phase 2 works undertaken in 2018 was €5,388 per unit.

### Social Housing: Retrofitting of Vacant Social Housing Stock

A key objective of the programme is to provide funding to those local authorities that have the greatest social housing targets and that can return the maximum number of units to a lettable, energy efficient condition at reasonable cost.

Secondary objectives of the retrofitting programme include stimulating employment generation within the construction/energy retrofitting sector, and demonstrating the importance of public sector bodies leading by example as also required by the Recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive.

In addition to achieving best use of existing resources, minimising voids attracts a much enhanced perception of local authorities where housing applicants can be accommodated as quickly as possible and vacant dwellings are not the source of anti-social behaviour.

This targeted measure focuses exclusively on vacant and boarded-up properties with the objective of returning properties in the S&E region to productive use as quickly as possible over the period of the programme. The programme focuses on retrofitting of the fabric of the dwelling (insulation of walls/roofs, window/door replacement, heating system improvement, etc.). The measure applies across all local authorities in the S&E region.

Retrofitting is undertaken on properties selected by Local authorities on the basis of unit cost, the extent of local housing need and the age/condition of the property.

The average energy efficient work cost per unit in 2014 was €5,543, €5,929 in 2015, €6,034 in 2016, €6,916 in 2017 and €7,372 in 2018.

Funding under the Voids programme 2014 to 2018 was conditional on a commitment that the accommodation will be occupied immediately following the works.

The Social Housing Retrofit scheme is delivering well against Operational Programme output indicator targets and has reported €43,340,006 public eligible cost paid to beneficiaries (EUR) between 2014 and 2018. The DHPLG has yet to be designated and has therefore been unable to declare expenditure to the Managing Authority but this process is expected to be completed in 2019.

### **C031 Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification**

In H1 2019, the two Priority 4 Intermediary Bodies undertook a quality review of the indicator data reported for C031 Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification. While energy efficiency measures were undertaken on 27,225 households, the review examined how many of these had clearly achieved an improved energy consumption classification. The reported values are based on the following methodologies:

***Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme (WHS): Reverse engineering methodology employed by SEAI to determine energy saving per home***

SEAI procured consultants to ‘reverse-engineer’ the BERs for homes upgraded under WHS in 2017 and 2018. Using the post-works BER information and the energy efficiency data, it was possible to identify

the pre-works BER position, and in turn the energy savings resulting from the WHS energy efficiency works. Details of the methodology used by our consultants is below:

The post retrofit energy performance data was retrieved from the BER Research Tool database published by SEAI which contains the input parameters (building fabric as well as heating, ventilation and lighting services) and outputs (energy performance indicators) of the Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP) software. The DEAP software is used to determine the BER rating of dwellings in Ireland.

The next step was to recreate a database of the same dwelling stock with its energy performance characteristics prior to the energy upgrades funded by the WHS. To achieve this, the DEAP input parameters of each dwelling of the stock was reverse engineered to reflect their value pre-retrofit. For example, the cavity wall of a dwelling built in the mid-1980's that has been pumped with injected silver polystyrene beads and given a U-value of 0.37 W/m<sup>2</sup>,K in its BER assessment data, is assumed to have had a U-value of 0.6 W/m<sup>2</sup>,K prior to its energy upgrade.

The reverse engineering algorithm was coded in a Python script applied to the 'post-retrofit' database of the dwelling stock (in Microsoft Excel format) to generate a new database of the stock with 'pre-retrofit' DEAP input parameters. A second Python script was run through the 'pre-retrofit' database to calculate the energy performance of each dwelling prior to its upgrade under the WHS, using the DEAP software. By comparing key energy performance indicators of each dwelling in the pre- and post-energy retrofit databases, it was possible to determine the impacts of the WHS upgrades undertaken in 2017 and 2018. Previous years are reported as zero for the scheme and will be updated as soon as a review of previous years has been completed.

***Social Housing Retrofit schemes (SHR): Reverse engineering methodology employed by DHPLG to estimate saving per home and resultant kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr saving equivalent to a change in energy classification, based on Local Authority returns for years 2014-2018:***

Local Authorities have submitted claims for upgrades to all dwellings detailing the works completed typically:

- Replacement boilers
- Cavity Wall insulation
- Attic Insulation
- Replacement Windows and Doors

Using the National Calculation Methodology (DEAP) in accordance with Annex I of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive the savings associated with the replacement of a boiler in a typical Local Authority Dwelling and a typical Local Authority Apartment are 75.56 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr and 55.72 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr respectively.

It was possible to identify the number of dwellings which had a boiler replacement and as the kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr savings from a boiler replacement 55.72 to 75.56 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr is greater than an improvement in BER classification of 25 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr those dwellings which have had a boiler replacement can be said to have a change in energy classification.

A change in energy classification is equivalent to 25kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr.

Using the above methodology 3,158 dwellings in the SRA region had boilers replaced and consequentially changed one energy consumption classification.

Priority axis	5 - Sustainable Urban Development
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## Overview

The specific objectives of Priority 5 are to revitalise, regenerate and improve the urban environment in the designated urban centres as part of the integrated urban strategies as well as to support low carbon sustainable, multimodal urban mobility in designated urban centres.

This Priority will take action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites, reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures.

It also seeks to promote low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures.

## Financial Progress

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost of operations selected (EUR) under Priority 5 was €52,000,000. This amounts to 100% of the total allocation for Priority 5.

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost paid to beneficiaries (EUR) under Priority 5 was €11,823,876. This amounts to 23% of the total allocation for Priority 5.

By the end of 2018, the total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority (EUR) under Priority 5 was € 7,224,790. This amounts to 14% of the total allocation for Priority 5 and 14% of the total public eligible cost of operations selected. The MA continued to declare eligible expenditure for the period 01/01/14 to 31/12/2018 in H1 2019, in advance of the deadline for milestone attainment. As a result, the total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the

certifying authority and certified by the authority under Priority 5 for the period 01/01/14 to 31/12/2018 as of 28/06/19 was €8,375,410.

### **Milestones and Targets**

The output indicator milestone for Priority 5 has been achieved. All selected projects are aligned to the integrated growth strategies of their respective areas. While further progress is being made in the declaration of expenditure, the financial milestone for Priority 5 will not be achieved due to insufficient expenditure to date.

The funding is fully allocated under Priority 5 and while progress is slower than expected, the Managing Authority is fully confident that the targets under this priority will be met.

### **Further Details**

There is one scheme under Priority 5 – the Designated Urban Centre Grants Scheme (DUCGS). Under this scheme, local authorities for the designated growth centres in the Southern and Eastern region were invited to submit projects which fit with their integrated strategies to tackle the social, economic, environmental, climate and demographic challenges affecting the urban centres, in accordance with Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, and which support the overall development strategy for the urban area concerned.

Following submission of project applications by the Local Authorities, nine projects were selected by the designated Steering Committee for the scheme in early 2016 with a total ERDF allocation of €26m. All selected projects are aligned to the integrated growth strategies of their respective areas. Most of the selected projects are related to revitalising, regenerating and improving the urban environment in designated urban centres, while three projects aim at promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility.

During 2017 it became apparent to the Managing Authority that progress on several projects was not as expected and MA staff met with all Local Authorities to ascertain the cause of these delays. In most cases the reason for the delays was planning or procurement related.

The Managing Authority continued its' close management of and liaison with the participating Local Authorities during 2018. At the end of 2018 one project, that of Waterford City and County Council, is at the point of completion. A final claim was submitted by the LA to the Managing Authority drawing down the remaining ERDF allocation. The Managing Authority submitted the final declaration for this project to the CA in H1 2019.



A number of projects also submitted extension requests to deal with delays already experienced and 3 Local Authorities – Dublin City, Cork County (Mallow) and Limerick City and County Council – submitted replacement projects in lieu of the ones originally approved.

The Managing Authority is confident that activity across the remaining projects will ramp up considerably during 2019-2020 and that the final targets set for Priority 5 will be achieved.

Priority axis

6 - Technical Assistance

## Overview

The specific objectives of Priority 6 are as follows :

1. The effective communication of funding opportunities and programme achievements
2. The effective evaluation of the programme
3. Effective capacity building for staff of the Managing Authority & Intermediate Bodies
4. Establishment and operation of an effective computerised system for data exchange
5. The effective implementation of the operational programme

## Financial Progress

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost of operations selected (EUR) under Priority 6 was €1,200,000. This amounts to 30% of the total allocation for Priority 6.

By the end of 2018, the total public eligible cost paid to beneficiaries (EUR) under Priority 6 was €1,190,260. This amounts to 30% of the total allocation for Priority 6.

By the end of 2018, the total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority (EUR) under Priority 6 was € 536,670. This amounts to 13% of the total allocation for Priority 6 and 45% of the total public eligible cost of operations selected.

## **Milestones and Targets**

There are no milestones under Priority 6. The Operational Programme is on track to meet or exceed all Priority 6 targets.

## **Further Details**

### ***Programme Communications***

The Managing Authority has been active in communicating the successes of the projects funded under the S&E ROP, as detailed in Section 12.2. Highlights of 2018 activity include:

#### Major Programme Event 2018: When Science Met Business

The S&E ROP Managing Authority in association with the Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference, hosted *When Science Met Business* on 8th June 2018 at ArcLabs, Waterford Institute of Technology. The event showcased how EU funding supports collaborations between research and industry to strengthen the innovation dividend of the S&E region, a core objective of the Operational Programme. It created a forum for researchers and industry to explore the potential for mutually beneficial collaborations and highlighted exciting joint research-industry projects funded by the S&E ROP. The event was part of the #euinmyregion campaign.

#### Publicity Event: National Ploughing Championships 2018

The S&E ROP Managing Authority returned to the National Ploughing Championships in September to share good news stories of projects funded by the Operational Programme. The biggest outdoor event in Europe, the Ploughing hosts 1,700 exhibitors and almost 300,000 visitors over three days and has proven to be a very effective storytelling directly to European citizens, also as part of the #euinmyregion campaign.

### Online Activity

The Southern Regional Assembly website is the main online communications tool to promote the results and successes of the Operational Programme. It is also used to highlight the activities of other European programmes and initiatives that are complementary to Operational Programme activities. Press releases and updates were issued to the news section throughout the year on the Operational Programme, European Commission campaigns, other EU programmes and items of interest to the members of the Regional Assembly and the wider public.

Social media activity centres primarily on our Twitter and Facebook accounts. A wide variety of EU-related news and project activity was posted and reposted to these accounts throughout the year. Social media has proven a very useful way to keep in touch with the activities of OP-funded project beneficiaries and other relevant organisations. Both social media platforms increased follower in 2018 - Twitter saw a 25% increase and 10% for Facebook in 2018, a continuing trend for both accounts.

### S&E ROP 2014-20 List of Operations

During 2018, the Managing Authority published a searchable and downloadable list of operations funded by the S&E ROP 14-20 on its website following certification of expenditure in compliance with Article 115.2 of Commission Regulation 1303/2013. The updated list of operations can be found [here](#).

### 45 Stories

The Managing Authority was delighted to contribute a success story from the ROP 07-13 to *45 Stories*, the European Commission's travelling exhibition of the ways that EU membership has benefitted Ireland over the past 45 years. It tells the story of the re-establishment of Waterford Crystal in Waterford City in 2010, with €2.76m ERDF grant assistance from the ROP 07-13.

### Print and Radio Advertisements

A number of advertisements were placed in local and regional print media and on local radio during 2018 to highlight the work of the Assembly as the Managing Authority of the S&E ROP.

## The Graduate Quiz

The Managing Authority sponsored the Graduate.ie competition in 2018, an initiative of the Irish Government, Local Government and the EU-funded Citizenship & Democracy Programme for second level students. It aims to engage, inform and inspire young people in a fun way to learn about important local and national topics by completing an online competition to win educational trips.

## ***Programme Evaluation***

In 2018, the Managing Authority commissioned a Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) of the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020. The Managing Authority developed terms of reference in consultation with stakeholders and in accordance with the Evaluation Plan agreed by the Programme Monitoring Committee. Tendering and procurement were completed in August 2018. An MTE Steering Group was established, and the evaluation commenced in September 2018. Interim findings were presented at a PMC in December 2018 with the final report due to be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in June 2019.

## ***Capacity building for staff of the Managing Authority, Intermediary Bodies & Beneficiaries***

### Financial Management & Control

The Managing Authority hosted a series of Financial Management & Control training events for IBs and Beneficiaries in 2018. Topics covered included an Overview of the ROP 2014-2020, Roles and responsibilities of LEOs in the ROP 2014-2020 and the Administrative Agreement, National Eligibility Rules ROP 2014-2020, Audit Requirements, Risk Assessment & Anti-Fraud, Procurement Requirements and Checking Value for Money, Indicator Data and Information & Communication Requirements, Management Verifications & Sampling Methods, Making an ERDF claim - Preparation and Submission, eCohesion – System Features and Worked Example.

### eCohesion training

The Managing Authority facilitated eCohesion training for Beneficiaries and IBs in locations throughout the region. Over 100 eCohesion users across the cascade received training in 2018.

### Interreg Europe

Managing Authority staff members participated in several Interreg Europe projects to build capacity and share good practice in the effective and efficient use of ERDF funding. This includes FIRESPOL, a project that explores the use of financial instruments to support greater investment in renewable energy in Europe.

### ***Establishment and operation of an effective computerised system for data exchange***

Work on the development and implementation of the eCohesion IT System continued in 2018, led by the Member State through the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and with continuous engagement from the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority as well as input from the Intermediate Bodies and Beneficiaries, when required.

The Managing Authority sits on the eCohesion Oversight Group and the eCohesion User Group. 2018 was an important year for the eCohesion project and required a substantial investment of resources by the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority was involved in work packages to support system designation, the transfer of data from the contingency IT system, go-live and roll-out to all users in the cascade. The Managing Authority supported the roll out through extensive testing, transfer of data from the Contingency system, training days, one-to-one coaching and the development of scheme-specific guidance documents for Beneficiaries.

### ***Programme Monitoring & Control***

The Managing Authority closely monitored the progress of the Operational Programme throughout 2018, working in partnership with Member State, the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority, Intermediary Bodies, Beneficiaries, Horizontal Principles Partners and other stakeholders to achieve the OP targets.

The Managing Authority hosted two Programme Monitoring Committee meetings in 2018 and attended quarterly ROPQM meetings with Member State.

The Managing Authority participates in a wide range of programme and functional committees including:

Programme Committees: National Coordinating Committee of the Funds, BMW ROP, PEIL, EMFF, EAFRD, ESPON 2020, Interreg NWE, Marine Research Funders Forum, Ireland Wales Programme.

INFORM: The INFORM network is a forum to communicate with and learn from other programmes across Europe. The Communication Officer for the S& EROP is an active member of the INFORM network. The Managing Authority takes an active role in promoting the EU Commission's #euinmyregion

campaign to encourage citizens to learn about the successes of EU funded projects, particularly those funded by the Operational Programme, both online and during its events and activities.

ESIF National Communications network: Headed by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Network consists of nominated representatives from the various ESIF operating in Ireland. The network meets to share progress and collaborate on communicating the activities of the various programmes.

Evaluation Network: The Evaluation Network is chaired by the Evaluation Unit of DG Regio. It is an important forum for discussion between the European Commission and Member States on issues concerning evaluation of cohesion policy, including methodological guidance, indicators, evaluation plans, progress in relation to evaluations being undertaken for the European Commission and Member States as well as evaluation results and their use.

**11.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to prevent discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the operational programme and operations (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Six schemes have strategies developed to address the promotion of equality between men and women.

SFI Research Centres and SFI Spokes (SFI): the strategy has been implemented, is being monitored and there is positive evidence of progress for both schemes. This includes an introduction of maternity allowance and unconscious bias training to all SFI staff including board members.

Commercialisation Fund and Innovation Partnership (EI): Strategies are being implemented and monitored in both schemes. Commercialisation Fund: efforts are ongoing to increase the percentage of female award holders as gender balance is promoted in pre-award and post-award operation; in 2017, the clear majority of proposals (105) were from male lead researchers (93) compared to female lead (12); 51 projects funded, 48 with male and 3 female lead researchers. However, of the 34 projects awarded in 2018, there were 8 Female Principal Investigators and 26 Male Principal Investigators. This is a very good outcome in terms of female representation in the Fund. Innovation Partnerships, the gender profile of Principal Investigators named on approved proposals is being monitored; in 2016, 2017 and 2018, the vast majority were male (59, 70, 44) with relatively few female (5, 6, 3). Enterprise Ireland strongly supports the role of women in business. It runs a female entrepreneur programme which in 2018 supported 29 female led start-ups. 22% of HPSU approvals went to female-led companies in 2018.

Entrepreneurship in Micro-Enterprise (EI): Strategies have been developed and implemented: for example: National Women’s Enterprise Day. LEOs record the gender of those who attend training programmes and enterprise initiatives. There is evidence of more female participants than male.

Marine Research Programme (Marine Institute): Strategies have been developed and are being implemented. Female applicants are encouraged to apply as project leads under all Marine Institute research funding calls. The Marine Institute actively seeks to achieve gender balance in the make-up of project evaluation and review panels. The Institute collects information on researchers on a gender-disaggregated basis. This will be included in future annual reports, once the researchers have been recruited on the grants funded in 2018.

Three schemes (Marine Research, Entrepreneurship in Micro-Enterprise and Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme) have developed strategies to integrate the promotion of equal opportunities and prevention of discrimination; and accessibility for people with disabilities HP. For example, the Marine Institute reports that grant applicants were required to complete a section in their submissions as follows: C11 “Equality and Social Inclusion” and asked to state any initiatives in their organisation to ensure Equality and Social Inclusion.

### **11.3. Sustainable development (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

5 schemes (under Priority 1, Priority 2, Priority 4 and Priority 5) have strategies developed to address the promotion of sustainable development.

P1 Marine Research Programme (Marine Institute): Strategies have been developed and implementation is underway. For example, grant applicants were required to complete a section in their submissions as follows: C10 “Compliance with National Policies on the Environment and Sustainable Development” and asked to supply a copy of their organisation’s Environmental Policy Statement.

P2 National Broadband Plan: Strategies have been developed and implementation is underway. The National Competitiveness Council (NCC) in their “Ireland’s Competitiveness Challenge 2018” report identified that reliable high-speed broadband is essential to increase the attractiveness of regional areas for investment. The NCC note that delivering improved connectivity can enhance the growth prospects of

small and micro businesses and create opportunities arising on a regional basis, all of which will serve to diversify and provide sustainable development to the rural economy. There has been ongoing public consultation the planning stages for the NBP Intervention Strategy, which fed into the procurement process, as well as on the mapping of the intervention area. There has also been widespread media coverage to allow for the views of all citizens and key stakeholders. All infrastructure works undertaken to implement the plan will be carried out in full compliance with planning and environmental protection laws and national guidelines, including EIS and Appropriate Assessment, where required.

P4 Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme and Social Housing Retrofit Scheme have strategies being implemented with monitoring in place. The principle objective of these programmes is to meet Ireland’s commitments in relation to carbon emissions reduction and energy reduction target for 2020. The frameworks within which these measures are being implemented are provided by the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and Energy Efficiency Directive. Energy savings in buildings will contribute to Ireland’s total energy savings targets for 2020. The energy retrofitting of buildings in the private and public sector hold the greatest potential for energy savings.

P5 Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme: Strategies have been developed and are underway. Data will be captured on changes in non-private car use arising from sustainable urban transport projects; Local Authorities are required to prepare Environmental Impact Statements on proposals which meet the criteria; Local Authorities are required to ensure that restored and / or rehabilitated buildings have improved energy-efficiency.

**11.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
4	57,447,267.00	86.39%
5	3,600,000.00	13.85%
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,047,267.00</b>	<b>24.41%</b>

**11.5. Role of partners in the implementation of the programme**

The OP was prepared in co-operation with a wide range of partners and stakeholders as required under Article 5 of the Common Provisions Regulation and as detailed in the ‘Code of Conduct on Partnership’. The partnership principle is also strongly reflected in the membership of the Operational Programme Monitoring Committee.



At scheme level, the Intermediate Bodies actively co-operate with a variety of organisations, for example:

P1: Commercialisation Fund and Innovation Partnerships: Enterprise Ireland has a team of Development Advisors (DAs) working closely with each client company to help maximise their growth potential. Enterprise Ireland's network of contacts can be accessed by client companies participating in the schemes. This network includes third level colleges, overseas marketing advisors, and other business leaders. The Innovation Partnership Programme works with clients of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Udaras na Gaeltachta and Local Enterprise Offices.

P2: The Government established a Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce in July 2016. The Taskforce Report published in December 2016 recommends practical actions that can be taken to remove barriers to and improve mobile phone and broadband access in Ireland. The development of Local Authority digital strategies directly complements and supports the National Broadband Plan. Two Regional Action Groups (North and South) were established, working with Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Offices and other relevant agencies to unlock barriers to investment in mobile and broadband services. Engagement between the telecommunications operators and local authorities through the Broadband Officers continued to strengthen. These Broadband Officers are acting as single points of contact in local authorities for their communities. Broadband Officers are helping to ensure a much greater degree of consistency in engagements with operators and clearing obstacles to developing infrastructure.

P3 : Enterprise Ireland and the LEOs proactively work with a range of public and private bodies in relation to the achievement of their objectives, including :

(a) Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation ; Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

(b) Enterprise Ireland ; Bord Bia ; Microfinance Ireland; Leader; Fáilte Ireland; Education & Training Boards Ireland (ETBI); Credit Review Office; Údarás na Gaeltachta

(c) Chambers of Commerce; Skillnet Ireland; National Association of Community Enterprise Centres (NACEC)

P4: SEAI has a strong partnership approach in the delivery of the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme, working at local level with community based organisations and local authorities, including charity organisations. At a departmental level, SEAI liaises with the Department of Health, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government.

P5: As part of the selection process participating Local Authorities were required to evidence that an Integrated Urban Strategy or plan was in place. In addition, all the Authorities are required to consult extensively with all relevant stakeholders in their respective areas regarding the impact of the proposed projects.

**12. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 111(4), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013**

**12.1. Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations**

In accordance with Article 56 of the Common Provisions Regulation, an evaluation plan was drawn up by the Managing Authority and, in accordance with Article 114 of the Common Provisions Regulation, this Evaluation plan was approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee by written procedure in November 2015. The plan was submitted and subsequently adopted by the Operational Programme Monitoring Committee in December 2015.

In 2018, the Managing Authority commissioned a Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) of the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020. The Managing Authority developed terms of reference in consultation with stakeholders and in accordance with the Evaluation Plan adopted by the Programme Monitoring Committee in December 2015.

Tendering and procurement were completed in August 2018. Fitzpatrick Associates in association with RSM UK were appointed following a competitive tendering process managed by the Office of Government Procurement. An MTE Steering Group was established, and the evaluation commenced in September 2018. Interim findings were presented at a Programme Monitoring Committee in December 2018 with the final report due to be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in June 2019.

The findings will be discussed by the Programme Monitoring Committee in June 2019 and actions agreed. Follow-up to these findings will be reported in the next Annual Implementation Report.

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of executed)	Follow up (in case of executed)
Executed	Mid Term Evaluation of Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020	ERDF	2019	Process	01 02 03 04 06	Mid Term Evaluation of Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020		

## 12.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

The Programme Monitoring Committee adopted the Communications Strategy for the Operational Programme at its first meeting in March 2015, subject to minor amendments proposed by the European Commission. A Communications Plan was drawn up for 2018 based on the Strategy. In addition to implementing the Communications Strategy, the Managing Authority continues to provide support and guidance to the Intermediary Bodies, and through them, to beneficiaries.

### Events

#### Major Programme Event 2018: When Science Met Business

The Southern Regional Assembly in association with the Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference, hosted *When Science Met Business* on 8th June 2018 at ArcLabs, Waterford Institute of Technology. The event showcased how EU funding supports collaborations between research and industry to strengthen the innovation dividend of the S&E region, a core objective of the S&E ROP 14-20. It created a forum for researchers and industry to explore the potential for mutually beneficial collaborations and highlighted exciting joint research-industry projects funded by the S&E ROP 14-20. This event was part of the #euinmyregion campaign.

Keynote speaker, Professor Andrew Zacharakis set the scene on the theme of nurturing innovation and wealth creation by forging strong collaborative engagements between research and industry. Other speakers showcased examples of these types of collaborations, including a 'Fitbit' for cows, intelligent transport systems and a virtual reality glove with possible market potential for use by people effected by Parkinson's Disease.

#### Publicity Event: National Ploughing Championships 2018

The Assembly returned to the National Ploughing Championships in September to share good news stories of projects funded by the S&E ROP 14-20. The biggest outdoor event in Europe, the Ploughing hosts 1,700 exhibitors and almost 300,000 visitors over three days and has proven to be a very effective storytelling directly to European citizens, also as part of the #euinmyregion campaign. Kindly hosted by the European Commission Representation Office in Ireland, the Assembly joined forces with a wide array of EU colleagues to promote the S&E ROP along with the BMW and the ESF programmes

amongst other national EU initiatives.

## **Online Activity**

### Website

The Assembly website is the main online communications tool to promote the results and successes of the Operational Programme. It is also used to highlight the activities of other European-funded programmes and initiatives that are complementary to Operational Programme activities. Press releases and updates were issued throughout the year to the news section related to the Operational Programme, European Commission campaigns, other EU programmes and items of interest to the members of the Regional Assembly and the wider public. Website traffic during 2018 continued to increase in line with previous years. The homepage contains much of the news of Operational Programme activity which accounts for the higher traffic. Both page views and unique page views for the homepage increased by approximately 4,000 views in 2018 compared to 2017.

### Social Media

Social media activity centres primarily on Twitter and Facebook. A wide variety of EU-related news and project activity was posted and reposted to these accounts throughout the year. Social media has proven a very useful way to keep in touch with the activities of S&E ROP-funded project beneficiaries and other relevant organisations. Both social media platforms increased follower in 2018 - Twitter attracted more significant interest with a 25% increase in followers compared to 10% for Facebook in 2018, a continuing trend for both platforms. Conversely, there was a 44% increase engagement with the Facebook account, while Twitter engagements decreased by the same amount.

## **Publications**

### S&E ROP 2014-20 List of Operations

During 2018, the Assembly published a searchable and downloadable list of operations funded by the Operational Programme on its website following certification of expenditure in compliance with Article 115.2 of Commission Regulation 1303/2013. The updated list of operations can be found [here](#).

### 45 Stories

The Assembly was delighted to contribute a success story from the ROP07-13 to *45 Stories*, the European Commission's travelling exhibition of the ways that EU membership has benefitted Ireland over the past 45 years. It tells the story of the re-establishment of Waterford Crystal in Waterford City in 2010, with €2.76m ERDF grant assistance from the ROP 07-13. The exhibition and accompanying booklet were launched at Leinster House in October and travelled throughout the country in the months following. The launch included speeches from Senator Paul Coughlan, Leas-Chathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, Gerry Kiely, Head of European Commission Representation in Ireland, and European Affairs Minister Helen McEntee. Citizens who featured in many of the *45 Stories* also attended.

### Print and Radio Advertisements

A number of advertisements were placed in local and regional print media and on local radio during 2018 to highlight the work of the Assembly as the Managing Authority of the S&E ROP.

### The Graduate Quiz

The Assembly sponsored the Graduate.ie competition in 2018, an initiative of the Irish Government, Local Government and the EU-funded Citizenship & Democracy Programme for second level students. It aims to engage, inform and inspire young people in a fun way to learn about important local and national topics by completing an online competition to win educational trips. Assembly sponsorship focuses on highlighting S&E ROP activity to young people in Ireland. The winners whose prizes were sponsored by the Assembly during 2018 are Odhran Maloney from CBS Thurles, Co. Tipperary and Megan O'Keefe from Scoil Pobal, Co. Kerry.

## **Networking**

### ESIF Communications Network & INFORM Network

The Assembly continued to participate in the joint communications network for European Structural & Investment Funds in Ireland. Headed by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Network consists of nominated representatives from the various ESIF operating in Ireland. The network meets to share progress and collaborate on communicating the activities of the various programmes. The Managing Authority also participates in the INFORM network to communicate with and learn from other programmes across the regions of Europe. The Assembly takes an active role in promoting the Commission's #euinmyregion campaign to encourage citizens to learn about the successes of EU funded projects, particularly those funded by the S&E ROP 14-20, both online and during its events and activities.



**13. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013) (MAY BE INCLUDED IN REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016 (SEE POINT 9 ABOVE). REQUIRED IN REPORT SUBMITTED IN 2017) OPTION: PROGRESS REPORT**

**14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 111(4), SECOND SUBPARAGRAPH, (A), (B), (C), (D), (G) AND (H), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

**14.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including development of regions facing demographic challenges and permanent or natural handicaps, integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the operational programme**

As set out in the Operational Programme the main territorial development needs and bottlenecks for the Southern Eastern Region were detailed in section 1.1 in terms of urban and rural areas based on the detailed SWOT analysis completed. However, the Regional Programme does not target particular actions for specific geographic areas, other than under the Sustainable Urban Priority but rather focuses on investing in growth and jobs for all areas.

As required under Article 96 (3) (b) of the CPR a minimum of 5% of the ERDF has to be targeted at support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development in line with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013. A separate priority is dedicated to Sustainable Urban Development under this Operational Programme, the details of which are set out under Priority 5.

The Rural Development Programme is the main vehicle for addressing many of the development needs and bottlenecks of rural areas; however, investments under this programme will also make a considerable contribution to addressing the needs as follows:

Priority 1 - Strengthening RTDI in the S&E Region: Whilst most of the HEI's are located in urban centres rural businesses and enterprises will be able to avail of the opportunities through this Priority.

Priority 2 - Information and Communication Technologies: Accessibility is a key need of rural areas in Ireland - accessibility refers both to physical and electronic forms of access. There are extensive areas outside of the main urban centres in the Region where access to high-speed broadband is very limited or non-existent. Therefore, investment under this Priority will help address this development need and impact positively in terms of job creation potential and employment, the environment and support the principles of equality and accessibility.

Priority 3 - SME support, promotion and capability development: This Priority is delivered via the Local Enterprise Offices located in each Local Authority area. Funding and support are available to small

businesses and entrepreneurs in rural areas. Over 36,000 enterprises have received support to date, a sizable proportion of these are outside of the main urban centres.

Priority 4 – Low Carbon Economy: The Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme is available to all homeowners who qualify in terms of risk of fuel poverty. As retro fitting is labour intensive it may also provide employment opportunities. Over €100m has been expended on retrofitting to-date with over 18,000 households improved. This makes a significant contribution to the local economy.

#### **14.2. Progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the Funds**

As set out in Art. 57 of the Common Provisions Regulations and as described in the Regional Operational Programme, the provision of guidance and training to Intermediate Bodies and beneficiaries to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use those Funds and participation by Managing Authority staff in appropriate training programmes is one of the actions to be supported under Priority 6 – Technical Assistance. Up to end 2018, the following activities and actions have been implemented:

MA training of Intermediate Bodies and relevant beneficiary bodies:

- 2014-2020 ERDF programme requirements for participating Local Authorities in the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme (Priority 5), April 2016.
- 2014-2020 ERDF programme requirements in February 2015 for SFI (Priority 1 Intermediate Body).
- 2014-2020 ERDF programme requirements in May 2017 for Enterprise Ireland & 18 Local Enterprise Offices (Priority 3 Beneficiaries / Intermediate Bodies), May & June 2017
- 2014-2020 ERDF programme requirements in April 2018 for Higher Education Institutions, Local Authorities, SFI, DCCAE, SEAI, DHPLG, MAs (Priorities 1-6 Beneficiaries / Intermediate Bodies / MAs), April 2018
- 2014-2020 ERDF programme requirements in May 2017 for Enterprise Ireland & 18 Local Enterprise Offices (Priority 3 Beneficiaries / Intermediate Bodies), April 2018
- 2014-2020 ERDF programme requirements for participating Local Authorities in the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme (Priority 5), Jan 2018.
- User Training on the use of the new eCohesion IT system (Priorities 1-6 Beneficiaries, Intermediate Bodies, Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority and Member State), February 2018, March 2018, April 2018.
- One-to-one coaching (face-to-face and conference calls) on the use of the new eCohesion IT system (Priorities 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Beneficiaries, Intermediate Bodies, Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority and Member State), July 2018 - December 2018.

MA personnel attended training organised by the European Commission and private providers including:

- National Training Day for ERDF and ESF Managing, Certifying and Audit Authorities delivered by the ERDF Audit Authority, May 2015.
- Training on State Aid, private training provider, Brussels, May 2015.
- EStIF Annual Conference on implementation, management and control of the ESI Funds 2014-2020, November 2015.
- EC training on result orientation, February 2016.
- EC presentation on ARACHNE, June 2016.
- DG Regio Evaluation Unit, summer school on Developing Quality Terms of Reference for Impact Evaluation, October 2016.
- Communications training- The storytellers' manifesto, Dublin, February 2017
- Conference on responding to Brexit, IBEC, Dublin, February 2017
- Online Video, Dublin, May 2017,
- General Data Protection Regulations, Dublin, October 2017
- Annual Procurement Conference, Public Affairs Ireland, Dublin, November 2017
- Professional Certificate in Governance, Dublin, 2017
- European Anti-Fraud Seminar, European Academy, Brussels, February 2018
- DG Regio – Tour de Capital - post 2020 EU funding environment, Dublin, June 2018
- EU Workshop on Fraud, Brussels, September 2018

#### Interreg Europe

Managing Authority staff members participated in several Interreg Europe projects to build capacity and share good practice in the effective and efficient use of ERDF funding. This includes FIRESPOL, a project that explores the use of financial instruments to support greater investment in renewable energy in Europe.

#### **14.3. Progress in the implementation of any interregional and transnational actions**

Not applicable

#### **14.4. Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies**

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The relevant Sea-basin strategy for the Irish programmes is the Atlantic Area Strategy (2011), supported by a more detailed Action Plan (2013). The Action Plan identifies four overarching priorities each of which contain a number of specific actions which Member States are invited to implement, using EU and

national funds that are managed by Member States.

Priority 1: Promote Entrepreneurship and innovation – this is complemented by the research and innovation support measures that are supported under the Operational Programme, including support for maritime-related research activities undertaken by the higher education research centres and the Marine Institute. It is also complemented by supports for micro-enterprise establishment and expansion by the Local Enterprise Offices of local authorities across Ireland. The availability of high-speed broadband will also facilitate the establishment of knowledge economy enterprises in coastal Atlantic areas.

Priority 2: Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment – this includes actions to exploit the potential of off-shore energy, one of the potential areas that may be supported by a proposed financial instrument focussed on the renewable energy sector. It is also supported by research investment in the marine energies and biotechnology sectors under the Operational Programme.

Priority 3: Improve Accessibility and Connectivity - ERDF co-financed investment in next generation broadband will ensure the progressive roll-out of high-speed broadband services to all parts of Ireland, including peripheral coastal areas. This will make a major contribution to the connectivity of coastal communities

Priority 4: Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development - the overall impact of the Regional Operational Programmes will be to enhance the innovation capacity, competitiveness, digital connectivity and resource efficiency of the Regions, along with sustainable development of urban centres. This will contribute to the priority of creating a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development along the Atlantic. The Inter-Department Marine Co-ordination Group will be responsible for national coordination of the Atlantic Action Plan 2014-2020. They will (together with their line Departments) identify and prioritise funding to generate sustainable economic growth in coastal regions from sectors such as tourism, aquaculture and fisheries, renewable energy, mineral seabed exploration, marine biotechnology, etc. The funding will be utilised to meet the priorities of the Action Plan, namely:

1. Promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
2. Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
3. Improve accessibility and connectivity;

4. Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

**Priority(s) and objective(s) that the programme is relevant to:**

	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Objective</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.1 - Sharing knowledge between higher education organisations, companies and research centers
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.2 - Enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacities in the maritime economy of the Atlantic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.3 - Fostering adaptation and diversification of economic activities by promoting the potential of the Atlantic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.1 - Improving maritime safety and security
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.2 - Exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.3 - Sustainable management of marine resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.4 - Exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the Atlantic area's marine and coastal environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Improve accessibility and connectivity	3.1 - Promoting cooperation between ports
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.1 - Fostering better knowledge of social challenges in the Atlantic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.2 - Preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage

**Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the Atlantic SBS**

**A. Are the Sea Basin Strategic coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or members, and/or Objective coordinators or members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?**

Yes  No

**B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the ATLSBS?**

Yes  No

**C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the ATLSBS?**

Yes  No

Does your programme plan to invest in the ATLSBS in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

**D. Obtained results in relation to the ATLSBS (n.a. for 2016)**



**14.5. Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation, where appropriate**

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**14.6. Progress in the implementation of measures to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of poverty discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities and persons with disabilities, long term unemployment and young people not in employment including, where appropriate, the financial resources used**

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**PART C REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION  
REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**15. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL  
(ARTICLES 21(2) AND 22(7) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

## 16. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (OPTION PROGRESS REPORT)

Information on and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

### SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

#### **Information on and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.**

The S&E ROP 14-20 was prepared in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its goals of smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Its seven related Flagship Initiatives represent sets of interlinking activities in the thematic areas of innovation, digitalisation, youth, resource efficiency, industry, employment and social inclusion. They are intended to guide coordinated action at European, national and regional levels towards ultimately realising the overall strategy in these fields. Of particular relevance to the ERDF are the Innovation Union, Digital Agenda, Industrial Policy and Resource Efficient Europe and these are reflected in the five priorities of the S&E ROP - RTDI, ICT, SMEs, low carbon economy, and sustainable urban development.

Innovation Union and Industrial Policy are primarily supported by the achievements of Priorities 1 & 3, in particular. Digital Agenda is addressed through Priority 2, while Priorities 4 & 5 largely support Resource Efficient Europe. However, each priority is interlinked to support the overarching objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The contribution is outlined under each priority here-under.

#### **Priority 1: Strengthening RTDI in the S&E Region**

Priority 1 aims to increase the level of research with company engagement in the S&E region by fostering applied research and increase its commercialisation by the higher education institutions in the S&E region.

All output indicator milestones for Priority 1 have been achieved. The **Investment Priority 1a** milestone to increase the number of new researchers in supported entities to 276 stands at 758 supported researchers up to 2018. The **Investment Priority 1b** milestone of 130 commercialisation fund awards made has also

been exceeded and stands at 165 up to 2018.

Priority 1 is delivered through five schemes:

**SFI Research Centres Scheme:** develops world-leading, large-scale research centres aligned to the 14 areas of research of the Research Prioritise Exercise for Ireland. The centres partner scientists & engineers with industry to address key research, develop new technology and attract international research talent and capital, support commercialisation and increase the number of researchers employed in industry.

**Spokes Programme:** promotes further development of existing SFI Research Centres to incorporate new areas of research, new industry and academic collaborators aligned to the 14 areas of research identified in the Research Prioritise Exercise for Ireland.

**Commercialisation Fund:** supports researchers in the fields of science and engineering in third level institutions and research-performing organisations in applied research projects that generate outputs to benefit the Irish economy. The programme has two levels of funding - Commercial Case Feasibility to support scoping the commercial case for the innovation/project idea, and Commercialisation Fund support - to develop the innovation for commercialisation.

**Innovation Partnership Programme:** encourages Irish-based companies to work with Irish research institutes resulting in mutually beneficial cooperation. Companies access expertise and resources to develop new and improved products, processes, services, and generate new knowledge/ expertise.

**Marine Researchers Programme:** funds the marine sector to build new research capability and capacity, enable knowledge and technology transfer, increase competitiveness for sustainable economic growth, protect/ conserve marine resources and awareness of maritime heritage. It also supports activity aimed to enhance visibility and contribution of Irish research to international research efforts and programmes.

The Strengthening RTDI in the region, evidenced by the success and strong performance reported under

this priority to end December 2018 demonstrates the commitment to sustainable smart growth, informed by an ethic of inclusivity as evidenced by the horizontal principles report presented to the Monitoring Committee.

## **Priority 2: ICT Infrastructure**

Priority 2 aims to increase the provision of high-speed broadband to all unserved settlements in the S&E region that will not be covered by the commercial sector. This will facilitate the widespread availability of reliable and guaranteed high speed broadband which is a key component in delivering the objectives of the National Broadband Plan (NBP). The NBP reflects Government objectives to deliver new opportunities for jobs, growth and social inclusion and aims to underpin and support wider public policy objectives and initiatives both nationally and within the European context. The ROP scheme contributes to the NBP which is managed by the Dept. of Communications, Climate Action & the Environment.

There has been no expenditure under **Investment Priority 2a** but it has met its implementation milestone with the launch of procurement process to the award of preferred bidder. Subject to the successful completion of the final contractual stage, the Department has confirmed that all target output indicators will be met. Provision of hi-speed broadband is critical to an inclusive, sustainable society, with parity of access to all citizens. It is the bedrock of consolidating emerging and mature sectors of industry and for the provision of services at the point of need.

## **Priority 3: SME Support, Promotion & Capability Development**

Priority 3 aims to increase employment levels in micro-enterprises and SMEs in the S&E region by supporting business start-ups, expansion and higher innovation levels in enterprises. It seeks to promote entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators. The Entrepreneurship in Micro-enterprise scheme is delivered through Enterprise Ireland and the 18 Local Enterprise Offices in the region.

Progress under **Investment Priority 3a** has been consistently strong with the 2018 milestone of an employment increase in supported enterprises to 2,304 having reached 3,948. Expenditure is strong, and the mid-term financial milestone has been attained. Smart, sustainable inclusive growth are positively impacted through the delivery of this scheme, through employment creation unemployment reduction, sustainable job growth and emphasis on supporting and advancing innovation in company development and training provision.

#### **Priority 4: Low Carbon Economy**

Priority 4 aims to contribute to meeting Ireland's commitments in relation to its Europe 2020 carbon reduction targets by improving energy efficiency in the housing stock in the S&E region. It focuses on supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.

Activity under **Investment Priority 4c** is strong and all output indicator and financial milestones achieved. The target of 7,799 households with improved energy consumption classification to the end of 2018 has been exceeded, with 8,573 households reported under this indicator. A total of 27,225 households were afforded energy efficiency retrofitting across the region. The total eligible expenditure declared up to 2018 was €24,716,598 which exceeds the mid-term milestone target of €22,610,000.

Priority 4 is delivered through two schemes:

**Better Energy Warmer Homes:** informed by an inclusive growth ethic the scheme seeks to improve the energy efficiency of households at risk of poverty and reduce the amount of expenditure required for energy. A secondary objective is to improve the health and well-being of citizens by reducing the amount of disposable income spent on energy.

**Social Housing Retrofit & Social Apartments:** meeting Ireland's carbon reduction commitments and energy reduction targets under Europe 2020 through the implementation of energy efficiency measures in buildings. Local Authority social housing stock are eligible for this intervention again this scheme is framed and informed by a inclusive growth ethic.

#### **Priority 5: Sustainable Urban Development**

Priority 5 aims to revitalise, regenerate and improve the urban environment in the designated urban centres as part of the integrated urban strategies and to support low carbon strategies for sustainable, multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures in designated urban centres. It will improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites,

reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures. Under Priority 5, the Designated Urban Centre Grants Scheme is delivered by the Southern Regional Assembly. Local authorities for the designated growth centres in the S&E region submitted projects which fit with their integrated strategies to tackle the social, economic, environmental, climate and demographic challenges affecting urban centres, in accordance with Art. 7 of Reg (EU) 1301/2013, and which support the development strategy for the urban area concerned.

**Investment Priority 6e** has achieved its output indicator milestone – 9 projects were selected which align with the integrated growth strategies of their respective areas. Implementation is on-going, and the MA is confident all projects will be fully implemented in the lifetime of the programme. The projects delivered are varied in nature and are subject to planning laws. The projects are contributory factors in the improvement of the quality of the urban fabric, the quality of life of the residents, the attractiveness of the urban setting as place to work and invest. Indirectly through these improvements they contribute to inclusivity and directly to sustainability.

## **17. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

### **Output Indicator Milestones**

All output indicator milestones included in the Performance Framework have been achieved.

### **Financial Milestones**

All financial milestones included in the Performance Framework have been achieved with the exception of Priority 5.

As previously advised to the Commission, the financial milestone for Priority 5 will not be achieved due to insufficient expenditure to date. There is one scheme under Priority 5 – the Designated Urban Centre Grants Scheme (DUCGS). Under this scheme, local authorities for the designated growth centres in the Southern and Eastern region were invited to submit projects which fit with their integrated strategies to tackle the social, economic, environmental, climate and demographic challenges affecting the urban centres, in accordance with Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, and which support the overall development strategy for the urban area concerned.

Following submission of project applications by the Local Authorities, 9 projects were selected by the designated Steering Committee for the scheme in early 2016 with a total ERDF allocation of €26m. During 2017 it became apparent to the Managing Authority that progress on several projects was not as expected and MA staff met with all Local Authorities to ascertain the cause of these delays. In most cases the reason for the delays was planning or procurement related.

The Managing Authority has argued that the fundamental reason for failing to achieve the financial milestone is that assumptions were incorrect. The funding is fully allocated under Priority 5 and while progress is slower than expected, the Managing Authority is fully confident that the targets under this priority will be met.



## DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme AIR2018 Citizens'Summary	Citizens' summary	05-Jul-2019	2018_2	Ares(2019)4297976	SEROP AIR2018 Citizens'Summary	05-Jul-2019	ndunphvi

## LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated
Warning	2.43	In Section 'Macro-regional and sea basin strategies' when the answer to question C is No, the field 'Does your programme plan to invest...' should not be empty for strategy ATLSBS
Warning	2.48	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the baseline value and moving away from the target for priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, specific objective: 1b, indicator: 1b.1, region category: M, year: 2016 (14.00 < 24.00). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1a, specific objective: 1a, indicator: 1a.1, region category: M, year: 2018 (807.00 > 713.00). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, specific objective: 1b, indicator: 1b.1, region category: M, year: 2014 (26.00 > 25.00). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, specific objective: 1b, indicator: 1b.1, region category: M, year: 2015 (27.00 > 25.00). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, specific objective: 1b, indicator: 1b.1, region category: M, year: 2018 (26.00 > 25.00). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, specific objective: 3a, indicator: 3a.1, region category: M, year: 2016 (188,010.00 > 186,852.00). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, specific objective: 3a, indicator: 3a.1, region category: M, year: 2017 (193,462.00 > 186,852.00). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, specific objective: 3a, indicator: 3a.1, region category: M, year: 2018 (199,460.00 > 186,852.00). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 5, investment priority: 4e, specific objective: 4e, indicator: 4e, region category: M, year: 2017 (44.00 > 42.26). Please check.
Warning	2.49	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 5, investment priority: 4e, specific objective: 4e, indicator: 4e, region category: M, year: 2018 (44.00 > 42.26). Please check.
Warning	2.51	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the target value for priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, specific objective: 4c, indicator: 4c.1, region category: M, year: 2014 (143.00 < 185.00). Please check.
Warning	2.51	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the target value for priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, specific objective: 4c, indicator: 4c.1, region category: M, year: 2015 (149.00 < 185.00). Please check.
Warning	2.51	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the target value for priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, specific objective: 4c, indicator: 4c.1, region category: M, year: 2016 (149.00 < 185.00). Please check.
Warning	2.51	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the target value for priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, specific objective: 4c, indicator: 4c.1, region category: M, year: 2017 (144.00 < 185.00). Please check.
Warning	2.51	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the target value for priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, specific objective: 4c, indicator: 4c.1, region category: M, year: 2018 (144.00 < 185.00). Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 105.14% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 5, investment priority: 6e, indicator: CO37, region category: M, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 105.14% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 5, investment priority: 6e, indicator: CO37, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 105.14% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 5, investment priority: 6e, indicator: CO37, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 105.91% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO06, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 106.03% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO04, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 110.01% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1a, indicator: CO24, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 113.29% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO01, region category: M, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 113.29% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO04, region category: M, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 113.29% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO26, region category: M, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 113.36% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO02, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 133.33% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 6, investment priority: -, indicator: 6.5, region category: , year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 135.68% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO04, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 153.85% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO01, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 153.85% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO04, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 153.85% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO26, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 185.31% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO01, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 185.31% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO04, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.

Severity	Code	Message
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 185.31% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO26, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 187.84% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, indicator: CO34, region category: M, year: 2015. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 200.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 6, investment priority: -, indicator: 6.5, region category: , year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 302.56% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, indicator: CO34, region category: M, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 378.80% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, indicator: CO34, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 470.43% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, indicator: CO34, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 105.14% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 5, investment priority: 6e, indicator: CO37, region category: M, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 105.14% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 5, investment priority: 6e, indicator: CO37, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 105.14% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 5, investment priority: 6e, indicator: CO37, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 105.91% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO06, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 106.03% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO04, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 110.01% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1a, indicator: CO24, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 113.36% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO02, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 133.33% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 6, investment priority: -, indicator: 6.5, region category: , year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 135.68% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO04, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 187.84% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, indicator: CO34, region category: M, year: 2015. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 200.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 6, investment priority: -, indicator: 6.5, region category: , year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 302.56% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, indicator: CO34, region category: M, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 378.80% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, indicator: CO34, region category: M, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.53	In table 3A, the annual total value entered is 470.43% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 4, investment priority: 4c, indicator: CO34, region category: M, year: 2018. Please check.