

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

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.....	1
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)	4
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
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS	7
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.....	10
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA2.5A.....	11
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - PA2.5A.SO2	12
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA3.6c.....	13
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - PA3.6c.SO3.....	14
PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	15
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA4.TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	15
3.3 TABLE 3: INFORMATION ON THE MILESTONES AND TARGETS DEFINED IN THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK	16
3.4. FINANCIAL DATA	17
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL.....	17
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).....	18
TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF THE CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL DATA BY CATEGORY OF INTERVENTION	19
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME AREA	20
(1) ERDF SUPPORT IS THE COMMISSION DECISION ON THE RESPECTIVE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.	20
4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS	21
5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN.....	22
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN	22
(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.	22
6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	23
7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	24
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).....	25
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS.....	25
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS	25
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM	25
ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME	25
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS	26
TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP).....	27
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM.....	28
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)	29
9.1 INFORMATION IN PART A AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	29
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).....	30
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)	31

9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	32
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)	33
10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013	34
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS	34
10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY	34
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)	35
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.....	35
11.2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND BENEFICIARIES TO ADMINISTER AND TO USE THE ERDF	35
11.3 CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE APPROPRIATE)	35
ATLSBS.....	36
11.4 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION	37
13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	38
14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	39

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.

Programme highlights

The Programme made good progress during 2017. At the end of December 2017:

- Twelve operations approved (eight approved during 2017)
- €43m ERDF committed (€22m committed during 2017)
- 54% of the ERDF allocation for the Programme committed

A total of six operations have been approved under PA1 (Cross-Border Innovation), four approved under PA2 (Climate change), one approved under PA3 (Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage), and one approved under PA4 (Technical Assistance) Joint operations approved, as at the end of December 2017, are forecast to support over 450 enterprises and will link a further 60 enterprises and research institutions cooperating in research and innovation projects. Operations will support nearly 40 organisations working in partnership to enhance the marine and coastal environment. Support will be provided for six coastal communities to enhance cultural, natural or heritage tourism along the coasts of the cross-border region. 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. For a number of the result indicators data is not currently available for the reporting year or previous years. Data for the output indicators 2014 and 2015 is zero because there were no operations being implemented during this period.

During 2017, the Managing Authority (MA) and Joint Secretariat (JS) took a number of steps to raise the profile of and re-invigorate interest in the Programme following discussions at the Cork Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC). This included a twitter campaign in March, greater promotional activity in Ireland, where interest levels were considered to have fallen and the opening of a specific call launched for Priority Axis 3 in May. As such, interest levels improved during the year.

Programme Meetings

The PMC met twice in 2017:

PMC6 – 9 May 2017 – Kilkenny, Ireland

Items for discussion at the meeting included an update on EU Transition from both the Irish and Welsh Governments, an update on the second Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting held in February and confirmation that a programme modification had been sent to the Commission to secure incorporation of the

remaining result indicators for PA 1 and PA 2. The PMC noted progress with the programme and with its Communications Strategy. The approved project PISCES was presented to the PMC by project partners.

PMC7 – 23 November 2017 – Swansea, Wales

Although no major decisions were required at the meeting, the PMC held a discussion on options for encouraging greater attendance at future PMC meetings. The PMC noted the position on EU transition, an update from the MA on work being undertaken in the UK on ETC and progress with the programme including the healthy pipeline of operations in the system. The approved project CALIN was presented to the PMC by project partners.

The PSC had been set up and mandated by the PMC to select operations for funding, with an inaugural meeting in 2015. The PSC met once during 2017:

PSC 2 – 23 February 2017 – Dublin, Ireland

Agenda items included an update on EU Transition, programme progress including levels of commitment, a review of PSC procedures and decisions for two PA 1 projects.

The majority of PSC business is conducted via the Programme PSC Portal in alignment with the Rules of Procedure. The PSC considered four Business Plans at Gateway 1 and five Business Plans at Gateway 2 (approval) during the period.

Two Technical Group (TG) meetings were held during 2017:

TG6 – 8 February 2017 – Merthyr Tydfil, Wales

Two proposals considered under PA 1 (Cross-Border Innovation), one proposal considered under PA 2 (Adaptation to Climate Change) and one proposal considered under PA 3 (Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage).

TG7 - 26 September 2017 – Carmarthen, Wales

The meeting considered the twenty-five Operation Logic Tables (OLTs) submitted in response to the PA 3 (Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage) call.

Communications

Publicity surrounding the Ireland Wales Programme continued to grow with news stories prominent in both countries and politicians recognising the positive engagement across the Sea border.

During 2017 a range of actions were undertaken to implement the communications strategy. Press notices were

issued to the media, promoted on the Ireland Wales website and via social media for all approved projects.

@IrelandWales gained new twitter followers during the year bringing the number of followers from 500 in 2016 to 747 at the end of 2017. A mini campaign to promote individual projects on Twitter in July and August 2017 resulted in 49 retweets and 34 likes.

The website (<http://irelandwales.eu/>) continues to attract interest with a peak number of 2,776 views in October 2017. 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.

The JS has liaised closely with approved projects and focussed on maintaining a flow of regular twitter updates and news items for uploading to the Ireland Wales website.

Stakeholder support

In response to a perceived lessening in interest in Ireland and in particular for delivered activity in PA 3, on the back of discussions at the 2016 Cork PMC, the MA and its operational partners in Ireland decided to open a specific call for projects which the JS launched in May. The call was promoted via social media and supported by meetings with key stakeholders, a workshop event in Waterford, Ireland and a webinar targeted at the third sector. The response to the call was positive with twenty-five proposals submitted, of which nine were invited to progress to business planning.

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>By the end of 2017 around 58% of the total allocation available had been committed to six operations under the Priority (€18.3m of EU funds), four of which were approved in 2017; pISCES - smart grid technologies, Irish Sea Portal - pilot designed to test the concept of a link between HEIs and Research Institutions with the SMEs operating in the Irish Sea, Bucanier - develop open innovation resulting in focused clusters and networks in renewable energy, food and drink and life science sectors and More than a Club – pilot designed to test an approach using sports clubs as hubs and develop four social enterprises.</p> <p>During 2017 six proposals were in the pipeline for the Priority of which four were in business planning and one in detailed business planning.</p> <p>The one business plan in detailed business planning was Catalyst, which aims to use sustainable development as a catalyst to drive design and innovation for Welsh and Irish life science and the food and drink sector SME's.</p> <p>At the business planning stage were the Cross Border Social Enterprise Accelerator – aiming to develop a pipeline of innovative social ventures and support them to become investable social enterprises; Selkie – develop ocean energy technology; Rurilink – increase capacity and capability of rural SME's and AquaCoast – aquaculture developments to help Irish and Welsh stakeholders in the competitive global market.</p> <p>Not all the operations in the pipeline may necessarily progress to the business planning stages, or be taken through to funding decision. No significant problems were identified.</p>
PA2	Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change	<p>By the end of 2017 around 65% of the total allocation available had been committed to four operations (€18.1m of EU funds), three of which were approved in 2017; Acclimatize - identify the main pollution pressures on bathing waters, develop assessment tools to evaluate the impact of climate change and develop management tools to limit the impact of that change on the bathing waters, Bluefish – develop guidelines and best practice for environmental and economic sustainability of commercially important marine organisms in the Irish Sea and Eco-structures - explore how coastal communities can meet the challenges of the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change while minimising the impacts on the natural environment and maximising potential secondary ecological and socio-economic benefit.</p> <p>During 2017 four proposals were in the pipeline for the Priority, three were in the business planning stage; STREAM – develop a technological solution to monitor coastal and estuarine regions for impacts of climate change, Coastal Communities Acting Together (CCAT) – monitor impacts of climate change through a participative citizen science research project and The Flood Partnership – work with local communities, local government and landowners to implement low cost landscape measures to minimise and eliminate flooding.</p> <p>Not all the operations in the pipeline may necessarily progress to the business planning stages, or be taken through to funding decision. No significant problems were identified.</p>
PA3	Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage	<p>By the end of 2017 around 10% of the total allocation available had been committed to one operation (€1.6m of EU funds). This was Celtic Routes, a pilot to test the feasibility of a series of newly created cross border tourism trails that</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>combine natural, cultural and heritage assets in Ireland and Wales.</p> <p>During 2017 eleven proposals were in the pipeline for the Priority all were in business planning; Heritage Trails in Ireland and Wales – develop a geo-tour in Swansea and Cork, LIVE – Eco-museums, e-Insist – develop cross border e-infrastructure, Legendary Celtic Coasts – promote links between popular myths, prose and poetry and natural, cultural and coastal landscape features, Echoes of the Land – eco-museums, Ports Past & Present – enhance and diversify experience of travel between Ireland and Wales and open up new tourism opportunities, The Fitzstephen Project – build on a historic relationship between Cardigan Castle in Wales and the Irish National Heritage Park, Re-discovering Ancient Connections – The Saints – revive ancient links between St.Davids in Wales and St.Aidan (Ferns) in Ireland, BetarLoop - create and promote a Biosphere Eco Tourism and Recreation Loop, Time Credits 4 Tourism - develop a Time Credit network, creating a community-currency for heritage (earned by volunteering to maintain and promote tourist attractions) that can be spent at attractions in Ireland and Wales and Waterford Gwynedd Skills Restoration - develop the skill base necessary to restore, operate and maintain heritage steam locomotives in Ireland and Wales.</p> <p>Not all the operations in the pipeline may necessarily progress to the business planning stages, or be taken through to funding decision. No significant problems were identified.</p>
PA4	Technical Assistance	<p>By end 2017 around 97% of the total allocation available had been committed to one operation under the Priority (€4.6m of EU funds). This was the operation to enable WEFO and the Southern Regional Assembly to manage the delivery of the Programme. The operation continued to progress during 2017, with projected spend and indicators being actively monitored. The operation will support the Joint Secretariat as it continues to develop and progress operations through the approval process to meet the target of full commitment of the programme by December 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Lead Partners to finalise business plans; • Completing Funding Decision Reports; • Preparing documentation for PSC members’ decision, via the portal; • Drafting Offer Letters; • Post approval visits; and • Supporting the Managing Authority <p>No significant problems were identified whilst implementing the Priority during 2017.</p>

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	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

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,200.00	4.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,200.00	479.00	
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,200.00	4.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,200.00	479.00	
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	35.00	0.00	
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	35.00	47.00	
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	70.00	11.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	70.00	60.00	
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	791,984.00	0.00	
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	791,984.00	558,000.00	
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30.00	0.00	
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30.00	20.00	
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	600.00	0.00	
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	600.00	141.00	
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	50.00	11.00	
S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	50.00	54.00	
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	45.00	2.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	45.00	18.00	
F	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	Networks	6.00	1.00	
S	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	Networks	6.00	6.00	
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	2.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	341.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	341.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	21.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	46.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	558,000.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	9.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	72.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	40.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	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]

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
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	2017 Total	2017 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			Data not available for 2017.
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	% increase	1,493,568,970.00	2015	1.00			Data not available for 2017.
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)	% increase	2,451,253,000.00	2013	0.20			Data not available for 2017.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	0.00		0.00		0.00	
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies						
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)						

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

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	10.00	4.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	10.00	15.00	
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	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	Awareness raising initiatives	60.00	3.00	
S	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	Awareness raising initiatives	60.00	44.00	
F	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	24.00	15.00	
S	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	24.00	37.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	9.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	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]

Priority axis	PA2 - Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change
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	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	TBC	0.00		0.00			Data not available for 2017.
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	% of communities and businesses	64.00	2015	70.00			Data not available for 2017.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	0.00		64.00		0.00	
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses			64.00			

Priority axis	PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage
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	2017	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	2.00	
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	0.00	
S	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	Cross-border networks	12.00	3.00	
F	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	20.00	0.00	
S	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	20.00	6.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	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]

Priority axis	PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage
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	2017 Total	2017 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			Data not available for 2017.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	2017	Observations
F	PS07	Number of training events held	Training Events	4.00	1.00	
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	12.00	
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	5.00	
S	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	PMC meetings	14.00	14.00	
F	PS10	Number of press releases	Press releases	10.00	2.00	
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	2016	2015	2014
F	PS07	Number of training events held	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS07	Number of training events held	4.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	300.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS10	Number of press releases	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS10	Number of press releases	10.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	11.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	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	2017	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	254,355.00	
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	5		4.00	
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	0	70.00	11.00	
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	199,653.00	
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	4		4.00	
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	0	24.00	15.00	
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	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	4		1.00	
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	0	20.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2016	2015	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	0.00	0.00
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	0.00	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	0.00	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	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	0.00	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	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	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	0.00	0.00	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	23,186,025.00	58.55%	22,542,933.00	720,333.92	1.82%	6
PA2	ERDF	Total	34,649,320.00	80.00	22,606,472.00	65.24%	22,098,544.00	1,087,396.48	3.14%	4
PA3	ERDF	Total	18,809,632.00	80.00	1,989,687.00	10.58%	1,989,687.00	0.00	0.00%	1
PA4	ERDF	Total	5,939,883.00	80.00	5,735,197.00	96.55%	5,735,197.00	571,868.04	9.63%	1
Total	ERDF		98,998,059.00	80.00	53,517,381.00	54.06%	52,366,361.00	2,379,598.44	2.40%	12
Grand total			98,998,059.00	80.00	53,517,381.00	54.06%	52,366,361.00	2,379,598.44	2.40%	12

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 eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		02	UKL12	1,386,459.00	1,386,459.00	289,944.20	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		11	IE021	3,336,795.00	3,336,795.00	149,165.40	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	01	01	01		24	IE021	1,281,916.00	1,025,533.00	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	03	01	01		02	IE024	2,282,090.00	2,282,090.00	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	05	01	01		20	UKL18	11,961,292.00	11,574,583.00	238,350.98	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	05	01	01		24	UKL14	2,937,473.00	2,937,473.00	42,873.34	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	01	07	05		22	UKL1	4,071,494.00	4,020,729.00	39,457.63	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	01	05		22	IE021	6,722,945.00	6,722,945.00	608,941.44	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	03	05		02	UKL12	6,634,279.00	6,423,789.00	160,195.70	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	03	05		22	UKL14	5,177,754.00	4,931,081.00	278,801.71	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	02	03	06		23	UKL14	1,989,687.00	1,989,687.00	0.00	1
PA4	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	UKL1	5,735,197.00	5,735,197.00	571,868.04	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)
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(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

No evaluations available at present. WEFO is planning on commissioning a Mid Term Evaluation of the Programme later in 2018 as well as a survey to collect data to report progress against the result indicators for Specific Objectives 1 and 2.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

During 2017 the programme focussed on progressing proposals through the assessment process to approval. The JS continued to meet with key stakeholders and attended events in Wales and Ireland to promote the programme.

In response to a perceived lessening in interest in Ireland and in particular for delivered activity in PA 3, on the back of discussions at the 2016 Cork PMC, the MA and its operational partners in Ireland decided to open a specific call for projects which the JS launched in May. The call was promoted via social media and supported by meetings with key stakeholders, events in Ireland and a webinar targeted at the third sector. The response to the call was positive with 25 proposals submitted, of which 9 were invited to progress to business planning.

An increasing role for the JS during 2017 was monitoring and providing support to projects post approval. The JS initiated induction meetings for all newly approved projects and followed this up with regular contact and quarterly face-to-face meetings. This has resulted in the JS establishing good working relationships with project deliverers and being close to any emerging issues.

The use of ARACHNE was not fully implemented during 2017 due to internal IT issues. These issues have since been resolved and, from March 2018, the system was fully implemented.

(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 content of the annual report can be found at Annex 1.

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

Not applicable to the Programme.

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 the Programme.

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

Not applicable to the Programme.

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable to the 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 the 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.

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

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
PA2	18,085,178.25	65.24%
Total	18,085,178.25	22.84%

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.

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 cross-border programme covers only part of the Sea Basin territory.

A number of operations approved in 2017 can be considered as aligning to Priorities 1 and 2 of the Strategy concerning promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation and protecting, securing and developing the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment.

For example, in PA 1, **Bucanier** will increase innovation capacity within SMEs and social enterprises by collaborating with Higher Education (HE) institutions and other public bodies in the renewable energy, food and drink and life science sectors across the Irish Sea border.

In PA 2, **Bluefish** will develop knowledge and understanding of the marine resources of the Irish Sea and Celtic Seas by addressing knowledge gaps regarding the effects on and potential vulnerability of selected commercial fish and shellfish from predicted climate change.

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:

	Priority	Objective
<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 the ATLSBS.

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

Not applicable.

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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