



Southern & Eastern Regional Programme 2014-2020

Annual Implementation Report 2021

Citizens' Summary

The Southern & Eastern (S&E) Regional Programme 2014-2020 is a €620.1 million funding package from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and national funding which supports activities in the S&E region of Ireland.

The Programme co-finances activities under five priority areas to improve quality of life and contribute to Ireland's Europe 2020 targets for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth, focusing on specific growth opportunities and sectors identified in Ireland's smart specialisation strategy, to support the creation of new quality jobs, boost innovation, increase licenses granted, and help to grow the local economies in the region.

Beneficiaries include public sector, academic and private sector organisations across the S&E region. The Southern Regional Assembly is the Managing Authority for the overall Programme and the co-financed activities under each priority are implemented through specific schemes.



The ERDF co-funds activities aimed at strengthening economic and social cohesion across the EU by correcting imbalances between its regions.

Progress to 2021

€310.06 million Total Programme Funding - ERDF	€436.9 million Total Expenditure Selected - ERDF	€394.8 million Total Eligible Costs Declared - ERDF		
Strengthening RTD&I	4 world class research centres supported	453 new researchers employed in supported research centres	870 industry partners engaging with supported research centres	97 Commercialisation fund awards
SME Competitiveness	55,358 micro-enterprises receiving supports	1,024 new jobs created in supported micro-enterprises	54,459 micro-enterprises participating in training	
Low Carbon Economy	12,214 households with improved energy efficiency	10,796 tCO ₂ e _q estimated annual decrease in GHG		
Sustainable Urban Development	9 sustainable urban development projects approved	1,452,174 people living in areas with integrated urban development strategies		
Coronavirus Response	111,346,031 items of PPE Purchased	€207,807,245 Value of PPE Purchased		



Strengthening RTDI

Increasing the level of research with company engagement in the S&E region by fostering applied research and increasing the number of companies undertaking industry R&D

4 world class research centres supported	653 new researchers employed in supported research centres	870 industry partners engaging with supported research centres	97 Commercialisation fund awards
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Strengthening Research, Technology, Development & Innovation is delivered by four schemes.

SFI Research Centres

Delivered by Science Foundation Ireland

Supporting development of world-leading, large-scale research centres to facilitate collaboration between research & industry to develop new technology for commercialisation, attract international research capital & increase researchers employed in industry.

Spokes Programme

Delivered by Science Foundation Ireland

Promoting further development of SFI Research Centres to incorporate new research areas, industry, academic collaborators aligned to Ireland's Research Prioritise Exercise.

Commercialisation Fund

Delivered by Enterprise Ireland

Supporting science & engineering researchers in third level institutions and research organisations in applied research projects to generate outputs to benefit the Irish economy.

Innovation Partnership Programme

Delivered by Enterprise Ireland

Encouraging Irish-based companies to work with Irish research institutes for mutually beneficial cooperation, access expertise/ resources to develop new/ improved products, processes, services & generate new knowledge/expertise.

SME Competitiveness

Increasing employment levels in micro-enterprises and SMEs in the S&E region by supporting business start-ups, expansion and higher innovation levels in enterprises.

85,368 micro-enterprises receiving supports	1,024 new jobs created in supported micro-enterprises	54,487 micro-enterprises participating in training
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SME Competitiveness is delivered by the Micro-enterprise Support Scheme.

Increasing the rate of business start-up/ expansion, and enhancing management capability, competitiveness, innovation, technological adaptation, and export-orientation of micro-enterprises with supports such as provision of business information, advisory services, capacity building, mentoring and financial supports. Delivered by Enterprise Ireland via 18 Local Enterprise Offices in the S&E region.

Photo courtesy of Enterprise Ireland.



Low Carbon Economy

Contributing to Ireland's commitment in relation to its Europe 2020 carbon reduction targets by improving energy efficiency in the housing stock in the S&E region

12,214
households with improved energy efficiency

10,796 tCO₂eq
estimated annual decrease in GHG

Low Carbon Economy is delivered by the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme.

Improving the energy efficiency of homes owned by those at risk of energy poverty, improving the health and well-being of those households, and reducing the portion of disposable income required for energy bills.

This scheme has evolved over the lifetime of the programme and now includes deeper retrofits. This deeper retrofit approach is more expensive but yields greater energy efficiency improvements per household. Delivered by the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications via Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.



Coronavirus Response

Maintaining access to supplies of essential Personal Protective Equipment for the health services in the S&E region affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

111,346,031
Items of PPE Purchased

€207,809,245
Value of PPE Purchased

Coronavirus Reponse is delivered through the Health Support Scheme.

Maintaining access to supplies of essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the health services in the S&E region. Since March 2020, the global pandemic has caused unprecedented demand for PPE, triggering severe disruption to global supply chains.

This presented the Irish health authorities with an extraordinary challenge to traditional PPE supply chains. The Scheme supported the cost of supplying the Irish healthcare system with essential PPE as part of a targeted, State-led investment to facilitate the critical work of minimising the impact of the global pandemic in the S&E region and to safeguard the health and welfare of its people. Scheme Beneficiary: Health Service Executive

Photo courtesy of the Health Service Executive.



Sustainable Urban Development

Revitalising & regenerating urban environments in designated urban centres as part of integrated urban & support low carbon strategies for sustainable, urban multi-modal mobility & mitigation-relevant adaptation measures.

7 sustainable urban development projects approved

1,652,174 people living in areas with integrated urban development strategies

Sustainable Urban Development is delivered through the Designated Urban Centre Grants Scheme.

Supporting local authority strategies in the S&E region to tackle social, economic, environmental, climate and demographic challenges affecting urban centres.

Delivered by the Southern Regional Assembly.

Sustainable Urban Development Projects 2014-20

Waterford	€4m ERDF	Public realm works, incl. Apple Market
Cork	€5m ERDF	Mary Elmes Bridge Marina Park
Dublin	€7m ERDF	Swords Castle, Cultural & Civic Dodder Valley Greenway Dun Laoghaire Baths
Limerick-Shannon	€4.5m ERDF	Liffey Street Area Public Realm Limerick's O'Connell Street Shannon Town Park
Wexford	€1m ERDF	Crescent Quay Redevelopment
Ennis	€1m ERDF	Ennis Library
Mallow	€1m ERDF	Mallow Bridge Pedestrian Extension
Tralee	€1.5m ERDF	Island of Geese
Kilkenny	€1m ERDF	Redevelopment of Abbey Quarter



Top (l-r): Kilkenny River Gardens, Waterford City's Apple Market, Dodder Greenway in South Dublin, Mary Elmes Bridge in Cork City

Bottom (l-r): Crescent Quay Wexford Town, Shannon Town Park

For more information on the ERDF Southern & Eastern Regional Programme 2014-20:

www.southernassembly.ie/eu-programmes

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