

**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 for the S&E Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 and is responsible for its preparation and delivery, in accordance with the Common Provisions Regulation. The development of the S&E Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 involved numerous consultations with relevant stakeholders, from April 2013, which allowed for the drafting of the Operational Programme with the final version submitted to the European Commission on 5th December 2014. The S&E Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 was adopted by the European Commission on 15th December 2014. This is the second Annual Implementation Report for the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme (ROP) for 2014-2020. It reports on the progress achieved under the OP for the year 2016. Expenditure under the ROP was eligible from 1st January 2014. Good progress has been made in the implementation of all the Investment Priorities included in the ROP. Most schemes have reported expenditure in 2016 and output indicator achievements range up to 100% for individual output indicators. A few schemes, such as the National Broadband Plan (Investment Priority 2a) and the Marine Research Programme (Investment Priority 1a) have not reported any actual achievements to date. The National Broadband Plan is well progressing, but no expenditure has been reported to the end of 2016 because the procurement process is still ongoing. As regards the Marine Research Programme, no projects were approved up to the end of 2016 because a modification of the scheme is foreseen to be carried out due to changed circumstances. No claims for ERDF co-funding have been declared to the Managing Authority by the end of 2016 by any of the Intermediary Bodies because the Designation Process was not finalised by end 2016. However, from the reported expenditure it can be seen that a number of schemes in particular under Priority Axes 1, 3, 4 and 6 (TA) have been operational since 2014-2015 and have incurred significant expenditure under the S&E ROP 2014-2020. For these priorities, €126.7m in public expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to beneficiaries can be reported. A total of €197.76m has already been allocated to selected projects. Advance payments amounting to €12.9m have been received from the European Commission. For a description of the activities implemented in 2016 for each priority axis, see section 3.1. The S&E ROP does not include any financial instruments. All ex-ante conditionalities were fulfilled upon the adoption of the ROP. Therefore, no actions were required to be taken during programme implementation. Work on development of the e-Cohesion IT System has been progressing in 2016, led by the Member State through the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and with continuous engagement from the Managing Authority as well as input from the Intermediate Bodies, when required. The designation process for the 2014-2020 period is a member state responsibility and the responsible Government Department, The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, is required to designate the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority and Audit Authority for each Operational Programme. This Department is providing a co-ordinating role in this process and has given assurances that the designation process will be completed in sufficient time for submission of the first claim to the European Commission.

### 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. This priority seeks to enhance research and innovation (R&amp;I) infrastructure and to build the capacities to develop R&amp;I excellence while promoting centres of competence. It also has a focus on promoting business investment in R&amp;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 2 investment priorities (1a &amp; 1b) and includes 5 individual schemes around research centres, marine research, and commercialisation of research. Cumulative public eligible expenditure paid to beneficiaries to end December 2016 is reported as €58.042m and 32% of the overall allocation to the priority. Except for one scheme included in investment priority 1a (Marine Research), all schemes included in priority 1 are progressing in accordance with agreed targets and reported output indicator achievements reach up to 56% of the agreed target values. Overall, achievements are in line with targets and expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the profile. As regards the Marine Research scheme, to date no expenditure or achievements have been reported and the Intermediate Body is currently reviewing the scheme.</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. 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, for this project is well underway and was ongoing at the end of 2016.</p>
3	SME Support, promotion and capability development	<p>The Entrepreneurship in Micro enterprise scheme is delivered through the 18 Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) located in the Southern and Eastern 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.</p> <p>This investment priority will support innovative and growth-oriented SME start-ups and expansions through the provision of business information, advisory services, capacity building, mentoring and financial supports. Some major</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
		developments of the scheme in 2016 include the delivery of the third Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur Competition (IBYE), the introduction of a LEO competitive fund, and the creation of a tailored programme for new and early-stage food business owners. Cumulative public eligible expenditure to end December 2016 is reported as €20 million and 29% of the overall allocation to the priority. Actual achievements were reported against all agreed output indicators in accordance with agreed targets. Overall, implementation of the Entrepreneurship in Microenterprise scheme is well advanced. Achievements are in line with targets and expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the profile. All selected projects have been fully implemented.
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. Overall, implementation is well advanced with the exception of the apartment scheme which is due to commence in 2017. Achievements are in line with targets and expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the profile. Cumulative public eligible expenditure paid to beneficiaries to end December 2016 is reported as €66.9 million and 50% of the overall allocation to the priority. Progress under investment priority 4c is in accordance with agreed targets. 58% of the main output indicator (No. of Households with improved energy consumption classification) target has been reported as achieved by the end of 2016.</p> <p>The priority comprises 2 initiatives that are managed by different Intermediate Bodies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social Housing Retrofit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheme 1 – Apartments</li> <li>Scheme 2 – Local Authority Houses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure 1: Insulation Retrofitting Programme.</li> <li>Measure 2: Retrofitting of Vacant Social Housing Stock.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme</li> </ol>
5	Sustainable Urban Development	<p>Under this theme, 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. These Local Authorities are: Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Limerick Council, Clare County Council, Kerry County Council, Kilkenny County Council, Waterford City &amp; County Council, Cork City and County Councils.</p> <p>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. A high profile national launch event took place in Dublin attended by a number of Cabinet Ministers in early 2016. During 2016, the participating Local</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
		Authorities have progressed implementation of their respective projects. All participating Local Authorities have started implementation in 2016 and have reported project related expenditure.
6	Technical Assistance	<p>During 2016, the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA), as MA for the S&amp;E ROP, has been engaged in detailed liaison with the various Intermediary Bodies and the Department of Public Expenditure on the design of the architecture surrounding the various schema contained within the ROP and on getting the required IT system in place. Issues surrounding the procurement process, overseen by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, caused some delays but it is hoped that a functioning system will be in place by Q3 2017. Throughout 2016 the Regional Assembly has engaged in several communications activities such as the required Major Event, held in the form of site visits to a number of Research Centres co-funded under the Research Centres Scheme in May / June 2016 by Regional Assembly members and staff. Regional Assembly staff also gave presentations to several outside bodies on ERDF related activities. Expenditure on these activities was €421,033 during the calendar year 2016. Having regard to the recent reconfiguration of regional bodies in Ireland, the Technical Assistance Priority will also cover the approved costs of the Midland and Eastern Regional Assembly in relation to their participation in any of the above activities. The Technical Assistance Priority will cover the appropriate costs of the ERDF Audit Authority, as well as the costs of the management controls undertaken by the Managing Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 59 of the Common Provisions Regulation.</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	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	Observations
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	More developed	689.00			384.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	More developed	689.00			384.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
F	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	Number of Awards	More developed	25.00			9.00			One Spokes scheme award from 2015 did not proceed in 2016.
S	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	Number of Awards	More developed	25.00			9.00			One Spokes scheme award from 2015 did not proceed in 2016.
F	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	Number of Researchers	More developed	21.00			0.00			Implementation of the scheme (Marine Research Programme) to which this indicator refers to has not commenced.
S	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	Number of Researchers	More developed	21.00			0.00			Implementation of the scheme (Marine Research Programme) to which this indicator refers to has not commenced.

(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	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	174.00			0.00		
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	174.00			0.00		
F	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	0.00			0.00		
S	1.1	Number of Awards under the Spokes Programme in the S&E Region	10.00			0.00		
F	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	0.00			0.00		
S	1.2	Number of marine research PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers funded	0.00			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	2016 Total	2016 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	663.00		

ID	Indicator	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.	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	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			13.00			Completed projects on which final payment was made.
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			159.00			Operations selected for which first payments have been made to the beneficiary.
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			13.00			Completed projects on which final payment was made.
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			159.00			Operations selected for which first payments have been made to the beneficiary.
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			13.00			Completed projects on which final payment was made.
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	More developed	143.00			159.00			Operations selected for which first payments have been made to the beneficiary.
F	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	More developed	325.00			84.00			Only projects selected from 2015 have been included in the 2014-2020 programming period. Therefore, there was a 0 outturn for 2014.
S	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	More developed	325.00			84.00			Only projects selected from 2015 have been included in the 2014-2020 programming period. Therefore, there was a 0 outturn for 2014.

(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	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	13.00			10.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	109.00			56.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	13.00			10.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	109.00			56.00		
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	13.00			10.00		
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	109.00			56.00		
F	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	0.00			0.00		
S	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	43.00			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	2016 Total	2016 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	31.00		This indicator comprises two schemes: Commercialisation Fund and Innovation Partnerships. Numbers previously reported for 2014 and 2015 had shown the total number of licences arising from the 2 schemes and from other funding programmes because a detailed breakdown of the source of projects giving rise to the licence was not available from the institutions at the time. For 2016, only licences signed by research institutions located in the S&E region for the 2 schemes were included.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1b.1	Annual Number of Licenses as a result of research in S&E Region	189.00		80.00	

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	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 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 2016. Implementation of the project has not commenced, yet. Therefore, no values have been reported to date.
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 2016. Implementation of the project has not commenced, yet. Therefore, no values have been reported to date.

(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	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	0.00			0.00		
S	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	0.00			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	2016 Total	2016 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			The project was in the procurement stage in 2016. Implementation of the project has not commenced, yet. Therefore, no values have been reported to date. In accordance with EC guidance of March 2017, years for which no value is available should be left blank. Values from previous years, including baselines, should not be repeated.

ID	Indicator	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	

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	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	51,736.00			20,340.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	51,736.00			20,340.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	1,804.00			1,240.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	1,804.00			1,240.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	17,770.00			18,964.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	17,770.00			18,964.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	More developed	2,398.00			823.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	More developed	2,398.00			823.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	More developed	13,649,599.00			8,338,206.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	More developed	13,649,599.00			8,338,206.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	5,760.00			2,681.50			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	5,760.00			2,681.50			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
F	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	Number of participants	More developed	105,552.00			36,291.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 2016.
S	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	Number of participants	More developed	105,552.00			36,291.00			Operations selected have been fully implemented by the end of 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	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	14,195.00	7,020.00	7,175.00	6,793.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	14,195.00	7,020.00	7,175.00	6,793.00		
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	844.00			522.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	844.00			522.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	13,104.00			6,197.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	13,104.00			6,197.00		
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	561.00			359.00		
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	561.00			359.00		
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	5,478,158.00			2,797,411.00		
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	5,478,158.00			2,797,411.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	1,700.50			903.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	1,700.50			903.00		
F	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	24,756.00	11,030.00	13,726.00	12,342.00		
S	3.1	Number of participants of enterprise training programmes	24,756.00	11,030.00	13,726.00	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	2016 Total	2016 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			The latest data available from the CSO is for 2014 and states a total of 175,112 FTE employed in micro enterprises in the S&E region. In accordance with EC guidance of March 2017, years for which no value is available should be left blank. Values from previous years, including baselines, should not be repeated.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3a.1	Employment in the micro-enterprise sector in the S&E Region			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	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	Observations
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	More developed	19,497.00			16,365.00			Reported values are a total of output values from both schemes (BEWHS and Social Housing Retrofit) included in the Investment Priority.
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	More developed	19,497.00			16,365.00			Reported values are a total of output values from both schemes (BEWHS and Social Housing Retrofit) included in the Investment Priority.
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	More developed	8,945.00			19,008.00			As more households than initially envisaged were included in the scheme in 2014 and 2015 resulting in an improved energy consumption classification per household, the GHG reduction has already exceeded the target value set for 2023.
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	More developed	8,945.00			19,008.00			As more households than initially envisaged were included in the scheme in 2014 and 2015 resulting in an improved energy consumption classification per household, the GHG reduction has already exceeded the target value set for 2023.

(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	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	10,870.00			4,370.00		
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	10,870.00			4,370.00		
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	13,052.00			5,409.00		
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	13,052.00			5,409.00		

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	2016 Total	2016 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			The indicator definition as set out at the time when the ROP was drafted was recently queried by the beneficiary body and it was agreed that this result indicator should be revised as part of the next programme modification request. Due to the indicator not being fully clear, the Intermediate Body is not reporting any outturns for 2016.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4c.1	The average thermal performance of housing units in the S&E Region.	94.82		62.25	

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	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	Observations
F	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	Number of Projects	More developed	4.00			0.00			Implementation of all selected projects has commenced.
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	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	0.00			0.00		
S	5.2	Number of multimodal urban mobility projects	0.00			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	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
4e	Non-private car commuting levels in the designated urban centres.	%	More developed	22.26	2011	42.26			The source of the data is the Census 2016 commuting level module which will be published later in 2017. Therefore, no updated values are available. In accordance with EC guidance of March 2017, years for which no value is available should be left blank. Values from previous years, including baselines, should not be repeated.

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

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	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	Observations
F	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	Persons	More developed	1,571,356.00			0.00			Implementation of all selected projects has commenced.
S	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.
F	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	Number of Strategies	More developed	9.00			0.00			Implementation of all selected projects has commenced.
S	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.

(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	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	0.00			0.00		
S	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	0.00			0.00		
F	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	0.00			0.00		
S	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	0.00			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	2016 Total	2016 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			The projects under this objective were only approved in early 2016. In accordance with EC guidance of March 2017, years for which no value is available should be left blank. Values from previous years, including baselines, should not be repeated.

ID	Indicator	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	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	Observations
F	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	number of meetings		10.00			3.00			
S	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	number of meetings		10.00			3.00			
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			0.00			
F	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	Number of events		7.00			2.00			
S	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	Number of events		7.00			2.00			
F	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	Full time equivalents		4.50			2.00			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			2.00			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			0.00			
S	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	Number of staff		30.00			0.00			
F	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	System in place		1.00			0.00			
S	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	System in place		1.00			0.00			
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	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	2.00			1.00		
S	6.1	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	2.00			1.00		
F	6.2	Number of evaluation studies conducted	0.00			0.00		
S	6.2	Number of evaluation studies conducted	0.00			0.00		
F	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	1.00			0.00		
S	6.3	Number of annual information and publicity events	1.00			0.00		
F	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	2.00			2.00		
S	6.4	Number of Managing Authority Staff employed	2.00			2.00		
F	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	0.00			0.00		



(1)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	6.5	Number of staff participating in capacity-building measures	0.00			0.00		
F	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	0.00			0.00		
S	6.6	Computerised system in place for data exchange and e-cohesion	0.00			0.00		
F	6.7	Number of representations on other programme committees for complementarity purposes	6.00			6.00		
S	6.7	Number of representations on other programme committees for complementarity purposes	6.00			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	20,353
CO02 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	1,240
CO04 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	18,977
CO05 - Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	823

**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	2016 Cum total	2016 Cum men	2016 Cum women	2016 Annual total	2016 Annual total men	2016 Annual total women
1	O	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed	384.00					
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	84.00					
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	2,681.50					
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					
4	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed	16,365.00					
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	9.00					

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
1	O	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			
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			
1	O	1.3	Number of commercialisation fund awards	Number of Awards	ERDF	More developed			
2	O	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	ERDF	More developed			
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			
2	I	II	Key Implementation Steps	Number of Steps Completed	ERDF	More developed			
3	O	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			
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	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed			
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			
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	O	5.1.1	Number of integrated growth centre strategies implemented	Number of Strategies	ERDF	More developed			

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	II	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			69,200,000.00		
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
1	ERDF	More developed	Public	180,000,000.00	50.00%	193,281,224.00	107.38%	193,281,224.00	0.00	0.00%	258
2	ERDF	More developed	Public	60,000,000.00	50.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
3	ERDF	More developed	Public	69,200,000.00	50.00%	25,114,573.00	36.29%	20,593,431.00	0.00	0.00%	1,144
4	ERDF	More developed	Public	133,000,000.00	50.00%	69,005,523.00	51.88%	69,005,523.00	0.00	0.00%	54
5	ERDF	More developed	Public	52,000,000.00	50.00%	52,000,000.00	100.00%	52,000,000.00	0.00	0.00%	9
6	ERDF	More developed	Public	4,018,700.00	50.00%	600,000.00	14.93%	600,000.00	0.00	0.00%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>More developed</b>		<b>498,218,700.00</b>	<b>50.00%</b>	<b>340,001,320.00</b>	<b>68.24%</b>	<b>335,480,178.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>1,466</b>
<b>Grand total</b>				<b>498,218,700.00</b>	<b>50.00%</b>	<b>340,001,320.00</b>	<b>68.24%</b>	<b>335,480,178.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>1,466</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	158,615,239.00	158,615,239.00	0.00	29
1	ERDF	More developed	062	01	01	07	01		24	IE02	32,932,685.00	32,932,685.00	0.00	215
1	ERDF	More developed	062	01	02	07	01		24	IE02	1,733,300.00	1,733,300.00	0.00	14
2	ERDF	More developed												
3	ERDF	More developed	001	01	01	07	03	08	24	IE02	8,254,778.00	7,330,371.00	0.00	469
3	ERDF	More developed	001	01	02	07	03		24	IE02	11,832,873.00	10,227,496.00	0.00	383
3	ERDF	More developed	001	01	03	07	03		24	IE02	5,026,922.00	3,035,564.00	0.00	292
4	ERDF	More developed	014	01	01	07	04		24	IE02	53,627,303.00	53,627,303.00	0.00	24
4	ERDF	More developed	014	01	02	07	04		24	IE02	15,378,220.00	15,378,220.00	0.00	30
5	ERDF	More developed	036	01	01	07	04		24	IE02	18,000,000.00	18,000,000.00	0.00	3
5	ERDF	More developed	089	01	02	07	06		24	IE02	22,000,000.00	22,000,000.00	0.00	3
5	ERDF	More developed	094	01	02	07	06		24	IE02	12,000,000.00	12,000,000.00	0.00	3
6	ERDF	More developed	121	01	01	07			24	IE02	600,000.00	600,000.00	0.00	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>

**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>

**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

No evaluations have been carried out so far as part of the implementation of the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020. 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 OP Monitoring Committee in December 2015. The first evaluations are planned to start towards the end of 2017. As part of their 2016 progress reports, several Intermediate Bodies have reported on evaluations that are currently being carried out or are planned to take place at scheme level. For example, the Intermediate Body for the Commercialisation Fund and Innovation Partnerships schemes has reported that evaluations for both schemes are currently ongoing and are expected to be finalised later in 2017.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
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## 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

No significant problems have been encountered by the Intermediate Bodies in the implementation of their schemes in 2016. Some of the schemes have experienced some delays and have reported to the Managing Authority on revised timeframes and conditions that have changed since the preparation of the Regional Operational Programme. The Managing Authority has been in regular discussions with the relevant Intermediate Bodies to discuss changes to be made on a case by case basis. On a priority and scheme level, the following issues have been highlighted by the Intermediate Bodies:

Regarding Priority 1 (Investment Priority 1a), no expenditure or achievements have been reported by the Marine Research Programme so far because following a meeting held in the Marine Institute in October 2015 to discuss the financial management arrangements for the ERDF co-funded programmes 2014-2020 it was decided that the Networking Initiative would not be a suitable initiative for ERDF co-funding and it was decided that the Marine Institute would review the situation with a view to selecting other initiatives that may be eligible. The Marine Institute have submitted a proposal to the Managing Authority for activities to be ERDF co-funded in the first quarter of 2017. A revised Implementation Plan will be required for the scheme once the modifications will have been agreed. For Investment Priority 1b, the Intermediate Body have reported a decrease in the number of funding applications and the funding success rate of Commercialisation Fund – ICT type projects from 2014. This decrease may be due in part to the shortage of IT personnel to serve the growing industry in Ireland. Increased promotional activity with ICT research groups and Technology Transfer Offices has been undertaken by the Intermediate Body to attract more researchers and returning emigrant alumni in reversing the trend.

Priority 2, Investment Priority 2a, consists of one major project which was in the procurement stage for the duration of 2016. Throughout the planning stage of this project, a risk register has been kept and any potential issues were identified at an early stage with mitigating actions assigned against each risk. This approach has ensured that no issues affected the performance of the programme and the programme milestones have been achieved.

The Intermediate Bodies responsible for the schemes included in Priority 3 has reported that a significant risk that might affect the performance of the schemes in the future is Brexit. To mitigate this potential risk, the Intermediate Bodies have ringfenced an allocation to roll out information events to allow microenterprises to consider the impacts of Brexit on their business. The objectives of the planned events will be to enable companies to learn about the potential impacts, opportunities and to engage in a process of strategic planning to ensure a robust strategy to be put in place.

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

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## **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 notification/submission for EC to	275,000,000.00	75,000,000.00	2017, Q1		2017, Q1	2018, Q4		0.00	Procurement	State led Intervention under the National Broadband Plan providing for broadband accessibility to all areas		

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

No significant problems have been encountered so far. The project is still in the planning for submission to EC phase and no major project notification has been made so far.

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

No change is planned in the list of major projects in the OP.

## **10.2. Joint action plans**

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

No joint action plans are included in the S&E ROP 2014-2020

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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The specific objectives of Priority 1 are to increase the level of research taking place in the S&E region with company engagement by supplying applied research as well as to increase the level of commercialisation of research by the higher education institutions in the S&E region. The schemes included in Priority 1 have reported that €58.043m has been allocated to projects by the end of 2016 which is 32% of the expenditure allocated to the Priority.

As regards research with company engagement, at the end of 2016, 663 enterprises were engaged with funding strategic research centres in the S&E Region. This is an increase of 234 enterprises compared to the baseline in 2014. In addition, 384 new researchers were employed in the supported entities. This also means that the milestone for 2018 has been exceeded by 39% already. The objective of the **Spokes Programme** is to promote the further development of existing SFI Research Centres to incorporate new areas of research and new industrial and academic collaborators. At December 2016, there were nine Spokes awarded to the Research Centres located in the region which is well on track to achieve the target of 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. The **Research Centres Programme** aims at developing a set of world-leading, large scale Research Centres that will provide major economic impact for Ireland. At December 2016 ten of the twelve Research Centres funded by SFI are in the region, four of which (ICRAG, LERO, CONNECT and ADAPT) form part of this programme. In relation to each of the four Centres funded under the programme SFI monitor performance against fifteen pre-agreed KPI's on a bi annual basis. As at June 2016 all Centres were either ahead of or on target with on average 70% of their KPI's. This is a significant achievement given that the Centres was only in existence since January 2015.

The level of commercialisation of research by the higher education institutions has increased as well and the participating schemes have reported that the number of licenses as a result of research in the region averages around 30 licenses annually. In addition, 27 high-potential-start-up companies and 38 spin-out companies were set up from research outputs of the Commercialisation Fund. The Innovation Partnerships scheme reported that 159 enterprises were in receipt of support by the end of 2016. No progress has been reported for the Marine Research scheme to date because the Intermediate Body is currently in the process of discussing a proposal for activities to be co-funded under the ROP with the Managing Authority.

Priority axis	2 - Information and Communication Technologies
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The specific objective of Priority 2 is to increase the provision of fibre optic links to all un-served settlements in the S&E region. The ERDF co-funded scheme contributes to the Irish National Broadband Plan. The development of the National Broadband Plan has progressed in 2016. A formal procurement process, based on competitive dialogue, has continued in 2016 to select a company or companies to roll-out the new high speed broadband to the State Intervention area. The procurement process is being managed by the Intermediate Body. This is to ensure the delivery of a future-proofed network that provides access to high speed broadband to all premises within the Intervention Area for at least 25 years. The time frame for finishing the procurement process is dependent on a range of factors including the complexities that may be encountered by the procurement team and bidders during the procurement process. The Intermediate Body has continually engaged with industry on their planned commercial high speed broadband network deployments. The Intermediate Body has published an updated High Speed Broadband Map. The updated map is taking into account both commercial operator plans which have failed to materialise and new developments since the last Map was published.

Priority axis	3 - SME Support, promotion and capability development
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The specific objectives of Priority 3 are 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. This priority 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 Local Enterprise Offices as the “first-stop-shop” for enterprise development deliver a very wide range of relevant supports and services. Performance delivery across the Local Enterprise Office network has been very good with €20m were committed to 1,197 selected projects. All the selected projects were fully implemented by the end of 2016. The ERDF co-funded initiatives have significantly contributed to the priority’s objectives through 823 new enterprises having been supported, 20,340 enterprises having received support, the addition of 2,682 full time equivalent jobs in supported enterprises, and 36,291 participants of enterprise training programmes by the end of 2016. The 2018 milestone of employment increase in supported enterprises has been exceeded already by 18%. As regards results, the number of full-time equivalent employed in micro enterprises in the S&E region has increased by 10% from 2011 (baseline) to 2014. The figures for 2014 represent the latest available data from the Irish Central Statistics Office.

Priority axis	4 - Low Carbon Economy
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The specific objective of Priority 4 is to improve energy efficiency in housing stock. This Priority focuses on supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.

Overall, €66.9m in public expenditure have been reported to the Managing Authority to the end of 2016. This is in excess of 50% of the funding allocated to the priority. The Intermediate Bodies involved in managing the schemes that are included in the priority have also reported significant progress towards the planned output and result targets. The reports show that the energy consumption classification of 16,365 households was improved by the end of 2016. This represents 84% of the target agreed for 2023 and it also means that the milestone for 2018 has already been exceeded. For the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme, it was reported that one of the issues with service delivery was to generate sufficient interest



while also keeping demand within serviceable limits. During 2016, inspections on a high proportion of works were carried out. For the Social Housing Retrofit Scheme, it has been reported that the scheme aims at contributing to meeting Ireland's commitments in relation to carbon emissions reduction and energy reduction targets for 2020. By the end of 2016, 5,475 void housing units were returned to productive use and has ensured the most effective use of the Local Authority housing stock in an energy efficient manner.

Priority axis	5 - Sustainable Urban Development
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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.

In early 2019, 9 projects in the 9 designated urban areas were selected under the scheme with the participating Local Authorities to a total of €52m in public expenditure. All selected projects are aligned to the integrated growth strategies of their respective areas and have started implementation in 2016. 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. All priority focus areas are covered by the selected projects as illustrated by the following examples:

- Improve, revitalise and regenerate the urban area of Swords;
- The sustainable urban development of Limerick's urban centre, through improving the public realm, reducing air pollution and promoting noise reduction;
- Redesign of an existing space in Shannon Town called Rineanna Park, circulation footpaths;
- Construction of a new County Library in Ennis;
- Creation of an all-weather space in the Apple Market in Waterford as well as public realm improvements consisting of the creation of a pedestrianised area.
- Development of public realm spaces of the former Smithwicks Brewery Site in Kilkenny.
- Development of the Marina Park in Cork;
- Redevelopment of Mallow Town Hall as an Arts & Cultural Centre;
- Redevelopment of the former Denny factory brownfield site in Tralee;
- Creation of pedestrian and cycle routes in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown;
- Construction of certain parts of the Dodder Valley Greenway in South Dublin;
- The provision of a dedicated cycle and pedestrian bridge across the North Channel of the river Lee in Cork;

Priority axis	6 - Technical Assistance
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The specific objectives of Priority 6 are as follows:

- The effective communication of funding opportunities and programme achievements;
- The effective evaluation of the programme;
- Effective capacity building for staff of the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies;
- The establishment and operation of an effective computerised system for data exchange and e-cohesion system;
- The effective implementation of the operational programme.

To the end of 2016, €611,000 has been spent on activities eligible under the Technical Assistance priority by the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority for the programme has been engaged in detailed liaison with the various Intermediary Bodies and the Department of Public Expenditure on the design of the architecture surrounding the various schema contained within the ROP and on getting the required IT system in place. Issues surrounding the procurement process, overseen by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, caused some delays but it is hoped that a functioning system will be in place by Q3 2017.

Every year, since the start of the programme, the Regional Assembly has engaged in several communications activities such as the required annual Major Event. In 2016, this event was held in the form of site visits to a number of Research Centres co-funded under the Research Centres Scheme and was attended by Regional Assembly members and staff. Regional Assembly staff have also been giving presentations to various outside bodies on ERDF related activities. One Monitoring Committee meeting per year has taken place since 2014 and Managing Authority staff have been representing the region on other programme committees for complementary purposes. These committees include the PEIL Monitoring Committee (ESF), the EMFF Monitoring Committee, the EAGF Monitoring Committee, the National Co-ordinating Committee, the E-Cohesion project group, and the National Broadband Plan Steering Committee. As explained in other sections of the report, programme evaluations are scheduled to start in 2017, in accordance with the approved Evaluation Plan. The number of staff employed in the Managing Authority amount to 2-2.5 full time equivalent staff since the start of the programming period.

**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)**

**Priority 1:** Priority 1 of the S&E ROP 2014-2020 comprises 2 Investment Priorities that each contain a number of schemes. A selection of specific actions taken for this Horizontal Principle by the Intermediate Bodies who are administering individual schemes are for example:

- Of the 451 active award holders in SFIs portfolio 21% are women. While this percentage is comparable to that seen by other funders across Europe and worldwide, it is one that SFI has made a strategic decision to improve.

- Specific actions to promote gender balance include:

\* Maternity cover policy: The Intermediate Body covers the additional costs for a replacement staff member.

\* The Industrial Research and Commercialisation Committee (IRCC) which approves the project awards, is monitored for gender representation.

**Priority 2:** As an access measure in terms of provision of high speed broadband infrastructure the National Broadband Plan aims to be fully inclusive of ensuring that people with disabilities shall be ensured access, on an equal basis with others, to information communications and to other facilities and services provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. The infrastructure envisaged under the National Broadband Plan will further facilitate the extension of core government services to persons with disabilities.

**Priority 3:** All LEOs generally seek to proactively gender-mainstream their operational activities and structures, particularly in regard to gender balance requirements, with a view to achieving optimum levels of gender equality.

The following actions have been taken:

1. In dealing with clients the LEOs ensure the rights (enshrined in the Customer Service Charter) to equal treatment established by equality legislation are upheld. The LEOs do not discriminate on the grounds of age, disability, gender, family status, race, religious belief, sexual orientation and membership of the traveller community.
2. The LEOs ensure that all offices, facilities and resources are fully accessible in line with the Disability Act 2005.
3. LEOs seek to proactively gender- mainstream their operational activities and structures, particularly in regard to gender balance requirements, with a view to achieving optimum levels of gender equality. The selection of projects for support or financial assistance is monitored for gender balance.
4. Positive interventions such as The Women in Business Networks, Women's National Enterprise Day, Mentoring and tailored training programmes are undertaken throughout the life of the programme.
5. Specific initiatives targeting non-Irish nationals such as Ethnic Entrepreneurship programmes are promoted to maximize the potential of this latent entrepreneurship. Other initiatives including youth entrepreneurship, senior's enterprise and activity by minority groups are encouraged.

**Priority 4:** There is issue of gender imbalance between men and women is not relevant in relation to the implementation of this programme, as the units returned to productive use under the programme are done

so on the basis that priority be given to accommodating homeless families to the fullest extent.

**Priority 5:** The scheme will promote accessibility for all in supported projects and ensure a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities (Article 9 UNCRPD); Local Authorities will be required to provide evidence of community consultation including all relevant groups and interests; Local Authorities will report on the number of projects in deprived communities.

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

Specific actions to promote the sustainable development horizontal principle undertaken by Intermediate Bodies that are administering the different schemes included in the S&E ROP 2014-2020 have been reported as follows:

#### **- Priority 1, Commercialisation Fund:**

The Third Level Institutions and Research Organisations who participate in the Commercialisation Fund programme are compliant with environmental protection laws and are subject to the standard inspections under EU Directives.

- **Priority 2, National Broadband Plan:**

The Intermediate Body has carried out the first formal stage of the environmental statutory assessment process by screening the revised Intervention Strategy for the need to carry out a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA). The Department subsequently issued a determination that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment would be required, and has procured the relevant environmental expertise to carry out this expert work. A public consultation closed in Q2 2016. This work will be carried out in parallel with the procurement phase and will assess all statutory environmental issues addressed in the final bids.

- **Priority 4, Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme:**

The Warmer Homes Scheme delivers energy efficiency measures in residential homes, reducing energy usage and carbon emissions.

- **Priority 4, Social Housing Retrofit**

The Social Housing Retrofit programme provides support to local authorities in returning units back to productive use and available for re-letting in an energy efficient condition at a reasonable cost and as quickly as possible over the period of the programme. Units addressed under the programme are to be in areas where there is demand and where the units can be re-let immediately on completion of the works. In

addition to the advantages of providing much needed demand for social housing units, the return of these vacant units provide a positive impact on the community, attracting 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.

• **Priority 5, Sustainable Urban Development - Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme:**

Data will be captured on changes in non-private car use arising from sustainable urban transport projects; Local Authorities will be required to prepare Environmental Impact Statements on proposals which meet the criteria; The scheme will, where appropriate promote locally sources, sustainably produced materials, and environmentally friendly building methods. Local Authorities will be 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)**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)</b>	<b>Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)</b>
4	34,502,761.50	51.88%
5	3,600,000.00	13.85%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,102,761.50</b>	<b>15.30%</b>

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

The Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme 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 implies close cooperation and involvement of public authorities, regional and local stakeholders, private and sectoral and community representatives in all stages of programming, from planning through to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The partnership principle is also strongly reflected in the membership of the OP Monitoring Committee. In accordance with the Partnership Principle and the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, the Monitoring Committee for the programme comprises of relevant representation from:

- Competent Regional and Local Authorities
- Competent Urban and other Public Authorities
- Economic and Social Partners

- Bodies representing Civil Society, Environmental Partners and Non-Governmental Organisations
- Bodies responsible for promoting Social Inclusion, Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination

As regards the involvement of partners at scheme level, the Intermediate Bodies are actively co-operating with a variety of organisations, such as:

**- Priority 1:**

Business Mentors and Venture Investors are engaged to ensure highest economic return for Ireland arising from Commercialisation Fund projects. The Intermediate Bodies' network of contacts can be accessed by project promoters and includes: third level colleges, overseas marketing advisors, and other business leaders.

- **Priority 2, National Broadband Plan:**

The Department of Art Heritage Regional and Rural Affairs has established two regional action groups, working with Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Offices and other relevant agencies to unlock barriers to investment in mobile and broadband services. In recent months, there has been significant progress made in discussions with the key stakeholders including Local Authorities, Government Department and State Agencies, ComReg and telecoms operators.

- **Priority 3, Entrepreneurship in Micro-Enterprise:**

The Intermediate Bodies proactively work with a range of public and private bodies in relation to the achievement of their objectives i.e.

1. urban and other public authorities; e.g.

- Departments of State
- Credit Review Office

1. economic and social partners; e.g.

- Enterprise Ireland
- Bord Bia
- Microfinance Ireland
- Leader
- Failte Ireland
- Education & Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)

- Credit Review Office
- Údarás na Gaeltachta

1. bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, and non-governmental organisations, e.g.

- Chamber of Commerce
- Skillnets
- National Association of Community Enterprise Centres (NACEC)

- **Priority 4, Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme:**

SEAI (beneficiary) have a strong partnership approach in the delivery of this programme, working at local level with community based organisations and local authorities, including charity organisations. At a departmental level, SEAI liaise with the Department of Health, the Department of Social Protection and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

- **Priority 5, Sustainable Urban Development:**

In the early implementation stages of the selected projects, all participating Local Authorities have carried out consultation processes with the civil society actors within their areas of remit and have engaged with the public and their elected representatives, businesses, and sectoral interests.

**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**

No evaluations have been carried out so far as part of the implementation of the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020. 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 OP Monitoring Committee in December 2015. The first evaluations are planned to start towards the end of 2017. As part of their 2016 progress reports, several Intermediate Bodies have reported on evaluations that are currently being carried out or are planned to take place at scheme level. For example, the Intermediate Body for the Commercialisation Fund scheme has reported that an evaluation of the programme is currently ongoing and is expected to be finalised by end Q2 2017.



Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of executed)	Follow up (in case of executed)
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## **12.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy**

The Programme Monitoring Committee adopted and agreed the Communication's Strategy for the S&E Regional OP 2014-2020 at the 1st meeting of the Monitoring Committee in March 2015, subject to some minor amendments proposed by the EU Commission. The Communications Plan 2016 was informed by the Communications Strategy and was implemented throughout 2016 and the activities are outlined here.

### **Major Event 2016 - #EUinmyregion Open Days Project Visit**

#Europe in My Region is an EU-wide communications campaign run to help citizens discover and learn more about EU-funded projects in their locality. A series of visits to Institute of Technology based co-funded projects across the region was organised.

### **Social Media**

#### Southern Regional Assembly Website

The website is an essential tool to promote and highlight the aims and outcomes of the Operational Programme.

#### Social media and analytics

Twitter and Facebook accounts and the website content are updated/created on a regular basis.

#### Social Media Analytics

While the number of page views and entrances are down on a year on year basis from 2015 to 2016, it is not of a significant nature nor is a downward trend established. This is an area that the Managing Authority will be monitoring and putting actions in place to build search engine optimisation and to keep the content of the site updated and relevant to the target audience. A new website was commissioned in 2016 and was launched in March 2017.

### **Publications**

The Assembly published its Corporate Plan 2015-2019 in July 2016 and while it has a broader remit than the European Programmes that the Assembly manages the regional programme and other associated programmes are detailed in the plan.

#### Publication of the List of Operations

In compliance with Article 115.2 of Commission Regulation 1303/2013 the Managing Authority will

publish a list of beneficiaries of funds under the ROP following certification of expenditure. The Managing Authority will publish the listing on their website in a searchable database and as a downloadable pdf and excel, by theme and by county.

### Graduate Quiz

Graduate.ie has been in operation since 2001. It is a Government, Local Government and EU Funded Citizenship and Democracy Programme for Second Level Students in Ireland. Second level students participate in an online competition to learn about important Local and National topics. Students who complete the competition are entered to win educational trips.

### Print and Radio Advertisements

In 2016 a number of advertisements highlighting the work of the Assembly in the management of the programme were placed in local and regional print media and on local radio.

### Evidence of compliance with ESIF information and communication requirements

In addition to the implementation of the Communication Strategy the Managing Authority continues to provide support, guidance and advice to the Intermediary Bodies and through them to beneficiaries.

### National Press Releases and Regional Media Interviews

- Open Days during May as listed above
- Bosnian Delegation visit to the Regional Assembly, May 2016
- Sponsorship of the Waves Festival 2016
- Public Sector Magazine November 2016
- Serbian Delegation visit to the Regional Assembly, December 2016
- Public Attitude & Awareness Survey Launch December 2016

### eCohesion Communications Subcommittee

A communications sub-group was established in October 2016 to support the delivery schedule for the eCohesion system. Representatives from each of the ESIF Managing Authorities are nominated to sit on the subcommittee.

### ESIF joint communications committee

As an outcome of the eCohesion communications subcommittee, an ESIF joint communications committee was formed. The first collaboration was to work with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in the design and development of the national ESIF portal. This portal [www.eufunds.gov.ie](http://www.eufunds.gov.ie) was launched in April 2017.

## Public Attitude and Awareness Survey Report

In line with article 4(2) of the Implementation Regulation (EC) 1828/2006 the final implementation report for the S&E Regional OP 2007-2013 contained a chapter assessing the results of the information and publicity measures in terms of visibility and awareness of operational programmes and of the role played by the Community.

The public's attitude and awareness to European funded programmes in the region was measured as part of a survey conducted by Amárach Research on behalf of the two Regional Assemblies. The findings were published in 2016 and are available for downloading from the Assembly's website (<http://www.southernassembly.ie/en/info/publications>)[1]

### Main findings - Awareness of EU programmes

- There were no differences in awareness discerned at NUTS II level: 65% of BMW Region as compared to 64% of S&E Region.
- Those in the Border region had the highest levels of awareness of the Programmes (70%) - this may be due to the number of EU co-funded programmes delivered in the area.
- The lowest level was found in the Mid-East.
- 68% of these respondents said they had heard of EU Funded Programmes through an advertisement.
- While overall awareness of the EU Funded Programmes was high, few people had in-depth knowledge about individual programmes themselves.
- The youngest two age groups surveyed (18-24 years and 25-34 years) were most likely to be aware that EU Funded Programmes contributed to education.
- A slightly higher proportion of people in the S&E Region (44%) were aware of the ERDF than those in the BMW Region (39%).
- The majority of participants, across all areas and demographics, stated they were familiar with the EU logo (88% overall; see Figure 8) with 78% stating that they had seen and/or heard of it in the preceding 12 months.
- Over half of participants (57%) agreed that the EU Funded Programmes were likely to benefit all people of Ireland.
- Just over half of participants (53%) believed that the EU Funded Programmes benefitted them as individuals, similar to 2009 (52%).
- Findings from the survey indicate very high awareness of the EU logo and relatively high awareness of the EU Funded Programmes. Nearly two-thirds of people have some awareness of the EU Funded Programmes.

When probed, fewer people are aware of individual EU Funded programmes, the beneficiaries of the programmes and remit of the funds, consistent with findings from the 2009 survey

**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 focus 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. To date 27 HPSU's have been set up as a result of support through the Commercialisation fund and 13 enterprises have been supported through the Innovation Partnership Scheme.
- 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 is available to small businesses and entrepreneurs in rural areas. Over 20,000 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 will be available to all home owners who qualify in terms of risk of fuel poverty. As retro-fitting is labour intensive it may also provide employment opportunities. Over €26m has been expended on retrofitting to-date with almost 5,000 households improved. This makes a significant contribution to the 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. Provisions have been made in the Technical Assistance priority to address the capacity development needs of the personnel engaged in programme management and implementation. Up to end 2016, the following activities and actions have been implemented:

- Managing Authority personnel attended training events organised by the European Commission and private training providers. This included the following training events:
  - 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.
- The Managing Authority have started the training of Intermediate Bodies and relevant beneficiary bodies on 2014-2020 ESIF & programme requirements in 2016. Specific training events included:
  - Training on 2014-2020 ERDF programme requirements for participating Local Authorities in the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme (Priority 5), April 2016.
  - Training on 2014-2020 ERDF programme requirements in February 2015 for SFI (Intermediate Body).
- National Eligibility Rules were issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, in co-operation with the Managing Authorities, and circulated to all bodies involved in the implementation of the Regional Operational Programmes in October 2015.
- Information and Communication Guidelines for European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 were issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, in co-operation with the Managing Authorities, and circulated to all bodies involved in the implementation of the Regional Operational Programmes in 2015.
- Draft Guidance on conducting Management Verifications was communicated to all Intermediate Bodies in November 2016.

The E-cohesion system has been developed by the Member State, in co-operation with the Managing Authorities. Meetings and workshops including the relevant Intermediate Bodies as well as Public Beneficiary Bodies have taken place in 2016.

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

Not included in S&E ROP 2014-2020

#### 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 will be complemented by the research and innovation support measures that will be supported under the Regional OPs, including support for maritime-related research activities undertaken by the higher education research centres and the Marine Institute. It will also be 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 will also be supported by research investment in the marine energies and biotechnology sectors under the Regional OPs.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

**Name and function**

The Atlantic SBS is co-ordinated by the Inter-departmental Marine Co-ordination Group. Members of the Group are at Assistant Secretary level with the following Departments represented: Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Taoiseach; Defence; Communications; Climate Action and Environment; Arts, Heritag

**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)

The Intermediate Bodies when making decisions on projects take cognisance of the Atlantic SBS and the potential complementarity of the S&E Regional OP. In addition, whilst the Marine Institute scheme is currently being reviewed it will directly contribute to the Atlantic SBS when it commences later in 2017 or 2018.

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

n/a

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

Not included in the S&E ROP 2014-2020

**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**

Not included in the S&E ROP 2014-2020

**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.

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**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).

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## DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
S&E ROP 14-20 AIR 2017 - Citizens Summary	Citizens' summary	08-Jun-2017		Ares(2017)3223292	S&E ROP 14-20 AIR 2017 - Citizens Summary	27-Jun-2017	nklldavi



**LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS**

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated