

**Partnership Agreement
Ireland
2014IE16M8PA001.1.2**

SECTION 1A

- 1. ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNION STRATEGY OF SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AS WELL AS THE FUND SPECIFIC MISSIONS PURSUANT TO THEIR TREATY-BASED OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION**
 - 1.1. An analysis of disparities, development needs, and growth potentials with reference to the thematic objectives and the territorial challenges and taking account of the National Reform Programme, where appropriate, and relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) TFEU**
 - 1.2. A summary of the ex-ante evaluations of the programmes or key findings of the ex-ante evaluations of the Partnership Agreement where the latter evaluation is undertaken by the Member State at its own initiative**

1.3. Selected thematic objectives, and for each of the selected thematic objectives a summary of the main results expected for each of the ESI Funds

1.4. The indicative allocation of support by the Union by thematic objective at national level for each of the ESI Funds, as well as the total indicative amount of support envisaged for climate change objectives

1.4.1. Table: The indicative allocation of support by the Union by thematic objective at national level for each of the ESI Funds (€) (total Union support, including the performance reserve).

Thematic objective	ERDF	ESF	CF	EAFRD	EMFF	Total
01. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	142,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	44,992,153.00	0.00	186,992,153.00
02. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	75,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,000,000.00
03. Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	63,600,000.00	0.00	0.00	175,000,000.00	45,281,587.00	283,881,587.00
04. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	87,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	348,000,000.00	0.00	435,500,000.00
05. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	0.00	0.00	0.00	704,800,000.00	0.00	704,800,000.00
06. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	37,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	704,800,000.00	93,570,392.00	835,370,392.00
07. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
08. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	0.00	230,930,203.00	0.00	0.00	8,250,000.00	239,180,203.00

Thematic objective	ERDF	ESF	CF	EAFRD	EMFF	Total
09. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	0.00	193,807,784.00	0.00	157,000,000.00	0.00	350,807,784.00
10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	0.00	107,698,574.00	0.00	53,000,000.00	0.00	160,698,574.00
11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Technical assistance	4,106,529.00	10,000,000.00	0.00	3,000,000.00	500,000.00	17,606,529.00
Total	409,206,529.00	542,436,561.00	0.00	2,190,592,153.00	147,601,979.00	3,289,837,222.00

1.4.2. *Table: Information on the Youth Employment Initiative, which is programmed under thematic objective 8 "Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility"*

YEI specific allocation	68,145,419.00
ESF matching funding	68,145,419.00
Total YEI resources	136,290,838.00
YEI resources for young persons residing outside of the eligible regions (Article 16 ESF regulation)	0.00

1.4.3. *Table: The share of ESF of Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF)*

Share of ESF in the Structural Funds (ESF and ERDF) resources for the operational programmes for the Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives in the 2007-2013 programming period	50.00%
ESF minimum share in the Member State	51.70%
The share of ESF in the Structural Funds resources in the 2014-2020 programming period	57.00%

1.4.4. *Table: Information on the allocation to technical assistance, by category of region, where appropriate*

Fund	Category of region, where appropriate	Allocation to technical assistance (€)	Share of technical assistance of total allocation (by Fund and by category of region, where appropriate)
ESF	Less developed	0.00	0.00
ESF	Transition	0.00	0.00
ESF	More developed	10,000,000.00	0.00
ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00
ERDF	Transition	0.00	0.00
ERDF	More developed	4,106,529.00	0.00
CF		0.00	0.00

1.4.5. *Total indicative amount of Union support for climate change objectives (€) (total Union support, including the performance reserve)*

1,980,577,000.00

SECTION 1B

1.5. The application of the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of the CPR and policy objectives for the implementation of the ESI Funds

- 1.5.1. *Arrangements for the partnership principle including an indicative list of the partners referred to in Article 5 CPR and a summary of the actions taken to involve them in accordance with Article 5 CPR and of their role in the preparation of the Partnership Agreement and the progress report referred to in Article 52 CPR*
- 1.5.2. *Promotion of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and accessibility*
- 1.5.3. *Sustainable development*
- 1.5.4. *Horizontal policy objectives*

1.6. The list of the programmes under the ERDF, the ESF and the YEI and the Cohesion Fund, except those under the European territorial cooperation goal, and of the programmes of the EAFRD and the EMFF, with the respective indicative allocations by ESI Fund and by year (total Union support, including the performance reserve)

Programme	ESI Fund (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD EMFF or YEI)	Total	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2014IE16RFOP002	ERDF	249,109,350.00	33,506,549.00	34,177,372.00	34,861,528.00	35,559,230.00	36,270,875.00	36,996,738.00	37,737,058.00
2014IE05M9OP001	YEI	68,145,419.00	38,283,943.00	29,861,476.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2014IE14MFOP001	EMFF	147,601,979.00	20,231,798.00	20,490,256.00	20,677,561.00	21,012,701.00	21,501,645.00	21,648,669.00	22,039,349.00
2014IE05M9OP001	ESF	542,436,561.00	72,960,638.00	74,421,358.00	75,911,109.00	77,430,360.00	78,979,968.00	80,560,537.00	82,172,591.00
2014IE06RDNP001	EAFRD	2,190,592,153.00	313,148,955.00	313,059,463.00	313,149,965.00	313,007,411.00	312,891,690.00	312,764,355.00	312,570,314.00
2014IE16RFOP001	ERDF	160,097,179.00	21,533,933.00	21,965,056.00	22,404,748.00	22,853,147.00	23,310,505.00	23,777,001.00	24,252,789.00
Total		3,357,982,641.00	499,665,816.00	493,974,981.00	467,004,911.00	469,862,849.00	472,954,683.00	475,747,300.00	478,772,101.00

1.7. Request for transfer of Structural Funds' allocations between categories of regions, where applicable

Category of region	Financial allocation based on Commission decision (...) (€)	Transfer to	Amount transferred (€)	Share of the allocation of the category of region from which funds are transferred (%)	Financial allocation after transfers (€)
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1.8. Transfer from the European Territorial Cooperation goal to the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal, where applicable, by category of region

Transfer to	Amount transferred (€)
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1.9. Request for a transfer of technical assistance to the European Commission, where applicable

Fund	Category of region	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
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1.10. Information on the allocation related to the performance reserve, broken down by ESI Fund and, where appropriate, by category of region, and on the amounts excluded for the purpose of calculating the performance reserve

Fund	Category of region (1)	Total Union support (€) (2)	Matching ESF support to YEI (€) (3)	CAP transfers (3) (4)	Union support subject to the performance reserve (€) (5)	Performance reserve (6)
ESF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ESF	Transition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ESF	More developed	542,436,561.00	68,145,419.00	0.00	474,291,142.00	28,457,468.52

Fund	Category of region (1)	Total Union support (€) (2)	Matching ESF support to YEI (€) (3)	CAP transfers (3) (4)	Union support subject to the performance reserve (€) (5)	Performance reserve (6)
Total ESF		542,436,561.00	68,145,419.00	0.00	474,291,142.00	28,457,468.52
ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ERDF	Transition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ERDF	More developed	409,206,529.00	0.00	0.00	409,206,529.00	24,552,391.74
Total ERDF		409,206,529.00	0.00	0.00	409,206,529.00	24,552,391.74
CF		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EMFF		147,601,979.00	0.00	0.00	147,601,979.00	8,856,118.74
EAFRD		2,190,592,153.00	0.00	607,000.00	2,189,985,153.00	131,399,109.18
Total		3,289,837,222.00	68,145,419.00	607,000.00	3,221,084,803.00	193,265,088.18

(1) The special allocation for the northern sparsely populated regions and outermost regions should be reflected under the category of region to which the regions benefitting from the special allocation belong to.

(2) Including the performance reserve, after transfers between categories of regions and goals, where applicable.

(3) In accordance with Article 20 of the CPR. The remaining amounts listed under Article 20 are not included in the partnership agreement either because they are managed directly by the Commission or because they are transferred already at the establishment of the national allocations by the Commission (and hence are not included in these national allocations).

(4) Resources transferred from Pillar 1 of the Common Agricultural Policy to the EAFRD under Articles 7(2) and 14(1) of the Direct Payment Regulation (2013/....) and Transfers to the EAFRD in application of Articles 10b, 136 and Art 136b of Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 in respect of calendar years 2013 and 2014 respectively.

(5) Total Union support after transfers less the amounts excluded for the purposes of calculation the performance reserve.

(6) The total amount of the performance reserve allocated by ESI Fund and category of region shall be 6 %.

2. ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ESI FUNDS

- 2.1. Arrangements, in line with the institutional framework of the Member States, that ensure coordination between the ESI Funds and other Union and national funding instruments and with the EIB**

2.2. The information required for ex-ante verification of compliance with the rules on additionality

At national level for Member States in which less developed regions cover at least 65% of the total population

Expenditure of the general government as a share of GDP	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
P51							

At regional level for Member States in which less developed regions cover more than 15% and less than 65% of the total population

Expenditure of the General Government as a share of GDP	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
P51							

2.3. A summary of the assessment of the fulfilment of applicable ex-ante conditionalities in accordance with Article 19 and Annex XI at national level and, in the event that the applicable ex-ante conditionalities are not fulfilled, of the actions to be taken, the bodies responsible, and the timetable for implementation of those actions

(i) Table: A summary of the assessment of the fulfilment of applicable ex-ante conditionalities at national level.

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
T01.1-Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	Yes	1. A national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that:	Yes	<p>Links to the Report of the National Research Prioritisation Group together with supporting documents (action plans; monitoring framework) are listed below:</p> <p>http://www.forfas.ie/media/ffs20120301-Research_Prioritisation_Exercise_Report.pdf</p> <p>http://www.forfas.ie/publication/search.jsp?ft=/publications/2013/Title,11020,en.php</p>	<p>A document setting out how Ireland’s National Research Prioritisation Exercise (NRPE) meets the relevant ex-ante conditionality criteria for a smart specialisation strategy for research and innovation, including a description of a monitoring mechanism and budgetary framework was submitted to the European Commission for consideration in December 2013.</p> <p>In accordance with article 19 and annex XI of the CPR and consistent with our institutional and legal framework, we have assessed and concluded that we meet the ex-ante conditionality criteria concerning thematic objective 1 – research, technological development and innovation. We have a national smart specialisation strategy in place and indicative multi-annual plans for budgeting and prioritisation of investments linked to Europe’s R&D 2020 target.</p>

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
					<p>The strategy is based on analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of R&I priorities, has measures to stimulate private RTD investment, contains a monitoring mechanism; and has identified budget resources.</p> <p>A detailed “Framework of Metrics and Targets for Monitoring Public Investment in Science, Technology and Innovation” has been drawn up to measure the outputs and impact of funding provided. This framework was adopted to stretch the public enterprise support system in order to maximise the impact of public investment in R&D under the National Research Prioritisation Exercise and to assess the success over time of the implementation of Research Prioritisation.</p> <p>Ireland’s Smart Specialisation Strategy is a living policy with mechanisms already in place to assess performance, and commitment to develop a process to add priority areas or deprioritise others.</p> <p>Our National Reform Programme sets out how we will achieve our national target to raise investment levels to 2.5% of GNP thereby contributing to our EU2020</p>

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
					targets.
T01.1-Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	Yes	2. is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities;	Yes	See above	See above
T01.1-Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	Yes	3. outlines measures to stimulate private RTD investment;	Yes	See above	See above
T01.1-Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with	Yes	4. contains a monitoring mechanism.	Yes	See above	See above

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.					
T01.1-Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	Yes	5. A framework outlining available budgetary resources for research and innovation has been adopted.	Yes	See above	See above
T02.2-Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	Yes	1. A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains:	Yes	http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Communications/Communication+s+Development/Next+Generation+Broadband/ http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/1EA7B477-741B-4B74-A08E-6350135C32D2/0/NBP.pdf http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/54AF1E6E-1A0D-413F-8CEB-2442C03E09BD/0/NationalDigitalStrategyforIreland.pdf http://egovstrategy.gov.ie/	<p>The National Broadband Plan, published in Autumn 2012, is a clear expression of the importance of broadband infrastructure to the achievement of Ireland's economic and social objectives and outlines the Government's commitment to delivering high speed broadband availability across the country.</p> <p>Delivery of this commitment is to be achieved through a combination of a State-led investment in those areas where it is evident that the market will not deliver and by ensuring that the environment in right to maximise investment by the private sector. A comprehensive mapping exercise will identify where the market is expected to deliver high speed broadband services</p>

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
					<p>over the coming years and consequently those areas that will need to be targeted by a State led intervention. The results of this mapping exercise will be published by end November 2014. The mapping exercise is a dynamic process and will be kept under constant review, thereby influencing the nature and extent of State intervention required.</p> <p>The full range of opportunities presented by a digital economy can only be further unlocked if the requisite infrastructure is in place to support the development of new applications, new connectivity, new ways of doing business and new ways of delivering public, private and community services to citizens.</p> <p>It is recognised that any supply side measures need to have complementary demand side measures, if the benefits of a digital society are to be fully realised. To this end, the National Broadband Plan complements a range of developed and emerging Government initiatives that require high speed broadband in order to realise their full potential. These include the National Digital Strategy which seeks to stimulate business and consumer demand for ICT and the e-Government Strategy, encompassing e-Health and</p>

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
					<p>eLearning.</p> <p>Other demand stimulation measures to encourage the uptake of broadband among consumers include the Broadband for Schools initiative and a Trading Online voucher Scheme to promote online trading by SMEs. The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources also liaises with community groups such as LEADER Groups and the Irish Farmers' Association in this regard</p>
T02.2-Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	Yes	2. a plan of infrastructure investments based on an economic analysis taking account of existing private and public infrastructures and planned investments;	Yes	See above	See above
T02.2-Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence	Yes	3. sustainable investment models that enhance competition and provide access to	Yes	See above	See above

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.		open, affordable, quality and future-proof infrastructure and services;			
T02.2-Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	Yes	4. measures to stimulate private investment.	Yes	See above	See above
G1-The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	Yes	1. Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of	Yes	As outlined in Section 1.5.1, separate consultation meetings with Horizontal Principle bodies were conducted. The results of these consultations fed into the preparation of the PA	Horizontal Principle Bodies consulted at all stages during preparation of PA and OPs. Community and Voluntary Pillar consulted on contents of draft PA.

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
		programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.		<p>Consultations on each OP were also conducted and submissions received during these processes informed the contents of the individual OPs.</p> <p>Detailed consideration of the submissions received and a subsequent series of bi-lateral engagements with interested bodies, taking into account the focus in Ireland of the OPs, followed and investment priorities were chosen having regard to the development needs identified in the Needs Analyses.</p>	Horizontal Principle Bodies will be represented on OP Monitoring committees once established.
G1-The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	Yes	2. Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti discrimination law and policy.	Yes	<p>The Equality Authority will provide support to implementing bodies to meet the horizontal equality and anti-discrimination objectives.</p> <p>http://www.equality.ie/en/E-learning-course-on-Equality.html</p> <p>http://www.equality.ie/en/</p>	<p>MAs will provide training on implementation issues for those involved in the implementation of the ESI funds. As part of this, the HP bodies will assist with training in gender equality, non-discrimination and disability/accessibility.</p> <p>Online resources are also available to public sector staff</p>
G2-The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field	Yes	1. Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of	Yes	As outlined in Section 1.5.2, when they are established, the composition of the monitoring committees for each Operational Programme will be, as far as possible, gender balanced and include a gender expertise/responsibility	Gender Equality Division in the Department of Justice and Equality and the Equality Authority were consulted at all stages during preparation of the PA.

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
of ESI Funds.		programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.		<p>function.</p> <p>Ireland has ensured the participation of the relevant bodies responsible for promoting gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility in the development of this PA, and is keen to ensure adequate structures are in place to advise on these issues in order to provide the necessary expertise in the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the ESI Funds.</p> <p>http://www.genderequality.ie/</p>	<p>The Community and Voluntary Pillar of the Irish Social Partnership model were also consulted on the contents of the draft PA.</p> <p>Horizontal Principle Bodies including Gender Equality Division and/or the Equality Authority will be represented on OP Monitoring committees once these are established.</p>
G2-The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	Yes	2. Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	Yes	<p>As outlined in Section 1.5.2, Managing Authorities will address the impact on the Equal Opportunities Horizontal Principle at implementation level. They will make arrangements for training of relevant staff in the fields of gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming related to the implementation of the funds. The Equality Authority will provide support to implementing bodies to meet the horizontal equality and anti-discrimination objectives.</p> <p>http://www.equality.ie/en/E-learning-course-on-Equality.html</p> <p>http://www.equality.ie/en/</p>	<p>MAs will provide training on implementation issues for those involved in the implementation of the ESI funds. As part of this, the HP bodies will assist with training in gender equality, non-discrimination and disability/accessibility.</p> <p>Online resources are also available to public sector staff.</p>

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
G3-The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	Yes	1. Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	Yes	<p>As outlined in Section 1.5.2, Ireland has ensured the participation of the relevant bodies responsible for promoting gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility in the development of this PA, and is keen to ensure adequate structures are in place to advise on these issues. The National Disability Authority (NDA) and the Department of Justice and Equality have been consulted in the preparation of this document and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, when established, will be requested to participate in the monitoring structures when these are put in place. In addition, as part of the monitoring procedures and arrangements under the Operational Programmes, intermediate bodies will be asked to report on the contribution to, or achievement of, social inclusion and equality objectives.</p> <p>http://www.universaldesign.ie/buildingforeveryone</p> <p>http://accessibility.ie</p> <p>http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Publications/services/Disability/timetomoveonpdf.html</p> <p>http://deinstitutionalisationguide.eu/wp-</p>	<p>Ireland has signed but not yet ratified the UNCRPD.</p> <p>Horizontal Principle Bodies consulted at all stages during preparation of PA and OPs.</p> <p>Community and Voluntary Pillar consulted on contents of draft PA.</p> <p>Horizontal Principle Bodies will be represented on OP Monitoring committees once established.</p> <p>National Disability Strategy in place.</p> <p>Government Guidelines published on conducting a Disability Impact Assessment.</p>

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
				<p>content/uploads/2012/12/2012-12-07-Guidelines-11-123-2012-FINAL-WEB-VERSION.pdf</p> <p>http://deinstitutionalisationguide.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Toolkit-11-02-2012-final-WEB.pdf</p> <p>www.nda.ie/cntmgtnew.nsf/accessibilityhomepage?OpenPage</p> <p>http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/NDS_ImplementationPlan_FINAL.pdf/Files/NDS_ImplementationPlan_FINAL.pdf</p> <p>http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/20120305%20DIA%20Guidelines.pdf/Files/20120305%20DIA%20Guidelines.pdf</p>	
G3-The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	Yes	2. Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	Yes	As outlined in Section 1.5.2 of the PA, staff in the Intermediate Bodies for each Operational Programme should, for each programme of proposed expenditure, assess the impacts for people with disabilities, including accessibility issues. To this end, the Irish Government has published Guidelines for Government Departments on conducting a Disability Impact Assessment.	Ireland has signed but not yet ratified the UNCRPD. National Disability Authority has developed detailed guidance on accessibility for people with disabilities for use by staff preparing and

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				<p>The National Disability Authority has produced two approved Codes of Practice under the Disability Act and has a statutory function to monitor the implementation of standards and Codes of Practice in programmes and services provided to persons with disabilities and to report to Minister for Justice and Equality. They also produce guidelines covering a broad range of areas including the universal design of the built environment, products, services and information and communications technology so that these can be accessed, understood and used by all persons including staff of the MAs and IBs.</p> <p>http://www.nda.ie/Good-practice/</p> <p>In addition, there is a complaints system in place whereby the office of the Ombudsman is empowered by law to examine complaints concerning failures by public bodies to provide accessible buildings, services and information as required under part 3 of the Disability Act 2005.</p> <p>http://www.ombudsman.gov.ie/en/about-us/legislation/the-disability-act/making-a-complaint-to-the-ombudsman-under-the-disability-act/</p>	<p>implementing OPs.</p> <p>MAs will provide training on implementation issues for those involved in the implementation of the ESI funds. As part of this, the HP bodies will assist with training in gender equality, non-discrimination and disability/accessibility.</p>
G3-The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons	Yes	3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the	Yes	Ireland has signed but not yet ratified the UNCRPD.	National Disability Authority has developed detailed guidance on accessibility for people with disabilities for use by staff preparing and

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with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.		programmes.			implementing OPs..
G4-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	Yes	1. Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	http://www.etenders.gov.ie/generalprocguide.aspx	<p>Guidelines are available online for all staff involved in the implementation of ESI Funds.</p> <p>In relation to the RDP, the programme will include measures to support knowledge transfer and the provision of advice to farmers - the RD Regulation (Article 15) specifically states that the selection of authorities or bodies to provide such services should be governed by public procurement law.</p> <p>The RDP adheres to the Treaty principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency.</p>
G4-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	Yes	2. Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	http://www.etenders.gov.ie/	<p>Public sector contracts are advertised centrally online</p> <p>Procedures will include appropriate publication of schemes, and transparent</p>

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					<p>selection and award criteria.</p> <p>Relevant procurement rules and Treaty principles will be communicated to all staff involved in implementation of the RDP and any bodies implementing measures on behalf of DAFM.</p> <p>Appropriate monitoring of resources will be in place.</p>
G4-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	Yes	3. Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	http://www.etenders.gov.ie/generalprocguide.aspx	Guidelines are available online for all staff involved in the implementation of ESI Funds. Training workshops will be organised by MAs which will include training on public procurement.
G4-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	Yes	4. Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	http://www.etenders.gov.ie/guides/guides_list.aspx http://www.procurement.ie/	<p>Guidelines and external links are available online for all staff involved in the implementation of ESI Funds.</p> <p>The Office of Government Procurement is an office within the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform.</p> <p>It has been tasked with centralising public sector procurement arrangements for common goods and services. The website acts as a central resource for buyers and</p>

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					<p>suppliers to assist them with public service procurement activities. Through the National Procurement Service, the Office provides professional procurement services and advice to ensure that the public service can avail of the best value goods and services, in a legally compliant manner.</p> <p>The Office of Government Procurement will act as a central resource to which MAs and Intermediate Bodies can refer for advice when undertaking procurement exercises.</p> <p>In addition, specific training workshops will be organised by MAs which will include training on public procurement.</p>
G5-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	Yes	1. Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R1305&from=EN http://www.djei.ie/enterprise/stateaid/	There is a dedicated national contact point for State Aid queries. State Aid Section in the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation (DJEI) ensures compliance of that Department's Industrial Development schemes with EU State Aid rules and advises and assists other Departments to achieve the same in relation to their schemes.

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					<p>Where necessary, the Section notifies aid schemes to be implemented by DJEI and its agencies to the EU Commission and obtains Commission decisions that the schemes are in accordance with the EU State Aid rules. It also advises other Departments on achieving similar decisions in relation to their schemes.</p> <p>In addition, the Section chairs an Inter-Departmental State Aid Group to monitor State Aid issues across relevant Departments and inform practitioners of the latest developments.</p> <p>An inter-agency group has also been established to monitor the implementation and oversight of State Aid schemes in Ireland. Issues such as cumulation, amendments to schemes and evaluation are all assessed by this Group. State Aid Unit (DJEI) is a member of this Group and provides regular input in terms of best practice around notification procedures, use of the block exemption regulation etc.</p> <p>The Rural Development Regulation (Articles 81 and 82) sets out the position in relation to the application of these rules to</p>

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					RD expenditure by Member States, including in relation to additional national financing during the programming period.
G5-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	Yes	2. Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	http://www.djei.ie/enterprise/stateaid/index.htm http://www.djei.ie/enterprise/stateaid/whatistateaid.htm	<p>Training on State Aid has been, and will continue to be, provided by MAs to staff involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds. Technical Assistance will be used to address the capacity development needs of the personnel engaged in programme management and implementation.</p> <p>This will take the form of the provision of guidance and training on State Aid to Intermediary Bodies and beneficiaries to reinforce the capacity of these authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use those Funds and participation by Managing Authority staff in appropriate training programmes on State Aid.</p> <p>State Aid Unit in DJEI also disseminates information to interested stakeholders - training, seminars, and publications from the Commission etc.</p> <p>Dedicated web pages outlining current State Aid rules are published and updated regularly by the State Aid Section in DJEI. These replace the previous lengthy user</p>

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					guide which in many parts replicated the Commission own information with smaller stand-alone sections and FAQ's, with links, where appropriate, to Commission information
G5-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	Yes	3. Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	See above	<p>The working group of Member States on the implementation of State aid rules was initiated as a follow-up of the High-level meeting organised by the Commission on 20 January 2014. The objective of the working group is to share Member States' common knowledge, to facilitate the implementation of the new State aid framework notably in view of the comprehensive reform introduced by the State aid modernisation, and promote best practices.</p> <p>Ireland fully supports the establishment of this Working Group and feels it can play an important role as a regular forum where MS exchange views and practices on how rules are applied. The Working Group should facilitate a closer cooperation/coordination of practices in MS on more specific topics related to state aid control (e.g. how to verify cumulation rules, incentive effect, evaluation,</p>

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					<p>transparency etc.), or new horizontal/sectoral issues which may arise in the future.</p> <p>The Working Group should therefore assist in improving the knowledge on state aid rules of granting authorities, how to disseminate this knowledge and improve communication with the Commission and MS. The Working Group will have a key role in identifying how we can best facilitate the introduction of SAM at national level in terms of ensuring that the new rules are well understood and proper training can be provided.</p> <p>Many of the State Agencies have nominated senior officials as State Aid experts - for example Enterprise Ireland has appointed a legal expert responsible for State Aid matters.</p> <p>State Aid Unit met with DG COMP in June 2014 to discuss renewed partnership between Ireland/COMP on State Aid policy and future structures for collaboration - focus on compliance, transparency & evaluation together with identification of training needs and developing a training action plan</p>

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					<p>Ireland's current profile (based on duration of procedures, efficiency of notification phases, infringement cases etc.) is second out of the EU 28.</p> <p>The feedback from State Aid Units in COMP indicates that there is a good and effective relationship with the Irish authorities - cooperative, transparent and efficient.</p>
G6-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	Yes	1. Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (SEA).	Yes	<p>Please find an unofficial consolidation of the regulations at the following link: http://www.lawreform.ie/_fileupload/RevisedActs/WithAnnotations/EN_ACT_2000_0030.PDF</p> <p>Please find an unofficial consolidation of the regulations at the following link: http://www.environ.ie/en/Legislation/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,32879,en.pdf</p> <p>http://www.environ.ie/en/Legislation/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,14420,en.pdf</p>	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment took effect on Members States in July 2004.</p> <p>Legislative arrangements for the effective application of the SEA Directive are set out below:</p> <p>Planning and Development Act 2000-2014</p>

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				<p>http://www.environ.ie/en/Legislation/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,31554,en.pdf</p> <p>http://www.environ.ie/en/Legislation/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,14421,en.pdf</p>	<p>Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2013</p> <p>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) relating to the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, except those relating to land-use planning which were amended by the</p> <p>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 200 of 2011)</p> <p>Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) relating to the assessment of the effects of certain plans</p>

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				<p>http://www.environ.ie/en/Legislation/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,31553,en.pdf</p>	<p>and programmes on the environment, namely, land use plans. [Sectors: Article 3(2)(a) of Directive and Article 9(1)(a) of Regulations which were amended by the</p> <p>Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 201 of 2011),</p> <p>The Guidelines on the SEA Directive are as follows:</p> <p>Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC – Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (November 2004).</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>Legislative arrangements for the effective application of the EIA Directive is as follows</p> <p>Planning and Development Act 2000-2014</p>

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				<p data-bbox="1182 1177 1697 1230">http://www.lawreform.ie/_fileupload/RevisedActs/WithAnnotations/EN_ACT_2000_0030.PDF</p> <p data-bbox="1182 1283 1697 1310">http://www.environ.ie/en/Legislation/DevelopmentandHou</p>	<p data-bbox="1715 443 2063 496">Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2013</p> <p data-bbox="1715 549 2063 601">The Guidelines on the EIA Directive are as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="1715 654 2085 756">Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development (August 2003)</p>

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				sing/Planning/FileDownload,32879,en.pdf http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,1616,en.pdf http://www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentHousing/PlanningDevelopment/EnvironmentalAssessment/PublicationsDocuments/FileDownload,1804,en.pdf http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,32720,en.pdf	
G6-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	Yes	2. Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives.	Yes	<p>The EPA is the leading agency dealing with SEA and all information pertaining to training & research as well as legislation, guidance and other resources can be found at</p> <p>http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/#.U01QYvldV-E</p>	
G6-The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	Yes	3. Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	See above	See above

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G7-The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	Yes	1. Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation.	Yes	Ireland is committed to meeting this objective. Further information will be set out in the OPs.	.Further details on data collection and monitoring systems will be outlined in each of the OPs.
G7-The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	Yes	2. Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data.	Yes	See above	See above
G7-The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to	Yes	3. An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	See above	See above

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desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.					
G7-The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	Yes	4. An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	Yes	See above	See above
G7-The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	Yes	5. An effective system of result indicators including: the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data.	Yes	See above	See above
G7-The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the	Yes	6. Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt	Yes	See above	See above

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effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.		an effective system of indicators.			
T03.1-Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	Yes	1. The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time and cost involved in setting-up a business taking account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=22537 http://www.forfas.ie/publications/2012/title,10098,en.php http://www.djei.ie/publications/2014APJ.pdf http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/performance-review/files/countries-sheets/2014/ireland_en.pdf	<p>The Companies Bill has now passed through all stages of the Irish Parliament and is expected to be enacted before the end of 2014. It contains significant simplification provisions in particular in relation to the private limited company. Under the new legislation, it will be possible, using a newer and more streamlined process, to incorporate a new company in Ireland with a single document model constitution and with the option of having only one director. This process is anticipated to be faster than the current incorporation process where it takes an average of 5 days to register a company and it is intended that the process will be capable of completion entirely online.</p> <p>As part of the Irish Government's Action Plan for Jobs 2012 Forfás undertook a "Review and Audit of Licences" across key sectors of the economy assessing 159</p>

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					<p>licences. The report found that businesses had to apply for a multiplicity of licences across many licensing authorities imposing a significant administrative burden.</p> <p>This project is a major initiative within the Irish Government's Action Plan for Jobs 2013 and is a reformative step in reducing the administrative burden and red tape for business. It is one of the Government's Disruptive Reforms in the Action Plan for Jobs 2013. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Recovery and Jobs, chaired by the Taoiseach, agreed to proceed with the implementation of the recommendations in the report, including the introduction of an integrated licensing application system with a focus on the retail sector in the first instance incorporating up to 35 licences across 13 different licensing authorities.</p> <p>The delivery of an integrated licensing application system for business offers real potential to ease the process of starting up a business in Ireland and will significantly reduce the work involved in annual renewals of licences. It will also contribute to maintaining Ireland's position at the forefront of delivering advanced e-Government services and using Information Technology to reduce costs for business and improve the delivery of services to business.</p> <p>It is expected that a service provider would be appointed and the system delivered in</p>

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					2014.
T03.1-Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	Yes	2. The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time needed to get licenses and permits to take up and perform the specific activity of an enterprise taking account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	See above	See above
T03.1-Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	Yes	3. The specific actions are: mechanism is in place to monitor the implementation of the measures of the SBA which have been put in place and assess the impact on SMEs.	Yes	http://www.djei.ie/publications/2014APJ.pdf http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/performance-review/files/countries-sheets/2014/ireland_en.pdf	<p>Ireland has not adopted a specific strategy for implementing the Small Business Act. It implements SBA-related initiatives and measures as part of the Irish Governments Action Plan for Jobs which are reported on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>The SME Performance Review represents one of the main tools employed by the European Commission to monitor and assess Member States' performance in implementing the Small Business Act. DG Enterprise publishes Fact Sheets annually as part of the SME Performance Review. Data is based on reports prepared by consultants, including statistical information derived from Eurostat data</p>

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T01.2-Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.	Yes	1. An indicative multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments linked to Union priorities, and, where appropriate, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) has been adopted.	Yes	http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_Of_The_Department/Economic_International_Northern_Ireland/Economic/NRP/NRP.html http://budget.gov.ie/Budgets/2014/Documents/Part%20II%20-%20Expenditure%20Allocations%202014%20-%202016.pdf	<p>National Reform Programme sets out measures to achieve Ireland’s Europe 2020 Strategy R&D expenditure target for 2020. This covers expenditure on research and innovation strategy and priorities, including infrastructures:</p> <p>Multiannual public expenditure allocations for the period 2014-2016, within which R&D allocations will be made by relevant Departments, have been determined:</p>
T04.1-Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	Yes	1. The actions are: measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	<p>Article 3:</p> <p>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 259 of 2011)</p> <p>Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings (2011)</p> <p>Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP) (Version 3.2.1)</p> <p>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 259 of 2008)</p> <p>Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Buildings other than Dwellings (2008)</p>	<p>Article 3:</p> <p>Ireland’s building code first introduced a building energy performance assessment methodology for dwellings (known as the Dwellings Energy Assessment Procedure or “DEAP”) by way of the Building Regulations (Amendment) Regulations 2005. Part L of the Building Regulations was subject to further amendments in 2007, 2008 and 2011 respectively in respect of dwellings.</p> <p>The Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No.</p>

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				<p>Non-domestic Energy Assessment Procedure (NEAP) Modelling Guide & SBEM Technical Manual (Version 3.5.a)</p> <p>Building Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 497 of 1997)</p> <p>Article 4:</p> <p>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 259 of 2011)</p> <p>Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings (2011)</p> <p>Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP) (Version 3.2.1)</p> <p>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 259 of 2008)</p> <p>Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Buildings other than Dwellings (2008)</p> <p>Non-domestic Energy Assessment Procedure (NEAP) Modelling Guide & SBEM Technical Manual (Version 3.5.a)</p> <p>Building Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 497 of 1997)</p> <p>European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 243 of 2012)</p> <p>Article 5:</p>	<p>259 of 2008) introduced a new methodology (known as the Non-domestic Energy Assessment Procedure or “NEAP”) to calculate the energy demand and carbon dioxide emissions for buildings other than dwellings.</p> <p>Both the DEAP and NEAP methodologies have been developed having regard to the requirements of Annex I of the Directive.</p> <p>Article 4:</p> <p>Under Part L of the Building Regulations 1997 – 2011, significant minimum energy performance requirements for buildings are in place for both dwellings and buildings other than dwellings.</p> <p>In completing Ireland’s report to the European Commission on cost-optimal as required under Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU, it was confirmed that Ireland’s energy performance requirements for new dwellings are already in the cost-optimal range.</p> <p>In addition to the regulations in respect of dwellings, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government has commenced a review of Part L of the Building Regulations in relation to buildings other than dwellings. The primary objectives of the review will be to introduce further requirements under</p>

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				<p>Report on the development of Cost Optimal Calculations and Gap Analysis for buildings in Ireland under Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings (recast) – Section 1 Residential Buildings</p> <p>Report on the development of Cost Optimal Calculations and Gap Analysis for buildings in Ireland under Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings (recast) – Section 2 Non Residential</p>	<p>the national building code that are designed to improve the energy performance and reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from buildings other than dwellings. It is intended that the proposed review will be completed having regard to Ireland's cost-optimal calculations and new regulations/technical guidance published by end 2014.</p> <p>Regulation 4 of the European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 243 of 2012) set out the exemptions that Ireland availed of in accordance with Article 4(2) of Directive 2010/31/EU.</p> <p>Article 5: Ireland's cost-optimal report was submitted to DG Energy in the European Commission on 21st March 2013.</p> <p>As indicated previously, Ireland's energy performance requirements for new dwellings are already in the cost-optimal range. The current review to Part L of the Building Regulations in respect of buildings other than dwellings will be carried out having regard to Ireland's cost-optimal calculations. The new regulations/technical guidance are anticipated by end 2014.</p> <p>Going forward, it is intended that all new</p>

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					regulations/technical guidance in respect of dwellings and buildings other than dwellings will be carried out having regard to Ireland's cost-optimal calculations.
T04.1-Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	Yes	2. The actions are: measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;	Yes	<p>Article 3:</p> <p>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 259 of 2011)</p> <p>Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings (2011)</p> <p>Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP) (Version 3.2.1)</p> <p>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 259 of 2008)</p> <p>Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Buildings other than Dwellings (2008)</p> <p>Non-domestic Energy Assessment Procedure (NEAP) Modelling Guide & SBEM Technical Manual (Version 3.5.a)</p> <p>Building Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 497 of 1997)</p> <p>Article 4:</p> <p>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 259 of 2011)</p> <p>Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel</p>	<p>Article 3:</p> <p>Ireland's building code first introduced a building energy performance assessment methodology for dwellings (known as the Dwellings Energy Assessment Procedure or "DEAP") by way of the Building Regulations (Amendment) Regulations 2005. Part L of the Building Regulations was subject to further amendments in 2007, 2008 and 2011 respectively in respect of dwellings.</p> <p>The Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 259 of 2008) introduced a new methodology (known as the Non-domestic Energy Assessment Procedure or "NEAP") to calculate the energy demand and carbon dioxide emissions for buildings other than dwellings.</p> <p>Both the DEAP and NEAP methodologies have been developed having regard to the requirements of Annex I of the Directive.</p> <p>Article 4:</p> <p>Under Part L of the Building Regulations</p>

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				<p>and Energy - Dwellings (2011)</p> <p>Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP) (Version 3.2.1)</p> <p>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 259 of 2008)</p> <p>Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Buildings other than Dwellings (2008)</p> <p>Non-domestic Energy Assessment Procedure (NEAP) Modelling Guide & SBEM Technical Manual (Version 3.5.a)</p> <p>Building Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 497 of 1997)</p> <p>European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 243 of 2012)</p> <p>Article 5:</p> <p>Report on the development of Cost Optimal Calculations and Gap Analysis for buildings in Ireland under Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings (recast) – Section 1 Residential Buildings</p> <p>Report on the development of Cost Optimal Calculations and Gap Analysis for buildings in Ireland under Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings (recast) – Section 2 Non Residential</p>	<p>1997 – 2011, significant minimum energy performance requirements for buildings are in place for both dwellings and buildings other than dwellings.</p> <p>In completing Ireland’s report to the European Commission on cost-optimal as required under Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU, it was confirmed that Ireland’s energy performance requirements for new dwellings are already in the cost-optimal range.</p> <p>In addition to the regulations in respect of dwellings, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government has commenced a review of Part L of the Building Regulations in relation to buildings other than dwellings. The primary objectives of the review will be to introduce further requirements under the national building code that are designed to improve the energy performance and reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from buildings other than dwellings. It is intended that the proposed review will be completed having regard to Ireland’s cost-optimal calculations and new regulations/technical guidance published by end 2014.</p> <p>Regulation 4 of the European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 243 of 2012) set out the exemptions that Ireland availed of in accordance with Article 4(2) of</p>

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				<p>European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 243 of 2012)</p> <p>The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, see: http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Energy/Energy+Efficiency+and+Affordability+Division/National+Energy+Efficiency+Action+Plan.htm</p>	<p>Directive 2010/31/EU.</p> <p>Article 5:</p> <p>Ireland's cost-optimal report was submitted to DG Energy in the European Commission on 21st March 2013.</p> <p>As indicated previously, Ireland's energy performance requirements for new dwellings are already in the cost-optimal range. The current review to Part L of the Building Regulations in respect of buildings other than dwellings will be carried out having regard to Ireland's cost-optimal calculations. The new regulations/technical guidance are anticipated by end 2014.</p> <p>Going forward, it is intended that all new regulations/technical guidance in respect of dwellings and buildings other than dwellings will be carried out having regard to Ireland's cost-optimal calculations.</p> <p>Regulations 3, 17, 20, 21 and 22 of the European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 fulfil the</p>

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					<p>requirements set out in Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU in relation to energy performance certificates. Schedules 1 to 4 inclusive set out the form of the energy performance certificates in Ireland. In brief, Ireland's Building Energy Rating (BER) certificates are based on an individual assessment of the building unit concerned rather than an assumed equivalence with a representative building.</p> <p>Each BER certificate is accompanied by a comprehensive advisory report which sets out how improvements to the building envelope, building elements and building systems can be made in line with the appropriate relevant minimum requirements specified in Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Energy) of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations 1997-2011.</p> <p>Recommendations are categorised by cost and by impact, having regard to the estimated cost, energy savings and payback periods. The advisory report also refers to other guidance and sources of relevant information.</p> <p>BER certificates and advisory reports, as well as the DEAP and NEAP calculation methodologies that underpin them, are subject to on-going review by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland in the light of operational experience and policy as well as regulatory developments at both domestic and European Union</p>

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					level. The latest improvements in the energy performance of dwellings introduced under the Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2011 as well as the improvements that will arise from the current review of Part L of the Building Regulations in respect of buildings other than dwellings and the future development of nearly zero-energy buildings will continue to ensure that ongoing improvements in the energy performance requirements for building envelopes, individual building elements and building systems are achieved in new build, extension and renovation contexts.
T04.1-Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	Yes	3. The actions are: measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, see: http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Energy/Energy+Efficiency+and+Affordability+Division/National+Energy+Efficiency+Action+Plan.htm	The Better Energy Programme is one of the main energy saving mechanisms in the residential sector and is a key component of Ireland's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan.
T04.1-Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency	Yes	4. The actions are: measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy end-use efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final	Yes	See above	See above

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when constructing or renovating buildings.		customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.			
T08.1-Active labour market policies are designed and delivered in the light of the Employment guidelines.	Yes	1. Employment services have the capacity to, and do, deliver: personalised services and active and preventive labour market measures at an early stage, which are open to all jobseekers while focusing on people at highest risk of social exclusion, including people from marginalised communities;	Yes	<p>Activation strategy is set out in the government policy document Pathways to Work 2013 www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/Pathways-to-Work-2013.pdf</p> <p>National Reform Programme for Ireland 2014 – Chapter 4, Target 1 Employment, pages 20-29 and Use of ESIF on pages 57-58</p> <p>http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_Of_The_Department/Economic_International_Northern_Ireland/Economic/NRP/National_Reform_Programme_2014.pdf</p> <p>Further Education and Training Strategy http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf</p> <p>Action Plan for SOLAS http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/An-Action-Plan-for-SOLAS.pdf</p>	<p>SOLAS plays a key role in the creation of a world class further education and training sector for Ireland. The Action Plan for SOLAS sets out its key role and the roles of others to enable the reforms needed to the Further Education and Training sector</p> <p>A jobseekers pack developed by the PES that explains in plain English the services and supports available when searching for work.</p>

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				<p>Jobseekers information pack</p> <p>http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Jobseeker-Pack.aspx</p>	
T08.1-Active labour market policies are designed and delivered in the light of the Employment guidelines.	Yes	2. Employment services have the capacity to, and do, deliver: comprehensive and transparent information on new job vacancies and employment opportunities taking into account the changing needs of the labour market.	Yes	See all references under 8.1 above	See all references under 8.1 above
T08.1-Active labour market policies are designed and delivered in the light of the Employment guidelines.	Yes	3. Employment services have set up formal or informal cooperation arrangements with relevant stakeholders.	Yes	<p>National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016- The National Policy Framework for Poverty Reduction. Social Inclusion Forum detailed in section 7.2-7.3, pages 77-78.</p> <p>http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/NAPinclusionReportPDF.pdf</p> <p>Social Inclusion Forum Report</p> <p>http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/2013-10-03SocialInclusionForumReportFinal.pdf</p>	<p>The Department of Social Protection has been given the responsibility by the Government to convene the Social Inclusion Forum (SIF). SIF was established by the Government as part of the structures to monitor and evaluate Ireland's National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007- 2016. The SIF is a key element of the government's commitment to consult with all relevant stakeholders, including people experiencing poverty and the groups that represent them in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The Forum provides an opportunity for engagement between officials from government departments, community and voluntary organisations and people</p>

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					experiencing poverty in relation to the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.
T09.1-The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	Yes	1. A national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction, aiming at active inclusion, is in place that:	Yes	<p>2007-2016- The National Policy Framework for Poverty Reduction http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/NAPinclusionReportPDF.pdf</p> <p>National Social Target for Poverty Reduction - Review of the National Poverty Target http://www.socialinclusion.ie/NPT.html</p> <p>Social Inclusion Monitor - monitoring of the national poverty target http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/2013SIM2011FinalWeb_001.pdf</p> <p>National Reform Programme for Ireland 2014 – Chapter 4 , Target 5 ‘Poverty’ pages 45-52 and ‘Use of Structural Funds/ ESIF on pages 57-58 http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_Of_The_Department/Economic_International_Northern_Ireland/Economic/NRP/National_Reform_Programme_2014.pdf</p>	The focus of this document is on investing in young people to reach their potential, towards reducing inequality within society and to break cycles of intergenerational disadvantage.

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				<p>Pathways to Work 2013 www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/Pathways-to-Work-2013.pdf</p> <p>Ireland's Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan 2014) http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf</p> <p>Further Education and Training Strategy http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf</p> <p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – The National Policy for Children and Young People 2014-2020 http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf</p>	

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				<p>Tackling Youth Crime 2014 – 2018 - High Level Goal 5: To provide a safe, secure environment and necessary support for detained young people to assist their re-integration into the community</p> <p>http://www.iyjs.ie/en/IYJS/Tackling%20Youth%20Crime%20-%20Youth%20Justice%20Action%20Plan%20FINAL.pdf/Files/Tackling%20Youth%20Crime%20-%20Youth%20Justice%20Action%20Plan%20FINAL.pdf</p>	
T09.1-The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	Yes	2. provides a sufficient evidence base to develop policies for poverty reduction and monitor developments;	Yes	<p>2007-2016- The National Policy Framework for Poverty Reduction</p> <p>http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/NAPinclusionReportPDF.pdf</p> <p>National Social Target for Poverty Reduction - Review of the National Poverty Target</p> <p>http://www.socialinclusion.ie/NPT.html</p> <p>Social Inclusion Monitor - monitoring of the national</p>	The focus of this document is on investing in young people to reach their potential, towards reducing inequality within society and to break cycles of intergenerational disadvantage.

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				<p>poverty target</p> <p>http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/2013SIM2011FinalWeb_001.pdf</p> <p>National Reform Programme for Ireland 2014 – Chapter 4 , Target 5 ‘Poverty’ pages 45-52 and ‘Use of Structural Funds/ ESIF on pages 57-58</p> <p>http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_Of_The_Department/Economic_International_Northern_Ireland/Economic/NRP/National_Reform_Programme_2014.pdf</p> <p>Pathways to Work 2013 www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/Pathways-to-Work-2013.pdf</p> <p>Ireland’s Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan 2014) http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf</p> <p>Further Education and Training Strategy http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-</p>	

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				<p>2019.pdf</p> <p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – The National Policy for Children and Young People 2014-2020 http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf</p> <p>Tackling Youth Crime 2014 – 2018 - High Level Goal 5: To provide a safe, secure environment and necessary support for detained young people to assist their re-integration into the community http://www.iyjs.ie/en/TYJS/Tackling%20Youth%20Crime%20-%20Youth%20Justice%20Action%20Plan%20FINAL.pdf/Files/Tackling%20Youth%20Crime%20-%20Youth%20Justice%20Action%20Plan%20FINAL.pdf</p>	
T09.1-The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for	Yes	3. contains measures supporting the achievement of the national poverty and social exclusion target (as defined in the	Yes	National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016- The National Policy Framework for Poverty Reduction	Pathways to work – Government Policy Statement on Labour Market Medium Term Economic Strategy 2014-2020 –

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poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.		National Reform Programme), which includes the promotion of sustainable and quality employment opportunities for people at the highest risk of social exclusion, including people from marginalised communities;		<p>http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/NAPinclusionReportPDF.pdf</p> <p>National Social Target for Poverty Reduction - Review of the National Poverty Target http://www.socialinclusion.ie/NPT.html</p> <p>Social Inclusion Monitor - monitoring of the national poverty target http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/2013SIM2011FinalWeb_001.pdf</p> <p>National Reform Programme for Ireland 2014 – Chapter 4 , Target 1 Employment pages 20-29, Target 5 ‘Poverty’ pages 45-52 and ‘Use of Structural Funds/ ESIF on pages 57-58 http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_Of_The_Department/Economic_International_Northern_Ireland/Economic/NRP/National_Reform_Programme_2014.pdf</p> <p>Pathways to Work 2013 www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/Pathways-to-Work-</p>	refers to “the building of a fairer Ireland by helping to reduce inequality and improve poverty outcomes across society”.

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				<p>2013.pdf</p> <p>Joint Irish Prison Service & Probation Service Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015</p> <p>Joint Irish Prison Service Strategic Plan 2013-2015</p> <p>The Way Home – A Strategy to address Adult Homelessness in Ireland 2008 - 2013</p> <p>http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Housing/FileDownload,18192,en.pdf</p> <p>National Women’s Strategy 2007 - 2016</p> <p>http://justice.ie/en/JELR/National%20Womens%20Strategy%20PDF.pdf/Files/National%20Womens%20Strategy%20PDF.pdf</p>	

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T09.1-The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	Yes	4. involves relevant stakeholders in combating poverty;	Yes	National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016- The National Policy Framework for Poverty Reduction. Social Inclusion Forum detailed in section 7.2-7.3, pages 77-78. http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/NAPinclusionReportPDF.pdf Social Inclusion Forum Report http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/2013-10-03SocialInclusionForumReportFinal.pdf	The Department of Social Protection has been given the responsibility by the Government to convene the Social Inclusion Forum (SIF). SIF was established by the Government as part of the structures to monitor and evaluate Ireland's National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007- 2016. The SIF is a key element of the government's commitment to consult with all relevant stakeholders, including people experiencing poverty and the groups that represent them in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The Forum provides an opportunity for engagement between officials from government departments, community and voluntary organisations and people experiencing poverty in relation to the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.
T09.1-The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	Yes	5. depending on the identified needs, includes measures for the shift from institutional to community based care;	Yes	National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016- The National Policy Framework for Poverty Reduction. Chapter 4 Older People, page 52 Community Intervention Teams http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/NAPinclusionReportPDF.pdf	Reference is made in the Nation Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 to community based programmes and to the importance of community care services to enable older people to maintain their health and wellbeing, in order to live active, full independent lives, at home for as long as possible.
T09.1-The existence and the implementation of a national	Yes	6. Upon request and where justified, relevant stakeholders will be provided with	Yes	Reference made in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion to social inclusion initiatives and investment	Relevant stakeholders are familiar with application procedures. Many have gained

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strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.		support for submitting project applications and for implementing and managing the selected projects.		across a wide range of government departments aimed at improving quality of life and providing options to remove people from poverty, and in particular, the outcome of these initiatives. A variety of grants/funding is also referenced in the plan e.g. family literacy projects; special projects to support personal development, intensive training, counselling etc. for those who are most marginalised.	experience by participating successfully in such calls in the past. In any event, intermediary bodies provide information on funding possibilities as a matter of course.
T10.2-Higher education: the existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	1. A national or regional strategic policy framework for tertiary education is in place with the following elements:	Yes	http://www.heai.ie/sites/default/files/national_plan_for_equality_of_access_to_higher_ed.pdf Chapter 4 http://www.heai.ie/sites/default/files/national_plan_for_equality_of_access_to_higher_ed.pdf Chapter 3	<p>Ireland develops and implements national access plans. Current plan is at the end of its implementation period (2008-2013). A plan for 2014-2016 is currently being drafted and in that regard a consultation document was issued in late summer 2014 with submissions due by 30/09/2014.</p> <p>In addition, the Higher Education Authority has commenced a rolling process of ‘strategic dialogue’ with higher education institutions. A key output of this process is a compact which is agreed by the HEA with each higher education institution and which sets out how that institution will contribute to the achievement of Ireland’s national higher education priorities, both as individual institutions and within collaborative clusters. Access, participation and lifelong learning is one of these priorities</p>

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
T10.2-Higher education: the existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	2. where necessary, measures to increase participation and attainment that:	Yes	http://www.heia.ie/sites/default/files/national_plan_for_equality_of_access_to_higher_ed.pdf Chapter 4 http://www.heia.ie/sites/default/files/national_plan_for_equality_of_access_to_higher_ed.pdf Chapter 3	<p>Ireland develops and implements national access plans. Current plan is at the end of its implementation period (2008-2013). A plan for 2014-2016 is currently being drafted and in that regard a consultation document was issued in late summer 2014 with submissions due by 30/09/2014.</p> <p>In addition, the Higher Education Authority has commenced a rolling process of 'strategic dialogue' with higher education institutions. A key output of this process is a compact which is agreed by the HEA with each higher education institution and which sets out how that institution will contribute to the achievement of Ireland's national higher education priorities, both as individual institutions and within collaborative clusters. Access, participation and lifelong learning is one of these priorities</p>
T10.2-Higher education: the existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	3. increase higher education participation among low income groups and other under-represented groups with special regard to disadvantaged people, including people from marginalised communities;	Yes	http://www.heia.ie/sites/default/files/national_plan_for_equality_of_access_to_higher_ed.pdf Chapter 4 http://www.heia.ie/sites/default/files/national_plan_for_equality_of_access_to_higher_ed.pdf	Ireland develops and implements national access plans. Current plan is at the end of its implementation period (2008-2013). A plan for 2014-2016 is currently being drafted and in that regard a consultation document was issued in late summer 2014 with submissions due by 30/09/2014.

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
				ity_of_access_to_higher_ed.pdf Chapter 3	In addition, the Higher Education Authority has commenced a rolling process of 'strategic dialogue' with higher education institutions. A key output of this process is a compact which is agreed by the HEA with each higher education institution and which sets out how that institution will contribute to the achievement of Ireland's national higher education priorities, both as individual institutions and within collaborative clusters. Access, participation and lifelong learning is one of these priorities.
T10.2-Higher education: the existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	4. reduce drop-out rates/improve completion rates;	Yes	www.hea.ie/sites/.../national_strategy_for_higher_education_	As above. Strategic Dialogue and institutional compacts address objectives and targets for retention and completion. In addition, Ireland has a national overarching strategic framework for higher education for the period 2010-2030. It is entitled the National Strategy for Higher Education.
T10.2-Higher education: the existence of a national or regional	Yes	5. encourage innovative content and	Yes	www.hea.ie/sites/.../national_strategy_for_higher_education_	A key theme of the National Strategy is the development of a higher education

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.		programme design;		n_2030.pdf	system which produces outputs and outcomes aligned with the needs of the economy and wider society.
T10.2-Higher education: the existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	6. measures to increase employability and entrepreneurship that:	Yes	Action in this area is guided within the broad framework of the National Strategy for Higher Education. www.heai.ie/content/enterprise-engagement	The Higher Education Authority is currently finalising an Engagement Strategy, which will provide a specific formal framework for engagement and collaboration between Irish higher education institutions and enterprise/industry. The engagement strategy will build on the broad framework set out in the national strategy for higher education. In addition, Ireland is implementing a range of measures designed to enhance the pipeline of job-ready graduates for industry and enterprise and enhance competencies in areas such as entrepreneurship within graduates' skills sets. Measures include Springboard ICT Skills Conversion. A national internship programme is under development.
T10.2-Higher education: the existence of a national or regional	Yes	7. encourage the development of "transversal skills", including	Yes	Action in this area is guided within the broad framework of the National Strategy for Higher Education.	The Higher Education Authority is currently finalising an Engagement

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.		entrepreneurship in relevant higher education programmes;		www.heai.ie/content/enterprise-engagement	<p>Strategy, which will provide a specific formal framework for engagement and collaboration between Irish higher education institutions and enterprise/industry. The engagement strategy will build on the broad framework set out in the national strategy for higher education.</p> <p>In addition, Ireland is implementing a range of measures designed to enhance the pipeline of job-ready graduates for industry and enterprise and enhance competencies in areas such as entrepreneurship within graduates' skills sets. Measures include Springboard ICT Skills Conversion. A national internship programme is under development.</p>
T10.2-Higher education: the existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	8. reduce gender differences in terms of academic and vocational choices.	Yes	The HEA gathers and publishes gender data for the higher education system on an ongoing basis.	The HEA gathers and publishes gender data for the higher education system on an ongoing basis.
T08.6-YEI: The existence of a strategic policy framework for	Yes	1. A strategic policy framework for promoting youth employment is in place	Yes	Ireland's Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan 2014)	

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
promoting youth employment including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.		that:		<p>http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf</p> <p>Central Statistics Office Quarterly National Household Survey Quarter 4 2013.- Page 18-21, tables 7 and 8 provides up-to-date details of employed/unemployed by age group</p> <p>http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/labourmarket/2013/qnhs_q42013.pdf</p> <p>See all references under 8.1 above also</p>	
T08.6-YEI: The existence of a strategic policy framework for promoting youth employment including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.	Yes	2. is based on evidence that measures the results for young people not in employment, education or training and that represents a base to develop targeted policies and monitor developments;	Yes	<p>Ireland's Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan 2014)</p> <p>http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf</p> <p>Central Statistics Office Quarterly National Household Survey Quarter 4 2013.- Page 18-21, tables 7 and 8 provides up-to-date details of employed/unemployed by age group</p>	

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
				http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/labourmarket/2013/qnhs_q42013.pdf See all references under 8.1 above also	
T08.6-YEI: The existence of a strategic policy framework for promoting youth employment including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.	Yes	3. identifies the relevant public authority in charge of managing youth employment measures and coordinating partnerships across all levels and sectors;	Yes	Ireland's Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan 2014) http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf	
T08.6-YEI: The existence of a strategic policy framework for promoting youth employment including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.	Yes	4. involves stakeholders that are relevant for addressing youth unemployment;	Yes	Ireland's Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan 2014) http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf	
T08.6-YEI: The existence of a strategic policy framework for promoting youth employment including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.	Yes	5. allows early intervention and activation;	Yes	Ireland's Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan 2014) http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf	The focus of this document is on investing in young people to reach their potential, towards reducing inequality within society and to break cycles of intergenerational disadvantage.

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
				<p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – The National Policy for Children and Young People 2014-2020</p> <p>http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf</p>	
<p>T08.6-YEI: The existence of a strategic policy framework for promoting youth employment including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>6. comprises supportive measures for access to employment, enhancing skills, labour mobility and sustainable integration of young people not in employment, education or training into the labour market.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Ireland's Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan 2014)</p> <p>http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf</p> <p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – The National Policy for Children and Young People 2014-2020</p> <p>http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf</p>	<p>The focus of this document is on investing in young people to reach their potential, towards reducing inequality within society and to break cycles of intergenerational disadvantage.</p>
<p>T10.3-Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. A national or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning is in place that contains measures:</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Government policy document Pathways to Work 2013 www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/Pathways-to-Work-2013.pdf</p> <p>Further Education and Training Strategy – Section 5 details Lifelong Learning as a key issue for the strategy</p>	

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
				<p>and pages 27-28 includes information on the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy</p> <p>http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf</p> <p>Further Education and Training Bill 2013 – Section 7 Function of SOLAS</p> <p>http://www.solas.ie/docs/FurtherEducationTrainingBill_2013.pdf</p> <p>Action plan for SOLAS</p> <p>http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/An-Action-Plan-for-SOLAS.pdf</p>	
T10.3-Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	2. to support the developing and linking services for LL, including their implementation and skills upgrading (i.e. validation, guidance, education and training) and providing for the involvement of, and partnership with relevant stakeholders ;	Yes	<p>Government policy document Pathways to Work 2013 www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/Pathways-to-Work-2013.pdf</p> <p>Further Education and Training Strategy – Section 5 details Lifelong Learning as a key issue for the strategy and pages 27-28 includes information on the Adult</p>	

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
				<p>Literacy and Numeracy Strategy http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf</p> <p>Further Education and Training Bill 2013 – Section 7 Function of SOLAS http://www.solas.ie/docs/FurtherEducationTrainingBill_2013.pdf</p> <p>Action plan for SOLAS http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/An-Action-Plan-for-SOLAS.pdf</p>	
T10.3-Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	3. for the provision of skills development for various target groups where these are identified as priorities in national or regional strategic policy frameworks (for example young people in vocational training, adults, parents returning to the labour market, low skilled and older workers, migrants and other disadvantaged groups, in particular people with disabilities);	Yes	<p>Priority target groups identified for the provision of FET are identified in the Further Education and Training Strategy http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf</p> <p>Ireland's Youth Guarantee Implementation plan (Jan</p>	

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
				2014) http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/youth-guarantee-implementation-plan.pdf	
T10.3-Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	4. to widen access to LL including through efforts to effectively implement transparency tools (for example the European Qualifications Framework, National Qualifications Framework, European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training, European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training);	Yes	Further Education and Training Bill 2013 – Section 7 Function of SOLAS http://www.solas.ie/docs/FurtherEducationTrainingBill_2013.pdf Action plan for SOLAS http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/An-Action-Plan-for-SOLAS.pdf Quality and Qualification Ireland – National Qualifications Framework http://www.qqi.ie/Pages/National-Framework-of-Qualifications-(NFQ).aspx	
T10.3-Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Yes	5. to improve the labour market relevance of education and training and to adapt it to the needs of identified target groups (for example young people in vocational training, adults, parents returning to the labour market, low-skilled and older workers, migrants and other disadvantaged groups, in	Yes	SOLAS Legislation (S7, 2013 Act), Further Education and Training Strategy – Section 5 details Lifelong Learning as a key issue and important role for the strategy	

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled)(reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation
		particular people with disabilities).		http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf	

(ii) Table: For the applicable general and thematic/fund specific ex-ante conditionalities at national level for which national bodies are responsible and which are completely or partially unfulfilled, indication of the bodies responsible for their fulfilment, the actions to be taken at national level to fulfil these ex-ante conditionalities, and the timeframe for the implementation of such actions (tables).

Applicable general ex-ante conditionalities at national level and which are unfulfilled or partially fulfilled	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible for fulfilment

Applicable thematic/Fund-specific ex-ante conditionalities at national level and which are unfulfilled or partially fulfilled	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible for fulfilment

(iii) Additional information relevant to the assessment of the fulfilment of applicable ex-ante conditionalities and the actions to be taken to fulfil them.

- 2.4. The methodology and mechanism to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework in accordance with Article 21 of the CPR**
- 2.5. An assessment of whether there is a need to reinforce the administrative capacity of the authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and, where appropriate, of beneficiaries, as well as, where necessary, a summary of the actions to be taken for that purpose**
- 2.6. A summary of the actions planned in the programmes, including an indicative timetable, for achievement of a reduction in the administrative burden for beneficiaries**

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTED BY THE ESI FUNDS OR A SUMMARY OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMMES

3.1. The arrangements to ensure an integrated approach to the use of the ESI Funds for the territorial development of specific sub-regional areas

3.1.1. *Community-led local development*

3.1.2. *Integrated territorial investments (ITI)*

3.1.3. *Sustainable urban development, including the principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and an indicative allocation for these actions under the ERDF at national level*

Table: The indicative allocation at national level to integrated actions for sustainable urban development under the ERDF

Fund	The indicative allocation at national level to integrated actions for sustainable urban development (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the Fund (%)
ERDF	40,000,000.00	9.78
ESF	0.00	0.00

3.1.4. *The main priority areas for cooperation, under the ESI Funds, taking account, where appropriate, of macro-regional and sea basin strategies*

3.1.5. *Where appropriate, an integrated approach to addressing the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities, persons with disabilities, the long term unemployed and young people not in employment, education or training*

Table: The role and the contribution of the ESI Funds in the implementation of the integrated approach to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

Specific target group or geographical area	Short description of the needs	ESI Funds that will be used (ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD, EMFF, YEI)	Main types of planned actions which are part of the integrated approach	Programme
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3.1.6. *Where appropriate, an integrated approach, to address the demographic challenges of regions or specific needs of geographical areas which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, as referred to in Article 174 of the TFEU*

4. ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ESI FUNDS

- 4.1. An assessment of the existing systems for electronic data exchange, and a summary of the actions planned to gradually permit all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and authorities responsible for management and control of programmes to be carried out by electronic data exchange**

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Official Proposal Part 1	Official proposal part 1 (sections 1 and 2)	14-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)37953 12	Official Proposal Part 1	14-Nov-2014	ndeaneji
Official Proposal Part 2	Official proposal part 2 (sections 3 and 4)	14-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)37953 12	Official Proposal Part 2	14-Nov-2014	ndeaneji