



## **PMC Meeting 3 – Agenda**

### **Ireland Wales Programme 2007-13 (INTERREG 4A)**

#### **Programme Monitoring Committee - Meeting 3**

**Agenda for Meeting on Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2pm**

**Venue – Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin, Ireland**

1. Opening and Introduction
2. Minutes of PMC 2 Saundersfoot, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 PMC (03) 01
3. Matters Arising
4. Programme Update Report PMC (03) 02
5. Future use of funds – targeted calls PMC (03) 03
6. Annual Implementation Report PMC (03) 04
7. Development Officers Report PMC (03) 05
8. Publicity and Communications PMC (03) 06
9. Any Other Business

## **Ireland Wales Programme 2007 – 2013**

### ***Draft Minutes of the Programme Monitoring Committee Meeting (2) Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008***

#### **2007-2013 Ireland Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting)**

The meeting was held in St. Brides Hotel, Saundersfoot, Wales

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening and Introduction**

- 1) Cathy Presland, Joint Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She extended a particular welcome to all the visitors from Ireland and to Fernando Coelho-Moniz, European Commission Desk Officer for the Programme. On behalf of the PMC, she expressed sincere thanks to Barbro Andersson, the outgoing European Commission Desk Officer, for her advice and guidance to the Ireland Wales programme and especially during the period of the negotiations for the 2007-2013 Programme.
- 2) Attendance at the meeting is as shown in **Annex 1**. Apologies were received from Tracey Burke who was represented by Richard Rossington; Niall MacSweeney who was represented by Paul O' Keeffe and from Cllr. Conal Kavanagh who was represented by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach. Apologies were also received from John Lambert, Cllrs. Pat Hand and Ted Howlin, Ivan Grimes, Barbro Andersson, Sean Murphy, Tom Doyle, Colm McGrady, Peter Bunting and Mike Pollard.
- 3) Following an invitation from Cathy Presland (Joint Chair) the attendees introduced themselves to the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Minutes of PMC 1 Waterford – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 (02) 01**

- 4) The minutes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting. Stephen Blair, Joint Chair, complimented the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) on the minutes presented.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising**

- 5) Simon Baily outlined the action points from the previous meeting. He advised Committee Members that the *Programme Monitoring Committee Rules of Procedures* (Action Point 1, as agreed at the last meeting) had been circulated at the start of the meeting.

- 6) The members were advised on *action points 2 – 5*; core selection criteria, the application form, the programme implementation plan and the WIN 2 Scheme. It was noted that all related information was circulated to the membership on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Simon added that a copy of the approved Programme Communication Plan had been circulated to Committee Members at the start of the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Programme Update Report (02) 02**

- 7) Simon Baily introduced the Programme Update Report, noting some of the key points.

The objectives of the Programme Update Report were two-fold:

- To advise members regarding the outcomes of the first call for proposals
  - To advise members regarding arrangements for the second call for proposals
- 8) Simon Baily stated that the first call closed on January 18<sup>th</sup> and the JTS received 15 calls for proposals. He referred members to the paper PMC (02) 02, (paragraph 3) to see the split between the different themes in the programme.
  - 9) 14 of the 15 applications were considered by the Steering Committee at their meetings at the end of April/start of May and 6 were approved for grant support. He informed the members that the total ERDF grant commitment across the 2 priorities is €6.3 million euro.
  - 10) Simon advised the members that staff at the Secretariat are at present working closely with the six approved projects to resolve minor issues raised by the Steering Committee and to clean up any outstanding technical issues relating to their application. He informed members that the JTS should be in a position to issue subsidy contracts during the first half of July.
  - 11) Simon Baily referred members to the Annexes which accompanied the PMC (02) 02 paper. Annex I outlined the list of projects approved along with their total project budget. The remaining Annexes listed a breakdown per theme, geographical area, sectoral breakdown and provisional monitoring information.

- 12) Simon advised the Committee of more precise opening and closing dates for the second call for proposals. It was noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> call will open on Friday July 4<sup>th</sup> with a closing date of Friday September 19<sup>th</sup>. He informed members that a notice to this effect would be placed on the programme website. The Development Officers would be communicating this information to all potential project sponsors who had submitted Expression of Interest forms. Members were made aware that the programme N + 2 Target for the end of 2009 is over €4.2million and this will be monitored on an on-going basis to ensure that it is reached.
- 13) Simon welcomed feedback and comments on the Programme Update Report from members. Stephen Blair commented that the Steering Committee had set high standards with regard to approving quality projects and this message will go out to potential project sponsors.
- 14) Carys Thomas raised a query regarding the increase in the amount of money requested by project sponsors. Simon Baily indicated that the current Programme has a more strategic focus compared to the last Ireland Wales Programme and as a result projects are trying to reflect this changed emphasis which has resulted in increased budgets compared to the last programme. This is further reflected in the first set of approvals that cover large geographical areas.
- 15) Carys Thomas also asked whether the programme was open to accepting smaller scale applications, particularly from the Community and Voluntary sector, and was told that the key consideration was the quality of the project and whether it would help to deliver the programme objectives.
- 16) Carys Thomas asked why there was a lower level of bids from the Community and Voluntary sector. Simon Baily advised that the projects who submitted bids under the first call were those who were particularly well organised. Based on information from the Development Officers it was clear that the underlying interest from the Community and Voluntary sector was quite strong.

#### ***Agenda Item 5: Annual Implementation Report (02) 03***

- 17) Cathy Presland introduced the first Annual Implementation Report for the new programme.
- 18) Simon Baily provided an overview of the AIR, highlighting some of the key points. It was noted that the report is based on the requirements of Art 67 of

the General Regulation and follows the required format as set out in Annex XVIII of the Implementation Regulation. It reflects the progress made in implementing the programme during the calendar year 2007.

- 19) As there were no projects approved in 2007 there are zero figures for the outputs, results and financial indicators for Priorities 1 and 2. The information in Priority 3 reflects the progress made in Technical Assistance, in particular, the setting up of the JTS and the activity that took place as a consequence. The report also outlines the information and Publicity actions undertaken during 2007.
- 20) Simon Baily asked members for feedback and comments on the report and sought their approval in order to submit it to the European Commission.
- 21) Fernando Coelho-Moniz commented on the AIR report indicating that it provided detail on setting up the relevant structures, management activities and technical assistance. As the level of programme activity increases the next report will provide more substantial information on projects. In general Fernando was happy with the report and felt that the content was substantial for this period of the programme.
- 22) Stephen Blair informed the members that the report presented was based on a new template which differs from the 2000-2006 programme and noted the quality of the guidance supplied by the Commission which facilitated the compilation of the report.
- 23) Chriss O'Connell noted that in the Annual Implementation Report there was no mention of the cross cutting themes of the programme, as detailed in the last programme report. Chriss asked if there was a way of building this information in to the report. Simon Baily stated that page 9 of the report referred to the cross cutting themes and indicated that there was not a lot of information to include on this subject at this stage of the programme.

**Action** – *Stephen Blair advised that future Annual Implementation Reports will ensure that the cross cutting themes are reflected in the Compliance with Community Law section of the report.*

- 24) Simon Baily informed the members that the Programme Monitoring Committee must approve the Annual Implementation Report before it goes to the European Commission.

**Action** - *The Programme Monitoring Committee approved the Annual Implementation Report. This report is to be forwarded to the European Commission.*

## **Agenda Item 6: Steering Committee – Rules of Procedure (02) 04**

- 25) Simon Baily gave an update on the amended Rules of Procedure, which were approved by the Steering Committee at their first meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. He advised that they were based on the good practice established under the previous Programme and that they were being submitted to the PMC for final approval.
- 26) Anna Coleman commented on the consensus on the procedures in the Steering Committee and provided good guidance for members.
- 27) The Programme Monitoring Committee approved the final draft of the Rules of Procedure.

## **Agenda Item 7: Development Officer Report (02) 05**

- 28) Cathy Presland acknowledged the recent change in Development Officers in Ireland and Wales. She welcomed the new staff members: Patrick Lilly for South Wales, Roger Seddon for North Wales and Siobhán Rudden for Ireland.
- 29) Richard Hooper reported on the activity as the Welsh Acting Development Officer for Round 1. He noted that there had been great interest in the Programme with over 70 meetings with potential applicants, along with email and telephone consultations prior to the deadline. In particular, Richard reported on the applicant advice workshops which took place shortly before the close of Round 1 which proved to be quite successful.
- 30) Rita McGarvey reported as Acting Development Officer for Ireland. She noted that the role has been well received by applicants. She informed the meeting that at present, 240 enquiries have been recorded in the development database and 52 Expression of Interest forms have been submitted. Five presentations have been made along with website updates and meetings with various organisations. Rita and Siobhán reported they have also met with one of the unsuccessful applicants under Round 1.
- 31) Regarding the WIN 2 Scheme, Rita noted that of 8 applications, 4 were accepted, 3 rejected and 1 decided not to travel. Stephen Blair enquired whether the low take up was due to a lack of promotion. Richard Hooper explained that it had been publicised under Round 1, but more publicity could be done. The Development Officers confirmed that the scheme was promoted at all meetings with potential applicants. It was noted that most of the rejections were as a result of over-enthusiasm on the part of some of the applicants who undertook the travel without prior clearance.

- 32) Patrick Lilly noted that there was good interest in Round 2, particularly from the university sector under Priority 1 Theme 1 and Priority 2 Theme 1. Roger Seddon remarked on the enthusiastic response to the Development Officer role. He noted the good response to promotional work at the pre-Expression of Interest stage.
- 33) Judith Stone advised Patrick and Roger to avail of the opportunity to promote the programme in County Voluntary Council Newsletters. Patrick and Roger indicated that they plan to use this as a means to promote the programme.
- 34) Cathy Presland enquired if the organisations making enquiries already had project partners in place. The Development Officers explained that some Expressions of Interest were from established partnerships while others, particularly from the Community and Voluntary sector, were looking for partners and that the Development Officers were able to advise them on this.
- 35) Carys Thomas asked if the telephone/ email enquiries were recorded. Simon Baily responded that they were and explained the database system.
- 36) Carys Thomas asked if the Development Officers received many cold queries and whether they led to a complete application. Roger Seddon explained that quite a few enquiries were received from this source and the caller was always asked where they had heard about the programme. Rita McGarvey acknowledged that this was the case in Ireland also. Richard Hooper noted that the Development Officers received cold calls under the IIIA Programme also and it was up to the enquirer whether they decided to submit an application.
- 37) Cllr. Tom Richards informed the meeting that the workshop for local authorities organised by Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire County Councils in Dublin on 7<sup>th</sup> February was a successful event. Cllr. Richards expressed his thanks to the Development Officers and the JTS for their support and advice during this event.
- 38) Cathy Presland thanked the Development Officers for their work and in particular thanked Richard Hooper and Antoinette Jordan for their work on the Round 1 applications. She suggested the possibility for the Project Monitoring Committee to visit an ongoing project at a future date.

- 39) Richard Rossington asked if it would be possible to have a joint format for the Development Team report. The Development Officers indicated that they would look at a unified format for the next report.

**Action:** *The Development Officers are to create a joint format for reporting statistics and activities for the next meeting.*

### **Agenda Item 8: Publicity and Communications (02) 06**

- 40) Simon Baily gave an update on the promotional activities to date, including the formal launch of the Programme in December and the launch of the website in November. The JTS staff have made a number of external presentations since the last Committee meeting. He also highlighted the use of the Programme logo on promotional material, including the Operational Programme. Simon informed the Committee that the Managing Authority flew the EU flag over its Headquarters during the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>, as required by regulation. The JTS has also started giving consideration towards the preparation and planning of the main information and publicity event for the year.
- 41) Simon noted that now with a full Development Officer team in place this will further enhance the information and publicity activity in the second half of 2008. In relation to upcoming activities a series of workshops are to be held, including one specifically for the Community and Voluntary sector. These workshops are aimed at preparing applicants for the Round 2 call for proposals.
- 42) Simon informed the meeting that the Communication Plan was approved by the Commission in March and was tabled at the meeting. The plan highlighted the promotional objectives of the Programme and the aim is to deliver on this in the coming years. Fernando Coelho-Moniz acknowledged the formal approval of the Communication Plan and stated that the Commission are interested in working with the Programme to assist with this promotional work where appropriate as communicating the positive outcomes of structural fund investment is seen as highly important by the Commission.
- 43) Cllr. Goronwy Edwards enquired about engagement with the community and voluntary sector and promotional activities targeted at this sector. Simon Baily indicated that there would be on going promotion aimed at this sector and that one of the workshops during the second call would be specifically aimed at the Community and Voluntary sector.

- 44) Emyr Thomas asked about the number of press releases to be issued during the course of the Programme. Simon explained that there is a target of 14 press releases. Under Round 1 a number of press releases were issued and advertisements were placed in the national media.
- 45) Carys Thomas queried who was responsible for the Communications Plan. Stephen Blair explained that the Managing Authority is responsible for the Plan on a Programme wide basis, while projects would have specific responsibility for promotional activity within their own project. Advice and assistance for projects will be available on an ongoing basis from the Development Officers and the JTS.
- 46) Carys Thomas questioned the need for an evaluation of the communications measures in 2010 and then in the final implementation report as stated in the Communication Plan on page 8. Stephen Blair noted that this evaluation is required under the new regulations.
- 47) Carys Thomas enquired why bilingualism is not mentioned in the Communication Plan. Cathy Presland noted that three languages needed to be considered in the promotion of the Programme. Chriss O' Connell agreed that a language action should be mentioned in the Plan. Simon Baily reported that much of the promotional material would be in bilingual form.
- 48) Cathy Presland indicated that the Communication Plan had already been approved by the European Commission. Simon Baily commented that the bilingual aspect has been mentioned in the Operational Programme which has also been translated into Irish. Diana Wilson informed the members that the Operational Programme is currently being translated into Welsh. Stephen Blair stated that the Communication Plan will comply with the respective legislative requirements relating to the Irish and Welsh language.

**Action:** *The JTS are to ensure that publicity material is produced in bi or trilingual format where appropriate.*

#### **Agenda Item 9: Regions for Economic Change (02) 07**

- 49) Simon Baily outlined the activities relating to this European Commission initiative, which aims to ensure that good ideas and practices developed in the INTERREG IVC and URBACT II Programmes are taken on board by the mainstream Structural Funds Programmes, including the Ireland Wales Programme.

- 50) Simon commented on the benefits of taking part from an Ireland Wales perspective, including exchange of good practice. While the initiative is still at an early stage, two projects with Irish and Welsh involvement have been noted. They will be monitored and the Committee will be informed of any developments as they become available.
- 51) Fernando Coelho-Moniz welcomed this initiative and the support of the Ireland Wales Programme. Fernando advised members of the annual Regiostars awards event currently being organised and indicated that he was looking forward to seeing Ireland Wales projects participating.
- 52) Anna Coleman referred to an Interreg IVC meeting she had attended in Ljubljana and the process for selecting projects. There was a strong emphasis placed on the importance of the project promoters getting the application process right as the secretariat has strict guidelines in place regarding selection procedures.
- 53) Stephen Blair noted that some of the bids received under INTERREG 4C would have been more suitable under the INTERREG 4A or 4B programmes.
- 54) Cathy Presland thanked Anna Coleman and Stephen Blair for their updates.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business**

- 55) Fernando acknowledged that the Ireland Wales Programme was very timely in beginning operations and that the Commission would appreciate that this continues for payment claims and other deadlines. He specifically mentioned the upcoming deadlines for the presentation of the Audit Strategy on 17<sup>th</sup> June and the Article 71 Statement in September. Simon Baily acknowledged awareness of both deadlines and that the Programme is currently working to meet them.
- 56) Cllr. Goronwy Edwards raised a question regarding the cost of attendance at Programme Monitoring Committee meetings. Simon Baily noted that for Community and Voluntary attendees the Joint Technical Secretariat reimburse expenses and other attendees get expenses paid for through their own employer/organisation. Cathy Presland noted that it is common practice in domestic programmes for other participants to meet their own costs.
- 57) The meeting concluded and Cathy Presland noted that the next meeting will be held in Ireland in early December.

***Annex 1 – Attendance – Ireland Wales Programme 2007 – 2013 PMC Meeting  
(2)***

**Joint Chairs**

Stephen Blair	Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly
Cathy Presland	Welsh Assembly Government

**Members**

Councillor Tomás Breathnach	Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly
Paul O' Keeffe	The Department of Finance
Carys Thomas	Children's Rights Alliance
Councillor Goronwy Edwards	Welsh Local Government Association
Councillor Tom Richards	Welsh Local Government Association
Ted Sangster	Business Wales
Judith Stone	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Prof. Lyn Pykett	University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Emyr Thomas	Countryside Council for Wales
Paul O' Shea	Wales TUC
Richard Rossington	Welsh Assembly Government
Jonathon Mercer	Welsh European Funding Office

**Advisors**

Chriss O' Connell	Welsh European Funding Office
Dave Thomas	Welsh European Funding Office
Fernando Coelho Moniz	The European Commission

**Observer**

Gwyn Evans	Welsh Local Government Association
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**Officials**

Simon Baily	Joint Technical Secretariat
Caitriona Phelan	Joint Technical Secretariat
Rita McGarvey	Joint Technical Secretariat
Siobhan Rudden	Joint Technical Secretariat
Richard Hooper	Welsh European Funding Office
Patrick Lilly	Welsh European Funding Office
Roger Seddon	Welsh European Funding Office
Diana Wilson	Welsh European Funding Office
Anna Coleman	Welsh European Funding Office

***Annex II – Actions – Ireland Wales Programme 2007 – 2013 PMC Meeting (2)***

1. Future Annual Implementation Reports will ensure that the cross cutting themes are reflected in the Compliance with Community Law section of the report.
2. The first Annual Implementation Report is to be forwarded to the European Commission.
3. The Development Officers are to create a joint format for reporting statistics and activities for the next meeting.
4. The JTS are to ensure that publicity material is produced in bi or trilingual format where appropriate.



## **Issue**

1. Progress with the Programme since the last meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 and the update provided by written procedure on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2009.

## **Recommendation**

2. Members are invited to note the latest position with the Programme.

## **Background**

### Second Call

3. The second call for proposals closed on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 and 28 applications for funding were received by the closing date. They were split as follows:
  - Priority 1 Theme 1 – 10 applications
  - Priority 1 Theme 2 – 3 applications
  - Priority 2 Theme 1 – 9 applications
  - Priority 2 Theme 2 – 6 application

### Steering Committees

4. The applications went through a detailed appraisal which culminated in two Steering Committee meetings in Caernarfon, Gwynedd on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009.
5. At the meetings 26 of the 28 applications were considered. One project, Carbon was withdrawn prior to the meeting with a view to resubmitting in a future round while another project CARRP was rejected prior to the Steering Committee due to a lack of match funding.
6. The total project cost of the 26 applications was € 45.89 million with a related ERDF grant request of €34.21 million. This was equivalent to 79% of the remaining ERDF grant allocation for the programme.
7. In the case of Priority 1 the Committee approved 7 of the 13 applications worth a combined total of €8.62 million in ERDF grant support bringing the total commitment level for Priority 1 to €12.98 million, which is equivalent to 43.67% of the total allocation for Priority 1.

8. In the case of Priority 2 the Committee approved 5 of the 13 applications with a combined total of €7.98 million in ERDF grant support, bringing the total commitment level for Priority 2 to €9.83 million which is equivalent to 49.66% of the total allocation for Priority 2.
9. The Committee chose the projects based on the Selection Criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee at its meeting in October 2007 and followed the Rules of Procedure cleared by the Programme Monitoring Committee at its last meeting in June 2008.
10. A detailed analysis of the approvals for Rounds 1 and 2 is available in the Annexes to this document.

#### Issuing of Subsidy Contracts

11. Formal notification has been sent out to the projects under consideration advising whether they had been approved or rejected and the reasoning behind the Committee's decision.
12. In relation to rejected projects the Development Officers are on hand to provide advice and support for applicants who may wish to submit a revised proposal in the third or fourth round.
13. Following study of practices on other INTERREG programmes and on Irish Structural Funds programmes one notable alteration has been made to the Subsidy Contract. If a project chooses to do so it can begin spending once the Steering Committee has made its decision on the basis that the Committee is the formal grant approving body. However this is at the risk of the partners involved and is conditional on all remaining issues being resolved with the JTS. The aim of this is to ensure that projects can begin operations as soon as possible after approval in order to capture momentum and maximise early spend on projects. There are also potential publicity benefits that can be gained from an early announcement.
14. In relation to the approved projects the Project Officers are working closely with the Lead Partners to ensure that all outstanding issues have been dealt with satisfactorily and the aim is to issue subsidy contracts to the projects in question as soon as is practicable.

#### Future calls for proposals

15. This will be addressed in a separate agenda item.

#### Financial Management and Control

16. The financial management and control procedures for the Ireland Wales Programme are different compared to what pertained during the last programming period. This is due to a change in regulations which

introduced a number of new requirements and also due to the transfer of Managing Authority to a different Member State where structural fund management processes and practices are different.

17. Project partners have required time to become familiar with and adapt to the new requirements, particularly the First Level Control check which is the basis for the certification of eligible expenditure by approved projects.
18. The JTS and the Managing Authority are working closely with individual project partners in order to ease the transition and adaptation to the new system on an ongoing basis.
19. Further to this the JTS organised a one day workshop for the approved Round 1 project partners to introduce them to the financial control system and explain their responsibilities as beneficiaries. There was a group session in the morning where the system was introduced along with a question and answer session. Each project partner then had an individual advice and assistance session with members of the JTS in the afternoon. The event was viewed as a success and is something that will be done for future rounds, albeit earlier in the process.

#### Art 71 Systems Description/Compliance

20. The draft Art 71 Systems Description for the programme was submitted to the European Commission in September 2008 along with the Compliance Assessment Report by the Audit Authority.
21. The Managing and Audit Authority received a response back on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 indicating that the Commission Audit Services required a number of changes to the Systems Description. Most of these alterations have now been made to the document. The Audit Authority is liaising closely with the Commission's Audit Service with a view to formal resubmission as soon as possible.

#### IT System

22. The database was partly completed in 2008 and showed that the Managing Authority was in a position to complete its Annex III requirements as part of the Compliance Assessment Report under Article 71 of EC Regulation 1083/2006. The system will be fully operational in mid 2009 in time to facilitate the processing of payment claims from Call 1 projects.

#### Programme Evaluation

23. The aim of Programme evaluation is to improve the quality, effectiveness and consistency of the assistance from the Funds and

the strategy and implementation of operational programmes. An ex ante evaluation was carried out of this Programme during the drafting phase in late 2006 and early 2007.

24. The regulatory framework governing programme evaluation has evolved since the last programming period and allows a greater degree of flexibility in terms of when a Managing Authority can carry out an evaluation.
25. The provisional thinking of the Managing Authority is that the second half of 2010 may be the most opportune time to undertake an evaluation of activity carried out so far. A formal proposal will be put to the PMC towards the end of the year.
26. The underpinning rationale for the approach is as follows:
  - This will be three years since the formal approval of the Operational Programme by the Commission which will be a timely moment to take stock.
  - At this stage 43% of the 2 main programme priorities have been committed and the figure by the middle of next year is likely to be somewhat higher.
  - The economic and social environment in which the programme has been framed has altered significantly and is likely to remain unstable for some time. There would also be an opportunity to take stock of this.
  - The programme management will be well established at that stage and there will also be an opportunity to review its operations and make recommendations as to how it can be enhanced.
  - Monitoring data from projects should be at a more advanced stage to allow evaluators draw meaningful conclusions.

#### National Eligibility Rules

27. The eligibility of expenditure declared by individual projects is governed by a number of sources, namely EU Regulations and rules issued by the Member States.
28. During late 2008 final agreed eligibility rules for expenditure were issued by the two member states. The rules were issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in October 2008 while the Irish rules were issued in December 2008. These were circulated to all approved projects as soon as they were issued by both governments.

#### N+2

29. In accordance with Article 93 of EC Regulation 1083/2006 (the General Regulation) the Commission shall automatically decommit money from

the 2007 financial allocation that has not been drawn down by 2009. This is known as the N+2 target. The situation as it stands with the Ireland Wales Programme is as follows:

Category	Value	Comments
Commission ERDF Allocation for 2007	6,838,422	As per Annex III of the OP
Interim Payment from Commission	3,952,147	7.5% of allocation from DG Regio
Commission ERDF Allocation net of Interim Payment	2,886,275	
Total Spend target in order to avoid decommitment	3,848,367	
Expenditure Declared	1,535,000	Estimated figures based on Round 1 returns plus Technical Assistance to end May 2009
Expenditure Shortfall in June 2009	-2,313,367	Estimated total expenditure still required in order to hit the N+2 target as at June 8th 2009.
Decommitment risk in June 2009	-1,735,025	Estimated ERDF allocation of the expenditure shortfall and at risk of decommitment as at June 8th 2009.
Anticipated Future Expenditure if projects spend to profile	3,500,000	Based on Round 1 projects spending according to profile and catching up with the under spend from 2008.
Potential Surplus if projects spend to profile	1,186,634	Sum of estimated expenditure declared plus anticipated future expenditure based on projects spending according to profile

30. From the above table the amount at risk of decommitment is just over €1.7 million at this stage. In terms of trying to remedy this situation the following steps are being taken.

- Round 2 approved projects which are ready to proceed and are in a position to spend have been advanced as a matter of priority.
- The Development Officer Aftercare system is in place and they will be increasing their emphasis on the importance on spending to profile and maximising eligible spend over the course of the year with the Round 1 projects.
- The Development Officers are also organising early meetings with the Round 2 projects in order to ensure that project partners quickly complete any remaining tasks required by the JTS or the Steering Committee before issuing the Subsidy Contract.
- As referred to in point 13 of this paper all approved projects are now in a position to start their projects and a number have already done so.
- We are also in a position to issue additional claims to approved projects later in the year should the situation require it.

31. In relation to **future N+2 targets** the increased level of commitment following the completion of Round 2 and the anticipated opening of Round 3 this year should put us in a position to meet future N+2 targets along with the opening of a further round next year. However due to the smaller number of projects compared to the last programme this is something that will have to be monitored on an ongoing basis.

**Secretariat**

**June 2009**

## ANNEX I – STRATEGIC PROGRAMME FINANCIAL POSITION

Priority and Theme	ERDF Allocation	ERDF Round 1 and 2 Approved	% of allocation	Total Number of Projects	Balance of ERDF Remaining
P1 T1		10,959,824		9	
P1 T2		2,017,699		2	
<b>P1 Total</b>	29,720,147	12,977,523	43.67%	11	16,742,624
P2 T1		6,833,138		5	
P2 T2		3,005,398		2	
<b>P2 Total</b>	19,813,431	9,838,536	49.66%	7	9,974,895
<b>P1/P2 Total</b>	<b>49,533,578</b>	<b>22,816,059</b>	<b>46.06%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26,717,519</b>

## ANNEX II – APPROVED PROJECTS

ROUND 1	PARTNER	PROJECT COST	ERDF GRANT
Vision Project (visualisation & innovation project)	Coleg Menai (Lead Partner)	642737	473013
	Institute of Technology Tallaght	717647	509184
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1360384</b>	<b>982197</b>
Channel Cluster Project-Food & Drink, Ireland Wales	Menter a Busnes Cyf (Lead Partner)	809,405	607,052
	Irish Exporters Association	750,000	562,500
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,559,405</b>	<b>1,169,552</b>
WISE - Wales Ireland Sustainable Enterprise	Institute of Technology Carlow (Lead Partner)	725,454	544,090
	Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB)	480,544	360,408

	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,205,998</b>	<b>904,498</b>
Sustainable Learning Networks in Ireland and Wales (SLNIW)	Waterford Institute of Technology (Lead Partner)	1,030,801	772,901
	Aberystwyth University	709,074	531,806
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,739,875</b>	<b>1,304,707</b>
Green Communities	Keep Wales Tidy (Lead Partner)	973,172	729,879
	An Taisce	537,170	402,879
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,510,342</b>	<b>1,132,758</b>
Ecojel Project (managing the opportunities & detrimental impact of jellyfish in the Irish Sea)	Swansea University (Lead Partner)	612,083	459,061

	University College Cork	354,931	265,879
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>967,014</b>	<b>724,940</b>

ROUND 2	PARTNER	PROJECT COST	ERDF GRANT
CIME (Creativity & Innovation in Micro Enterprises)	South East Regional Authority (Lead Partner)	835,128	626,346
	Kilkenny CEB	44,880	33,660
	Swansea Metropolitan University	908,280	681,210
	University of Wales, Lampeter	592,720	444,540
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>2,381,008</b>	<b>1,785,756</b>
INVENTORIUM	CAST Ltd.	1,280,760	960,570
	NDRC	1,435,000	1,065,000
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>2,715,760</b>	<b>2,025,570</b>
ISMLKN (Irish Sea Marine Leisure Knowledge)	PBI (Lead Partner)	80,559	60,418

Network)	Irish Marine Federation	389,986	292,490
	South West Wales Watersports	458,062	343,546
	North Wales Watersports	524,404	393,302
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,453,011</b>	<b>1,089,756</b>
The Celtic Wave Wave-Developing a Sea of Smiles	Isle of Anglesey County Council (Lead Partner)	1,238,386	928,789
	Swansea City Council		
	Dublin Port Company		
	Port of Cork Company		
	Milford Haven Port Authority		
	Port of Waterford Company		
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,238,386</b>	<b>928,789</b>
WINSENT (Wales Ireland Network for Social Entrepreneurship)	PARTAS (Lead Partner)	610,733	457,977
	BASE	248,030	178,698
	Denbigshire County Council	284,975	212,349
	Isle of Anglesey	284,975	212,349
	Fingal County Council	24,971	6,378
	South Dublin County Council	24,971	6,378
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,478,655</b>	<b>1,074,129</b>

PSII (Product & Service Innovation Initiative)	South East Regional Authority (Lead Partner)	872,356	654,267
	Kilkenny CEB	19,200	14,400
	Pembrokeshire Business Initiative	441,211	330,909
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,332,767</b>	<b>999,576</b>
Deis Cyfle (Developing Skills for Employment & Educational Integration)	Autism Cymru (Lead Partner)	520,700	389,186
	Irish Society for Autism	430,294	322,715
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>950,994</b>	<b>711,901</b>
IMPACT (Integrated Management of Forest Pests Addressing Climate Trends)	Forest Research Wales (Lead Partner)	491,748	368,811
	NUI Maynooth	708,608	531,508
	Swansea University	400,566	300,424
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,600,922</b>	<b>1,200,743</b>
CSTP (Celtic Sea Trout Project)	Bangor University Wales (Lead Partner)	987,910	740,932
	Central Fisheries Board	579,986	434,990
	Environment Agency	112,353	84,265
	University College Cork	359,830	269,872
	Association of Rivers Trusts	41,762	31,321
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>2,081,841</b>	<b>1,561,380</b>

SUSFISH (Shellfish productivity in the Irish Sea: working towards a sustainable future)	Bangor University Wales (Lead Partner)	1,149,450	862,088
	University College Cork	571,615	428,712
	Swansea University	494,752	371,064
	Trinity College Dublin	252,916	189,687
	Aberstwyth University	463,712	347,784
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>2,932,445</b>	<b>2,199,335</b>
Rising Tide	Milford Haven Port Authority Wales (Lead Partner)	751,907	563,325
	JFK Trust	705,799	532,654
	Pembrokeshire College	521,243	364,871
	County Wexford Partnership	124,081	60,505
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>2,103,030</b>	<b>1,521,355</b>
BRAND (Bringing Revitalisation & Nurturing Development)	Denbigshire County Council (Wales) Lead Partner	494,681	371,011
	Isle of Anglesey	494,681	371,011
	Kildare County Council	494,681	371,010
	Dun Laoghaire Rathdowney County Council	494,681	371,011
	<b>TOTAL JOINT PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,978,724</b>	<b>1,484,043</b>

**ANNEX 3 - ANALYSIS OF APPLICATIONS: ROUNDS 1 +2**

	<b>Received by deadline</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>	<b>Considered by Steering Committees</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Rejected</b>
P1 T1: Innovation and competitiveness	19	1	18	9	9
P1 T2: Skills for competitiveness and employment integration	5	0	5	2	3
P2 T1: Climate Change and Sustainable Development	12	1	11	5	6
P2 T2: Sustainable Regeneration of Communities:	7	1	6	2	4
<b>Total above</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>

## ANNEX 4

### GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF PROJECTS FIRST and SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

<i>Geographical Spread</i>	<i>No. of approved projects</i>
<b>TOTAL APPROVED</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Welsh Areas</b>	
All Of Welsh INTERREG Area (Including Irish Sea)	6
All Of South West Wales	1
All Of North Wales	
Cross Local Authority Areas	10
Pembrokeshire	
Gwynedd	
Carmarthenshire	
Ceredigion	1
Anglesey	
Conwy	
Denbighshire	
<b>Adjacent Counties</b>	
Swansea	
Wrexham	
Flintshire	
<b>Irish Areas</b>	
All of the Irish INTERREG Area (Including Irish Sea)	5
Cross Regional Authority Areas	9
South-East Regional Authority Area	2
Mid-East Regional Authority Area	
Dublin	1
Waterford	
Kilkenny	
Meath	
Carlow	
Wexford	
Kildare	1
Wicklow	
South Tipperary	

<b>Adjacent Counties</b>	
Cork	
Kerry	

***The Programme is also financing limited amounts of activity in areas which are adjacent to these counties. These are the counties of Cork and Kerry in Ireland and the local authority areas of Swansea, Wrexham and Flintshire in Wales.***

## ANNEX 5 - FINANCIAL INFORMATION & INDICATOR DATA – ROUND 1 and 2 PROJECTS

### PRIORITY 1: KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND SKILLS FOR GROWTH

#### *Financial Profile:*

Priority	Total Grant Available €	Round 1 and 2 Commitment	
		(€million)	As % of Grant Available
Total for Priority	29,720,147	12,977,523	43.67%

#### Outputs and Results: Priority 1

#### *Outputs and Results: Theme 1, Innovation and competitiveness*

Outputs/ Results	Programme target	Total Predicted	Total Achieved <sup>1</sup>
<b>Outputs</b>			
Number of joint projects aimed at promoting and developing entrepreneurship and the development of new businesses including cross border business clusters	11	6	0
Number of joint projects aimed at promoting and developing innovation in SMEs including linkages with HE/FE institutions	11	6	1
No. of SME's assisted	300	651	4
<b>Results</b>			
No. of gross direct new jobs created	10	22	0
Number of new SMEs created	15	100	0
No. of new products/ processes developed	20	90	0

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary returns from the first project to return a claim under this theme.

## Outputs and Results : Theme 2, Skills for competitiveness and employment integration

Outputs/ Results	Programme target	Total Predicted	Total Achieved <sup>2</sup>
<b>Outputs</b>			
Number of collaborative training projects that address the skills needs of SMEs and industry in the cross border region	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
Number of joint projects aimed at improving and enhancing systems of learning and workforce development	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Number of joint projects aimed at providing access to training and education for immigrants and disadvantaged groups	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Number of beneficiaries undertaking cross border training courses/modules	<b>500</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Results</b>			
Number of beneficiaries receiving certified qualifications	<b>350</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>2</sup> First project started in November 2008 under this theme. No indicator information returned to date.

## PRIORITY 2: CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE REGENERATION

Financial Profile:

Priority	Total Grant Available €	Round 1 and 2 Commitment	
		(€million)	As % of Grant Available
Total for Priority	19,813,431	9,838,586	49.66%

### Outputs and Results: Priority 2

#### Outputs and Results: Theme 1, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Outputs/ Results	Programme target	Total Predicted	Total Achieved <sup>3</sup>
<b>Outputs</b>			
Number of cross border projects focusing on awareness raising or responding to challenge of climate change	9	5	0
Number of collaborative projects protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment.	9	4	0
<b>Results</b>			
Number of new cross-border links established	9	14	0
No. of measures implemented which react to the challenge of climate change	9	8	0
No. of enhancements undertaken	9	102	20
No. of projects disseminating results to stakeholders and/or communities or reports published	9	23	0

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary returns for the first project to submit a payment claim under this theme.

## Outputs and Results : Theme 2, Sustainable Regeneration of Communities

Outputs/ Results	Programme target	Total Predicted	Total Achieved <sup>4</sup>
<b>Outputs</b>			
Number of joint projects focusing on sustainable community regeneration action.	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Results</b>			
Number of new community, social enterprise or cultural links established	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
Number of new measures implemented	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
Number of gross direct new jobs created	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

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<sup>4</sup> First projects for this theme approved in April 2009. No projects approved under Round 1.



## Issue

1. A proposal regarding the use of targeted calls for proposals to ensure the most effective allocation of ERDF funds

## Recommendation

2. The PMC is asked to approve the proposal in this paper

## Background

3. The purpose of this paper is to summarise the results of the analysis carried out by the JTS following the approval of the Round 1 and 2 projects and to present recommendations regarding the use of targeted calls for proposals. The detail which backs up the analysis is shown in Annex I.
4. The strategic Programme position following the completion of the Round 2 Steering Committees is as follows:

	<b>Number of approved Projects</b>	<b>ERDF Allocation 2007-2013</b>	<b>ERDF Approved</b>	<b>Approved Funding/Total Allocation</b>	<b>Remaining Allocation</b>
Priority 1	11	€29,720,147	€12,977,523	43.67%	€16,742,624
Priority 2	7	€19,813,431	€9,838,536	49.66%	€9,974,895
Total	18	€49,533,578	€22,816,059	46.06%	€26,717,519

5. Based on an analysis of the first two rounds of project approvals by the JTS we estimate that the following range of projects are required in each Theme in order to allow the programme to reach all of its output and result targets.

- Priority 1 Theme 1: 5-10 projects

- Priority 1 Theme 2: 4-7 projects
- Priority 2 Theme 1: 5-9 projects
- Priority 2 Theme 2: 12 projects

It is difficult to estimate with precise accuracy what end of the range is required to hit the targets in each area due to the differing nature of individual projects. This needs to be assessed on an ongoing basis.

6. The most recently available figures from the Development Officers regarding Expressions of Interest forms show the following. This refers to projects who are specifically interested in applying for Round 3 and does not take into account projects that may have been rejected under Round 2 or projects that may have submitted an Expression of Interest earlier, and not yet submitted an application under any round.
  - Priority 1 Theme 1: 7 Expressions of Interest
  - Priority 1 Theme 2: 16 Expressions of Interest
  - Priority 2 Theme 1: 7 Expressions of Interest
  - Priority 2 Theme 2: 19 Expressions of Interest
7. While the performance indicator data shows healthy progress in relation to the projected results the programme needs to closely monitor progress in relation to projected outputs to ensure that all targets are reached (**Refer to Annex I Tables 1-4**). While the projected outputs are quite positive at this stage it does need to be set in the context that the programme is approving a smaller number of bigger and more strategic projects compared to the last programming period.
8. Related to this it should also be noted that there is not a defined allocation for each theme in the programme. This contrasts with the last programming period where individual measures had defined budgets. This needs to be closely monitored as a result to ensure a balanced level of financial commitment.
9. Round 1 and Round 2 showed that the majority of the ERDF allocation was in Theme 1 of each Priority. While the level of demand and interest has been healthy and the quality of the projects approved is evident there is a danger that the level of commitment would be unbalanced if these themes were opened again for Round 3. The Expression of Interest figures demonstrate that demand is still relatively strong in these thematic areas.
10. It is clear from the analysis of all available data within this paper and Annex I that there is scope to increase the level of grant commitment under Theme 2 in each Priority. The data on Expressions of Interest clearly shows that the demand is also high.

### Third and Fourth Call Proposal

11. The proposal is to publish a targeted call which focuses on each these themes with a number of particular messages that would be issued with the call.
12. In relation to Priority 1 Theme 2 (**Reference Annex I Page 5**) the analysis shows that no projects have been approved that comply with 2 of the 5 theme level objectives. These are:
  - To gain more economic value from the availability of higher level qualifications in most of the cross border area.
  - To develop skills and address skills gaps that will facilitate economic growth in key business sectors in the cross border region, including tourism, maritime, agriculture, energy and petrochemicals and sectors with potential for growth such as R&D-related businesses.
13. In relation to this the Programme particularly wishes to see projects that address these areas but not to the exclusion of other projects.
14. In relation to Priority 2 Theme 2 (**Reference Annex I Page 10 and 11**) there is a need to increase the number of projects approved here in order to hit the output target. The experience from Rounds 1 and 2 has shown that there is strong interest in the programme from the community and voluntary sector and that this should be harnessed further.
15. However while the projects presented had good ideas and concepts many of them were rejected. The reason for this was due to their relatively large size and a lack of detail in terms of how they would achieve ambitious targets.
16. The best way of addressing this is to seek pilot projects under this theme with a view to building up for larger scale funding in the future. This will have a two fold benefit. Firstly it should allow the programme to reach its targets and secondly it will allow organisations in the voluntary and community sector to put together quality projects that are realistic and achievable.
17. In relation to budgets for projects, project promoters will need to be aware that almost €23 million in grant support has now been allocated. Some of our preliminary analysis explored the possibility of capping the size of projects but given the nature of the programme this is not considered realistic at this stage due to the potential range of eligible activities.
18. Development Officers should place increased emphasis on the need for demonstrating value for money and ensuring that a project plays a meaningful contribution to ensuring that the Programme hits its targets and that the scale of the project and partnership is commensurate with their capacity to deliver what they are proposing.

19. In relation to Theme 1 in each Priority it is important that we also have a positive message for prospective applicants. The message would be that the programme is not closed off to organisations seeking to apply for funding in these areas. Potential applicants should continue to develop their partnerships and projects with a view to a call for proposals targeted at their areas in 2010 at a date to be determined.
20. In terms of the nature of that call it may be useful to also provide some messages to potential applicants along the lines of what has been proposed for the Theme 2's.
21. In relation to Priority 1 Theme 1, Annex I shows that the approved projects cover all of the objectives under Theme 1 quite well. However there may be scope for additional investment in objectives 1 and 4 where there is marginally less coverage than the other objectives.
- To develop joint approaches to foster research and encourage collaboration in technology development amongst businesses and in higher and further education institutions and to facilitate technology transfer to industry and SMEs in the cross border region.  
**Vision, WISE, Inventorium**
  - Developing joint innovation programmes aimed at assisting SMEs to be productive and competitive.  
**Vision, PSII, CIME**
22. In relation to Priority 2 Theme 1 Annex I shows that there is a need for a degree of targeting and prioritisation. It shows that three of the six theme objectives have been subject to significant investment while the three listed here have received limited investment. Future calls should target the objectives listed below.
- Community level engagement in developing small scale and pilot projects to reduce energy consumptions and carbon emissions and achieve a practical impact at a local level.  
**Green Communities**
  - To harness the joint talents and capacity of the region's further and higher education and R&D base to combat the threat of climate change through the development of innovative technologies.  
**Impact**
  - Further research into renewable energy sources and pilot projects to demonstrate their practical application and transferability to business and wider communities.
23. Should the Committee approve this proposal we intend to publish the call for Round 3 on our website and on WEFO's website with a closing date set for Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>. We will also outline the broad thrust of the plan at the Annual Conference subject to the approval of the PMC.



## **Paper Structure**

### **A– Summary Programme Objectives**

#### **B – Priority 1 – Progress to date**

#### **C – Priority 2 – Progress to date**

### **A – Summary Programme Objectives**

#### **Programme Objective**

Through an integrated approach to economic, environmental, social and technological issues the Ireland Wales Territorial Cooperation Programme seeks to further develop the cross border region and

- Contribute to its greater competitiveness and sustainable development.
- Improve its overall economic, environmental and social well- being
- Achieve a more cohesive, balanced and sustainable development of the Ireland Wales Cooperation area, and thus to contribute to the overall competitiveness of the Community territory in a globalised world.

This objective will be taken forward and delivered through two operational priorities.

### **PRIORITY 1 - Knowledge, Innovation and skills for growth**

#### **Priority 1 Objectives**

- To develop in accordance with the Lisbon Agenda objectives, the knowledge, R&D/innovation and entrepreneurial base of the Cross Border Region's economy with a view to boosting the Region's growth and competitiveness.
- To enhance the capacity of the cross-border region by providing targeted interventions to develop the skills and abilities of the population and the workforce with a view to providing greater levels of employment and to foster competitiveness.

This Priority is divided into two separate but related themes as follows:

- Theme 1 - Innovation and competitiveness
- Theme 2 - Skills for competitiveness and employment integration

The choice of themes reflects their importance to the Cross Border Region's continued development as it seeks to deal with the critical issues of providing the conditions to allow enterprises to prosper internally and become more competitive externally while at the same time improving the skills and knowledge base of the population of the area. The two themes should work in tandem and make a real difference to the cross border area.

## **PRIORITY 2 - Climate Change and Sustainable Regeneration**

### **Priority 2 Objectives**

- To address the common challenges posed by climate change by managing our physical and natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- To provide opportunities for the people of the cross-border region to renew and sustainably regenerate their communities.

This will be developed through two themes.

Theme 1 – Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Theme 2 – Sustainable Regeneration of Communities

The choice of themes reflects their suitability for cross border cooperation and also their central importance to the future development of the cross border region. The Gothenburg agenda clearly sets out the sustainable development path for the EU which is reflected in the national policies of the constituent parts of the programme area.

## **B - Priority 1- Progress to date**

	<b>Number of approved Projects</b>	<b>Total ERDF Allocation 2007-2013</b>	<b>Total ERDF Approved</b>	<b>Approved Funding/Total Allocation</b>	<b>Remaining ERDF Allocation</b>
Theme 1 +2	11	€29,720,147	€12,977,523	43.67%	€16,742,624

The programme has approved **nine Priority 1 Theme 1 projects** in the first two bidding rounds.

The total cost of the nine projects is €14,725,374 of which €10,959,824 is ERDF.

Project	Subject Area
Channel Clusters	Food & drink industry
Visualisation & Innovation (Vision);	Visualisation and innovation in SME's
Wales Ireland Sustainable Enterprise (WISE);	Improving the sustainability of engineering SME's
Creativity and Innovation in Micro-Enterprises (CIME);	Creative thinking techniques in SME's
Inventorium;	Establishing new businesses in the digital technology sector
Irish Sea Marine Leisure Knowledge Network Programme (ISMLKN);	Developing the marine leisure sector
Celtic Wave;	Developing the cruise ship industry in the Irish sea
Wales Ireland Network for Social Entrepreneurship (WINSENT)	Supporting entrepreneurial culture in disadvantaged areas
Product & Service Innovation Initiative (PSII).	Identifying low-cost methods of innovation using collaboration with overseas firms.

**Table 1 -Priority 1 Theme 1 Predicted Outputs after Round 2**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Predicted Outputs (after R2)</b>	<b>Programme target</b>	<b>Predicted outputs as % Programme target</b>	<b>Programme target remaining</b>
Number of joint projects aimed at promoting and developing entrepreneurship and the development of new businesses including cross border business clusters	0	6	11	<b>54.55%</b>	5
Number of joint projects aimed at promoting and developing innovation in SMEs including linkages with HE/FE institutions	0	6	11	<b>54.55%</b>	5
No. of SME's assisted	0	651	300	<b>217.00%</b>	0
<b>Results</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Predicted Results (after R2)</b>	<b>Programme target</b>	<b>Predicted results as % Programme target</b>	<b>Programme target remaining</b>
Number of new SMEs created	0	22	10	<b>220.00%</b>	0

Number of new products/processes developed	0	100	15	<b>666.67%</b>	0
Number of gross direct new jobs created	0	90	20	<b>450.00%</b>	0

### **Predicted Outputs**

From the Table 1 we can see that after two selection rounds, if the approved projects succeed in delivering their outputs/results, 54.55% of two Programme outputs, 100% of the third output and all of the Programme results will have been achieved.

In order to achieve the Programme Outputs target for Priority 1 Theme 1 **a further five to ten projects will be necessary.**

### **Project Selection in relation to Theme Objectives**

The projects are listed in relation to how they deal with the Main Objectives of Priority 1 Theme 1 as stated in the Operational Programme.

1. To develop joint approaches to foster research and encourage collaboration in technology development amongst businesses and in higher and further education institutions and to facilitate technology transfer to industry and SMEs in the cross border region.

**Vision, WISE, Inventorium**

2. To develop a stronger entrepreneurial environment by supporting cross border clusters and centres of excellence in key sectors.

**Channel Cluster, WISE, CIME, Inventorium, ISMLKN, WAVE, WINSENT, PSII**

3. To enhance cross border business viability, performance and expertise by supporting innovation in terms of product and process development and improving business systems.

**Vision, WISE, CIME, Inventorium, PSII**

4. Developing joint innovation programmes aimed at assisting SMEs to be productive and competitive.

**Vision, PSII, CIME**

5. To facilitate the development of potential growth sectors and enterprises including social enterprises in the cross border region.

**Channel Clusters, ISMLKN, WAVE, WINSENT**

Projects approved to date show that all five of the main objectives have been addressed. However, as in order to meet the Programme targets at least another five projects will be necessary, consideration should be given to projects that address objectives 1 and 4 as there is marginally less coverage in these areas compared to others.

## Theme 2

The programme has **approved two Priority 1 Theme 2 projects** to date.

The total Cost of the two projects is €2,690,869 of which €2,017,699 is ERDF.

Project	Subject Area
Sustainable Learning Networks In Ireland And Wales (SLNIW)	The creation of a network which will provide a self learning environment among SME's and micro enterprises.
Deis-Cyfle! (Developing Skills for Employment and Educational Integration).	the provision of training to increase the employability of people with ASD (autistic spectrum disorders).

**Table 2-Priority 1 Theme 2 Predicted Outputs after Round 2**

Outputs	Baseline	Predicted Outputs (after R2)	Programme target	% Programme target	Programme target remaining
Number of collaborative training projects that address the skills needs of SMEs and industry in the cross border region	0	5	9	<b>55.56%</b>	4
Number of joint projects aimed at improving and enhancing systems of learning and workforce development	0	2	4	<b>50.00%</b>	2
Number of joint projects aimed at providing access to training and education for immigrants and disadvantaged groups	0	2	5	<b>40.00%</b>	3
Number of beneficiaries undertaking cross border training courses/modules	0	332	500	<b>66.40%</b>	168
Results	Baseline	Predicted Results (after R2)	Programme target	% Programme target	Programme target remaining
Number of beneficiaries receiving certified qualifications	0	190	350	<b>54.29%</b>	160

### Predicted Outputs

From Table 2 we can see that after two selection rounds, if the approved projects succeed in delivering their outputs/results, between 40%-66.4% of the Programme outputs and 54.3% of the Programme results will have been achieved.

In order to achieve the Programme Outputs target for Priority 1 Theme 2 **a further four to seven projects will be necessary**, it is likely that any project fulfilling the first or third output will also fulfil the second output.

### **Project Selection in relation to Theme Objectives**

The projects are listed in relation to how they address the Main Objectives of Priority 1 Theme 2 as stated in the Operational Programme.

1. To address common skills issues for SMEs, in particular to enhance management skills and to develop skills to meet the current and future needs of the changing economy.  
**SLNIW, Deis-Cyfle**
2. To gain more economic value from the availability of higher level qualifications in most of the cross border area.
3. To develop common approaches towards the provision of training and skills development which will allow the integration of immigrants and other particularly disadvantaged groups into employment.  
**SLNIW, Deis-Cyfle**
4. To develop skills and address skills gaps that will facilitate economic growth in key business sectors in the cross border region, including tourism, maritime, agriculture, energy and petrochemicals and sectors with potential for growth such as R&D-related businesses.
5. To collaborate on a cross border basis to improve the systems of learning and workforce development to better meet the needs of the cross border region focusing on all levels of the education system and on lifelong learning.  
**SLNIW , Deis-Cyfle**

Projects approved to date show that **only three of the Programme's five main objectives have been addressed**. To date no projects have been approved that address the economic gain from the availability of higher level qualifications **(2)** or that address the skills gap in key business sectors to facilitate economic growth **(4)**.

These gaps in the Programme objectives will need to be addressed in future selection rounds, and the development of projects focusing on the objectives **2** and **4** should be prioritised.

### **Priority 1 Sum Up**

After two selection rounds eleven projects have been approved. It is estimated that between 9 and 17 more joint projects are required in order to achieve the Programme targets.

This information should be considered in the context of 43.67% of the funds in this Priority having been committed.

If we work on the assumption that roughly 17 projects will be required and that there is €16.7 million of grant support remaining in the Priority project promoters will need to frame their budgets with this in mind. This message will also need to be made clear by the Development Officers to prospective applicants. The JTS considered possibly applying a cap to project budgets but realised that it represented a blunt instrument that does not take account of the range of eligible project activity. The same messages regarding value for money and proportionality in relation to project activity should still apply.

## Priority 2 Progress to Date

	Number of approved Projects	Total ERDF Allocation 2007-2013	Total ERDF Approved	Approved Funding/Total Allocation	Remaining ERDF Allocation
Theme 1 +2	7	€19,813,431	€9,838,536	49.66%	€9,974,895

### **Theme 1**

The programme has **approved five Priority 2 Theme 1 projects** to date.

Total Cost of the five projects is €9,111,208 of which €6,833,138 is ERDF.

Projects	Subject Area
Green Communities	Engaging communities in the improvement and conservation of their natural environments;
Ecojel	Managing the opportunities and detrimental impact of jellyfish in the Irish Sea;
Integrated Management of Forest Pests Addressing Climate Trends (IMPACT);	Determining the influence of climate change on trees and their pests;
Celtic Sea Trout Project (CSTP)	The distribution and the ecological processes affecting sea trout;
Shellfish Productivity in the Irish Sea Working towards a Sustainable Future (SUSFISH).	The effects of climate change on shellfish stocks

**Table 3-Priority 2 Theme 1 Predicted Target after Round 2**

Outputs	Baseline	Predicted Target (after R2)	Programme target	% Programme target	Programme target remaining
Number of cross border projects focusing on awareness raising or responding to challenge of climate change	0	5	9	<b>55.56%</b>	4
Number of collaborative projects protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment.	0	4	9	<b>44.44%</b>	5
Results	Baseline	Predicted Results (after R2)	Programme target	% Programme target	Programme target remaining
Number of new cross-border links established	0	14	9	<b>155.56%</b>	0
No. of measures implemented which react to the challenge of	0	8	9	<b>88.89%</b>	1

climate change					
No. of enhancements undertaken	0	102	9	<b>1133.33%</b>	0
No. of projects disseminating results to stakeholders and/or communities or reports published	0	23	9	<b>255.56%</b>	0

### Predicted Outputs

From the Table 1 we can see that after two selection rounds, if the approved projects succeed in delivering their outputs/results, 55.6% and 44.4% of Programme outputs and will have been achieved, and all of the Programme results

From Table 3 we can see **that five to nine projects will be needed** to achieve the final target although experience has shown that some of the projects can cover more than one of the output targets.

### Project Selection in relation to Theme Objectives

The projects are listed below in relation to how they address the Main Objectives of Priority 2 Theme 1 as stated in the Operational Programme

1. To develop joint initiatives to raise awareness of climate change and influence people's behaviour in relation to the environment and energy use.  
**Green Communities, Ecojel, Impact, CSTP, Susfish**
2. Community level engagement in developing small scale and pilot projects to reduce energy consumptions and carbon emissions and achieve a practical impact at a local level.  
**Green communities**
3. To harness the joint talents and capacity of the region's further and higher education and R&D base to combat the threat of climate change through the development of innovative technologies.  
**Impact**
4. Further research into renewable energy sources and pilot projects to demonstrate their practical application and transferability to business and wider communities.
5. To find a common way forward on the protection of the coastal and marine environment for future enjoyment whilst balancing environmental protection and economic benefit.  
**Ecojel, CSTP, Susfish**
6. To collaborate further and build on successful work already carried out under the Ireland Wales INTERREG IIIA Programme to bring added value to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems in the cross border area.  
**Green Communities, Ecojel, CSTP, Susfish, Impact**

Of the five projects approved to date none are involved in research into renewable energy sources **(4)**. Only one project (Green communities) is addressing community level engagement to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions **(2)** and only one project (Impact) is harnessing R&D in the HE/FE sector to combat the threat of climate change through the development of innovative technologies **(3)**.

These gaps in the Programme objectives will need to be addressed in future selection rounds, and the development of projects focusing on the objectives **2, 3** and **4** should be prioritised.

## Theme 2

The programme has approved 2 priority 2 Theme 2 projects to date. The projects are and

Total Cost of the 2 projects is €4,081,754 of which €3,005,398 is ERDF.

Project	Subject Area
Rising Tide	Supporting social inclusion through joint activities, events and training,
Bringing Revitalisation and Nurturing Development (BRAND).	Producing a methodology by which communities can be engaged with the re-branding of their towns.

**Table 4-Priority 2 Theme 2 Predicted Outputs after Round 2**

Outputs	Baseline	Predicted Target (after R2)	Programme target	% Programme target	Programme target remaining
Number of joint projects focusing on sustainable community regeneration action.	0	2	14	14.29%	12
Results	Baseline	Predicted Results (after R2)	Programme target	% Programme target	Programme target remaining
Number of new community, social enterprise or cultural links established	0	11	7	157.14%	0
Number of new measures implemented	0	13	14	92.86%	1
Number of gross direct new jobs created	0	8	6	133.33%	0

### Predicted Outputs- Priority 2 Theme 2

From Table 4 we see that after two selection rounds, if the approved projects succeed in delivering their outputs/results only 14.3% of the Programme Output will have been delivered. Two of the Programme results will have reached their target and the third result will be 92.9% of target.

Twelve more projects are needed to reach the target for the Programme Outputs.

### **Analysis of Projects**

The projects are listed below in relation to how they address the Main Objectives of Priority 2 Theme 2 as stated in the Operational Programme

1. To facilitate and promote joint activities to ensure living communities in both urban and rural areas of the region.

**Rising Tide, BRAND**

2. Developing and promoting joint opportunities for sustainable regeneration, giving recognition to the natural environment, built assets and the culture and heritage of the cross border region.

**Rising Tide, BRAND**

Priority 2 Theme 2 has two main objectives and the projects approved to date address both of these objectives.

### **Priority 2 Sum Up**

After two selection rounds seven projects have been approved, and based on experience from earlier rounds a range of between 17 and 21 projects will be needed to meet the Programme Output targets. This information should be viewed in light of the fact that 49.7% of the funds available for Priority 2 have already been committed.

Due to the fact that there has been significant investment in Priority 2 Theme 1 compared to Theme 2 it would be more prudent at this stage to focus the next bidding round on Theme 2.

Experience from Round 2 has shown that there is considerable interest in the programme from the voluntary and community sector. Analysis of Expressions of Interest from the Development Officer team has underlined this further. However it is important to stress that what we require as a programme in the first instance is pilot projects that can be relatively easily delivered. Experience from Round 2 showed that the sector had a lot of good ideas that need to be further encouraged but the scale of the projects was not sustainable.

A clear message will also need to be made that funds are limited relative to the earlier rounds and that project budgets should reflect this.

**Joint Technical Secretariat**

**June 2009**



## **Issue**

1. Annual Implementation Report for the Programme for 2008.

## **Recommendation**

2. The Committee is asked to approve the Annual Implementation Report.

## **Background**

3. As per the requirements of Article 67 of the General Structural Funds Regulation the JTS has prepared an Annual Implementation Report for the calendar year 2008.
4. The document sets out the activity that took place during the calendar year 2008 and provides the following based on the structure required by the Commission. This is:
  - a. Introduction
  - b. Overview of the Implementation of the OP
  - c. Implementation by Priority
  - d. Major Projects
  - e. Technical Assistance
  - f. Information and Publicity
5. The Regulation requires that the report is submitted to the Commission by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008, having been first approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee. **Members are asked to provide any comments or amendments in writing prior to the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June**, so as to facilitate a full discussion by the Monitoring Committee at the meeting. Following approval of the draft AIR, as amended, by the Monitoring Committee, the JTS will submit it to the European Commission by the 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline.

**Secretariat**

**June 2009**

**IRELAND WALES OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME  
DRAFT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2008**

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## Executive Summary

1. This is the second Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the Ireland/Wales INTERREG IVA Programme 2007-2013, covering the calendar year 2008. AIRs are central to the process of reviewing programme performance and provide an annual opportunity to take stock of progress.

The Programme, which supports joint projects, aims to promote the sustainable development of the programme area through an integrated approach to economic, social, environmental and technological development.

The total budget is €70m, including €52m in ERDF grant with the balance made up of match funding from Welsh and Irish partnership interests.

The main Priorities and Themes are:

**Priority 1:** Knowledge, Innovation and Skills for Growth

**Priority 2:** Climate Change and Sustainable Regeneration

A third Priority, Technical Assistance, will support effective and transparent management of the Programme, including publicity, research and evaluation.

Two cross-cutting themes underpin the whole Programme, namely the promotion of equal opportunities and sustainable development.

The headline activity for the Programme in 2008 was as follows:

The Programme closed its first call on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 and received 15 applications. The Steering Committees met on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> to consider these applications and approved 6 for funding with an ERDF grant allocation of just over €6 million.

The second call for proposals opened in June 2008 and closed on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2008. The outcome of this call was that the Programme received 28 applications<sup>1</sup>.

The Annual Event took place in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the Managing Authority in May 2008.

The Programme Monitoring Committee met once during 2008. This was on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Saundersfoot in Wales.

The report is formatted along lines recommended by the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> The Steering Committee considered 26 of these applications in April 2009 and approved 12 of them with an ERDF grant allocation of just over €16 million.

## 1. Summary Details

<b>OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>Objective Concerned:</b> Territorial Cooperation
	<b>Eligible area concerned:</b> South West Wales, Isle of Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Dublin, Mid East, South East – All NUTS III areas
	<b>Programming period:</b> 2007-2013
	<b>Programme number (CCI):</b> 2007CB163PO062
	<b>Programme Title:</b> Ireland Wales Programme
<b>ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT</b>	<b>Reporting Year:</b> 2008
	<b>Date of approval of the Annual Report by the Monitoring Committee:</b> June 18 <sup>th</sup> 2009 (provisional)

## 2. Overview of the Implementation of the Operational Programme

### 2.1 Achievement and Analysis of Progress

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

The Programme has three Priorities and is worth over €70.3 million with more than €52 million of that available in ERDF grant support.

The first two Priorities are broken down into themes which will focus the investment in specific areas.

Priority 1 – Knowledge, Innovation and Skills for Growth (Total Budget €39.6 million)

Theme 1 – Innovation and Competitiveness

Theme 2 – Skills for Competitiveness and Employment Integration

Priority 2 – Climate Change and Sustainable Regeneration (Total Budget €26.4 million)

Theme 1 – Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Theme 2 – Sustainable Regeneration of Communities

Priority 3 – Technical Assistance (Total Budget €4.2 million)

The main activity that charts the implementation of the programme was the closure of two calls for proposals in 2008, one in January and another one in September. This resulted in the submission of 43 grant applications.

The Steering Committee sat on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 to consider 14 of the 15 applications received under Call 1. They supported six projects with an ERDF grant

requirement of €6.2 million. Call 2 closed in September 2008 and the JTS received 28 applications with a grant request of €35.8 million and will be considered by the Steering Committee in April 2009. The Steering Committee Rules of Procedure are at Annex I.

The Subsidy Contracts for the Call 1 projects were issued in July, August, September and November 2008 and projects began operating in earnest once they had their own start up procedures in place. Monitoring data is preliminary due to the fact that the first 6 monthly Statements of Expenditure were issued to projects in December 2008.

In relation to Technical Assistance the JTS completed its recruitment in 2008 and was fully staffed by June.

### Output and Result Indicators

Preliminary figures are reported for 2 of the 6 approved projects for 2008 who have submitted payment claim forms to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS). The end 2008 figures for Priority 1 and 2 are also cumulative as the baseline was zero and there were no projects approved in 2007.

The figures for Priority 3 reflect the fact that the JTS is now fully staffed and particular efforts were made to publicise the programme which is reflected in the four publicity events during the year including the Annual Event.

### Priority 1 Theme 1: Innovation and Competitiveness

<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of joint projects aimed at promoting and developing innovation in SMEs including linkages with HE/FE institutions	0	0	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of joint projects aimed at promoting and developing entrepreneurship and the development of new businesses including cross border business clusters</li> </ul>	0	1	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of SMEs assisted</li> </ul>	0	4	300

<b>Result Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of new SMEs created</li> </ul>	0	0	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of new products/processes developed</li> </ul>	0	0	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of gross direct new jobs created</li> </ul>	0	0	20

Priority 1 Theme 2: Skills For Competitiveness And Employment Integration

<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of collaborative training projects that address the skills needs of SMEs and industry in the cross border region	0	0	9
Number of joint projects aimed at improving and enhancing systems of learning and workforce development	0	0	4
Number of joint projects aimed at providing access to training and education for immigrants and disadvantaged groups	0	0	5
Number of beneficiaries undertaking cross border training courses/modules	0	0	500

<b>Result Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of beneficiaries receiving certified qualifications	0	0	350

Priority 2 Theme 1: Climate Change and Sustainable Development

<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of cross border projects focusing on awareness raising or responding to challenge of climate change	0	0	9
Number of collaborative projects protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment.	0	0	9

<b>Result Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of new cross-border links established	0	0	9
No. of measures implemented which react to the challenge of climate change	0	0	9
No. of enhancements undertaken	0	20	9

No. of projects disseminating results to stakeholders and/or communities or reports published	0	0	9
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### Priority 2 Theme 2: Sustainable Regeneration of Communities

<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of joint projects focusing on sustainable community regeneration action.	0	0	14

<b>Result Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of new community, social enterprise or cultural links established	0	0	7
Number of new measures implemented	0	0	14
Number of gross direct new jobs created	0	0	6

### Priority 3: Technical Assistance

	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Cumulative end 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of gross direct jobs created	0	4	10	10
Establishment of Joint Technical Secretariat	0	0	1	1
Establishment of project database	0	0	0	1
Number of Publicity Events	0	4	5	14
Number of newsletters produced	0	0	0	6
Number of evaluations and studies carried out	0	0	1	3
Establishment of Programme Website	0	0	1	1

- **Financial Information (all in euro)**

Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the Managing Authority – €388,082<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> These figures are preliminary and relate to expenditure declared on Statements of Expenditure by beneficiaries for 5 of the 6 approved projects. Not all of this expenditure has been declared eligible by the First Level Controllers. The Statements of Expenditure show a record of expenditure for each partner and are the basis for the First Level Control Check. If expenditure items are deemed eligible then they can be included on a Certificate of ERDF Control. The cumulative figures from the Certificates of ERDF Control are used as the basis for the Payment Claim.

The total payments received from the Commission and quantification of the financial indicators referred to in Article 66(2) - In accordance with Article 82 of the General Regulation, an advance payment of €1,580,849 was received from the Commission on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

Expenditure paid out by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries – not applicable as certification of expenditure incurred by projects began in January 2009.

## Financial Indicators

### **Priority axes by source of funding (in euros) – as per the OP**

	Community Funding (a)	National Public funding (b)	National private funding (c)	Total funding (d)=(a)+(b)+(c)	Co-financing rate (e)=(a)/(d)	For information	
						EIB contributions	Other funding <sup>3</sup>
Priority Axis 1 Knowledge, Innovation & Skills for Growth	29,720,147	9,906,716	-	39,626,863	75%		1,000,000
Priority Axis 2 Climate Change & Sustainable Regeneration	19,813,431	6,604,477	-	26,417,908	75%		1,000,000
Priority Axis 3 Technical Assistance	3,161,717	1,053,906	-	4,215,623	75%		-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52,695,295</b>	<b>17,565,099</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,260,394</b>	<b>75%</b>		<b>2,000,000</b>

### **Situation at the end of 2008**

	Community Funding (a)	National Public funding (b)	National private funding (c)	Total funding (d)=(a)+(b)+(c)	Co-financing rate (e)=(a)/(d)	For information	
						EIB contributions	Other funding <sup>4</sup>
Priority Axis 1 Knowledge, Innovation & Skills for Growth	50,197.04	16,768.07	-	66,965.11	74.96%		

Priority Axis 2 Climate Change & Sustainable Regeneration	56,586.46	18,862.15	-	75,448.61	75%		
Priority Axis 3 Technical Assistance	405,205.76	390,255.06	-	795,460.82	50.94%		-
TOTAL	511,989.26	425,885.26	-	937,874.54			

- **Information about the breakdown of the use of the funds**

Priority	Code Dimension 1 Priority and Theme	Code Dimension 2 Form of Finance	Code Dimension 3 Territory	Code Dimension 4 Economic Activity	Code Dimension 5 Location <sup>5</sup>	Community Contribution
1	03	01	08	13	IE 02, UK L1	€ 50,197.04
2	49,51	01	08	21	IE 02, UK L1	€ 56,586.46
3	85	01	08	00	IE 02, UK L1	€405,205.76
TOTAL						€511,989.27

The purpose of this table is to show the breakdown of the use of funds within the programme. It relates to Art 9(3) of EC Regulation 1083/2006.

Code 3 – Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks between small businesses (SME's), between these and other businesses and universities, post secondary establishments of all kinds, regional authorities, research centres and scientific and technological poles

Code 49 – Mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Code 51 – Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection

Code 85 – Technical Assistance, Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection

Code 1 – Non repayable aid

<sup>5</sup> The location codes for are listed as NUTS II regions for ease of presentation. Including NUTS III codes would require the inclusion of a much larger set of codes. In Ireland this refers to the Southern and Eastern Region, in Wales this refers to West Wales and the Valleys.

Code 08 – Cross Border Cooperation Area

Code 13 – Wholesale and Retail Trade

Code 21 – Activities linked to the environment

Code 00 – Not applicable

The financial data for Priorities 1 and 2 are preliminary and refer to the two projects that have submitted payment claims to the JTS.

The financial data for Priority 3 relates to Technical Assistance which covers the operating costs of the Joint Technical Secretariat and associated programme management costs.

- **Assistance by target groups**

Not applicable – Target groups for funding are referred to in Chapter 4 of the Operational Programme.

- **Assistance repaid or reused**

Not applicable

- **Qualitative analysis**

The year focused on completing the recruitment to the JTS and on opening and closing two calls for proposals and building financial management systems to ensure that projects are claiming for costs that are in compliance with all of the Structural Funds Regulations.

The closure of the 2 calls in 2008 demonstrated the strength of the Development Process in place with 43 applications being received. Based on the quality of most of the applications received it can reasonably be concluded at this stage that the requirement for projects to engage with the Development Officer team is beneficial and will be maintained.

The approval of 6 of the Round 1 projects shows that the appraisal process works in terms of identifying good quality projects and it also demonstrates the Steering Committee's concern that only good quality projects that can deliver the programme's aims and objectives are selected. The other major task was the development of the First Level Control and Financial Management systems to ensure that there was a strong framework for certifying expenditure and signing off on payment claims.

The first approvals were issued in July and August 2008 which reflect an effort on the part of the JTS to minimise the time lag between submission of the projects and the issuing of subsidy contracts.

It is too early in the life of the programme to make a judgement on the effect of the promotion of equal opportunities between men and women in project implementation.

## **2.2 Information about compliance with Community law**

Cross Cutting Theme experts are advisors to both the Programme Steering and Monitoring Committees. Their role is to provide advice and guidance to both Committees from both a strategic and project specific angle.

For the purposes of the first Steering Committee meeting advisors were in place and they provided advice and guidance to the Steering Committees and to the projects where appropriate. When the second call closed experts also provided detailed written comment and analysis on the Round 2 applications and made a series of recommendations for improvement on each project.

These recommendations will be used as the basis of a Good Practice Guide for all future applicants.

Compliance with Community law is also addressed as part of the First Level Control process.

## **2.3 Significant problems encountered and measure taken to overcome them**

The programme team did not encounter significant problems in the implementation of the programme at this stage.

## **2.4 Changes in the context of the operational programme implementation**

The context in which the programme operates has changed quite significantly over the course of 2008. The significant economic slowdown in each country combined with the global credit crisis means that the economic climate in both countries has deteriorated. While this didn't have a noticeable impact on the nature of the projects received under Call 2 the economic difficulties could have an impact on the size and nature of the projects received under future calls. This may be reflected in future programme evaluations.

## **2.5 Substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006**

Not applicable

## **2.6 Complementarity with other instruments**

In general, the requirement for joint cross border projects and the employment of the Lead Partner Principle means that activities funded under this programme should not duplicate, but rather complement the efforts under the other mono-funded programmes being implemented at member state level.

The Programme has the following measures in place to ensure complementarity with other instruments.

Building on the positive experience of the last programming period; the programme partnership appointed Theme Leaders within the Steering Committee membership in Ireland and Wales. The Theme Leader reviews each grant application at an early stage following the closure of the call and provides comments to the JTS regarding quality issues from a sector specific view point. One of the issues that the Theme Leaders have to address with each application is complementarity with other funding instruments.

The Welsh Assembly Government also asks for internal policy comments within its own departments to ensure that the project applications fit with national policy and ensure complementarity.

As the Managing Authority is also a Managing Authority under the Regional Competitiveness & Employment Objective, and represents Ireland on the Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes, it is well placed to ensure complementarity with other financial instruments.

The Steering Committee itself also takes complementarity into account when making its decisions on which projects to select for funding.

## **2.7 Monitoring Arrangements**

- **Monitoring**

The Programme Monitoring Committee and the Managing Authority has responsibility for monitoring of the Operational Programme.

Monitoring information is collected via Progress Report and Payment Claim Forms which are issued to successful projects on a six monthly basis.

The information will be securely stored on a central programme database. The database was part completed in 2008 and showed that the Managing Authority was in a position to complete its Annex III requirements as part of the Compliance Assessment Report under Article 71 of EC Regulation 1083/2006. The system will be fully operational in 2009 in time to facilitate the processing of payment claims from Call 1 projects.

The Programme Monitoring Committee met on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Saundersfoot, Wales. The main outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

- Future Annual Implementation Reports will ensure that the cross cutting themes are reflected in the Compliance with Community Law section of the report.
- The first Annual Implementation Report is to be forwarded to the European Commission.
- The Development Officers are to create a joint format for reporting statistics and activities for the next meeting.

- The JTS are to ensure that publicity material is produced in bi or trilingual format where appropriate.

As monitoring information on approved projects would not be available until 2009 the programme partnership agreed that it would not make practical sense to hold a further meeting of the Programme Monitoring Committee in 2008. An update report was sent to the Committee by written procedure in January 2009 which outlined progress in programme implementation.

- **Evaluation**

All EU Structural Funds Programmes are subject to ex-ante, on-going and ex-post evaluation to gauge the effectiveness of the Programmes and to allow adjustments to be made to the implementation of Programmes if deemed necessary. Evaluations will cover factors contributing to the success or failure of implementation and the achievements and results, including their sustainability.

No evaluations were carried out in 2008.

## **2.8 National performance reserve (where applicable)**

Not applicable under this programme

## **2.9 Financial Management and Control**

- **Control missions from the European Union**

There were no control missions from the European Union in 2008.

## **3. Implementation by Priority**

### **3.1 Priority 1 – Knowledge Innovation and Skills for Growth**

The main focus of this priority is on how the cross border region can make a real contribution towards delivering on the objectives of the revised Lisbon Agenda of creating more and better jobs and creating an environment that can foster innovation and the knowledge economy. It is clear that this is an area that is a high priority for both parts of the cross border region as well as the EU.

It is broken down into two related themes.

Theme 1 – Innovation and Competitiveness

Theme 2 – Skills for Competitiveness and Employment Integration

#### **3.1.1 Achievement of Targets and Analysis of Progress**

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the Priority**

The Steering Committee for Priority 1 met on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 and approved 4 of the 10 projects that were submitted with an ERDF grant allocation of €4.36 million.

Details of the projects are listed in Annex II.

\*Priority 1 Theme 1: Innovation and Competitiveness

<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of joint projects aimed at promoting and developing innovation in SMEs including linkages with HE/FE institutions	0	0	11
• Number of joint projects aimed at promoting and developing entrepreneurship and the development of new businesses including cross border business clusters	0	1	11
• Number of SMEs assisted	0	4	300

<b>Result Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
• Number of new SMEs created	0	0	10
• Number of new products/processes developed	0	0	15
• Number of gross direct new jobs created	0	0	20

\*Priority 1 Theme 2: Skills For Competitiveness And Employment Integration

<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of collaborative training projects that address the skills needs of SMEs and industry in the cross border region	0	0	9
Number of joint projects aimed at improving and enhancing systems of learning and workforce development	0	0	4
Number of joint projects aimed at providing	0	0	5

access to training and education for immigrants and disadvantaged groups			
Number of beneficiaries undertaking cross border training courses/modules	0	0	500

Result Indicators	Baseline	End 2008	Final Target
Number of beneficiaries receiving certified qualifications	0	0	350

- **Qualitative Analysis**

The evidence has shown that the overall level of demand in this Priority is quite strong although work is required to ensure that more projects are submitted under Theme 2 to ensure a more balanced level of commitment.

The approved projects are good quality and closely fit with the aims and objectives of Priority 1. A notable feature of the Round 1 approvals is that many of them build on and add value to partnerships that were in place since the last Ireland Wales Programme.

Monitoring achievements are preliminary at this stage and reflect the fact that projects were issued with their first Statements of Expenditure in December 2008. Projects also needed time to understand the needs of the First Level Control process which places greater demands on projects compared to the previous programming period. This had an impact on the quality of the audit trail submitted with the claims. This can be expected to improve as the programme develops.

It is too early in the life of the programme to make a judgement on the effect of the promotion of equal opportunities between men and women in project implementation.

### **3.1.2 Significant problems encountered and measure taken to overcome them**

There were no significant problems encountered at this stage.

## **3.2 Priority 2 – Climate Change and Sustainable Regeneration**

The main focus of this priority is on how the cross border region can address the challenges of the Gothenburg agenda and make a real contribution towards building a more sustainable future for the region. Both parts of the region face common challenges in terms of climate change and sustainable development and also in relation to the regeneration of communities.

It is broken down into two related themes.

Theme 1 – Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Theme 2 – Sustainable Regeneration of Communities

### 3.2.1 Achievement of Targets and Analysis of Progress

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the Priority**

The Steering Committee met on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 and approved 2 projects under this Priority out of the four submitted with an ERDF grant allocation of €1.86 million.

Details of these projects are as listed in Annex II.

#### Priority 2 Theme 1: Climate Change and Sustainable Development

<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of cross border projects focusing on awareness raising or responding to challenge of climate change	0	0	9
Number of collaborative projects protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment.	0	0	9

<b>Result Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of new cross-border links established	0	0	9
No. of measures implemented which react to the challenge of climate change	0	0	9
No. of enhancements undertaken	0	20	9
No. of projects disseminating results to stakeholders and/or communities or reports published	0	0	9

\*Priority 2 Theme 2: Sustainable Regeneration of Communities

<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of joint projects focusing on sustainable community regeneration action.	0	0	14

<b>Result Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End 2008</b>	<b>Final Target</b>
Number of new community, social enterprise or cultural links established	0	0	7
Number of new measures implemented	0	0	14
Number of gross direct new jobs created	0	0	6

- **Qualitative Analysis**

While the number of projects submitted under Call 1 was relatively low compared to Priority 1 the picture changed with Call 2 when 15 applications were submitted. It will be important to ensure a balance of commitment between the 2 themes as there is significant demand for funding in both areas.

The approved projects are good quality and closely fit with the aims and objectives of Priority 2. Both projects build on and add value to work done under the IIIA Programme.

Monitoring achievements are preliminary at this stage and reflect the fact that projects were issued with their first Statements of Expenditure in December 2008. Projects also needed time to understand the needs of the First Level Control process which places greater demands on projects compared to the previous programming period. This had an impact on the quality of the audit trail submitted with the claims. This can be expected to improve as the programme develops.

It is too early in the life of the programme to make a judgement on the effect of the promotion of equal opportunities between men and women in project implementation.

### **3.2.2 Significant problems encountered and measure taken to overcome them**

No significant problems have been encountered. Some minor technical issues have emerged regarding the level of back-up documentation required to accompany statements of expenditure, as required under the new Regulations, and the JTS & Managing Authority are currently working with the beneficiaries to resolve these matters.

### 3.3 Priority 3 – Technical Assistance

The overall objective of the Priority is to support the management, evaluation and monitoring of the Operational Programme.

Under this Theme the ERDF may, subject to the limits set down in Article 46 (1) (b), support areas such as preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities of the Operational Programme together with activities to reinforce the administrative capacity for implementing the Fund.

#### 3.3.1 Achievement of Targets and Analysis of Progress

- Information on the physical and financial progress of the Priority

Indicators for Priority 3	Baseline	2008	Cumulative End 2008	Final Target
Number of gross direct jobs created	0	4	10	10
Establishment of Joint Technical Secretariat	0	0	1	1
Establishment of project database	0	0	0	1
Number of Publicity Events	0	4	5	14
Number of newsletters produced	0	0	0	6
Number of evaluations and studies carried out	0	0	1	3
Establishment of Programme Website	0	0	1	1

#### Financial Progress of the Operational Programme as at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008

	Community Funding (a)	National Public funding (b)	National private funding (c)	Total funding (d)=(a)+(b)+(c)	Co-financing rate (e)=(a)/(d)	For information	
						EIB contributions	Other funding
Priority Axis 1 Knowledge, Innovation & Skills for Growth	50,197.04	16,768.07	-	66,965.11	74.96%		
Priority Axis 2 Climate Change & Sustainable Regeneration	56,586.46	18,862.15	-	75,448.61	75%		
Priority Axis 3 Technical Assistance	405,205.76	390,255.06	-	795,460.82	50.94%		-

TOTAL	511,989.26	425,885.26	-	937,874.54			
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- **Qualitative Analysis**

The Programme made further progress in meeting its targets for the Technical Assistance Priority in 2008.

The Joint Technical Secretariat was fully staffed by June 2008 with the completion of the staffing in Waterford and also the recruitment of the two full time Development staff in Wales.

The project database was part completed during 2008; it is due to be fully operational in the middle of 2009 in time to facilitate the processing of applications for payment from projects.

The Annual Event which showcases the programme took place on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the Managing Authority in Druids Glen Co Wicklow. The focus was on introducing the programme to the general public and publicising the opportunities for funding that can be gained from the programme.

### **3.3.2 Significant problems encountered and measure taken to overcome them**

The only issue to report is that the completion of the new I.T. system and project database has taken longer than expected due to an increase in the scale of the project and an increased need for staff to liaise with the database developers so that they understand the Ireland-Wales Programme requirements more precisely. During 2008 staff were reallocated from core programme implementation work in order to achieve this. This work will be completed in Q2, 2009.

## **4: Major Projects**

As per Chapter 8.7, page 91 of the Operational Programme document there are no major projects envisaged under this programme.

## **5: Technical Assistance**

The remaining members of the JTS team were recruited in 2008 and everyone was in place by June.

The draft Art 71 Systems Description and Compliance Assessment Report were submitted to the European Commission in September 2008. A reply was received from the Commission on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 which outlined a series of changes that were required within the report. Most of these were rectified in early 2009 and the Audit Authority is liaising closely with the Commission's Audit Service with a view to formal resubmission.

The second meeting of the Programme Monitoring Committee took place on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Saundersfoot while the second call for proposals was launched shortly afterwards.

A one day workshop was also hosted by the JTS in November 2008 for all of the approved Round 1 partners. The aim of the event was to introduce partners to the financial control system that is in place for the new programming period and explain their responsibilities as beneficiaries in terms of using this system. There was a group session in the morning where the system was introduced along with a question and answer session. Each project partner then had an individual advice and assistance session with members of the JTS in the afternoon. The event was viewed as a success and is something that will be done for future rounds, albeit earlier in the process.

## **6: Information and Publicity**

The Ireland Wales Programme submitted a Communications Plan for approval by the European Commission on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2008. It was approved on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2008.

The aims and objectives of the Ireland Wales Communications Plan are as follows:

- To highlight the role of Community funding in facilitating cross border cooperation between Ireland and Wales and the real benefits that it brings to local communities.
- To promote the benefits and added value of co-operation to the general public in its widest sense by highlighting project results and outputs and their European dimension.
- To help generate new partnerships by increasing awareness amongst potential beneficiaries on the funding opportunities offered by the Ireland Wales Programme.
- To provide potential beneficiaries and stakeholders with accurate and reliable information to stimulate high quality applications.
- To design programme information in a transparent and easy to read fashion so that it can be easily understood by potential beneficiaries and stakeholders.
- To raise the profile of cross border co-operation within national and regional administrative systems.
- To encourage active dissemination of projects and programme results to professionals and political stakeholders.

The programme undertook the following initiatives in 2008 in order to implement the Communications plan.

The **Annual Event** was held on May 16<sup>th</sup> in Druids Glen, Co Wicklow in conjunction with the Managing Authority. The focus of the event was introducing the programme to the general public with presentations from the JTS and a successful project from the old IIIA Programme.

A series of **3 information workshops** for perspective Round 2 applicants were held in the cross-border region in July & August. They were held in Kilkenny, Carmarthen & Colwyn Bay to ensure full coverage of the Programme area.

A **financial control workshop** was held in Wexford in November to brief approved projects on the Programme's financial control system. One to one sessions were held between JTS staff and projects after the event.

The Operational Programme, other documents and a small range of **branded publicity items** were distributed at each meeting and event.

Preparation work began **on a new e-zine** for the Programme. This will be distributed every quarter from mid 2009. Plaques will be distributed to approved projects from mid 2009.

The Programme's **Information & Communication Guidelines** have been distributed to approved projects. This will also be made available to applicants and potential applicants. They have also been posted on [www.irelandwales.ie](http://www.irelandwales.ie).

The JTS and WEFO's Communications Team worked closely together and issued **Press Releases** for each of the 6 approved projects in the second half of the year. These were picked up by various regional media. In particular, EcoJel received good coverage from sectoral, regional and national media.

Indicator	Baseline	Cumulative End 08	Target
Establishment of Programme Website	0	1	1
Major Launch Event	0	1	1
Number of Publicity Events	0	5	14
Number of Press Releases Issued	0	12	14
Number of Newsletters produced <sup>6</sup>	0	0	12

<sup>6</sup> In the interests of environmental protection the programme newsletters will be issued electronically. Preparation work began on setting up the infrastructure for the newsletters in 2008 and the first one will be issued during 2009.

Press Clippings	0	10	To be determined
Website Statistics	0	Not available	To be determined

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## **Steering Committees Finalised Rules of Procedure**

### **Background**

1. Chapter 8 of the Ireland Wales Operational Programme (OP) document confirms that one or more Steering Committees (SCs) will be set up by the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) at its first meeting. The PMC agreed proposals at their inaugural meeting in October 2007 to appoint two SCs. The SCs will draw up their own Rules of Procedure which will be agreed by the PMC.

### **Role**

2. The principal task of the Steering Committees is to undertake the joint selection of projects in compliance with the selection procedure and criteria approved by the PMC. One SC will be responsible for Priority 1 of the Programme and the other for Priority 2.

### **Composition**

3. The Steering Committees will be jointly chaired by the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly and the Welsh Assembly Government. Membership of the Committees is drawn from representatives of the Managing Authority, Welsh Assembly Government, the Department of Finance, other relevant government departments, state agencies and sectoral agencies with a policy remit covering the OP's Priorities and Themes and Regional and Local Authorities. Gender balance will be promoted on the Steering Committee.

4. This will include Theme Leaders who have an overview of their respective theme and will provide sector specific advice and guidance to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) during the project appraisal process. This will replicate the good practice established with the role of the Measure Leaders for the last programme.
5. A representative of the Commission may participate in the work of the Committee in an advisory capacity. Equality and Sustainable Development representatives will be advisors to the Committee(s).
6. Other advisory groups may also be formed around specific issues of relevance to the Programme and experts from various sectors in relation to operation of the Programme can be invited by the Joint Chairs to meetings as and when this is considered appropriate.

## **Functions**

7. The function of the Steering Committees is to examine all applications for ERDF grant assistance under the Ireland/Wales Programme and select which projects should be approved for grant assistance.
8. The membership list is outlined at Annex I.
9. In undertaking this task, the SCs will take into account:-
  - (i) the project selection criteria contained in the Programme and Project Management Guide and approved by the PMC. Each project will be assigned an indicative ranking based on the score that they received against these criteria.
  - (ii) the expenditure profiles set out in Annex II and III of the Operational Programme document.
10. Applications will be considered by the Steering Committees at the relevant meetings, following completion of the eligibility checking process by the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) (outlined at Annex III). The Steering Committees will consider the indicative ranking for the project assigned by the JTS and evaluate the merits of the project against Programme and Priority/Theme level aims and objectives. Each Member of the Steering Committees will be responsible for considering applications across the whole respective Priority and therefore for making decisions collectively.
11. The Steering Committees will also consider observations and recommendations from relevant departments and agencies to ensure that projects comply with national and EU policy and legislation.

12. In considering the merits of applications, the SCs will have regard to such wider issues as:-

- (i) *Overall programme strategy and the development of the programme across both main priorities*
- (ii) *Overall quality of the project*
- (iii) *The degree of cross border cooperation*
- (iv) *The impact on the programme's Equal Opportunities cross cutting theme*
- (v) *The impact on the programme's Sustainable Development cross cutting theme*
- (vi) *The impact on programme targets*
- (vii) *Value for money and sound management of financial resources*
- (viii) *Compliance with national, regional and EU policies, including Social Partnership*
- (ix) *The degree of durability and sustainability of the project*

10. The Committees will be responsible for approving or rejecting applications. They will instruct the JTS to issue notification of the outcome of grant applications to project applicants, including the issue of grant offer letters to successful applicants. The Committee's decision is final

## **Meetings**

11. Dates of Steering Committee meetings will be notified in advance and set in accordance with the timing of project rounds which form part of the JTS work plan which has been agreed by the PMC. The JTS will arrange a well publicised call for applications, by individual round and with agreed closing dates. Applications received by the agreed closing date will be appraised and considered at the next SC meeting.

12. Each Steering Committee will be expected to meet around twice a year. Meetings will be held in Wales and Ireland on a rotational basis, with the Chair determined by the location of the meeting.

13. The JTS will send the agenda and working papers at least 10 working days before the Steering Committee meetings, although exceptionally papers may be circulated at a later date. The minutes of meetings will normally be circulated in draft within 20 working days of the meetings. Members will be given 15 working days to comment on the draft minutes.

## **Participation at Meetings**

14. Members will be eligible, subject to paragraph 15 below, to participate in all business transacted by the Steering Committees. Individual members who

are unable to attend a particular meeting may be represented by their named alternates, provided that the Chair is notified before the meeting.

15. Members of the Steering Committees are required to declare any interest they may have in particular projects and will be requested leave the room for any discussions about any such project.
16. The Steering Committees will conduct their work on the basis of consensus. In the event of a disagreement, the Chair, using all appropriate channels, shall seek to resolve any differences arising within the meeting.

## Written Procedure

17. At the initiative of the Chair, or with the agreement of the Chair, proposals, other than project applications may be submitted to the Steering Committees for adoption by written procedure. Members will normally be asked to give their written opinion on any such proposal within 15 working days. The proposal shall be deemed agreed by the Steering Committee in the absence of any written objections within that period.
18. Where written objections from any member are received by the JTS within 15 days, the Chair will determine whether:
  - (a) the proposal shall be deemed lost;
  - (b) discussion should take place with the relevant member concerning their objection; or
  - (c) the proposal should be referred back to the Steering Committees for further consideration.
22. A member may withdraw written objections to any proposal at any time and, when every written objection is withdrawn, the proposal shall be deemed agreed by the Steering Committee.
23. Following the 15 working day period, the JTS shall inform the Steering Committee:
  - (a) whether any proposal submitted to the Steering Committee for adoption has, in the absence of any written objection, been deemed agreed; or
  - (b) if any member has registered written objections to a proposal and, if so, what the Chair has determined.

## **Secretariat**

24. A dedicated Joint Technical Secretariat has been established within the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly to deliver the Programme. The JTS will assist and advise the Committee in respect of the functions and procedures set out above. Programme Development Officers in Ireland and Wales will also support the work of the SC's.

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## Approved Projects

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>VISION (Visualisation &amp; Innovation Project)</b>		
<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	1.1		
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Coleg Menai - Wales		
<b>Other Partners</b>	Institute of Technology, Tallaght - Ireland		
<b>Description</b>	The project will jointly support SME's and entrepreneurs to develop new products and bring those products to market by assisting businesses to identify & assess the viability of new product ideas, create and test working models of their ideas and adopt the appropriate business techniques needed to manufacture and market those products worldwide. The project will also aim to spread good practice in design analysis amongst businesses in the cross-border region and will facilitate the establishment of relationships between cross-border SME's through the development of clusters on product and materials applications. Activities include, developing technology transfer partnerships, seminars, networking and research.		
<b>Project Ref.</b>	1		
<b>Approved</b>	April 2008 – Round 1		
<b>Grant Awarded</b>	€982,197	<b>Project Cost</b>	€1,360,384

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Channel Cluster Project – Food &amp; Drink, Ireland Wales</b>		
<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	1.1		
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Irish Exporters Association - Ireland		
<b>Other Partners</b>	Menter a Busnes Cyf - Wales		
<b>Description</b>	The project aims to address the barriers to the growth of Irish & Welsh SME's in the food & drink sector. The project will specifically address distribution and managing the route to market, particularly servicing the UK market. Marketing channels can broadly be defined as any intermediary that facilitates the sale of a company's products or services. Potential channels can include representatives, agents, brokers, distributors and virtual sales offices. Activities will include clustering techniques, one to one support, SME matching, study tours, workshops and research to develop new products and processes.		
<b>Project Ref.</b>	2		
<b>Approved</b>	April 2008 – Round 1		
<b>Grant Awarded</b>	€1,169,552	<b>Project Cost</b>	€1,559,405

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>WISE – Wales Ireland Sustainable Enterprise</b>		
<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	1.1		
<b>Lead Partner</b>	IT Carlow - Ireland		

<b>Other Partners</b>	Engineering Construction Industry Training Board - Wales		
<b>Description</b>	The project will jointly support SME's from the engineering sector through increased cross-border contact between selected companies. The project aim is to improve the sustainability of 40 engineering related SME's through enhancing leadership, management, innovation & environmental best practice at all levels. Activities will include expert mentoring, challenging & provocative small group sessions & a diagnostic support process to identify sustainability issues within the SME. The project will then support the implementation of this action which will include mentoring & support mechanisms, one to one training, group workshops, technical & management support.		
<b>Project Ref.</b>	5		
<b>Approved</b>	April 2008 – Round 1		
<b>Grant Awarded</b>	€904,498	<b>Project Cost</b>	€1,205,998

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Sustainable Learning Networks in Ireland &amp; Wales</b>		
<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	1.2		
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Waterford Institute of Technology - Ireland		
<b>Other Partners</b>	Aberystwyth University - Wales		
<b>Description</b>	The overall aim of Sustainable Learning Networks is to improve the economic development of the cross-border area through the creation, development and utilisation of self-perpetuating, self-learning, sustainable networks among SME's. By organising SME owner/managers into self-learning networks the project team aims to direct the learning they need for themselves and their employees to increase the innovativeness, competitiveness and sustainability of their organisations. The project is aimed primarily at SME owner/managers in order to increase their skills to assess their current and future needs in a changing economic environment, so that they can assess their staffs' training needs to meet the challenge. Activities include the establishment of up to six joint sustainable self-learning, self-directed networks to enhance the system of learning and work force development.		
<b>Project Ref.</b>	11		
<b>Approved</b>	April 2008 – Round 1		
<b>Grant Awarded</b>	€1,304,707	<b>Project Cost</b>	€1,739,875

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Green Communities</b>		
<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	2.1		
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Keep Wales Tidy - Wales		
<b>Other Partners</b>	An Taisce - Ireland		
<b>Description</b>	Green Communities is a community-based project operated by Keep Wales Tidy and An Taisce. The project will take a grassroots approach to undertaking practical environmental work by encouraging and supporting community groups. The project partners will assist and train groups to undertake practical environmental work which will lead to improved biodiversity value of the region and improved access to green spaces. 100 community groups will be assisted to focus on biodiversity enhancements and ideas will be shared with other community groups in Wales and Ireland. The project will encourage volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds to learn from each other through a joint biodiversity conference		

	and via a project website which will contain guidance, case studies and networking opportunities. To encourage group sustainability, best practice on community group structures will be exchanged between Wales and Ireland and 5 new cross-border links will be developed as 10 community groups 'twin' across the Irish sea. GC will raise awareness of the issue of climate change and reduce its impact through local community action. It will develop a community carbon footprinting tool to assist groups assess their carbon production and encourage them to arrange events with carbon production in mind. Officers will identify actions to help groups reduce their impact and solutions will be shared between Wales and Ireland through group exchanges and via a joint climate change conference.		
<b>Project Ref.</b>	13		
<b>Approved</b>	April 2008 – Round 1		
<b>Grant Awarded</b>	€1,132,758	<b>Project Cost</b>	€1,510,342

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Ecojel (Managing the opportunities &amp; detrimental impact of jellyfish in the Irish Sea)</b>		
<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	2.1		
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Swansea University - Wales		
<b>Other Partners</b>	University College Cork - Ireland		
<b>Description</b>	The EcoJel project will identify and manage the jellyfish threats and opportunities in the Irish Sea. The project will raise awareness of jellyfish in the coastal seas of the cross-border region, which may have both negative and positive socio-economic impacts. The Universities will jointly examine the impact of jellyfish on the tourism, aquaculture and fisheries sectors by tracking their movements. The project will identify the economic potential of harvesting jellyfish in a sustainable way and as a potential eco-tourist attraction. The joint activity will also establish the movements and origin of pest jellyfish through the development of innovative tracking technologies. Through the project the joint-university team aims to become a centre of excellence for jellyfish research in the Irish Sea.		
<b>Project Ref.</b>	14		
<b>Approved</b>	April 2008 – Round 1		
<b>Grant Awarded</b>	€724,940	<b>Project Cost</b>	€967,014



## **Issue**

1. Report from the Development Officer team.

## **Recommendation**

2. The Committee is asked to take note of the report.

## **Background**

3. The Development Officer team co-ordinates itself through a series of weekly telephone meetings and regular emails, with face to face meetings to plan and evaluate activities held in July, October, November 2008 and March 2009.

### 4. Development Officer Team

Ireland: Siobhán Rudden (Waterford)  
North Wales: Roger Seddon (Colwyn Bay)  
South West Wales: Patrick Lilly (Carmarthen)

## **General Round 2 Update (June – Sept 2008)**

### 5. Meetings (incl. telephone/ email advice)

The Development team engaged in 94 meetings with potential applicants in the run up to the Round 2 deadline backed up by over 500 phone calls and e mail support. Support to potential applicants involved meetings, telephone and email contact. The Development team was available to all potential organisations, all of which were informed of the key Programme requirements.

### 6. Workshops

To facilitate the second call for proposals, three workshops were held; in Kilkenny on 14<sup>th</sup> August, Carmarthenshire on 12<sup>th</sup> August and in Colwyn Bay on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008. Over 150 potential applicants attended these events.

### 7. Result

The JTS received a total of 28 applications under Round 2, 12 of which

were approved by the Programme Steering Committee in April.

## **Progress Post-Round 2**

There has been a sustained level of interest in the Programme since the close of Round 2.

### 8. Enquiries

In the period since the close of Round 2 to date, the Programme has received approximately 240 enquiries.

### 9. Meetings (incl. telephone/ email advice)

Since the close of Round 2 to date, the Development team has engaged in over 100 meetings with interested organisations and potential applicants backed up by many hundreds of phone calls and e mail support. These organisations have either submitted an Expression of Interest form (EOI) or are at the pre-EOI stage.

### 10. Update on Expressions of Interest

Since the close of Round 2 in September, a total of 49 Expression of Interest forms (EOI) have been submitted in anticipation of Round 3. The Development team has made contact with all organisations that have submitted an EOI to offer support and assist with finding suitable partners, where appropriate.

<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	<b>EOI's Submitted (Ireland)</b>	<b>EOI's Submitted (S.W. Wales)</b>	<b>EOI's Submitted (N. Wales)</b>	<b>Programme Total</b>
<b>1.1</b>	3	2	2	7
<b>1.2</b>	4	4	8	16
<b>2.1</b>	3	3	1	7
<b>2.2</b>	3	5	11	19

Note: Table does not include unsuccessful applicants from Round 2 which may reapply under Round 3 or EOI's that may have been submitted at an earlier stage but did not submit an application under Round 2.

## 11. Events/ Presentations

Along with meetings and enquiries, the Development team has promoted the Programme through participation in a number of external events, either as delegates or presenters. A total of 25 presentations were made by the DO team since September 2008, with Programme publicity material being distributed also. Please refer to the Information and Publicity report for details.

## **Aftercare Service for Approved Projects**

12. Led by the Development team, the Aftercare Service has been put in place for approved projects. Comprising of six-monthly meetings with each project partner, the support service aims to counteract any potential problems at an early stage during project delivery. All three Officers complete an Aftercare Proforma, which provides a joint picture of project progression, addressing key issues, such as the Subsidy Contract, finance and record keeping, publicity requirements, partnership issues and any best practice or difficulties highlighted.

## 13. Round 1 Meetings

The Development Officers met with all Round 1 project partners in January/ February. The second meetings are currently being carried out with project partners.

## 14. Round 2 Meetings

The Development Officer team is currently engaging with the Round 2 project partners to ensure that they understand the initial steps to achieve full contractual compliance with the Programme requirements. These initial meetings will be carried out in June/ July.

## **WIN2 Scheme**

15. Through financial assistance, the WIN2 Scheme aims to encourage the formation of partnerships that may lead to the submission of project applications. Preference is given to third sector organisations, while public authorities are not eligible to participate.

16. The WIN2 Scheme approved the travel plans of 7 organisations which have had their applications considered by the Programme Steering Committee. These organisations have received a further 25% of their claim amounts, resulting in a further €676.87 being paid out under the Scheme in 2009.

	<b>Received</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Travelled (of approved)</b>	<b>Claims Paid</b>	<b>Total Paid</b>
<b>2008</b>	20	18	17	<b>15</b>	<b>€3,525.51</b>
<b>2009 (to date)</b>	7	7	6	<b>4</b>	<b>€1,447.44</b>

17. Of the 18 approved applications in 2008, 17 organisations travelled for meetings and two did not claim costs. In 2009, 6 of the 7 approved organisations travelled for meetings, while two have yet to claim costs.

18. The WIN2 Scheme is publicised on both the Programme website and that of WEFO. The Scheme is publicised at all Development meetings, where relevant, and at workshops and presentations.



## **Issue**

1. Information & Publicity activities for the Ireland Wales Programme 2007-2013

## **Recommendation**

2. The Committee is asked to note the update on information and publicity activities, ongoing since the last meeting.

## **Programme Communications Guidelines**

3. A guide to the Programme's communications and publicity policy has been developed. The guide is primarily aimed at assisting approved projects in publicising their activities in line with Programme criteria and EU legislation. This was distributed in November 2008 and is available on the Programme website. All Programme logos have been made available to approved projects in all appropriate formats and are also available on our website.

## **Publicity Events/ Presentations**

### 4. Programme Annual Event 2009 (Dun Laoghaire)

The Programme's cross-border annual event will be held in Dun Laoghaire on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Primarily a publicity event, the half day event will discuss the support of innovative activity on a cross-border basis and showcase the achievements of the Programme to date. The presentations will focus primarily on Priority 1, Knowledge, Innovation and Skills for Growth. The event will include discussion on networking, clustering and creative innovation, with speakers from both Ireland and Wales and is associated with the European Year for Innovation & Creativity.

### 5. Round 2 Information Workshops (Kilkenny, Carmarthen, Colwyn Bay)

To facilitate the second call for proposals, three workshops were held; in Kilkenny on 14<sup>th</sup> August, Carmarthenshire on 12<sup>th</sup> August and in Colwyn Bay on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008. Over 150 potential applicants attended these events, which briefed potential applicants on the Programme requirements as they related to Round 2. Attendees were also given the opportunity to discuss their project idea with Programme staff.

6. The Programme team also participated in a number of events in the past year:

- Outside the Box, Skillnet Training Network Seminar, Portlaoise, 20/05/09
- Microtrade CEB/ ENI Forum, Dublin, 01/04/09
- Teagasc Moorepark Dairy Production Research Centre, Co. Cork, 19/02/09
- Dunhill Enterprise Week, Co. Waterford, 14/10/08
- Interreg event, Tullamore, 13/10/08
- Interreg 4B NWE Annual Event, Luxembourg, 22&23/09/08
  
- Territorial Programme Awareness Day Cardiff Apr 08
- Presentation/Update to Funding Dept/potential sponsors Swansea University May 08
- Presentation/Update to Funding Dept/potential sponsors Aberystwyth University June 08
- Applicants Workshop Carmarthen Aug 08
- Finance/Aftercare workshop Wexford Nov 08
- Presentation/update to West Wales European Officers Carmarthen March 09
- Attend SW Spatial European Team meeting – programme update Pembroke June 09
- EU Day Bangor University 9 May 08
- Rural Networks Day Llanrwst 4 June 08
- Funders' Fair Llanberis 1 July 08
- Flint & Denbigh Show Denbigh 21 Aug 08
- AGM MIND Llandudno 15 Sep 08
- Rhyl Funders' Fair Rhyl 21 Nov 08
- Spatial European Teams Workshop (Presentation) Llandrindod Wells 25 Nov 08
- North Wales Social Enterprise Network: Presentation Caernarfon 15 Jan 09
- Presentation to Conwy CC Conwy 21 Apr 09
- Attendance at North Wales SET meetings: presentations St Asaph Apr 08 to date
- Attendance at North Wales Economic Development Forum: presentations Various locations in N Wales Apr 08 to date
- Local authorities' Economic Development Groups: presentations Various locations Apr 08 to date

The Operational Programme, other documents and a small range of branded publicity items were distributed at each meeting and event.

**Future Action**

7. Work has been ongoing regarding the development of an electronic programme newsletter or **e-zine**. The distribution of the first issue is imminent

and the aim is to produce an e-zine at least twice yearly over the life of the programme.

8. Each project will also be issued with a **plaque** that marks the contribution of the Ireland Wales Programme and the ERDF to each project beneficiary as per the practice established under the IIIA Programme. Work on these was delayed due to the recent changes in legislation regarding the Irish language and the requirement to display logos in Irish and English. The language issues have now been resolved and we expect to be able to issue the plaques to approved projects later this summer .

**Secretariat**

**June 2009**