

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

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFCB048
Title	Interreg V-A - United Kingdom-Ireland (Ireland-Wales)
Version	2022.0
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	17-May-2023

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	1
KEY INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR CONCERNED, INCLUDING ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, WITH RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL AND INDICATOR DATA.....	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS	7
3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION.....	7
3.2 COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	9
PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	9
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA1.1B.....	9
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - PA1.1B.SO1.....	11
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA2.5A.....	12
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - PA2.5A.SO2.....	13
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA3.6C.....	14
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - PA3.6C.SO3.....	15
PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	16
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - PA4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	16
3.3 TABLE 3: INFORMATION ON THE MILESTONES AND TARGETS DEFINED IN THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK.....	17
3.4. FINANCIAL DATA.....	18
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL.....	18
WHERE APPLICABLE, THE USE OF ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME SHOULD BE PROVIDED (FOR EXAMPLE IPA AND ENI, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND).....	19
TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF THE CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL DATA BY CATEGORY OF INTERVENTION.....	20
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME AREA.....	21
(1) ERDF SUPPORT IS THE COMMISSION DECISION ON THE RESPECTIVE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.....	21
4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS	22
5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN	25
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN.....	25
(B) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, OTHERWISE IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN POINT 9.1. AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS TARGETS IS SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THEIR FULFILMENT, INDICATING ANY REMEDIAL ACTIONS TAKEN OR PLANNED, WHERE APPROPRIATE.....	26
6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	27
7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	28
8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	29
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS.....	29
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS.....	29
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM.....	29
ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.....	29
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS.....	30
TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP).....	31
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM.....	32
9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	33
9.1 INFORMATION IN PART A AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	33
9.2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AND TO PROMOTE NON-DISCRIMINATION, IN PARTICULAR ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THE INTEGRATION OF THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (D) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	34
9.3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (E) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	35
9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	36
9.5 ROLE OF PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1, (C) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	37

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013	38
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS	38
10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.....	40
11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	41
11.1. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME	41
11.2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND BENEFICIARIES TO ADMINISTER AND TO USE THE ERDF.....	42
11.3 CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE APPROPRIATE).....	43
<i>ATLSBS</i>	44
11.4 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION	46
13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	47
14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	48

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

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

This report covers the year 2022 where programme performance was in recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic which adversely affected the maritime based programme, as there were added complexities due to restrictions faced by projects on joint working across the sea border. The Joint Secretariat's (JS) flexible approach to providing pro-active hands-on assistance to project partners, has enabled many projects to adapt and recover from the impact on the implementation cycle. The Managing Authority (MA) and JS are continuing to carefully monitor programme expenditure and indicator performance as the programme progresses towards closure and the JS is working closely with projects to identify and react to any issues which arise.

Despite the problems caused by the pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU, the programme has continued to perform effectively and has made significant progress. The Programme's commitment level of €84.4m remains following the approval of the final projects in PA 3 in 2021. The steps taken to accelerate take up of resources in PA 3 has left the programme fully committed with a balance of commitment across the operational Priority Axes largely aligned with the allocation of resources set out in the financial plan.

At the end of December 2022:

- 24 operations formally approved (figure includes TA project)
- €84.4m ERDF committed*
- 107% of the ERDF allocation for the Programme committed*

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

*Given the stage of programme implementation which had been reached, the PMC was informed at its meeting in November 2022 that the JS had continued to closely monitor project expenditure and likely de-commitment by working closely with all approved project Lead Partners. This followed a detailed exercise in 2021 which took a critical look at expenditure projections so that an up-to-date forecast could be made. As a result the JS now forecast a likely de-commitment of €4.6m, which would reduce final programme expenditure to €79.5m, which reflects the programme allocation. The position will be monitored rigorously by the MA and JS as implementation continues until closure. The MA, in partnership with colleagues in Ireland, will keep under review the position regarding overcommitting funding beyond 100% of the total programme allocation.

A detailed programme situation paper was submitted to the PMC in November 2022. This reported good progress against the range of programme indicators and in particular, the Performance Framework, which the PMC noted were well on target to be met and largely exceeded. Fourteen of the nineteen Priority Axes indicators were expected to meet or exceed targets.

Programme Meetings

The PMC met once in 2022:

PMC11, 26 November 2022 - via Microsoft Teams. PMC welcomed progress with implementation, including commitment, level of expenditure and the suite of indicators. The MA presented additional financial information relating to on-going monitoring by JS as noted above to analyse data for all approved projects to provide a forecast on monies likely to return to the programme via decommitments. The PMC noted closure of six projects, with two other projects expected to close by end 2022.

Communications

During 2022 the Ireland Wales website has had 7,500 visitors and the Ireland Wales Twitter account (@IrelandWales) had 1,819 followers.

During the period of January 2022 – December 2022 we gained 16,985 impressions (the number of times people saw a tweet on Twitter), with an average of 1,415 impressions per month.

We have run successful promotional campaigns on the Ireland Wales Twitter account celebrating achievements on:

- St Patrick's Day (17 March) - English / Welsh tweets highlighting the achievements of a number of projects in the programme along with a new project funding announcement (CUPHAT – see below) and a link to the Ireland and Wales joint action plan.
- Europe Day (9 May) - raised further awareness of the programmes achievements including coverage of the Wexford County Council's Europe Day event featuring a number of Ireland Wales projects showcasing their work.

We have also taken the opportunity to showcase the success and achievements of the Ireland Wales programme as part of our Annual Information Event – Social Media Activity week (week commencing 17 October) and to coincide with the Welsh Government Irish Sea Symposium held on 8 June 2022.

Examples of Ministerial PR opportunities that have been generated include:

- The Deputy Minister for Culture and Sport attending the launch of the Ports, Past and Present feature documentary film and delivering the opening address at the Ceredigion Museum on 26 May 2022;
- The Minister for Climate Change officially launching the Cherish Project Exhibition on 7 June in the Senedd; and
- The Minister for Climate Change providing a pre-recorded opening address to attendees of the Ecostructure Closure Conference on 23 June 2022.

The European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, visited Waterford City on Monday 19 September 2022. During her visit EU Commissioner Ferreira travelled to the South East Technological University Waterford campus, where she met with the Joy Rooney and Dr Joe O'Mahony, Principle

Investigators of the Ireland Wales projects Portalis and STREAM. EU Commissioner Ferreira displayed great interest in both projects.

We also continue to support project leads and partners on their own PR related to project milestones or project events by publicising through our twitter channel, the EU Funds e-newsletter and the Ireland Wales website.

In Ireland, our operational partners in the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) regularly retweet activity from the projects and the Ireland-Wales account. Newsletters / press releases / notification of webinars from the projects are also uploaded on to the SRA website.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA1	Cross-Border Innovation	<p>A commitment level of 106% has been reached with funds allocated to ten operations under the Priority (€33.46m of EU funds) by the end of 2022. There were no new operations approved during 2022 and there were no proposals in the pipeline or in business planning for the Priority.</p> <p>As previously reported, the Covid-19 outbreak led to a challenging period for all ESIF Programmes and for ETC Programmes such as Ireland Wales where there were obvious added complexities due to the cross-border nature of activity. Operations have since taken measures to mitigate factors which have impacted delivery, with the support of the JS, and the JS and MA continue to closely monitor progress towards closure.</p>
PA2	Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change	<p>A commitment level of 110% has been reached with funds allocated to seven operations under the Priority (€30.62m of EU funds) by the end of 2022. There were no new operations approved during 2022 and there were no proposals in the pipeline or in business planning for the Priority.</p> <p>As previously reported, the Covid-19 outbreak led to a challenging period for all ESIF Programmes and for ETC Programmes such as Ireland Wales where there were obvious added complexities due to the cross-border nature of activity. Operations have since taken measures to mitigate factors which have impacted delivery, with the support of the JS, and the JS and MA continue to closely monitor progress towards closure.</p>
PA3	Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage	<p>A commitment level of 102% has been reached with funds allocated to six operations under the Priority (€15.41m of EU funds) by the end of 2022. There were no new operations approved during 2022 and there were no proposals in the pipeline or in business planning for the Priority.</p> <p>As previously reported, the Covid-19 outbreak led to a challenging period for all ESIF Programmes and for ETC Programmes such as Ireland Wales where there were obvious added complexities due to the cross-border nature of activity. Operations have since taken measures to mitigate factors which have impacted delivery, with the support of the JS, and the JS and MA continue to closely monitor progress towards closure.</p>
PA4	Technical Assistance	<p>By end 2022 around 97% of the total allocation available remained committed to the one operation under the Priority. This operation is to enable WEFO and the Southern Regional Assembly to manage and implement the delivery of the Programme. The operation continued to progress during 2022, with indicators reported broadly in line with forecast, as detailed in Section 3.2 of this report, and spend currently just over 54% of the committed funds. Both have been actively monitored, and the operation supported the Joint Secretariat during 2022 in the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post approval monitoring and visits; • Completing Funding Decision Reports; • Preparing documentation for PSC members' decision; • Drafting Offer Letters; • Working with Lead Partners to finalise business plans/Phase 2 funding;

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="656 116 1223 150">• Supporting the Managing Authority

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

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

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

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,200.00	486.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,200.00	741.00	
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,200.00	486.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,200.00	741.00	
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	35.00	53.00	
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	35.00	76.00	
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	70.00	277.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	70.00	236.00	
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	791,984.00	5,039,898.00	
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	791,984.00	1,138,000.00	
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30.00	39.00	
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30.00	40.00	
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	600.00	116.00	
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	600.00	194.00	
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	50.00	310.00	
S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	50.00	220.00	
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	45.00	22.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	45.00	28.00	
F	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	Networks	6.00	9.00	
S	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	Networks	6.00	11.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	3.00	3.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	3.00	3.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	425.00	329.00	259.00	89.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	741.00	719.00	738.00	598.00	479.00	341.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	425.00	329.00	259.00	89.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	741.00	719.00	738.00	598.00	479.00	341.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	34.00	18.00	11.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	76.00	75.00	61.00	57.00	47.00	21.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	259.00	109.00	75.00	46.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	236.00	213.00	62.00	60.00	60.00	46.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	4,668,580.00	558,000.00	558,000.00	9,203.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	1,138,000.00	1,138,000.00	658,000.00	558,000.00	558,000.00	558,000.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	31.00	20.00	15.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	40.00	39.00	25.00	22.00	20.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	87.00	45.00	30.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	194.00	191.00	164.00	161.00	141.00	72.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	277.00	115.00	75.00	46.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	220.00	197.00	62.00	66.00	54.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	18.00	14.00	12.00	17.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	28.00	24.00	22.00	20.00	18.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	7.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	11.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	TBC	0.00		0.00			
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	% increase	1,493,568,970.00	2015	1.00			
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)	% increase	2,451,253,000.00	2013	0.20			Data not yet available for 2022. For 2021, data are available for Wales but not for Ireland. Data for Wales converted from Sterling to Euros based on £1/€1.17 for 2018, 2019 and 2021, and £1/€1.1 for 2020.

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies								
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies							120,700,038.00	
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)			4,551,665,000.00		4,448,525,000.00		3,891,588,000.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies								
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies								
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)								

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

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	10.00	21.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	10.00	23.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	1.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	1.00	
F	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	Awareness raising initiatives	60.00	88.00	
S	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	Awareness raising initiatives	60.00	99.00	
F	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	24.00	69.00	
S	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	24.00	80.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	24.00	18.00	12.00	15.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	23.00	23.00	21.00	18.00	15.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	70.00	40.00	17.00	16.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	99.00	99.00	75.00	56.00	44.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	63.00	53.00	26.00	23.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	78.00	78.00	54.00	47.00	37.00	4.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	TBC	0.00		0.00			
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	% of communities and businesses	64.00	2015	70.00			Data not yet available for 2019 / 2020 / 2021 / 2022.

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses								
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses							59.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses			0.00		64.00		0.00	
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses					64.00			

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

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	10.00	0.00	
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	10.00	12.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	0.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	2.00	
F	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	Cross-border networks	12.00	3.00	
S	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	Cross-border networks	12.00	17.00	
F	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	20.00	23.00	
S	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	20.00	52.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	8.00	8.00	8.00	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	14.00	14.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	11.00	11.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	34.00	34.00	17.00	12.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area	Number of overseas visitors	6,902,000.00	2012	7,040,040.00			Latest data relates to 2017 as this is the latest year for which data are available.

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area								

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area	10,483,492.00				6,902,000.00		6,902,000.00	

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	PA4 - Technical Assistance
---------------	----------------------------

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	PS07	Number of training events held	Training Events	4.00	3.00	
S	PS07	Number of training events held	Training Events	4.00	4.00	
F	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Project visits	300.00	143.00	
S	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Project visits	300.00	300.00	
F	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	PMC meetings	14.00	11.00	
S	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	PMC meetings	14.00	15.00	
F	PS10	Number of press releases	Press releases	10.00	9.00	
S	PS10	Number of press releases	Press releases	10.00	10.00	
F	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number of FTEs		11.00	
S	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number of FTEs		11.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	PS07	Number of training events held	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS07	Number of training events held	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	103.00	87.00	80.00	49.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	9.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS10	Number of press releases	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS10	Number of press releases	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2022	Observations
PA1	F	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	4,751,906	39,599,224.00	27,661,117.58	
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	5		7.00	
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	0	70.00	277.00	
PA2	F	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	4,157,919	34,649,320.00	27,856,895.33	
PA2	I	IS02	Number of projects approved with organisations cooperating on a cross-border basis to enhance the marine and coastal environment	Number of projects	4		7.00	
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	0	24.00	69.00	
PA3	F	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	2,257,156	18,809,632.00	5,415,703.47	
PA3	I	IS03	Number of projects approved involving coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Number of projects	4		6.00	
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	0	20.00	23.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
PA1	F	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	20,939,956.19	14,480,306.82	9,006,383.83	4,913,090.51	254,355.00
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	4.00
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	259.00	109.00	75.00	46.00	11.00
PA2	F	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	21,794,302.06	15,655,422.34	7,434,318.06	3,850,163.37	199,653.00
PA2	I	IS02	Number of projects approved with organisations cooperating on a cross-border basis to enhance the marine and coastal environment	Number of projects	7.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	63.00	53.00	26.00	23.00	15.00
PA3	F	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	3,609,892.25	702,704.00	290,044.32	12,628.00	0.00
PA3	I	IS03	Number of projects approved involving coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Number of projects	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.00
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	11.00	11.00	6.00	6.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2016	2015	2014
PA1	F	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	F	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	I	IS02	Number of projects approved with organisations cooperating on a cross-border basis to enhance the marine and coastal environment	Number of projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	F	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	I	IS03	Number of projects approved involving coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Number of projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

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

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
PA1	ERDF	Total	39,599,224.00	80.00	41,580,373.25	105.00%	40,564,307.77	30,915,966.96	78.07%	10
PA2	ERDF	Total	34,649,320.00	80.00	38,025,423.00	109.74%	37,114,457.36	28,187,241.49	81.35%	7
PA3	ERDF	Total	18,809,632.00	80.00	19,260,372.00	102.40%	19,130,626.00	7,684,206.27	40.85%	6
PA4	ERDF	Total	5,939,883.00	80.00	5,735,197.00	96.55%	5,735,197.00	2,381,125.90	40.09%	1
Total	ERDF		98,998,059.00	80.00	104,601,365.25	105.66%	102,544,588.13	69,168,540.62	69.87%	24
Grand total			98,998,059.00	80.00	104,601,365.25	105.66%	102,544,588.13	69,168,540.62	69.87%	24

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

Not applicable to the Programme.

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

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

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		02	UKL12	1,226,107.22	1,226,107.22	1,226,107.22	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		11	IE021	4,416,918.19	4,416,918.19	2,830,571.45	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	03	07	01		03	IE021	2,733,197.00	2,733,197.00	1,222,628.52	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	05	07	01		22	IE024	1,460,728.00	1,460,728.00	756,814.69	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	05	07	01		22	IE025	5,270,000.00	5,085,000.00	2,790,295.17	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	01	07	01		24	IE021	1,146,174.72	916,939.07	1,146,174.72	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	03	07	01		02	IE024	2,257,362.08	2,257,362.08	2,257,362.08	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	05	07	01		20	UKL18	18,829,450.00	18,234,843.00	14,445,577.07	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	05	07	01		24	UKL14	4,240,436.04	4,233,213.21	4,240,436.04	2
PA2	ERDF	087	01	01	07	05		22	IE021	1,590,573.00	1,551,579.00	1,315,488.77	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	01	07	05		22	IE023	5,785,542.00	5,785,542.00	5,246,470.52	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		02	IE024	5,410,225.00	5,410,225.00	2,169,945.83	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		02	UKL12	6,523,802.00	6,326,405.36	6,523,802.00	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		22	IE021	9,181,249.00	9,181,249.00	6,154,548.33	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		22	UKL12	3,359,476.00	3,014,705.00	1,912,066.71	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	07	05		22	UKL14	6,174,556.00	5,844,752.00	4,864,919.33	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	02	07	06		22	IE024	1,952,909.00	1,935,302.00	244,256.17	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	02	07	06		23	UKL14	3,905,033.00	3,905,033.00	2,119,825.75	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	03	07	06		22	UKL1	3,002,764.00	2,973,411.00	488,528.75	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	05	07	06		23	IE024	3,249,536.00	3,249,536.00	1,683,925.96	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	05	07	06		23	UKL14	3,824,181.00	3,819,181.00	1,837,489.71	1
PA3	ERDF	094	01	01	07	06		24	IE025	3,325,949.00	3,248,163.00	1,310,179.93	1
PA4	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	UKL1	5,735,197.00	5,735,197.00	2,381,125.90	1

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

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
Catalyst	9,478.72	0.01%	24,043.73	0.03%

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

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

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

The *Ports, Past and Present project: Interim Report: October 2022*

The Ports, Past and Present project (PPP) aim is to promote local engagement with heritage and heritage tourism amongst the Irish Sea Ports, through creating new heritage and tourism networks and increasing employment as a result.

The project has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which started in early 2020 in Wales and the Republic of Ireland. This has slightly delayed progress of the project, and, as an external factor, has impacted upon the potential outcomes that are achievable within the project's lifetime. Of particular note is the sharp reduction in the number of ferry passengers being carried between the Irish Sea ports. It is not yet clear whether the UK's exit from the European Union is impacting upon delivery of the programme or its outcomes, but this may become more clear by the time of the final report.

Key findings were:

- The project recognises the difficulties of creating additional employment during an economically difficult period, and also attribution of any such success to the work of the project.
- Work carried out by the project so far has primarily been with local heritage sectors in each of the Irish Sea ports, through engagement with local museums and practitioners in the heritage sector, with alignment across the five locations through monthly virtual coffee mornings which feature a talk or topic for discussion. There has been ongoing work on the films and creative commissions throughout the period, including the production of heritage stories.
- This has led to the creation of a heritage network to promote links between the Irish Sea ports involved in the project. This network has primarily focused upon the discussion and development of heritage style resources and, perhaps due to the character of the network (many of whom are not of working age) this has so far not considered the tourism application of these resources.
- Although the project is generally welcomed by local stakeholders, many of whom will appreciate the heritage outputs of the project, successful economic outcomes of the project will be harder to determine. This is in the context of economic headwinds being faced by the Welsh port towns in particular. It is important that there is alignment between expectations from the project and its likely impact upon the communities it is trying to support.

The *Interim Evaluation of the Healthy Oats Operation: December 2022*

Oats are a traditional crop in Irish and Welsh farming systems, with demand increasing significantly due to their health benefits (e.g. gluten free, high β -glucan). Healthy Oats aims to address a recognised need for research and innovation in order to respond to increasing demand for new nutritious oat products and to develop oat breeds that are resistant to the changes in the climate. The operation adopts a systems-based approach from 'farm to fork', working in collaboration with industry partners.

Key findings:

- A substantial volume of activity has been delivered to date across all five Work Packages, and these activities align with the original descriptions provided in the Business Plan.

- Although activity has progressed well overall and each individual Work Package is broadly ‘on track’, there is a need for a more consistent approach to cross-Work Package information sharing, reporting and performance management.
- There has been strong performance against ERDF indicators. The operation has either met or exceeded all but one of its September 2022 targets, and has achieved more than double the ‘Number of enterprises participating in cross-border research operations’. These are encouraging data at the interim evaluation stage, suggesting that Healthy Oats is well on track to meet its indicator targets by its close.
- With regard to the operation’s contribution to the result indicator, ‘Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in the smart specialization strategies’, the evidence suggests there is scope for the operation to collect more detailed data on R&D investment in order to evidence its contribution at the final evaluation point. At this stage, mechanisms are not in place to enable the operation to demonstrate fully or systematically its contribution to this indicator.
- In addition, the operation can report positive performance against the delivery of the CCT aims and objectives. All five CCT case-level indicators have been achieved, and in doing so the operation has contributed to the WFGA goals. An important enabler here has been the strong alignment between the CCTs and a core part of the rationale and objectives of the operation focused on sustainable development.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
------	------	------------	-----------	----------	---------	--------------------	--------------------	-------	----------

EN

EN

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

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

This report covers the year 2022 where programme performance was in recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic. The Joint Secretariat (JS) has adopted a flexible approach to providing pro-active hands-on assistance to project partners, allowing re-profiling of expenditure and no cost extensions to delivery periods. The Managing Authority (MA) and JS are continuing to carefully monitor performance as the programme approaches closure and the JS is working closely with projects to identify and react to any issues which arise and to monitor expenditure and forecast de-commitment from individual operations.

The programme has faced the dual challenges of the pandemic and the issues surrounding the UK's exit from the EU, but has continued to perform effectively and made significant progress. The programme has a good balance of commitment across the operational Priority Axes.

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

--

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

A citizen's summary of the contents can be found at Annex 1.

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

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

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
---------	-----	--------------	-------------------	----------------------	--------------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------------	--	---	--------------	---	--------------

(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

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

Not applicable to this Programme.

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

Not applicable to this Programme.

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable to this Programme.

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
------------------	-----	--------------------------------	----------------------	----------------------	------------------------	---------------	-------------	--	-----------------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------	--	--------------

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Not applicable to this Programme.

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

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

Priority axis	PA1 - Cross-Border Innovation
---------------	-------------------------------

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	PA2 - Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change
---------------	---

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage
---------------	---

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	PA4 - Technical Assistance
---------------	----------------------------

Not applicable to the reporting year.

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
PA2	30,420,339.50	109.74%
Total	30,420,339.50	38.41%

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
--------	------	------	-------------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Currently, there are no plans to invest in ATLSBS

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

n.a.

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

