

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL  
COOPERATION GOAL  
PART A**

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

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<b>IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT</b> .....	<b>1</b>
KEY INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR CONCERNED, INCLUDING ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, WITH RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL AND INDICATOR DATA.....	4
<b>3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION.....	7
3.2 COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	9
PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	9
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA1.1B.....	9
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - PA1.1B.SO1.....	11
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA2.5A.....	12
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - PA2.5A.SO2.....	13
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA3.6C.....	14
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - PA3.6C.SO3.....	15
PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	16
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	16
3.3 TABLE 3: INFORMATION ON THE MILESTONES AND TARGETS DEFINED IN THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK.....	17
3.4. FINANCIAL DATA.....	18
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL.....	18
WHERE APPLICABLE, THE USE OF ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME SHOULD BE PROVIDED (FOR EXAMPLE IPA AND ENI, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND).....	19
TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF THE CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL DATA BY CATEGORY OF INTERVENTION.....	20
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME AREA.....	21
(1) ERDF SUPPORT IS THE COMMISSION DECISION ON THE RESPECTIVE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.....	21
<b>4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN</b> .....	<b>24</b>
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN.....	24
(B) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, OTHERWISE IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN POINT 9.1. AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS TARGETS IS SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THEIR FULFILMENT, INDICATING ANY REMEDIAL ACTIONS TAKEN OR PLANNED, WHERE APPROPRIATE.....	25
<b>6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)</b> .....	<b>28</b>
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS.....	28
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS.....	28
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM.....	28
ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.....	28
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS.....	29
TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP).....	30
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM.....	31
<b>9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)</b> .....	<b>32</b>
9.1 INFORMATION IN PART A AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	32
9.2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AND TO PROMOTE NON-DISCRIMINATION, IN PARTICULAR ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THE INTEGRATION OF THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (D) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	33
9.3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (E) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	34
9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	35
9.5 ROLE OF PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1, (C) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	36

<b>10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS ....	37
10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY .....	39
<b>11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....</b>	<b>40</b>
11.1. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME .....	40
11.2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND BENEFICIARIES TO ADMINISTER AND TO USE THE ERDF.....	41
11.3 CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE APPROPRIATE).....	42
<i>ATLSBS</i> .....	43
11.4 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION .....	45
<b>13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....</b>	<b>47</b>

## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

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

Note: this report covers the year 2020 where programme performance was significantly affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. Whilst the Programme authorities took pro-active measures to work with and reassure project partners, inevitably implementation delays occurred and progression against indicators was affected. Comments on forecast performance should be considered in the context of the impacts of the on-going pandemic.

Taking account of the issues surrounding the UK's exit from the EU and the pandemic, the programme has made significant progress. Efforts to mobilise increased engagement in Priority Axes 3 have been rewarded with a good balance of operations having been approved across the operational Priority Axes.

One joint operation and two Phase 2 operations (€4.9m ERDF) were approved during 2020, one project in Priority Axis 1 and two Phase 2 projects in Priority Axis 3.

At the end of December 2020:

- 22 operations have been formally approved (figure includes TA project), resulting in
- €81m ERDF commitment
- 101% of the ERDF allocation for the Programme committed

Ten operations have been approved under PA1 (Cross-Border Innovation), seven approved under PA2 (Climate change), four approved under PA3 (Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage), and one in PA 4 (Technical Assistance).

A detailed programme situation paper was submitted to the PMC in November 2020. This reported good progress against the range of programme indicators and in particular, the Performance Framework which the PMC noted were well on target to be met and largely exceeded. Twelve of the nineteen operational Priority Axes indicators were expected to meet or exceed targets.

Joint operations approved, as at the end of December 2020, are forecast to support over **700** enterprises by project completion. The achievement at December 2020 of **109** enterprises and research institutions cooperating in research and innovation projects exceeds the target set for the programme.

Operations are forecast to support **78** organisations working in partnership to enhance the marine and coastal environment.

Support for **34** coastal communities to enhance cultural, natural or heritage tourism along the coasts of the cross-border region was forecast by programme end.

Forecast data from approved operations show that more than 100% of the job creation target is forecast to be met by the end of the programming period.

Section 3.2 shows the progress made against the Programme’s indicator targets for each Priority Axis.

Whilst the Managing Authority (MA), Joint Secretariat (JS) and delivery partners in Ireland sought to promote and advance the profile of the Programme opportunities were limited due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

### **Programme Meetings**

The PMC met once in 2020:

PMC10 – 18th November 2020 – via Microsoft Teams. The PMC noted good progress with programme delivery, the grant commitment profile and achievement of indicators. The PMC took note of the position on transition measures in light of the deliberations within the UK on Brexit.

### **Communications**

Publicity surrounding the Ireland Wales Programme (IWP) remains positive with news stories prominent in both Wales and Ireland with support and positive engagement for projects from politicians, regional and national news outlets and stakeholders on both sides of the cross-border area. This includes the promotion of project launches, such as the Ports, Past and Present project launch by the Minister for International Relations & Welsh Language during Wales Week in Ireland, the online launch of the ECHOES project by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs as well as celebrating project achievements / milestones, such as the recognition for the Ecostructure project in being awarded a EU web Awards, winning “The Better World” category at the EU Web Awards 2020.

### Covid 19

The emergence of Covid 19 and the subsequent national lockdown restrictions put in place at the end of March 2020, significantly affected all pre-planned visits and events, which were postponed or cancelled.

The focus of Welsh Government and the Government of Ireland’s communication activity was solely on Covid 19 messages to the public. Likewise, WEFO and Southern Regional Assembly communications activity at this time focussed on re-assuring beneficiaries, project leads and partners about any new processes or arrangements for projects in light of the pandemic.

Whilst the impact of the pandemic has had a significant impact on pre-planned visits and in-person events, projects have adapted well. Communication activity has moved online with all projects delivering a variety of virtual content including launch and closure events, virtual conferences and webinars to promote the IWP and communicate the benefits/ emerging impacts of the programme and project specific activity to stakeholders and the general public.

All standard communication activities such as Ministerial announcements or pro-active social media activity was postponed for a prolonged period of time (12 weeks). This had an impact on the twitter campaigns that would normally have been running for the Ireland-Wales programme on St David's Day, St Patrick's Day and Europe Day.

A new process for funding announcements was established in July with a stronger focus on social media promotion with Ministerial input into lead partner press notices. National lockdown restrictions remained in place in both Ireland and Wales for most of 2020. However, the emergence of online events has increased and has been very well received.

### Website

The website (<http://irelandwales.eu/>) continues to attract interest; and was visited on 9,629 occasions during 2020 – a rise of 4.5% on the previous calendar year. Each approved project is showcased and promoted with a brief description and a link to their project home website. An interactive map identifies the regions where Ireland Wales projects are delivering activity and also links to information on the wider European Territorial Cooperation or ‘Interreg’ programmes.

### Social Media

The **@IrelandWales** Twitter account now has nearly 1,500 followers. During 2020, its content was viewed on around 36,200 occasions and the account was visited over 4,300 times.

The JS continues to liaise closely with approved projects and focus on maintaining a flow of regular bilingual/ trilingual twitter updates and news items for uploading to the Ireland Wales website. Since the beginning of 2020 the JS have implemented a monitoring system to review each projects social media activity on a weekly basis and website content on a monthly basis. This information is used to inform communications recommendation reports, which are produced for each project and updated regularly. The report is shared with the relevant project lead and feeds into ongoing review meetings between the Joint Secretariat and projects to help ensure the Ireland-Wales programme is appropriately promoted and publicity is maximised.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

#### 3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA1	Cross-Border Innovation	<p>A commitment level of 105% has been allocated to ten operations under the Priority (€32.26m of EU funds) by the end of 2020. One cross border operations was approved in 2020; Healthy Oats – aims to strengthen territorial innovation in oat product development through the collaboration of complimentary Welsh and Irish expertise (research, policy, industrial and consumer and health behaviour expertise).</p> <p>At the close of 2020 there were no proposals in the pipeline or in business planning for the Priority.</p> <p>The primary issues identified by Lead Partners centred on the ability to maintain delivery of their approved activity during the Covid19 pandemic and Member State lockdowns. The Joint Secretariat maintained regular contact with all partners and instigated the development of a Covid 19 Risk register for all approved projects.</p>
PA2	Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change	<p>By the end of 2020 the programme had exceeded the total allocation available, €30.8m had been committed to seven operations (or over 100% of the funding available).</p> <p>No operations were approved during 2020 and are there were no proposals in the pipeling or business planning for the Priority.</p> <p>The primary issues identified by Lead Partners centred on the ability to maintain delivery of their approved activity during the Covid 19 pandemic and Member State lockdowns. The Joint Secretariat maintained regular contact with all partners and instigated the development of a Covid 19 Risk register for all approved projects.</p>
PA3	Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage	<p>Two operations were approved €3.7m for Phase 2 Funding, Celtic Routes (ERDF €1.53m) and The Saints (ERDF €1.19m) during 2020. By the end of 2020 the programme had committed €11.47m or 76% of the funding available.</p> <p>At the close of 2020 there was one proposal at pre-planning (Portalis €1.76m) - and one operation in business planning (CupHat €2.4m).</p> <p>The primary issues identified by Lead Partners centred on the ability to maintain delivery of their approved activity during the Covid 19 pandemic and Member State lockdowns. The Joint Secretariat maintained regular contact with all partners and instigated the development of a Covid 19 Risk register for all approved projects.</p>
PA4	Technical Assistance	<p>By end 2020 around 97% of the total allocation available remained committed to one operation under the Priority. This operation is to enable WEFO and the Southern Regional Assembly to manage and implement the delivery of the Programme. The operation continued to progress during 2020, with indicators reported broadly in line with forecast,</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>as detailed on page 13 of this report, and spend currently just over 28% of the committed funds. Both have been actively monitored, and the operation supported the Joint Secretariat during 2020 in the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post approval monitoring and visits;</li> <li>• Completing Funding Decision Reports;</li> <li>• Preparing documentation for PSC members' decision;</li> <li>• Drafting Offer Letters;</li> <li>• Working with Lead Partners to finalise business plans/Phase 2 funding;</li> <li>• Supporting the Managing Authority.</li> </ul>

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

### Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	PA1 - Cross-Border Innovation
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA1.1b**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,200.00	329.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,200.00	719.00	
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,200.00	329.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,200.00	719.00	
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	35.00	18.00	
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	35.00	75.00	
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	70.00	109.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	70.00	213.00	
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	791,984.00	558,000.00	
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	791,984.00	1,138,000.00	
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30.00	20.00	
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30.00	39.00	
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	600.00	45.00	
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	600.00	191.00	
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	50.00	115.00	
S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	50.00	197.00	
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	45.00	14.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	45.00	24.00	
F	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	Networks	6.00	4.00	
S	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	Networks	6.00	10.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	3.00	0.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	3.00	3.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	259.00	89.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	738.00	598.00	479.00	341.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	259.00	89.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	738.00	598.00	479.00	341.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	11.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	61.00	57.00	47.00	21.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	75.00	46.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	62.00	60.00	60.00	46.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	558,000.00	9,203.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	658,000.00	558,000.00	558,000.00	558,000.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	15.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	25.00	22.00	20.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	30.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	164.00	161.00	141.00	72.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	75.00	46.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	62.00	66.00	54.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	12.00	17.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	22.00	20.00	18.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	3.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	9.00	8.00	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	3.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA1 - Cross-Border Innovation</b>
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
Specific objective	SO1 - To increase the intensity of knowledge transfer collaborations involving research organisations and SMEs in line with the shared priorities of the smart specialisation strategies

**Table 1: Result indicators - PA1.1b.SO1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	TBC	0.00		0.00			
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	% increase	1,493,568,970.00	2015	1.00			
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)	% increase	2,451,253,000.00	2013	0.20			Data not yet available for 2020. Data for Wales for 2019 converted from Sterling to Euros based on £1/€1.1.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies								
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies			120,700,038.00					
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)	3,742,495,000.00		3,312,438,000.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies				
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies				
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)				

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA2 - Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change</b>
<b>Investment priority</b>	<b>5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches</b>

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA2.5a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	10.00	18.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	10.00	23.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	1.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	1.00	
F	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	Awareness raising initiatives	60.00	40.00	
S	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	Awareness raising initiatives	60.00	99.00	
F	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	24.00	53.00	
S	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	24.00	78.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	12.00	15.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	21.00	18.00	15.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	17.00	16.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	75.00	56.00	44.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	26.00	23.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	54.00	47.00	37.00	4.00	0.00	0.00

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

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA2 - Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change</b>
Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
Specific objective	SO2 - To increase capacity and knowledge of Climate Change adaptation for the Irish sea and coastal communities

**Table 1: Result indicators - PA2.5a.SO2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	TBC	0.00		0.00			
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	% of communities and businesses	64.00	2015	70.00			Data not yet available for 2019 / 2020.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses							0.00	
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses			59.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	64.00		0.00	
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	64.00			

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage</b>
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA3.6c**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	10.00	0.00	
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	10.00	8.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	0.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	0.00	
F	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	Cross-border networks	12.00	1.00	
S	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	Cross-border networks	12.00	14.00	
F	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	20.00	11.00	
S	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	20.00	34.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	8.00	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	5.00	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	17.00	12.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage</b>
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	SO3 - To sustainably realise the potential of natural and cultural assets in increasing visitor numbers to coastal communities in the Programme area

**Table 1: Result indicators - PA3.6c.SO3**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area	Number of overseas visitors	6,902,000.00	2012	7,040,040.00			Latest data relates to 2017 as this is the latest year for which data are available.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area					10,483,492.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area	6,902,000.00		6,902,000.00	

## Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	PA4 - Technical Assistance
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**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA4.Technical Assistance**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	PS07	Number of training events held	Training Events	4.00	3.00	
S	PS07	Number of training events held	Training Events	4.00	4.00	
F	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Project visits	300.00	87.00	
S	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Project visits	300.00	300.00	
F	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	PMC meetings	14.00	9.00	
S	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	PMC meetings	14.00	15.00	
F	PS10	Number of press releases	Press releases	10.00	9.00	
S	PS10	Number of press releases	Press releases	10.00	10.00	
F	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number of FTEs		11.00	
S	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number of FTEs		11.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	PS07	Number of training events held	3.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS07	Number of training events held	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	80.00	49.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	8.00	6.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	15.00	15.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS10	Number of press releases	9.00	9.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS10	Number of press releases	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00

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

### 3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2020	Observations
PA1	F	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	4,751,906	39,599,224.00	14,480,306.82	
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	5		6.00	
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	0	70.00	109.00	
PA2	F	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	4,157,919	34,649,320.00	15,655,422.34	
PA2	I	IS02	Number of projects approved with organisations cooperating on a cross-border basis to enhance the marine and coastal environment	Number of projects	4		7.00	
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	0	24.00	53.00	
PA3	F	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	2,257,156	18,809,632.00	702,704.00	
PA3	I	IS03	Number of projects approved involving coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Number of projects	4		4.00	
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	0	20.00	11.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
PA1	F	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	9,006,383.83	4,913,090.51	254,355.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	5.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	75.00	46.00	11.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	F	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	7,434,318.06	3,850,163.37	199,653.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	I	IS02	Number of projects approved with organisations cooperating on a cross-border basis to enhance the marine and coastal environment	Number of projects	6.00	5.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	26.00	23.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	F	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	290,044.32	12,628.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	I	IS03	Number of projects approved involving coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Number of projects	3.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
PA1	F	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	0.00
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	0.00
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	0.00
PA2	F	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	0.00
PA2	I	IS02	Number of projects approved with organisations cooperating on a cross-border basis to enhance the marine and coastal environment	Number of projects	0.00
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	0.00
PA3	F	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	0.00
PA3	I	IS03	Number of projects approved involving coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Number of projects	0.00
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	0.00

### 3.4. Financial data

**Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level**

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
PA1	ERDF	Total	39,599,224.00	80.00	39,070,118.68	98.66%	38,057,955.05	16,827,132.76	42.49%	9
PA2	ERDF	Total	34,649,320.00	80.00	37,459,445.00	108.11%	36,613,990.00	16,091,607.35	46.44%	7
PA3	ERDF	Total	18,809,632.00	80.00	12,854,176.00	68.34%	12,577,783.00	1,615,042.40	8.59%	4
PA4	ERDF	Total	5,939,883.00	80.00	5,735,197.00	96.55%	5,735,197.00	1,684,329.37	28.36%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>98,998,059.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>95,118,936.68</b>	<b>96.08%</b>	<b>92,984,925.05</b>	<b>36,218,111.88</b>	<b>36.58%</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>98,998,059.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>95,118,936.68</b>	<b>96.08%</b>	<b>92,984,925.05</b>	<b>36,218,111.88</b>	<b>36.58%</b>	<b>21</b>

**Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)**

Not applicable to the Programme.

**Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention**

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		02	UKL12	1,188,843.00	1,188,843.00	781,980.93	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		11	IE021	4,429,295.00	4,429,295.00	1,878,467.99	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	05	07	01		22	IE024	1,460,728.00	1,460,728.00	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	05	07	01		22	IE025	5,270,000.00	5,085,000.00	168,363.05	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	01	07	01		24	IE021	1,119,174.68	895,339.05	1,114,899.18	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	03	07	01		02	IE024	2,282,090.00	2,282,090.00	1,804,065.99	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	05	07	01		20	UKL18	18,829,450.00	18,234,843.00	7,968,922.38	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	05	07	01		24	UKL14	4,490,538.00	4,481,817.00	3,110,433.24	2
PA2	ERDF	087	01	01	07	05		22	IE021	1,605,765.00	1,566,765.00	436,185.01	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	01	07	05		22	IE023	6,093,417.00	6,093,417.00	2,352,911.92	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		02	IE024	5,410,225.00	5,410,225.00	644,447.13	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		02	UKL12	6,633,329.00	6,423,252.00	5,300,102.05	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		22	IE021	9,181,249.00	9,181,249.00	4,203,506.76	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		22	UKL12	3,359,476.00	3,014,705.00	114,508.13	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		22	UKL14	5,175,984.00	4,924,377.00	3,039,946.35	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	02	07	06		23	UKL14	3,905,034.00	3,905,034.00	860,063.34	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	05	07	06		23	IE024	3,249,536.00	3,249,536.00	394,838.37	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	05	07	06		23	UKL14	2,373,657.00	2,175,050.00	360,140.69	1
PA3	ERDF	094	01	01	07	06		24	IE025	3,325,949.00	3,248,163.00	0.00	1
PA4	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	UKL1	5,735,197.00	5,735,197.00	1,684,329.37	1

**Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area**

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
Catalyst	9,478.72	0.01%	21,212.56	0.03%

(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

#### 4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

As mentioned in the previous AIR the Ireland Wales Territorial Cooperation Programme 2014 to 2020: mid-term evaluation has now been published in May 2020. Below are the recommendations that came out of the evaluation.

Recommendations made:

- The Managing Authority should continue with the open/rolling call process for project applications but seek to increase communication with applicants around the expected time taken for delays in applications and provide deadlines by which time applicants can expect feedback.
- In recognition of the importance of having high levels of attendance at Programme Monitoring Committee meetings, the Managing Authority should explore the possibility of drawing up Memoranda of Understanding or using other mechanisms to ensure that stakeholders' resource commitment is recognised by the organisation they are representing.
- The Programme's Joint Secretariat should further explore ways to improve attendance at Programme Monitoring Committee meetings, including the use of robust videoconferencing solutions, if required.
- The Managing Authority should work with projects to draw up a charter that clearly sets out what a project can expect when engaging with the Programme's management, particularly in terms of response times to queries and timescales for decision-making.
- The Programme should develop a plan for the communication of the benefits/emerging impacts of the Programme and its projects to the general public. One mechanism for doing this would be to reorganise the Programme website so that it focuses on the benefits of the Programme's projects.
- In light of the problematic nature of the Programme's result indicators, the Managing Authority should specify that the Final Evaluation should adopt a Contribution Analysis approach to assessing the impact of the Programme, in addition to the required quantitative approach.
- The Managing Authority should provide guidance to projects to ensure that they and/or their project-level evaluations collect qualitative and quantitative data on their effects that can be used by the Programme's final evaluation to explore the impact as a whole.
- The Managing Authority should also provide guidance to projects to ensure that they and/or their project-level evaluations collect evidence of the project's contribution towards the Cross-Cutting Themes.
- The final evaluation of the Programme should explore the rationale for the Programme's approach to Cross-Cutting Themes and analyse the extent to which it has been successful.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
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## 5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

The UK withdrawal from the EU (Brexit) occurred in January 2020, with a transition period in place until January 2021.

With the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic and programme commitment levels and the portfolio of projects strong, during 2020, there were minimal enquiries from potential partners in both Ireland and Wales. The JS registered three proposals at the pre-planning stage:

- One in Priority Axis 2 (ACRA), subsequently withdrawn, and
- Two in Priority Axis 3 (CupHat and Portalis).

Whilst the JS continued to maximise commitment levels and monitor post approval activity during 2020 the key focus was to provide support to approved operations during the pandemic.

#### Covid19

The Programme adopted a flexible approach in considering readjustments to projects. The JS initiated regular catch up meetings with all approved operations and asked that each develop a Covid 19 Risk Register. The risk registers are regularly reviewed and updated. The JS instigated several measures including renegotiation of planned expenditure forecasts, the deferral of verification of claims and processing no cost extensions to project timelines. Work packages aimed at tackling some of the impacts of Covid 19 were encouraged; the Acclimatize project updated the PMC on such an initiative in November 2020.

WEFO (MA) introduced a Covid 19 Frequently Asked Questions document, which was circulated to the Lead Partners of all approved projects and uploaded to the Ireland Wales website.

**(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.**

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## **6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

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

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

**7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

## 8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 8.1. Major projects

**Table 7: Major projects**

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

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

Not applicable to this Programme.

#### **Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme**

Not applicable to this Programme.

## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable to this Programme.

**Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)**

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

Not applicable to this Programme.

**9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

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

Priority axis	PA1 - Cross-Border Innovation
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Not applicable to this reporting year.
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Priority axis	PA2 - Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change
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Not applicable to this reporting year.
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Priority axis	PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage
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Not applicable to this reporting year.
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Priority axis	PA4 - Technical Assistance
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Not applicable to this reporting year.
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**9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

Not applicable to this reporting year.
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**9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

Not applicable to this reporting year.
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**9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)</b>	<b>Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)</b>
PA2		
<b>Total</b>		

Not applicable to this reporting year.

**9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

Not applicable to this reporting year.
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**10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013**

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

Not applicable to this reporting year.

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

Not applicable to this reporting year.

**11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)**

**11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme**

Not applicable to this reporting year.

**11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF**

Not applicable to this reporting year.

### 11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

All three operational Priorities have some alignment with the Atlantic Strategy and its Action Plan although clearly the geographical reach of the Ireland Wales cross-border programme covers only part of the Sea Basin territory.

The Programme's selection process requires an assessment of the extent that joint operations fit with each of its nine selection criteria. These are split into three core criteria analysed at a Gateway 1 stage and a further six selection criteria analysed at Gateway 2 – detailed business planning stage. One of the three core criteria addresses strategic fit including an assessment of the alignment of the cross-border operation with the Atlantic Strategy, where this is relevant.

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

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

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

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

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Currently, there are no plans to invest in ATLSBS

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

n.a.

**11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation**

Not applicable to this reporting year.

**13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

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

Not applicable to this reporting year.

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

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

Not applicable to this reporting year.
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